

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Invasive Species Activities April - September, 2013

- 43 field surveys were conducted for early detection of AIS totaling 485 miles. No new aquatic plant or animal infestations were discovered during this period.
- Two aerial photo surveys totaling of 350 miles were conducted to aid in early detection of AIS and to monitor on-going control efforts.
- Herbicide was applied in accordance with all State and Federal Laws to control giant salvinia in the Pascagoula River, common salvinia in Robinson Bayou and a patch of phragmites on Deer Island.
- Common salvinia weevils (*Cyrtobagous salviniae*) initially released in 2009 (two weeks before record cold weather) have finally become established in Bogue Houma, Pearl River. Common salvinia is now being suppressed to the point where no herbicide application has been required so far in 2013.
- Salvinia weevils were introduced into Robinson Bayou, Pascagoula River with permission from Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. This small infestation once easily controlled with periodic herbicide application exploded in 2013 after extended periods of heavy rainfall pushed salvinia into the adjacent cypress swamp.
- Eight confirmed sightings of invasive Asian tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) were reported to NAS database from specimens provided to MDMR by local fishermen. A live tiger shrimp was provided to Pascagoula High School for educational aquarium display. Frozen specimens are being collected for the NOAA-NMFS Tiger Shrimp Tissue Repository. Two reported tiger shrimp sightings were false and were determined to be native shrimp exhibiting "cotton shrimp" disease.
- An article about Asian tiger shrimp was published in MDMR's annual publication "Shrimping the Sound" to alert citizens to the tiger shrimp infestation in coastal Mississippi waters and to ask fishermen to report any sightings.
- A Lionfish outreach poster produced by the Mississippi Bight Lionfish Response Unit was distributed to local dive shops. Asian tiger shrimp outreach posters in English and Vietnamese were adapted for use in Mississippi from examples provided by Texas Sea Grant. These posters were placed at area shrimp boat docks to encourage reporting.
- An "Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Day" was held at the Audubon Pascagoula River Nature Center. Items from one of the GSARP Travelling Trunks of Invasive Species were exhibited as part of this educational outreach.



ATTENTION SPEARFISH HUNTERS!



**HELP PROTECT
THE
GULF OF MEXICO**



**PLEASE KILL
LIONFISH**
(*Pterois voltans*)

INVASIVE LIONFISH:

- Are native to Indo-Pacific region
- Have few, if any, natural predators here
- Feed on young snapper and grouper
- Extremely rapid rate of reproduction
- Larvae drift into new areas with current
- Cause large declines in native fish stocks

TO REPORT SIGHTINGS:

report.invasive@mblru.org
or
1 877-STOP-ANS

For more information please visit the Mississippi Bight Lionfish Response Unit website:
<http://www.mblru.org>

Native Fish With
Similar Features



Sea Robin



Gulf Toadfish



Sargassum Fish

TPWD

Sean Nash

