

## Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

### Invasive Species Activities April 2014 thru August 2014

- 23 field surveys were conducted for early detection of AIS totaling 330 miles.
- New infestations of silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), giant applesnail (*Pomacea maculata*) and Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) were discovered during this period and reported to either the NAS database or EDD Maps as appropriate.
- One low-altitude aerial photo survey totaling of 163 miles was conducted to aid in early detection of AIS and to help monitor on-going control efforts.
- Three confirmed sightings of invasive Asian tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) were reported to the NAS database. Two of the shrimp were captured live and made available for use in a study at Dauphin Island Sea Lab.
- 268 feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) were eliminated on Coastal Preserve lands by USDA Wildlife Service's biologists using helicopter hunting techniques.
- 277 giant applesnail egg masses were destroyed and two live snails were trapped from Robinson Bayou, Pascagoula River since discovery in July.
- Herbicide was applied to manage populations of alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*) and water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) in accordance with all applicable regulations.
- An invasive species educational booth was set up at the "Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival" in Pass Christian, MS. Items from the GSARP Travelling Trunk of Aquatic Invasive Species were displayed to help increase invasive species awareness and to facilitate discussions about AIS with visiting public.
- A lionfish bounty of \$100 was offered to the person bringing in the most lionfish during Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo. Fish could be harvested by any legal means. No lionfish were turned in, but the promotion served to increase awareness of the lionfish invasion.
- Invasive species personnel attended a Harrison County cogongrass coordination and control meeting and a meeting of the Mississippi Cooperative Weed Management Area.
- A report of invasive Eurasian watermilfoil was investigated and found to be accurate as was a citizen report of alligator weed.
- A silver carp was reported by a DMR Marine Patrol agent in Bay St. Louis. This report was accurate and is the first confirmed sighting in the area. Another report of silver carp was investigated in the Back Bay of Biloxi. That sighting turned out to be a misidentified gizzard shad.
- One citizen report of a large, 12 to 15 foot long exotic snake was investigated in Ocean Springs. Sighting could not be confirmed. Witnesses did not have any pictures or other physical evidence. Area is being monitored for signs of further activity.