

## Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

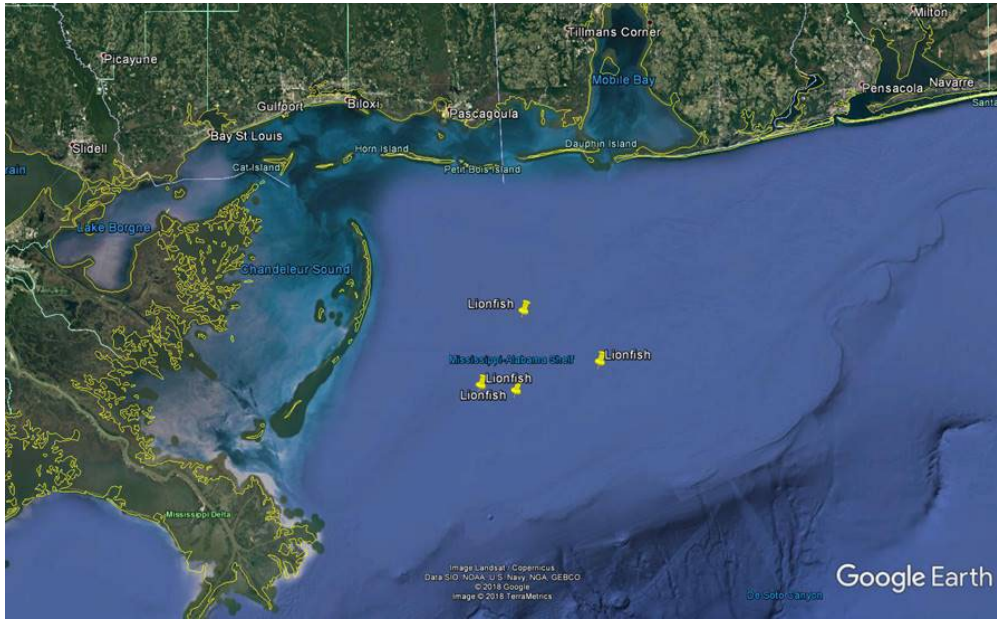
### Aquatic Invasive Species Activities – April 2018 thru September 2018

#### Early Detection / Rapid Response Activities

- One aerial survey of 200 miles and 27 waterway surveys totaling 253 miles were conducted for early detection of AIS and monitoring of existing infestations.
- A program of integrated pest management and spot herbicide application was used to treat populations of common salvinia, giant salvinia, alligator weed and water hyacinth in accordance with all regulations. Salvinia weevils that have consistently helped reduce giant salvinia population levels since 2009 do not appear to have survived the winter of 2017.
- 8,507 giant applesnail, (*Pomacea maculata*) egg masses were destroyed and 333 live snails were removed from the Pascagoula River over 31 control missions in an ongoing effort to control an infestation first discovered in 2014. Gulf Corps (a youth conservation organization) assisted DMR personnel by providing approximately 480 person-hours of applesnail control labor at no monetary cost to the agency. After two river flooding events, giant applesnails have recently been detected in a previously un-infested area upstream of the current location. Control efforts have been initiated.
- Two monitoring stations for early detection of Cuban treefrog were established. Areas at or near campgrounds were chosen for monitoring as the Cuban treefrog has been observed to hitchhike on recreational vehicles. No exotic frogs have been detected to date.
- A citizen report of beach vitex was verified. Initial herbicide treatment seems to have eliminated the plants. Area is being monitored for recurrence.

#### Coordination and Outreach Activities

- Member of the Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Council (MAISC) and the Mississippi Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA).
- Presented invasive species seminars at two, USM sponsored teacher-education workshops and at a conference hosted by the Mississippi Urban Forest Council.
- MDMR along with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the US Fish and Wildlife Service hosted the first Jimmy Sanders Memorial Lionfish Challenge. Twenty-nine fish were reported by six anglers. Prizes were provided by sponsors shown on the flyer below.



Locations where lionfish were harvested



2018 Jimmy Sanders Lionfish Challenge Promotional Flyer