

## Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

### AIS Program Update – GSARP November 2023 Meeting

#### Early Detection / Rapid Response Activities

- One aerial photo survey of 193 miles was conducted for early detection of AIS in difficult-to-access areas and to help monitor treatment efforts.
- A program of integrated pest management and spot herbicide application (58 boat missions totaling 196 miles) was used to control populations of common salvinia, giant salvinia, alligator weed, torpedo grass, Eurasian watermilfoil, Brazilian elodea and water hyacinth in accordance with all regulations.
- 50+ acres of a rapidly spreading population of phragmites was treated with herbicide on Deer Island.



- First sighting of Florida flagfish (*Jordanella floridae*) in the Tchoutacabouffa River was reported via a peer-reviewed publication.

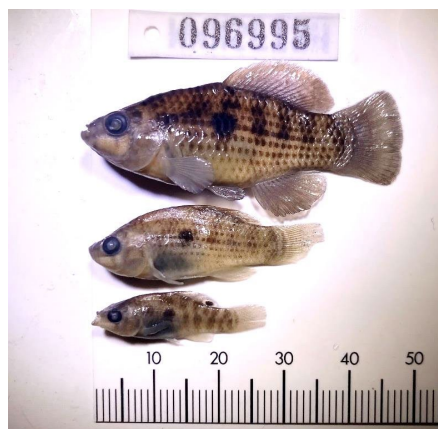


Photo Credit:

Ellwanger, Robert; Hunt, Samuel E.; Rezac, Calvin R.; and Wagner, Matthew D. (2023) "Discovery of an introduced Florida Flagfish (*Jordanella floridae*) population in Coastal Mississippi," Southeastern Fishes Council Proceedings: No. 63.

- *Pomacea maculata* trapping and egg mass destruction continued in the Pascagoula River. Limpkins continue to be sighted in the apple snail infested area.

### **Coordination and Outreach Activities**

- The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources continues to serve on the Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Species Council (MAISC), the Mississippi Cooperative Weed Management Area (MS-CWMA) and the Pascagoula River Alliance.
- An article entitled “Invasive Species Profile – Alligatorweed” was published in Coastal Markers, a magazine produced by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.
- Invasive species outreach and education events were held at Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival, Infinity Science Center (Earth Day) and Marine Science Day at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. Large display items from the Travelling Trunk of Invasive Species were utilized to facilitate interaction with the public.