

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Invasive Species Activities Oct. 2013 to March 2014

- 17 field surveys were conducted for early detection of AIS totaling 239 miles.
- New infestations of water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*), wild taro (*Colocasia esculenta*), and bloodfluke planorb snail (*Biomphalaria glabrata*) were discovered during this period and reported to either NAS database or EDD Maps as appropriate. Preserved bloodfluke planorb snails were sent to Dr. Robert Hershler, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Smithsonian Institution for confirmation of identity.



- Two low-altitude aerial photo surveys totaling of 303 miles were conducted to aid in early detection of AIS and to help monitor on-going control efforts.
- One confirmed sighting of invasive Asian tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) was reported to NAS database from a specimen provided to MDMR by a local fisherman.
- Unusually cold winter temperatures have suppressed but not killed populations of giant salvinia, common salvinia, water lettuce, water hyacinth, giant applesnail and bloodfluke planorb in South Mississippi. Monitoring efforts to determine survival of introduced salvinia weevils are underway.
- AIS personnel participated in the interstate/interagency Mississippi Bight Lionfish Response Unit (MBLRU) and the Mississippi Cooperative Weed Management Area.
- First MS pre-proposal was sent to the ANS Task Force to obtain dedicated aquatic invasive species funding made available via the newly-approved State AIS management plan.
- A "water hyacinth round-up day" was held in conjunction with the Audubon Pascagoula River Nature Center. Nineteen, United Way-Alternative Spring Break volunteers from Clemson University removed 96 cubic feet of water hyacinth from the Pascagoula River. Harvested plants were incorporated into a compost pile that will be used to nourish container-grown native terrestrial vegetation seedlings for transplant.



- 100 "Wanted-Poster" style lionfish awareness t-shirts were designed and produced in cooperation with members of the Mississippi Bight Lionfish Response Unit for distribution early this summer to local dive shops.

