

**Mississippi's Freshwater ANS Update
Gulf and South Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species**

September 2014 Meeting – Houston, TX

By

Dennis Riecke

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks

New Activities since April 2014

Working with Wildlife Forever on an ANS sticker we will post to boat ramp signs.

Attended the Mississippi River Basin Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species Meeting in July in Athens, TX.

Send a Silver Carp from a fish kill in Lake Chotard off for disease diagnosis.

A Chinese company has purchased and abandoned catfish processing facility to process and ship Asian carp carcasses to China. By the end of the year they hope to be shipping surimi blocks.

New Detections

None reported.

Ongoing Activities

Cooperating on aquatic plant control with the Mississippi Cooperative Weed Management Area which covers the entire state.

Continued treating aquatic plants at Ross Barnett Reservoir, Little Eagle Lake, Cassidy Bayou, Roebuck Lake, Neshoba County Lake and Lake Bogue Homa.

Continued posting “Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker” signs at new boat ramp sites.

Continued distributing “Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker” cards along with all boat registrations or renewals that are mailed out.

Continued printing The Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker logo and bullet list in the annual regulation guides --- *Mississippi Outdoor Digest* and *Guide to Mississippi Saltwater Fishing*.

Links to the Mississippi River Basin Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species and the Gulf and South Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species, Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker and Habitattitude websites are on the department website.

The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science has a permanent exhibit on exotic species.

Future Activities

Implement the activities specified in the Mississippi State Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species.

Compose freshwater fishing bait regulations to specify what bait can be legally, sold, possessed, transported and used in Mississippi. Prohibit wild caught bait from being used on any water body except where collected.

Seek approval of legislation required to initiate licensing of retail bait outlets selling live freshwater fishing bait.

Adopt a list of approved, restricted and prohibited species under the authority specified in MS Code 49-7-80 and as specified in the *Mississippi State Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species* Amend list of approved, restricted and prohibited species as specified in the public notice that regulates aquaculture activities in Mississippi.

Establish an EDRR monitoring program comprised of state and federal personnel who sample aquatic species in Mississippi public waterways on a routine basis.

Update and expand information for Mississippi contacts listed in the Expert Taxonomic Database.