

Mississippi's ANS Update
Mississippi River Basin Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species

October 2016 Meeting – Lafayette, Louisiana

By

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New Activities from May - September 2016

Aquatic Plant Control Activities

Chemically treated about 120 acres per month (March – August) of Cuban Bulrush (*Oxycaryum cubense*), Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), American Lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*), Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), Brazilian Elodea (*Egeria densa*), Giant Cutgrass (*Zizaniopsis miliacea*), Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) and Water Lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) in Ross Barnett Reservoir.

Chemically treated (2,4-D) Water Hyacinth, *Eichhornia crassipes*, in Lake Bogue Homa.

Chemically treated (Clipper and 2,4-D) Water Shield (*Brasenia schreberi*), White Water lily (*Nymphaea ordora*) and Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), in Neshoba County State Fishing Lake.

Chemically treated (2, 4-D) Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), in Bogue Homa State Fishing Lake.

Mechanical removal (May – August) of about 80 acres of Giant Cutgrass (*Zizaniopsis miliacea*) and Smartweed (*Polygonum* sp.), in Percy Quinn State Park Lake.

Chemically treated Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) at Mayes Lake on LeFleur's Bluff State Park.

Chemically treated *Najas* sp. at Lake Mike Conner State Fishing Lake and Golden Memorial State Park Lake.

Chemically treated White Water lily (*Nymphaea ordora*) Water Shield (*Brasenia schreberi*) in Bill Waller and Lake Columbia State Fishing Lakes.

Chemically treated Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) at J. P. Coleman State Park Lake.

Other Activities

Held first meeting (April 2016) of the Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Species Council to guide implementation of the activities specified in the *Mississippi State Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species*.

Continued working with Chef Philippe Parola and Moon River Foods to promote the harvest of Asian Carp. Issued Special Harvest permits for the use of special gear to Moon River Foods.

Gill netted (153 hours) unsuccessfully to capture Asian Carp in the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW) to implant them with radio transmitters. Deployed and removed 3 sonic tag receivers in the TTW.

Attended the ANSTF meeting to represent the MRBP in Traverse City, Michigan in May 2016.

Participated in conference calls on Asian Carp tagging and telemetry projects in the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers.

Attended MS River Basin Panel meeting in Sept. 2016 at Lake Itasca, MN.

Participated in ANSTF Economics Committee conference calls.

Participated in Gulf and South Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species and MRBP Executive Committee calls.

Commented to the ANSTF on panel guidance documents the ANSTF tracking system and the state ANS elements in the model state ANS plan document.

New Detections

Black Carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), in the Mississippi River near Greenville (June 2015).

Brazilian Elodea (*Egeria densa*) and Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) in Ross Barnett Reservoir (April 2016).

Ongoing Activities

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 the *Digest of Mississippi Freshwater Commercial Fishing Laws and Regulations*.

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

Form the Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Species Council to guide implementation of 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.

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.

Submit backlog of reported nonnative species occurrences to ANS database.