

**Mississippi's Freshwater ANS Report for the
Gulf & South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species
October 2018 Meeting—San Antonio, Texas**

**By
Dennis Riecke
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks**

New Activities from April - October 2018

Aquatic Plant Control Activities

Chemically treated about 604 acres of Cuban Bulrush (*Oxycaryum cubense*), Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) and Giant Cutgrass (*Zizaniopsis miliacea*), in Ross Barnett Reservoir. The main plant treated (80%) was Water Hyacinth. We chemically treated (Harpoon + Diquat) 95 acres of Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) and chemically treated 4 acres of Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) in Pelahatchie Bay.

Chemically treated (Harpoon + Diquat) 2 acres of Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) at JP Coleman Marina on Pickwick Lake.

To limit the spread of Giant Salvinia at Ross Barnett Reservoir containment booms were deployed and nets were placed in Pelahatchie Bay to prevent boating access in this area. All the boat ramps were closed and homeowners are prohibited from using their boats docked in this area.

Other Activities

Attended seventh and eighth meetings (June and September 2018) of the Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Species Council to guide implementation of the activities specified in the *Mississippi State Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species*.

Attended the First International Snakehead Symposium and the Mississippi River Basin Panel on ANS in July in Alexandria, VA.

MDEQ personnel generated a map of where 50 Northern Snakehead awareness and reporting signs were posted at Mississippi and Yazoo River Basin boat ramps. Fifty more signs have been purchased and posted.

Conducted 4 one acre rotenone sampling fish population assessments to assess the effect of Silver and Bighead carp on native fish density, biomass, and population composition.

Deployed Vemco receiver in Pickwick at Eastport ramp in Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW) to track tagged Silver Carp.

Gave presentation on Mississippi ANS activities at MS-LA agency fish biologists meeting.

Updated and distributed the Asian Carp Buyer/Seller list. Provided information and special permits for the harvest of Asian Carp from Moon Lake. Coordinated incentive payments of 5 cents per pound from Moon Lake Improvement Club to Moon River Foods representative.

Completed live bait survey for MS River Basin Panel on ANS.

MDWFP –Mississippi Freshwater Aquatic Nuisance Species Report

October 2018 meeting of the

Gulf & South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species

Completed ANS Survey sent by Stanford Univ. and UC Davis.

Printed more Northern Snakehead informational brochures.

Developed a Northern Snakehead panel banner for our MS Aquatic Invasive Species Council meeting display on ANS.

Designed a Northern Snakehead and Bowfin identification and reporting adhesive fish measuring ruler.

Developed a Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Species Council informational brochure.

Revising a Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers in Mississippi informational brochure.

Submitted funding requests to the USFWS to used federal ANS funds for:

- Contract fishing to remove Asian Carp from Pickwick Lake
- Invasive aquatic plant identification and treatment sheets.
- Invasive aquatic plant surveys of public waters.

New Detections

Giant Salvinia found in Pickwick Lake (Yellow Creek area) and in the Pelahatchie Bay area of Ross Barnett Reservoir.

Ongoing Activities

Asian Carp Telemetry Project on Pickwick and TTW.

Continue to participate in the Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Species Council to guide implementation of the activities specified in the *Mississippi State Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species*.

Continued distributing “Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker” cards along with all initial boat registrations and boat renewal registration cards that are mailed out.

Continued printing The Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker logo and bullet list in the annual regulation guides --- *Mississippi Outdoor Digest*, (375,000 copies printed each year) and the *Digest of Mississippi Freshwater Commercial Fishing Laws and Regulations* (8,000 copies printed each year)..

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

MDWFP – Mississippi Freshwater Aquatic Nuisance Species Report

April 2018 meeting of the Gulf & South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species

Continue chemical treatments of Giant Salvinia at Ross Barnett Reservoir and a 2 foot winter drawdown is planned to help dewater shallow areas where it exists.

Revise and reprint the Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker brochure to include more species that are present in Mississippi.

Purchase aquatic herbicides and hire contractors to treat public and private waters infested by invasive plants.

Continue telemetry project for Asian Carp in TN River and TTW. Continue to sample for Asian Carp in Pickwick.

Continue to monitor Giant Salvinia in Pickwick and the TTW. Treat as needed in Pickwick

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.

Submit backlog of reported nonnative species occurrences to ANS database.

Working on revision to the *Mississippi State Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species*