

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

October 2013 Meeting – Raleigh, NC

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

New Activities since April 2013

Received notification on July 16, 2013 that the ANS Task Force had approved the *Mississippi State Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species*.

Attended the Mississippi River Basin Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species meeting in July 2013 in Columbus, OH.

Fish kills of Asian Carp reported from several oxbow lakes in the Delta region in August and September 2013. This is the fourth year we have had such kills during this time of year. One Silver Carp from a kill on an oxbow lake in 2011 was killed by *Lactococcus lactis*.

Completed the ANS regulation survey being conducted by the Illinois-Indiana SeaGrant.

Completed the ANS regulation survey being conducted by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Working to complete the North American Invasive Species Network survey on the costs of controlling, monitoring and managing ANS.

Paper titled “*Lactococcosis* in Silver Carp *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* accepted for publication in the Journal of Aquatic Animal Health. **This is the first known occurrence of *Lactococcus lactis* in Silver Carp.**

Compiling a list of all bait vendor locations in the state to compose a map to aid anglers and identify locations that will be sent live bait sale regulations when they are promulgated in the future.

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

New Detections

Hydrilla reported in September 2013 from Lake Okhissa on Homochitto NF.

Capybara (female) killed in May 2013 by USFWS employees on Friday at St. Catherine NWR.

Egeria reported in August 2013 from Ross Barnett Reservoir was chemically treated.

Ongoing Activities

Continued treating aquatic plants at Ross Barnett Reservoir, State Fishing Lakes and Cassidy Bayou.

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.