

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

April 2014 Meeting – Gulfport, MS

By

Dennis Riecke

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks

New Activities since October 2013

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

Wrote nonnative plant species article for agency foundation magazine.

Met with 3 groups of Asians interested in assessing the harvest and processing possibilities for Asian carp in the MS Delta Region.

Compiled 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.

Responded to a report of a helicopter transferring water obtained from a river below a reservoir into the upstream reservoir as part of aerial firefighting training. Contacted the company who reprimanded the trainee as this was against company policy.

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, and Beaver Dam Lake.

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.