

**Mississippi's Freshwater ANS Report for the
Gulf and South Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species
May 2017 Meeting – Savannah, Georgia**

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

New Activities from October 2016 – April 2017

Aquatic Plant Control Activities

Chemically treated about 120 acres per month (October, November, March & April) of Cuban Bulrush (*Oxycaryum cubense*), Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), American Lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*), Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), Giant Cutgrass (*Zizaniopsis miliacea*), and Water Lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) in Ross Barnett Reservoir. The main plant treated was Water Hyacinth.

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

Chemically treated Giant Cutgrass (*Zizaniopsis miliacea*), Common Salvinia (*Salvinia minima*), Smartweed (*Polygonum* sp.), Water Hyacinth, (*Eichhornia crassipes*), Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), and Cuban Bulrush (*Oxycaryum cubense*) in Percy Quinn State Park Lake.

Chemically treated Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), and Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), at Mary Crawford State Fishing Lake.

Chemically treated *Najas* sp. at Mike Conner State Fishing Lake.

Chemically treated Water Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*) and Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), at Jeff Davis State Fishing Lake.

Other Activities

Passed a fishing regulation rule to require that live bait captured in reservoir spillways be immediately placed on ice or in a dry container to prevent bait bucket transfers of Asian carp from spillways to reservoirs.

Held second meeting (March 2017) of the Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Species Council to guide implementation of the activities specified in the *Mississippi State Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species*.

Issued Special Harvest permits for the use of special gear to Moon River Foods for the harvest of Silver Carp and Bighead Carp.

In 2016 Moon River Foods harvested 59,236 pounds of Bighead Carp, 712,175 pounds of Silver Carp, 39,112 pounds of Grass Carp and 95,925 pounds of Common Carp. Two of their

MDWFP – Freshwater Mississippi ANS Report

May 2017 GSARP meeting

fisherman drowned in rough weather condition on Moon Lake in February 2017 and Moon River Foods ceased operations in February 2017.

Completed and submitted final report to USFWS on project 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. No Silver Carp or Bighead Carp were netted.

Composed document templates to for annual and final ANS grant funded reporting to the USFWS.

Composed document template for State One Pre-proposals submitted to the USFWS for ANS grant funding.

Submitted Stage One Pre-proposals to the USFWS to use FY2016 and FY2017 ANS grant funding.

Purchased 15,000 Asian Watch ID cards for distribution to MDWFP State Fishing Lake, State Parks and District Office.

New Detections

Four Black Carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), in the Mississippi River near Greenville (October 2016) which were sent to Duane Chapman< USGS for ploidy determination and reported to the ANS database.

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.

MDWFP – Freshwater Mississippi ANS Report May 2017 GSARP meeting

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.