

South Carolina Update – October 2011 GSARP

The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force was reconvened in Charleston at the Marine Resources Offices. Staff chaired the meeting and presented information to those in attendance concerning the updating and revision of the SC Aquatic Invasive Species Plan.

A public service announcement campaign with the Freshwater Fisheries Section provided PSA's, billboards and literature for an ad campaign highlighting aquatic invasive species prevention in SC. The Aquatic Nuisance Species Program implemented several strategies both in-kind through staff time and through the completion of several outreach materials. Campaign detail include the following:

Awareness

1. Ad campaign utilizing billboards and Public Service announcements.
2. Website Update
 - Update the existing Aquatic Nuisance Species Program homepage to reflect messaging and overall look and feel of the materials produced during this campaign.
3. E-blast
 - Distribute a minimum of two E-blast to be distributed to all persons in the SCDNR email database. This will also be distributed to all South Carolina residents on the Santee Cooper email distribution list.
4. Earned Media
 - Work with media partners to get the word out through interviews and written articles.
 - Complete taping of a one minute interview for television.
5. Press Releases
 - Include the information press release in the SCDNR news packet.



ANS staff participated with University of Georgia researchers in an Island applesnail survey of the Savannah River as part of a research project concerning the transmission of AVM using the applesnail as the medium for transport of this disease.

A cooperative effort with NRCS has been initiated to provide technical information and funding support to private landowners concerning the invasive species Chinese tallow. A workshop was initiated by the SC Exotic Plant Pest Council to provide the public with a starting point for control efforts.

Oversight and supervision was given to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for invasive species helicopter control projects on the Savannah Wildlife Refuge and the ACE Basin.

Consultation was given with the USF&W on a land owner cost share for water hyacinth control in private impoundments in Horry and Georgetown Counties.

Recommendations were provided to Natural Resources Staff of the Joint Base in Charleston concerning an Environmental Assessment for the management of *Phragmites australis* on the US Naval Weapons Station Property.

The US Park Service and NC DOT requested consultation on *Phragmites* problems around the Bodie Island lighthouse in the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

A joint research project with Clemson University, SePRO Corp., and Laymans Nursery was initiated to study pithophora algae, and the associated diseases that are causing problems nationally, in a pond in Trenton SC.

Staff met with US Army Corps of Engineers staff to discuss native plant habitat restoration projects on the Savannah River Lake system.

Staff met with Fisheries staff to discuss the viability of utilizing the Barnwell Fish Hatchery as a nursery for native submersed plants to be used in habitat restoration projects.

Staff met with SCDNR Wading Bird Biologist to schedule invasive species and habitat enhancement treatments on Dungannon HP and other Wood Stork Rookeries around the state.

Field truthing and survey was accomplished with Santee Cooper staff on a habitat enhancement project in which native plants were transplanted around the Santee Cooper Lakes. This project will give valuable insight into certain planting techniques which when utilized could provide a better chance for survival of the transplanted natives in waterbodies around the state.

6,000 Alligatorweed Flea Beetles were released to help reduce Alligatorweed in Georgetown, Charleston, Berkeley, Clarendon, and York Counties.

An aerial survey of *Phragmites* on the Santee Coastal Reserve, Cedar Island, and Santee Delta was coordinated with SLED helicopters during a routine SLED marijuana survey.

Staff participated in and gave presentations at the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Meeting in Clemson, SC and the SC Exotic Plant Pest Council Board Meeting.

It appears as if the efficacy of the newer aquatic herbicides is having an impact as the total acreage of control work is reduced over previous years.

Island apple snails seem to still be on the decline as acreage and total number of ponds has decreased so far this year. We are not seeing massive egg production in most areas and in intense surveys have not seen any live specimens in a lot of areas.