

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

AIS Program Update – GSARP April 2024 Meeting

Early Detection / Rapid Response Activities

- Two aerial photo surveys totaling 383 miles were conducted for early detection of AIS in difficult-to-access areas and to help monitor treatment efforts.
- A program of integrated pest management and spot herbicide application (10 boat missions totaling 65 miles) was used to control populations of common salvinia, giant salvinia, alligator weed, torpedo grass, Eurasian watermilfoil, Brazilian elodea and water hyacinth in accordance with all regulations.
- *Pomacea maculata* trapping and egg mass destruction was paused in October 2023 due to cold season snail inactivity. Project resumes in April/May as soon as snail egg masses reappear and/or live snails are found. Limpkins continue to be sighted in the apple snail infested area and were observed to be feeding on crayfish.

Coordination and Outreach Activities

- The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources continues to serve on the Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Species Council (MAISC), the Mississippi Cooperative Weed Management Area (MS-CWMA) and the Pascagoula River Alliance.
- An invasive species outreach and education events were held at Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival and the Biloxi Boat Show. Large display items from the Travelling Trunk of Invasive Species were utilized to facilitate interaction with the public.

