

GULF & SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL PANEL ON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

APRIL 14TH – 15TH 2026

Tides Folly Beach Hotel

1 Center Street

Folly Beach, SC 29439

Microsoft Teams Meeting

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Dial-In: Tel. No.: 1-850-270-2928

Phone conference ID: 734 734 841#

Meeting ID: 263 401 650 168 92

Passcode: eQ9gQ9vM

[All times stated in the agenda are in Eastern Daylight Time. * Indicates virtual presentation]

TUESDAY APRIL 14TH 2026

8:30 Call to Order – *Matt Phillips, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FL FWCC)*, Panel Chair.

- Introductions
- Public Comment

8:50 Review and Adoption of Agenda. – *Matt Phillips, FL FWCC*.

9:00 The SC Aquatic Nuisance Plants Program at the Department of Environmental Services. – *Julie Holling, SC Department of Environmental Services (SC DES)*.

9:20 Overview of aquatic invasive plants in South Carolina. – *Keith Bradley, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)*.

9:40 Aquatic invasive plant management activities on the Santee Cooper Lakes. – *Chad Holbrook, Santee Cooper (a.k.a. South Carolina Public Service Authority)*.

10:00 BREAK

10:20 An overview of the aquatic, invasive herpetofauna of South Carolina. – *Andrew Grosse, SCDNR*.

10:40 Research highlights from USFWS State and Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan (SIANSMP) funding to the SCDNR Marine Resources Research Institute: FY2014 to the present day. – *Peter Kingsley-Smith, SCDNR – 20 minutes*

11:00 Impacts of Alabama bass invading South Atlantic Slope waterways. – *Mark Scott, SCDNR*.

11:20 Impacts of flathead catfish established in South Atlantic Slope Waterways. – *Kevin Kubach, SCDNR.*

11:40 Trophic impacts of invasive blue catfish in the Albemarle Sound, NC. * – *Jim Morley, East Carolina University (ECU)*

12:00 LUNCH (on your own)

1:00 Tracking an invasion: How the distribution and abundance of lionfish (*Pterois* spp.) have changed along the U.S. Atlantic coast. – *Margaret Walker Finch, SCDNR.*

1:20 Invasive eel swimbladder nematode, *Anguillicola crassus* research. – *Jordan Parish, SCDNR.*

1:40 White spot syndrome virus; pathways for invasion. – *Daniel Sasson, SCDNR.*

2:00 Investigating the geographic distribution of the blue land crab, *Cardisoma guanhumi*, by leveraging citizen science. – *Daniel Sasson, SCDNR.*

2:20 Using community ecology, genetics, and experimental trials to understand the potential impacts of non-native crayfish in South Carolina. – *Michael Kendrick, SCDNR.*

2:40 Caribbean creeping crabs: Implications of the continued spread of the green porcelain crab, *Petrolisthes armatus* up the southeast US coast. – *April Blakeslee, ECU.*

3:00 BREAK

3:20 Patterns of native and non-native host-symbiont associations in crayfish of South Carolina, USA – *Greg Rothman, SCDNR.*

3:40 Quantifying occupancy of non-native aquatic species in South Carolina's coastal plain using eDNA and electrofishing. – *Catherine Masatani, Clemson University.*

4:00 Seasonal variation in thermal refugia use and angler participation in removal efforts of suckermouth armored catfish in San Felipe Creek, Val Verde County, Texas. *– *Matthew Troia, University of Texas – San Antonio.*

4:20 Understanding boater behavior to prevent aquatic invasive species: A multistate test of Protection Motivation Theory. * – *Ben Ghasemi, Texas A&M University (Ohio State University).*

4:40 Pulsing corals in Puerto Rico: The puzzle. – *Nilda Marrero, Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources.*

RECESS @ 5pm

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 15TH 2026

8:30 Call to Order – *Matt Phillips, FL FWCC.*

- Public Comment

8:45 The genetic legacy of a global marine invader; the Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*. – *Erik Sotka, College of Charleston.*

9:00 Update on New ANS Introductions. – *Wesley Daniel, US Geological Survey (USGS).*

9:20 USGS Aquatic Disease and Pathogen Database Update. – *Wesley Daniel, USGS.*

9:40 Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) Update. *– *Susan Pasko, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).*

10:00 BREAK

10:15 State Reports / Members Forum.

11:40 Other Business – *Matt Phillips, FL FWCC / Jim Page, GADNR.*

- Renewal of Fiscal Agent
- SOP revision
- Next Meeting (fall 2026, Alabama?)

12:15 Public Comment.

ADJOURN

Afternoon free to enjoy the sights, sounds and flavors of Charleston.