

Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Update

March 2022



James Ballard

Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Coordinator

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 4 AIS Program - Small Grants Program



- Over the Last Seven Years - 43 Projects Funded Totaling Over \$1,000,000
- Giant Salvinia, Hydrilla, Phragmites, Didymo, Asian Carp, Rusty Crayfish, Speckled Crayfish, Red-rimmed Melania, Lionfish, Apple Snail, Asian Clam, American Eel Swimbladder Parasite, Whirling Disease, Snakehead, Invasive Black Bass, eDNA, Bait Regulations and Novel Cyanotoxin.
- Program has Resulted in Increased Collaboration and Communication Between FWS, GSMFC, GSARP, and the Academic Community.

FY2021 Projects Selected for Funding

- Leveraging Habitat Suitability Modeling to Inform Management of Nonnative Fishes in a Changing Climate. [*US Geological Survey*]
- A Horizon Scan to Collaboratively Identify Invasive Species Threats to the Islands of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. [*Univ. Florida*]
- Invasive Armored Catfish (*Pterygoplichthys* spp.) and Midas Cichlid (*Amphilophus* spp.) in Puerto Rico Rivers: Evaluations of Invasion Extent and Efficacy of a Physical Control Method. [*Univ. of Tennessee and North Carolina State Univ.*]
- Integrating Chemical and Biological Controls for the Aquatic Weed *Alternanthera philoxeroides* (Alligatorweed). [*Mississippi State Univ.*]

GSARP Invasive Species Traveling Trunk



Utilized for
1,620 Days Since
Its Release in
2012



ANSTF Prevention Subcommittee

FY22 Work Plan

- Pathway risk assessment evaluation
- Make organisms in trade data electronically available
- Determine gaps in prevention
- Ad-hoc Committee on VIDA
- Expand Non-regulatory prevention measures
 - ❖ Help Identify Steps Needed to Conduct a Traffic Assessment to Inform the Strategic Placement of Roadside Inspection Stations in New Areas.
 - ❖ Established the Fish Production and Retail Hitchhiker Mitigation Workgroup

Associated Meetings

- GSMFC Hosted the Fall 2021 Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel (GSARP) Virtual Meeting on December 1st – 2nd.
 - ❖ The GSARP is Hoping to Hold an In-person Meeting this Summer if We Can Get Clearance Under FOIA.
- The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force's (ANSTF) Fall 2021 Meeting was Held Virtually on November 16th – 18th.
 - ❖ The Spring 2022 ANSTF Meeting will be Held Virtually on May 24th – 26th.



Questions?