

Sport Fish Restoration Program Update

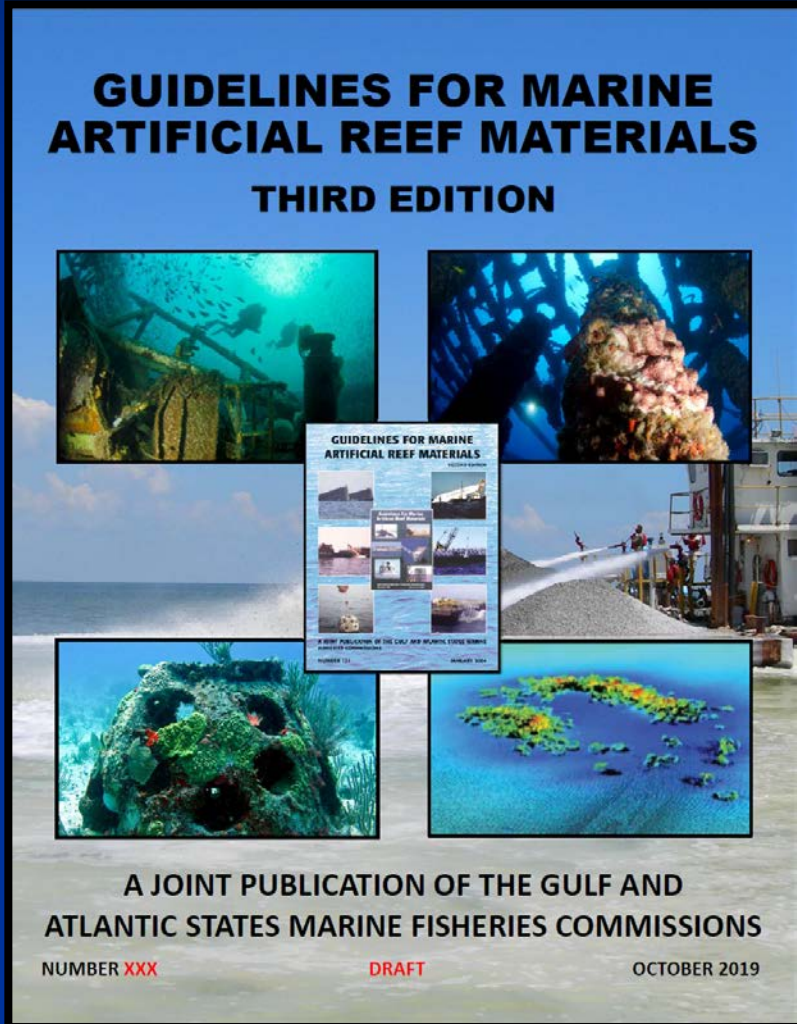
October 2019



James Ballard

Sport Fish Restoration Program Coordinator

Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials – Third Edition



- Final Draft Distributed to the TCC for Review and Approval.
- Electronically Available Through GSMFC and ASMFC Websites
- Living Document – Individual Sections will be Updated as Needed.



Dedicated to Jim Francesconi and Jimmy Sanders

Gulf Artificial Reef Monitoring and Assessment Program (GARMAP)

Gulf Artificial Reef Monitoring and Assessment Program
Standardized Monitoring and Assessment Protocol

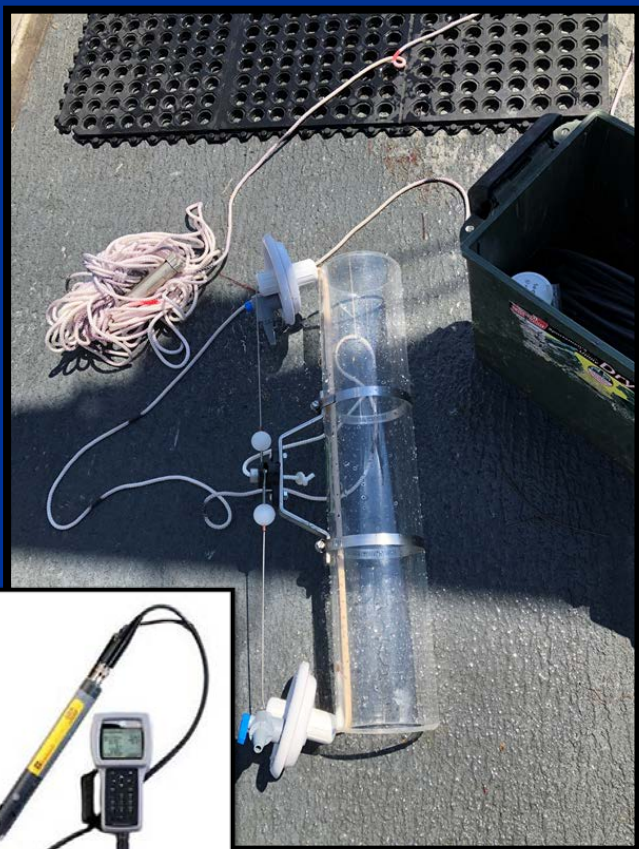
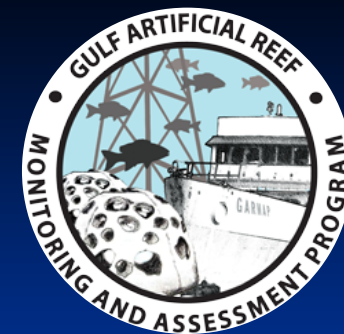


Prepared by James Ballard
Sport Fish Restoration Program
Coordinator
Gulf States Marine Fisheries
Commission



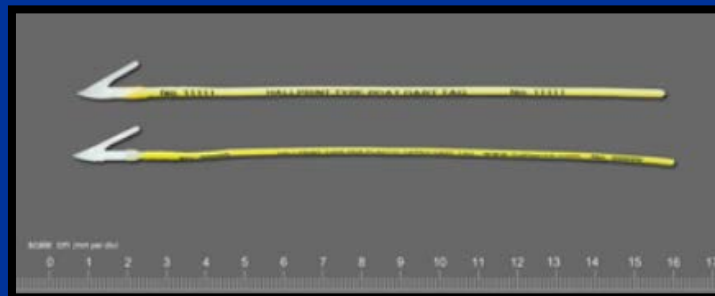


GARMAP





GARMAP

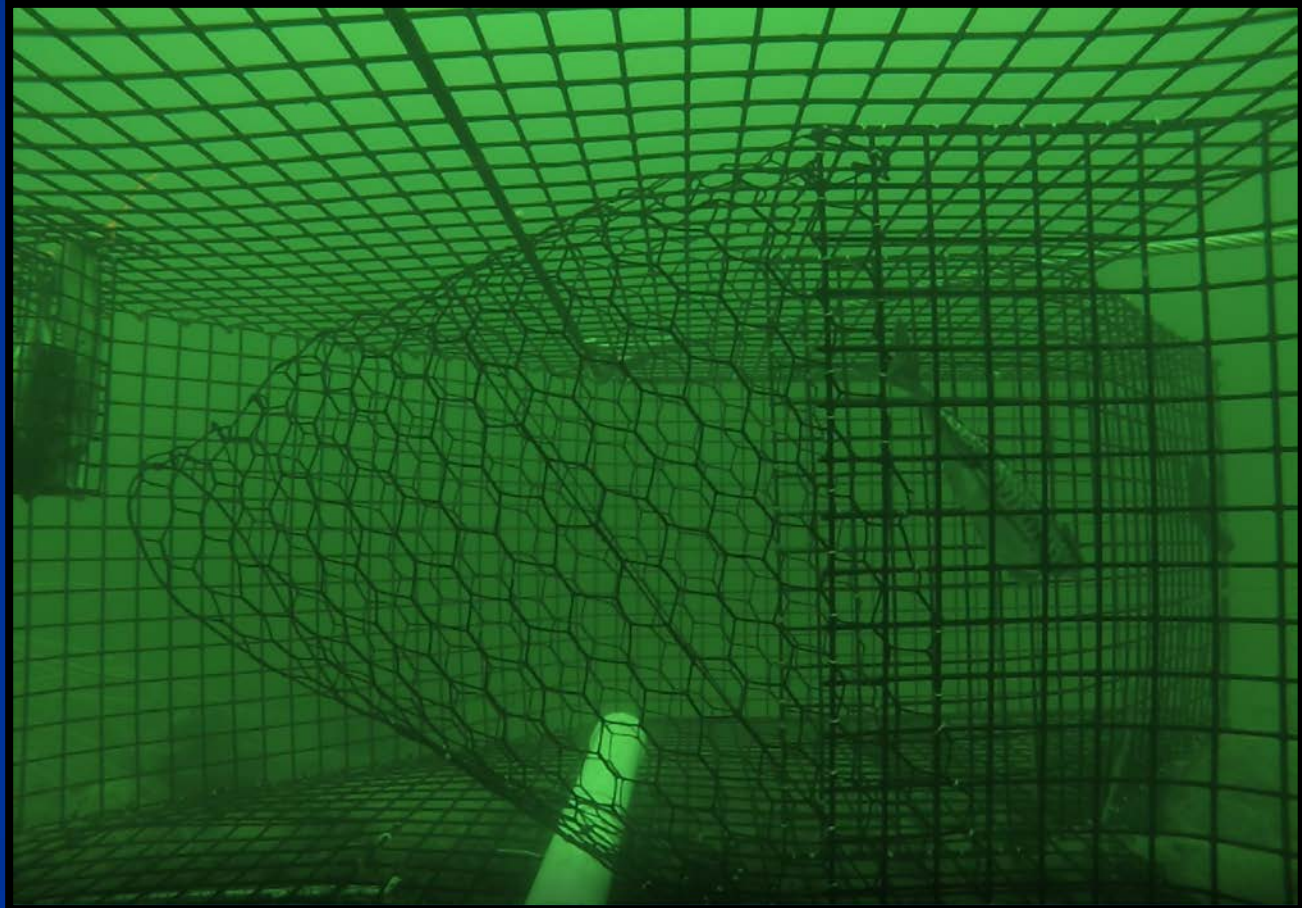




GARMAP

FH13-58 Rubble

Bottom DO Levels 0.87-1.59 mg/L



Jimmy Sanders Memorial Lionfish Challenge



Changes for 2019:

- Tournament Will Run All Year
 - Reducing the Number of Lionfish Necessary to be Entered Into the Monthly Prize Drawings
- Looking for Ways to Establish Similar Efforts in Louisiana and Texas.

Sponsors - Engel Coolers, Neritic Diving, Costa Del Mar, ZooKeeper, Fishing Chaos, and USFWS.

Recent Legislation

➤ **H.R. 3742 Recovering America's Wildlife Act**

- Calls for \$1.3 Billion to Implement State Wildlife Action Plans and Support Conservation Education and Wildlife Recreation Programs (Average \$26 Million per State).
- 125 Bipartisan Cosponsors.

➤ **H.R. 877 & S. 2092 Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act**

- PR WRP can be used by State Fish and Wildlife Agencies for Outreach, Communication, and Education of Hunters and Recreational Target Shooters, Including Focused Efforts on the R3 Initiatives of Hunters and Recreational Target Shooters

➤ **Wallop-Breaux Reauthorization**

- America's Transportation and Infrastructure Act of 2019 (S. 2302).



Questions?

Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Update

October 2019



James Ballard

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator

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



- Over the Last Five Years - 33 Projects Funded Totaling \$710K
- 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, and Invasive Black Bass.
- Program has Resulted in Increased Collaboration and Communication Between FWS, GSARP, and the Academic Community.

FY2019 Projects Selected for Funding

- Development of Invasive Species Environmental DNA Data Standards and Database for the Southeast U.S. [*US Geological Survey*].
- Model Bait Regulations to Reduce Aquatic Invasive Species [*Univ. Mississippi*].
- Risk of Injurious Fish Species to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel States. [*Univ. Florida*]
- Feeding Ecology and Species Composition of the Invasive Lionfish Population, *Pterois* sp., off the Louisiana Coast. [*Louisiana Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries*]
- Determining the Risk of Consuming Fish and Waterfowl Harvested in Reservoirs Infested by Hydrilla / *Aetokthonos hydrillicola* Producing a Novel Cyanotoxin, Aetokthonotoxin. [*Univ. Georgia*]
- The Use of Genetics, Shell Shape, and Habitat Conditions to Identify Hotspots for Native and Invasive Apple Snails that Harbor Parasitic Worms in Lake Okeechobee, Florida. [*Jacksonville State Univ.*]

GSARP Invasive Species Traveling Trunk

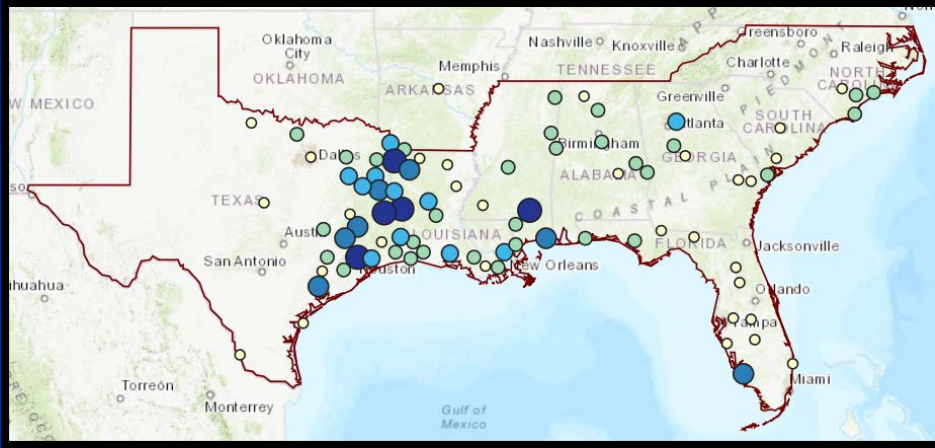


Utilized for
1,469 Days
Since Its
Release in 2012

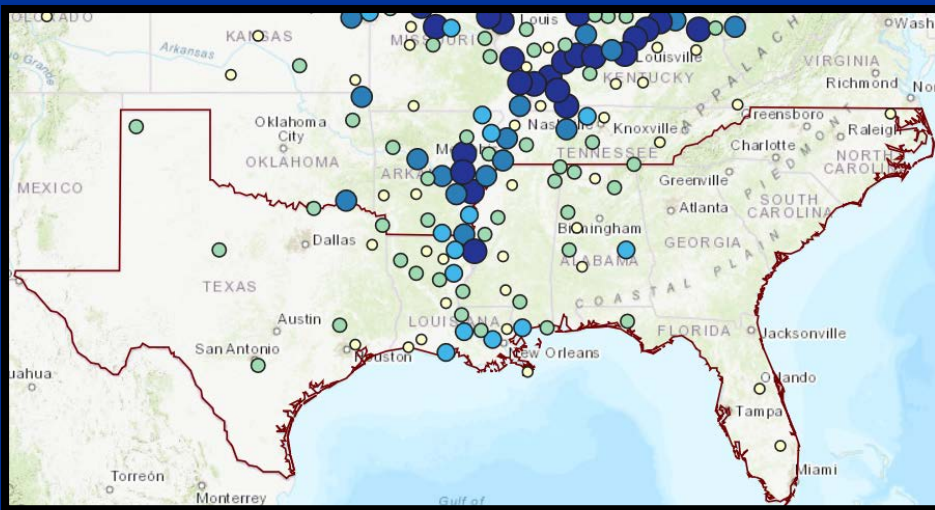


Ongoing and Emerging Issues

➤ Giant Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)




➤ Northern Snakehead (*Channa argus*)



➤ Asian Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* & *H. nobilis*)

[Distribution maps courtesy of USGS]

New GSARP Website



Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species

Eight States Coordinated

[Home](#) [Panel Members](#) [About](#)


Gulf & South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species

The spread of exotic or non-native species through intentional or inadvertent transport by man has become an extremely serious threat to native plants and animals worldwide. Negative economic effects of invasions or introductions of non-native species in the US alone are estimated at more than \$120 billion dollars per year (USFWS). That figure continues to rise as our understanding of the crisis is more fully understood. An effective, coordinated response to address the effects of such invasions is urgently needed and must be based on detailed knowledge of the biology and behavior of these species. The Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel (GSARP) helps to address this need for coordination in the southeast United States.


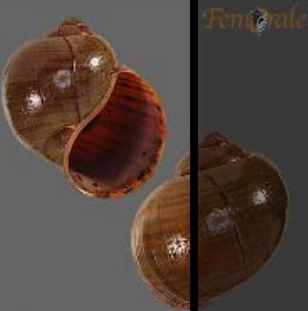
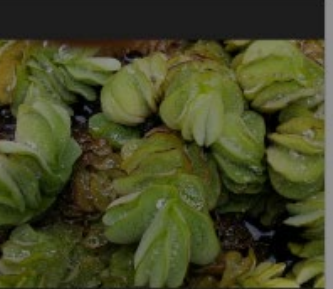

[What is an Invasive Species?](#)

[Report an Invasive Species](#)

[How Can I Help?](#)



TOP PROBLEM SPECIES

<h3>Cuban Treefrog</h3>  <p>Denise Gregoire, U.S. Geological Survey</p>	<h3>Giant Applesnail</h3>  <p>José and Marcus Coltro - Femorale.com</p>	<h3>Giant Salvinia</h3>  <p>Ian Pfingsten, USGS, 2015</p>	<h3>Northern Snakehead</h3>  <p>U.S. Geological Survey (Artist: Susan Trammell)</p>
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GSARP Traveling Trunk of Invasive Species

[Read More](#)

Testimonials

"The snake skin is a bit difficult to deal with due to the size but it makes a great display."

Robert Bourgeois, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries





Questions?