

Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Update

October 2024



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Associated Meetings

- **Gulf and South Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species (GSARP)**
 - ❖ May 14-15, 2024 in Mississippi
 - ❖ November 19-20, 2024 in Texas – new panel members and vacancies filled

- **Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF)**
 - ❖ April 8-9, 2024 in New York
 - ❖ November 6-7, 2024 (virtual) – GSMFC to provide update on our mission, priorities, and threats
 - ❖ Lionfish Prevention and Management Plan Liaison

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



- Over seven years - 43 Projects totaling over \$1M
- In 2021, selected projects, totaling \$177,693
 - ❖ University of Florida – Identifying invasive species threats to Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands 
 - ❖ University of Tennessee and North Carolina State University – Evaluating invasive armored catfish and Midas Cichlid in Puerto Rico rivers 
 - ❖ Mississippi State University – Integrating controls for aquatic weed, alligatorweed 

Evaluating invasive armored catfish and Midas Cichlid in Puerto Rico rivers

➤ Objective:

- Develop and test a method to remove Midas Cichlid and Armored Sailfin Catfish.
- Conduct a survey to assess the extent of invasions in Puerto Rico.

➤ Results:

- Electro-fishing method achieved up to 95% removal in some areas, but invasions persisted.
- Midas Cichlid widely distributed, while Armored Sailfin Catfish had a more limited presence.



Integrating controls for aquatic weed, alligatorweed

➤ Objectives:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of herbicides and thrips for controlling alligatorweed.
- Test integrated chemical and biological control methods for use where flea beetle control is not feasible.

➤ Results:

- Herbicides and thrips alone significantly reduced alligatorweed biomass.
- Integrated control methods showed no significant improvement over herbicide-only treatments



Invasive Species Traveling Trunk



Utilized for 1,834 Days Since Its Release in 2012



Questions?