NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

MISSISSIPPI

Invasive Species Management on Coastal State Land – Phase II

This project developed and deployed invasive species management activities to control and/or eradicate the invasive Amazonian Apple Snail in the lower Pascagoula estuary. The Amazonian Apple Snail (Pomacea maculate) feeds on submerged aquatic vegetation and emergent marsh plants, potentially causing catastrophic changes to natural ecosystems. Since 2014, the species has spread and significantly increased in abundance, potentially accelerating harmful ecological impacts including the reduction in vegetative biomass and growth in the coastal wetland ecosystems of the Lower Pascagoula River Basin.

This project supported monitoring to better understand the level of infestation and assess the overall threat to these habitats. Eradication efforts included removing egg masses from structures and removing live snails opportunistically or through trapping. The project also included public outreach and engagement campaigns focused on area recreational boaters to increase awareness of the threats and facilitate public actions to contribute to control efforts. Progress in controlling the non-native snail was assessed throughout the life of the project.



Above, a picture of eggs laid by the invasive Amazonian Apple Snail, which causes harm to native wetland vegetation.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

FINAL AWARD AMOUNT:
$1,093,701

PARTNERS:
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)

LOCATION:
Lower Pascagoula River Basin

AWARD DATE:
November 2019

STATUS:
Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Project closed in September of 2026.

**Project was amended March 2023 to continue control efforts through the project term.*



The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about GEBF and view a comprehensive project map go to **www.nfwf.org/Gulf**