



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Region 2 Southwest Region Fisheries Program

Aquatic Nuisance Species Arizona Fishery Resources Office

Issue:

More than 50,000 introduced plant and animal species have become established in the United States. Non-native plants and animals transform natural areas and threaten native species. In fact, nearly half of the species currently listed as threatened and endangered under the Endangered Species Act have been negatively impacted by aquatic nuisance species, and recovery of these species continues to be impacted by their continued spread throughout the United States. Aquatic nuisance species cost an estimated \$123 billion annually in economic loss and exceed \$100 billion annually to control.



USFWS

Non-native crayfish prey upon, outcompete, and destroy the habitat of many Arizona native fish.

Accomplishments:

The Arizona Fishery Resources Office (AZFRO) has been an active participant in efforts to control the future introductions of new and spread of existing aquatic nuisance species. AZFRO is a member of the Giant Salvinia Taskforce, Crayfish Workgroup, and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Aquatic Nuisance Species Pilot Project for Arizona. AZFRO is the Region 2 lead for the implementation of regional Hazardous Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Plans, has developed a HACCP protocol for all of AZFRO's activities, developed a HACCP module for inclusion in the Region 2's Department of Interior Motorboat Operator Certification Course, and assisted in the development of a HACCP Course to be offered through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center. On-the-ground accomplishments by AZFRO include removal of invasive salt cedar for the benefit of endangered Gila topminnow, removal of non-native fish from streams containing threatened Apache trout, and removal of non-native fish from backwaters now home to endangered razorback sucker and bonytail. Future efforts will include spraying for the control and/or eradication of non-native giant salvinia.



USGS

New Zealand mud snail, although small, is huge nuisance.

Future Outlook:

The highest priority of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force is to inform the public about the negative impacts of aquatic nuisance species. If the introduction or spread of invasive species is prevented by informed people, then it is believed that efforts to control or eradicate invasive species will require fewer resources and efforts in the future. In addition to increasing public awareness, equally important issues are going unmet in the battle against aquatic nuisance species and include: determining the current status and distribution of aquatic nuisance species, identifying threats of aquatic nuisance species to native species and habitats, and developing mechanisms to control or eradicate aquatic nuisance species.



USFWS

Spraying chemicals is one way of controlling non-native giant salvinia that has become established in the lower Colorado River, AZ.

Contact:

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