

Barataria-Terrebonne Rapid Assessment Project (BTRAP)



Scientist collect samples looking for invasiv

Problem Addressed:

Louisiana is particularly susceptible to biological invasions due to the prominence of its ports, as the shipping business is a major pathway for species introductions. Our mild climate then offers invaders ample opportunity to reproduce and spread.

Problem Description:

In the summer of 2008, BTNEP partnered with over 50 field personnel from agencies and universities in five states to conduct Louisiana's first rapid assessment of invasive species in the Barataria and Terrebonne estuaries. The event was a week-long intensive survey of plants, fish, and invertebrates intended to form a baseline snapshot of invasives for use in future monitoring, tracking, and control.

Volunteer field surveyors, plant and animal identification experts, and other logistical volunteers lived in the field and sampled specific sites throughout the Barataria and Terrebonne estuaries, focusing on plants, fish, and invertebrates. The resulting baseline of information about invasive species from this project will provide the state's Management Council and the Gulf and South Atlantic regional Panel with data for invasive species management purposes. It will also provide the Council and Panel with an assessment process and data that can be used when planning future rapid assessments.

Over 2,000 data entries from the week's field surveys were eventually compiled into a searchable database. Though no new invasive species were discovered, the assessment did reveal a startling degree of geographic spread for several known invasives. In particular, the floating fern, giant salvinia, was discovered in several areas well outside of its previously known range, and an invasive fish, the Rio Grande cichlid, was found to have moved from east of the Mississippi River into the Barataria system for the first time.

Project Year: 2008

Category: Invasives

Status: Complete

Project #: None

Location:

Barataria and Terrebonne Basins

Project Partners:

EPA, Invasive Species Council, LDWF, NRCS Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center, Many more



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