



KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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March 13, 2006

Mamie Parker [Co-Chair]
Assistant Director
Fisheries and Habitat Conservation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Interior Building, Room 3245
1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.
20240

Timothy R. E. Keeney [Co-Chair],
Dep. Assistant Secretary for Oceans and
Atmosphere
Dept. of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
Herbert C. Hoover Bldg., Room 5804
14th Street and Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 2023

Dear Ms. Parker and Mr. Keeney:

It is my pleasure to submit the enclosed State Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species in Louisiana to the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (NANSTF). This plan, prepared by both governmental and non-governmental entities, addresses the threat of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) within the state jurisdiction. This plan follows the guidance provided in Public Law 101-646, as amended by the National Invasive Species Act of 1996. A public input and review process was conducted and is summarized in the plan.

For the past several years, various state agencies and private organizations have worked independently to address ANS issues. In 2004, the Louisiana Legislature created the Louisiana Aquatic Invasive Species Council and Task Force to bring together these agencies and organizations to implement and coordinate the goal of this plan efficiently. The State of Louisiana requests NANSTF approval of the plan so that we will be eligible for grants to assist in actions to protect the state's unique natural resources from aquatic invasive species and their impacts.

Please direct any NANSTF comments regarding the plan to the chairman of the Louisiana Aquatic Invasive Species Council, listed below:

Scott Longman, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000; 225-765-2335; slongman@wlf.louisiana.gov

Ms. Parker and Mr. Keeney
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The plan development was professionally facilitated and written by: Alysia Kravitz Loshbaugh and Richard Campanella, Center for Bioenvironmental Research at Tulane and Xavier Universities with significant contributions by Marilyn Barrett-O'Leary of Louisiana Sea Grant Program, Lisa Schiavinato of the Louisiana Sea Grant Legal Program, and members of the Louisiana Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force.

We look forward to NANSTF approval of the plan and future consideration for federal funds to help implement the plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Babineaux Blanco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor