

Executive Orders

EXECUTIVE ORDER MJF 02-11

Louisiana Non-Indigenous Aquatic Species Advisory Task Force

WHEREAS, certain aquatic plant and animal species which are non-indigenous to the United States have invasively infested the waters of the state of Louisiana and/or the United States (hereafter "non-indigenous aquatic species"), posing a threat to the state of Louisiana's indigenous aquatic species and native ecosystems;

WHEREAS, non-indigenous aquatic species continue to be unintentionally introduced into non-infested waters of the state of Louisiana by operators of recreational and commercial vessels, through aquaculture, and by aquarium owners, suppliers and retailers; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana and its citizens will be best served by public and private scientific communities partnering with federal agencies and the state of Louisiana through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to develop an environmentally compatible means to contain, control, eradicate, and/or prevent the introduction of non-indigenous aquatic species in the waters of the state of Louisiana and through an advisory task force charged with: compiling information on non-indigenous aquatic species; providing a forum for the scientific community for coordination and creation of methods, actions, plans, programs, and/or technology to prevent, contain, control, and/or eradicate infestations of non-indigenous aquatic species; minimizing the impact of non-indigenous species on native ecosystems; and recommending a management plan to contain, control, eradicate, and/or prevent the introduction of non-indigenous aquatic species while preserving and/or restoring native ecosystems;

NOW THEREFORE, I, M.J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR., Governor of the state of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the state of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: The Louisiana Non-Indigenous Aquatic Species Advisory Task Force (hereafter "Task Force") is established within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

SECTION 2: The duties of the Task Force shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

A. compiling information, data, methods, actions, programs, and/or technologies on or related to aquatic plant and animal species non-indigenous to the state of Louisiana and/or the United States which invasively infest the waters of the state of Louisiana and/or the United States (hereafter "non-indigenous aquatic species"), including hydrilla, salvinia, water hyacinth, zebra mussels and Asian carp, particularly on issues related to the prevention, containment, control and/or eradication of non-indigenous aquatic species in a manner that protects, preserves and/or restores native ecosystems and indigenous aquatic species;

B. identifying all agencies of and entities in the state of Louisiana which have interaction or contact with, or encompass, address, investigate, and/or study non-indigenous aquatic species, or nuisance and/or invasive

aquatic plants and/or animals; identifying the purpose, duties, and functions of each agency and/or entity; and identifying a means to coordinate the efforts, functions and/or resources of each agency and/or entity with the Task Force and/or with other agencies and/or entities;

C. recommending a management plan for the prevention, control, containment, and/or eradication of non-indigenous aquatic species in a manner that protects, preserves and/or restores native ecosystems and indigenous aquatic species, particularly addressing the prevention of the unintentional spread of non-indigenous aquatic species to uninfested fresh, salt, and brackish waters within the state of Louisiana;

D. identifying and analyzing potential commercial and/or productive uses of non-indigenous aquatic species;

E. if needed, recommending legislation to address issues related to the prevention, control, containment and/or eradication of non-indigenous aquatic species in a manner that protects, preserves, and/or restores native ecosystems and indigenous aquatic species; and

F. identifying all relevant federal, state, and private funding sources that may be used to control, contain, eradicate, and/or prevent the introduction of non-indigenous aquatic species in a manner that protects, preserves and/or restores native ecosystems and indigenous aquatic species.

SECTION 3: By July 1, 2003, the Task Force shall submit a final report to the governor on the issues set forth in Section 2 of this Order. A preliminary report on the issues, including recommended legislation, shall be submitted to the governor by December 31, 2002.

SECTION 4: The Task Force shall be composed of a maximum of twenty-nine (29) members selected as follows:

- A. the governor, or the governor designee;
- B. the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, or the secretary's designee;
- C. the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, or the secretary's designee;
- D. the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, or the secretary's designee;
- E. the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, or the commissioner's designee;
- F. the president of the Louisiana Senate, or the president's designee;
- G. the speaker of the House of Representatives, or the speaker's designee;
- H. the district commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District, or the district commander's designee;
- I. the district engineer of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, or the district engineer's designee;
- J. the district chief, United States Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, or the district chief's designee;
- K. the region supervisor, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Lafayette Office, or the region supervisor's designee;
- L. the state plant pest director, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health

Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, or the state plant pest directors designee;

M. the chancellor of the Louisiana State University, College of Agriculture, or the chancellor's designee;

N. the chancellor of the University of New Orleans, or the chancellor's designee;

O. the director of the Center for Bioenvironmental Research, Xavier University, or the director's designee;

P. the director of the Center for Bioenvironmental Research, Tulane University, or the director's designee;

Q. the chancellor of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, or the chancellor's designee;

R. the executive director of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, or the executive director's designee;

S. the president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Association, or the president's designee;

T. the president of the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association, or the president's designee;

U. the president of the Louisiana Marine and Motorcycle Trades Association, or the president's designee;

V. the executive director of Louisiana Sea Grant Program, or the executive director's designee;

W. the director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, or the director's designee;

X. five (5) representatives of businesses and industries located in the state of Louisiana that may be adversely affected by the spread or existence of non-indigenous aquatic species; and

Y. one (1) member at-large.

SECTION 5: The chair of the Task Force shall be appointed by the governor from the membership of the Task Force.

SECTION 6: The Task Force shall meet at regularly scheduled intervals and at the call of the chair.

SECTION 7:

A. Task Force members shall not receive additional compensation or a per diem from the Office of the Governor for serving on the Task Force.

B. Task Force members who are an employee or an elected public official of the state of Louisiana or a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana may seek reimbursement of travel expenses, in accordance with PPM 49, from their employing and/or elected department, agency and/or office.

C. Task Force members who are also a member of the Louisiana Legislature may seek a per diem from the Louisiana Senate or House of Representatives, as appropriate, for their attendance at Task Force meetings and/or service on the Task Force.

SECTION 8: Support staff, facilities, and resources for the Task Force shall be provided by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

SECTION 9: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies, and officers of the state, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate with the Task Force in implementing the provisions of this Order.

SECTION 10: This Order is effective upon signature and shall continue in effect until amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded by the governor, or terminated by operation of law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the city of Baton Rouge, on this 4th day of June, 2002.

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR
Fox McKeithen
Secretary of State
0205#001