



LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

"... conserving our natural resources and your right to enjoy them."



SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATION AND LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS CAUSED BY WATER HYACINTH, HYDRILLA, SALVINIA AND OTHER NOXIOUS AQUATIC PLANT SPECIES IN PUBLIC WATER BODIES THROUGHOUT LOUISIANA

WHEREAS, L. R. S. 56:328 prohibits the importation of certain aquatic plants into the jurisdiction of the State of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, water hyacinth, hydrilla and salvinia, three invasive exotic aquatic plant species, are already present in many public waterways of the state, and

WHEREAS, the rapid and continuous spread of these noxious aquatic plant species has significantly restricted boating and fishing access, contributed to the decline of native aquatic plant diversity, reduced valuable fish, furbearer and waterfowl habitat, negatively impacted drainage and flood control capabilities, and interfered with commercial navigation, and

WHEREAS, if left uncontrolled, the continuing proliferation of these noxious exotic aquatic species will ultimately result in widespread loss of access to waterbodies for multiple and diverse user groups, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is charged with the responsibility for aquatic plant control in public waterbodies statewide, and

WHEREAS, LDWF is not funded sufficiently to implement control activities that are adequately effective against water hyacinth, hydrilla, salvinia and other problem aquatic plant species.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation urges and requests the Governor and Legislature of the State of Louisiana to fund the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' expanded program budget request necessary to adequately address the problems presented by invasive and noxious exotic aquatic plant species in the state.

Adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation in convention assembled, March 12, 2000 in Alexandria, Louisiana.