

APPENDIX O. Aquatic Species Strategies

Habitat Code*	STRATEGY
FISH-RELATED STRATEGIES	
ATCH	Develop "white paper" on issues associated with Old River control structure as it affects on pallid sturgeon and address these issues with the COE.
CALC	Identify sites where low head dams are present and evaluate their effects on fish distribution/dispersal patterns. Develop recommendations to improve fish passage through low head dams.
PEAR	Alabama Shad: Reintroduce species to its original Louisiana drainages.
	Gulf Sturgeon:
PEAR	· Implement conservation actions recommended in SWG project T8 (LDWF 2005) and recovery plan (USFWS et al. 1995c)
PEAR	· Prepare "white paper" on the importance of access for sturgeon to spawning areas in the Pearl Basin. Meet with COE and USFWS to discuss fish passage issues.
SAB	Western Sand Darter and Suckermouth Minnow: Develop partnerships with Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife to monitor populations of these species throughout the Sabine drainage basin.
HERP-RELATED STRATEGIES	
BARA	Mississippi Diamondback Terrapin: Conservation of coastal dune habitat is paramount to terrapin reproduction. Continued removal of abandoned crab traps will drastically reduce incidental mortality.
MISS	Turtles: Monitor the effects of the pet trade on population densities and determine the effects of human disturbance on nesting areas. Incorporate current management guidelines (i.e., PARC) and develop new guidelines to address data gaps.
MAMMAL-RELATED STRATEGIES	
	Manatees:
MARINE	· Incorporate recommendations of the manatee recovery plan for Louisiana populations (note: manatee population increases in recent years have been related to a lack of cold weather over the last 15 years. Severe freezes, such as those in 1984 and 1989 cause severe or total loss of the species in the state, after which it seems to re-colonize from peninsular Florida. Increased utilization of warm-water discharges from coastal power plants and industrial sources also helps with local survival of the species).
MARINE	· Intensify public awareness of manatee presence in Louisiana to encourage the public to report manatee sightings to the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program.
MARINE	· Continue and support the Manatee/Sea Grass Bed Program created by Louisiana Natural Heritage Program in 2003.
MARINE	· Continue education and public awareness of the presence of manatees in Louisiana through signs, pamphlets, and public events.

APPENDIX O. Aquatic Species Strategies cont.

Habitat Code*	
CRUSTACEAN-RELATED STRATEGIES	
	Crustaceans:
MERM	· Develop strategies to abate further degradation of streams known to contain populations of crawfish species of conservation concern derived from SWG project T10 (Walls 2003).
MERM	· Continue to monitor known populations through periodic surveys to maintain current database records.
RED	Crustaceans: Develop a protocol to monitor abundance, distribution patterns, and habitat quality using baseline data obtained in SWG project T10 (Walls 2003).
MUSSEL-RELATED STRATEGIES	
	Mussels:
PONT	· Inflated Heelsplitter: Work with sand and gravel interests to restore and maintain habitat within the Amite River.
OUCH PEAR PONT	· Implement conservation and management strategies from SWG project T10 upon completion.
RED	Louisiana Pearshell:
RED	· Develop a survey protocol to monitor the remaining populations, especially in streams located within the Kisatchie NF.
RED	· Partner with the USFWS to implement conservation recommendations in the recovery plan (USFWS 1989).
RED	· Work with landowners to maintain water quality in the streams inhabited by the Louisiana pearshell.
GENERAL / MULTI-GROUP SPECIES STRATEGIES	
BARA	Initiate long-term sampling to identify trends in the distribution and abundance of native and invasive species within the Barataria Basin.
BARA	Work with LCA, CWPPRA to incorporate strategies developed for aquatic species of conservation concern into future coastal restoration efforts.
CALC MERM	Sampling is needed to identify trends in the range and abundance of invasive fish species (especially carp). Incorporate recommendations of State Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species (LDWF 2005) to control invasive fish species.
MISS	Work with landowners to initiate or continue the implementation of conservation plans developed for amphibians and reptiles along with USFWS endangered and threatened species recovery plans over the next 10 years.
OUAC	Develop a comprehensive survey methodology to determine long term trends in freshwater fish population abundances of the entire Ouachita Basin.
PEAR	Support and expand the fish passage study currently being conducted in the Mississippi portion of the Pearl River.
PEAR	Develop a comprehensive survey methodology for the Pearl River and its tributaries to fill data gaps for this critical drainage basin.
PONT	Implement species conservation strategies detailed in the LPBF plan (Maygarden et al. 2004).
TERR VERM	Develop data base containing baseline data on current composition and abundance of all species with a focus on species of conservation concern.
TERR VERM	Sampling is needed to identify trends in range and abundance of native and invasive species throughout the Terrebonne and Vermilion-Teche Basins.
MARINE	Evaluate methods to monitor changes in sea turtle and marine mammal populations.

APPENDIX O. Aquatic Species Strategies cont.

*Habitat	
Code	Basin
ATCH	ATCHAFALYA
BARA	BARATRIA
CALC	CALCASIEU
MERM	MERMENTAU
MISS	MISSISSIPPI
OUAC	OUACHITA
PEAR	PEARL
PONT	PONTCHARTRAIN
RED	RED
SAB	SABINE
TERR	TERREBONNE
VERM	VERMILION-TECHE

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