

CHAPTER 3. APPROACH

The task of developing the comprehensive strategy has been coordinated among LDWF staff from the Fur & Refuge, Inland Fisheries, Marine Fisheries, and Wildlife Divisions. Additional coordination efforts were accomplished by soliciting input from representatives of other state and federal agencies, universities, non-governmental and environmental organizations, corporations and industry, and the citizens of Louisiana. Without their feedback and expertise completion of the CWCS would not have been possible.

A. Organizational Structure

1. Technical Committees

A core committee of LDWF staff from the Fur & Refuge, Inland Fisheries, Marine Fisheries, and Wildlife Divisions and Public Information Section, was formed to develop the CWCS (Appendix B). The role of the core committee was to provide steering and technical guidance throughout the strategy development process.

Technical committees formed were comprised of persons with expertise on species of concern and their habitats (Appendix C). These committees helped to develop the species of concern list and provided biological guidance on habitat, threat, and monitoring issues.

As elements of the CWCS developed, the core committee presented them to a statewide focus group for review and comment. This group of federal and state agency personnel, members of non-governmental organizations, corporations and industry, and private citizens all share a common commitment to ensuring the health and diversity of Louisiana's fish and wildlife resources.

2. Coordination with Other Agencies

Several federal and state agencies were identified as having a potential role in the development of the CWCS, and each was asked to designate a representative to be the primary contact for that agency. The following is a list of those agencies and their representatives:

- Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service (Don Reed)
- Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (Michael Thomas)
- Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, Office of State Parks (David Latona)
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (Chris Piehler)
- Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Atchafalaya Basin Program (Sandra Thompson)
- Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Restoration (Brad Miller)
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (Jan Grenfell)

- Louisiana Division of Administration, Office of State Lands (Charles St. Romain)
- National Park Service (Martha Segura)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Richard Hartman)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (Jeff Rester)
- US Army Corps of Engineers, Atchafalaya Basin (Neil LaLonde)
- US Army Corps of Engineers, Bodcau (Susanne Odom)
- US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans (Chris Brantley)
- US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans (Nathan S. Dayan)
- US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans Planning (Barton Rogers)
- US Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg (Dan Twedt)
- US Department of Agriculture (John Pitre)
- US Department of Agriculture (Marty Floyd)
- US Department of Army, Fort Polk (Danny Hudson)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (Bill Vermillion)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (Debbie Fuller)
- US Forest Service, Kisatchie National Forest (Ken Dancak)
- US Geological Survey, National Wetlands Research Center (Carroll Cordes)

3. Public Involvement and Partnerships

LDWF recognized early in the strategy development process that to achieve success in implementing this strategy (1) public participation must be a top priority and (2) this effort must be a multi-agency endeavor.

Public meetings were held across the state to inform the community of the CWCS goals and to gather input (Appendix D). In order to garner further public involvement and develop partnerships, LDWF posted information about the CWCS on its website (www.wlf.louisiana.gov), gave live television and radio interviews, and held statewide meetings to identify species of conservation concern, complete habitat threat assessments and to develop strategies to abate habitat threats. Letters that explained what LDWF planned to accomplish through the SWG program and to encourage partnerships with other parties in the creation of the CWCS were mailed to more than 40 non-government organizations including:

- Acadiana Park Nature Station
- America's Wetland
- Audubon Council
- Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
- Baton Rouge Audubon Society
- Bayou Haystackers
- Bird Study Group
- Black Bear Conservation Committee
- Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
- Coastal Conservation Association
- Farm Bureau Federation

- Gulf Restoration Network
- Louisiana Forestry Association
- Louisiana Coast
- Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
- Lake Pontchartrain Fishermen's Association
- Louisiana Alligator Farmers & Ranchers Association
- Louisiana Aquaculture Association
- Louisiana Catfish Farmers Association
- Louisiana Cattleman's Association
- Louisiana Crab Task Force
- Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Association
- Louisiana Environmental Action Network
- Louisiana Hiking Club
- Louisiana Inshore Shrimper's Association
- Louisiana Landowners Association
- Louisiana Ornithological Society
- Louisiana Oyster Task Force
- Louisiana Oysters Dealers & Growers Association
- Louisiana Shrimp Association
- Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
- Louisiana Urban Forestry Council
- Louisiana Wildlife Federation
- Mississippi River Basin Alliance
- Northlake Nature Center
- Orleans Audubon Society
- Sierra Club, Delta Chapter
- Terrebonne Fishermen's Organization
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tulane Green Club
- United Commercial Fishermen's Association
- American – Vietnamese Commercial Fishermen's Union

4. Cooperation with Other States

LDWF is a member of the Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Ad-hoc committee that is comprised of states in the USFWS Region 4. Meetings were held to coordinate development of the CWCS, and to facilitate networking among states to solve CWCS-related issues. LDWF also sponsored a meeting of adjacent states including Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi to coordinate cross-border species and habitat issues.