

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 159

BY REPRESENTATIVES PATRICK WILLIAMS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, WESLEY BISHOP, BROSSETT, HENRY BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, COX, DIXON, GREENE, HAZEL, HILL, HOFFMANN, HOWARD, HUNTER, KATRINA JACKSON, JEFFERSON, MILLER, MORENO, ORTEGO, PIERRE, SCHEXNAYDER, ST. GERMAIN, AND THIBAUT AND SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the methods of controlling and eradicating Giant Salvinia, water hyacinth, and hydrilla and to report with recommendations of the most cost-effective method, or combination of methods, to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on or before February 15, 2014.

WHEREAS, *Salvinia Molesta* is the formal name for the invasive aquatic species Giant Salvinia that is a rapidly proliferating aquatic fern that can double in size in a week to ten days, and, in three months, can expand to cover forty square miles and form mats three feet thick; and

WHEREAS, Giant Salvinia is a free-floating aquatic fern native to Brazil and was brought into the United States by the aquarium and water garden industry; and

WHEREAS, Giant Salvinia has been found in nearly every public waterbody in northwest Louisiana and continues to spread to other areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, the control and eventual removal of this evasive plant is absolutely necessary if Louisiana is to control and maintain its waterways; and

WHEREAS, Giant Salvinia is very difficult to control with direct and aerial application of foliar herbicide applications because the leaves have specialized hairs that are very efficient at keeping water off the leaf making it very difficult for herbicides to be absorbed by the plant; and

WHEREAS, herbicide applications only affect the top layer of the up to three foot mat of plant material, and the mats float and move on the surface making consistent reapplication of herbicide difficult; and

WHEREAS, other methods of control have included introduction of grass carp and weevils to consume the plants, draining lakes and drying the lake bottom, and the use of mechanical harvesters; and

WHEREAS, water hyacinth, a South American native, was first introduced to the United States as an ornamental plant at the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition in New Orleans in 1884 and frequently clogs bayous and canals, impedes boat traffic, slows water currents, and blocks light to native submerged aquatic vegetation, degrading water quality and harming wildlife; and

WHEREAS, hydrilla, originally from Asia, is a rooted, aquatic weed that inhabits both deep and shallow waters forming thick mats that impede boat traffic and swimming and adversely affects water quality by shading out native vegetation, lowering dissolved oxygen concentrations, and can result in fish kills.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the methods of controlling and eradicating Giant Salvinia, water hyacinth, and hydrilla and to report with recommendations of the most cost-effective method, or combination of methods, to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on or before February 15, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE