



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

646 Cajundome Blvd.
Suite 400
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

October 21, 2003

Mr. William Conner
Chief, NOAA/Damage Assessment Center
1305 East-West Highway, SSMC#4, 10th Floor
Silver Spring, MD, 20910

Dear Mr. Conner,

The FWS Lafayette Field Office has reviewed the Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program, Draft Regional Restoration Plan - Region 2, September 2003 (Region 2 RRP). Overall, the Region 2 RRP document is well-written, however, we offer the following specific comments.

Page iii, Table of Contents - The Table of Contents is incomplete.

Page 21, Settlement Calculation, RP Implemented Restoration Project, last sentence - The last sentence is unclear and it appears to be contradictory regarding the issue of liability.

Page 24, Cash Settlement -Non-Project-Specific Cash Out, Oyster Reefs, last paragraph - The average cost/DKBY is not consistent with the cost/DKBY in Appendix F.

Pages A-2 through A-10, Tables A-1 through A-12 - These tables should be revised for spelling, scientific accuracy, and overall applicability in accordance with the May 30, 2003 and July 7, 2003, comments provided to NOAA by this Field Office.

Pages B-1 through B-3, Appendix B – Project Solicitation Form - This section states that the Project Solicitation Form is pending OMB approval. We strongly recommend that the draft form be circulated among the participating agencies for approval prior to being finalized by OMB. As stated in our July 7, 2003 comments to NOAA, we recommended that a “Conservation Servitude Agreement” check box be added within the Project Status block of this form in order to ensure that the landowners are aware that the Trustees require a conservation servitude agreement. We also recommended adding language in the Project Status instruction section to briefly describe conservation servitude agreements, their length of term (25 years, 30 years, perpetuity, etc.), etc.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please call Warren Lorentz,
Contaminant Specialist of this office at 337-291-3126.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell C. Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Russell C. Watson
Acting Field Supervisor