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Title: LA Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, Office of the Governor/NOAA September 17, 2003 [memorandum to] Reviewer ...

SEP 17 2003

To: Reviewer

From: Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, Office of the Governor
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Re: Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program: Availability of Draft Region 2 Restoration Plan for Public Review and Comment

Federal and Louisiana natural resource trustees are soliciting public comments on the draft Regional Restoration Plan for Region 2 (Region 2 RRP) to restore natural resources injured by oil spills. This draft Region 2 RRP is the first of nine regional plans to be developed under the statewide Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program.

The State of Louisiana, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of the Interior have developed a statewide program to expedite restoration of natural resources injured by oil spills and reduce the cost of natural resource damage assessments—the process by which trustee agencies assess and restore resources injured by oil spills.

Region 2 encompasses the Breton Sound and Barataria hydrologic basins and the lower Mississippi River basin, delta plain, and modern Balize (Birdsfoot) delta, including State waters in the Gulf of Mexico. The following parishes are located either partly or completely within Region 2: Ascension, Assumption, Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist. The draft Region 2 RRP describes the region's biological resources and habitat types, as well as the natural resources/services that are likely to be injured by an oil spill, appropriate restoration types for each of the potentially injured resources/services, and available restoration projects that have been identified to date.

One of the key features of the draft Region 2 RRP is the determination of a representative unit cost to restore predominant habitat types as part of a cash settlement. The proposed predominant habitat types in Region 2 are coastal herbaceous wetlands, oyster reefs, and coastal-forested wetlands.

Written comments on the draft Region 2 RRP should be submitted by October 23, 2003 to:

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Additional information about the Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program, including an electronic copy of the Region 2 Plan, is available at: www.darp.noaa.gov/seregion/larrplan.htm. Any questions or further requests for information should be directed to William Conner at the address listed above or:

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Enclosure