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Author

The primary author of this document is Karen L. Anderson of the Division of Scientific Authority (see **ADDRESSES** above).

Authority

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: June 11, 2003.

Marshall P. Jones, Jr.,

Deputy Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Environmental Assessment on Management of Mute Swans in the Atlantic Flyway

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that a Draft Environmental Assessment on the Management of Mute Swans in the Atlantic Flyway is available for public review. Comments and suggestions are requested.

DATES: You must submit comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment by July 16, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) can be obtained by writing to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4107, Arlington, VA 22203. The DEA may also

be viewed on the Fish and Wildlife Service home page at <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov>. Written comments can be sent to the address above, or emailed to MuteSwanEA@fws.gov. All comments must include the name and full mailing address of the person submitting the comments. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the public record. You may inspect comments during normal business hours at the address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John L. Trapp, (703) 358-1965.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the DEA is to determine how to respond to applications for permits to take mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act for the purpose of minimizing the environmental damage that they can cause. The DEA (1) reviews the history, population status, and trends of mute swans in the Atlantic Flyway; (2) summarizes the history of mute swan population management; (3) assesses the effects of mute swans on wetland habitats, native species of fish and wildlife, and human interests; and (4) evaluates the need for continuing management of mute swans in the Atlantic Flyway to minimize environmental damage. Four alternatives, including the proposed action, are considered.

Steve Williams,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Mississippi River Basin Panel Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force Mississippi River Basin Panel. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The Mississippi River Basin Regional Panel will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2003, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, July 11, 2003, and a field trip from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, July 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The Mississippi River Basin Regional Panel meeting will be held at the Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport,

3800 East 80th Street, Bloomington, MN 55425. Phone 952-854-2100.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay Rendall, Mississippi River Basin Panel Chair and Exotic Species Program Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at 651-297-1464 or Sharon Gross, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force at 703-358-2308.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces meetings of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Mississippi River Basin Regional Panel. The Task Force was established by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990. The Mississippi River Basin Regional Panel was established by the ANS Task Force in 2002. The purpose of the Panel is to advise and make recommendations to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force on issues relating to the Mississippi River Basin region of the United States that includes thirty-two Mississippi River Basin States: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The Mississippi River Basin Regional Panel will discuss several topics at this meeting including: aquatic invasive species (Asian carp, New Zealand mudsnail, round goby, water fleas, purple loosestrife, and Eurasian watermilfoil) in the Mississippi River Basin and their management; a discussion on pathways of invasive species spread and prevention methods used for the aquatic plant trade, recreational activities, and effective boater education programs; a discussion on prevention initiatives taken for the dispersal barrier and the summit in Chicago, 100th Meridian initiative, public awareness campaign, Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers, NAISA, and National Invasive Species Council's rapid response efforts; a discussion on Panel organization and operation and establishment of new Panel Committees for education, policy, control, research, and outreach efforts; and status and discussion of national legislation regarding aquatic invasive species.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 810, 4401 North Fairfax Drive,