#### 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

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES: Urges and requests the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries to study Giant Salvinia

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the methods of
3	controlling and eradicating Giant Salvinia, water hyacinth, and hydrilla and to report
4	with recommendations of the most cost-effective method, or combination of
5	methods, to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the
6	Senate Committee on Natural Resources on or before February 15, 2014.
7	WHEREAS, Salvinia Molesta is the formal name for the invasive aquatic species
8	Giant Salvinia that is a rapidly proliferating aquatic fern that can double in size in a week
9	to ten days, and, in three months, can expand to cover forty square miles and form mats three
10	feet thick; and
11	WHEREAS, Giant Salvinia is a free-floating aquatic fern native to Brazil and was
12	brought into the United States by the aquarium and water garden industry; and
13	WHEREAS, Giant Salvinia has been found in nearly every public waterbody in
14	northwest Louisiana and continues to spread to other areas of the state; and
15	WHEREAS, the control and eventual removal of this evasive plant is absolutely
16	necessary if Louisiana is to control and maintain its waterways; and

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1 WHEREAS, Giant Salvinia is very difficult to control with direct and aerial 2 application of foliar herbicide applications because the leaves have specialized hairs that are 3 very efficient at keeping water off the leaf making it very difficult for herbicides to be 4 absorbed by the plant; and 5 WHEREAS, herbicide applications only affect the top layer of the up to three foot 6 mat of plant material, and the mats float and move on the surface making consistent 7 reapplication of herbicide difficult; and 8 WHEREAS, other methods of control have included introduction of grass carp and 9 weevils to consume the plants, draining lakes and drying the lake bottom, and the use of 10 mechanical harvesters; and 11 WHEREAS, water hyacinth, a South American native, was first introduced to the 12 United States as an ornamental plant at the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial 13 Exposition in New Orleans in 1884 and frequently clogs bayous and canals, impedes boat 14 traffic, slows water currents, and blocks light to native submerged aquatic vegetation, 15 degrading water quality and harming wildlife; and 16 WHEREAS, hydrilla, originally from Asia, is a rooted, aquatic weed that inhabits 17 both deep and shallow waters forming thick mats that impede boat traffic and swimming and 18 adversely affects water quality by shading out native vegetation, lowering dissolved oxygen 19 concentrations, and can result in fish kills. 20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 21 urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to study the methods of 22 controlling and eradicating Giant Salvinia, water hyacinth, and hydrilla and to report with 23 recommendations of the most cost-effective method, or combination of methods, to the 24 House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on 25 Natural Resources on or before February 15, 2014.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 27 secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

# DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

## Patrick Williams

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Urges and requests 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 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 Feb. 15, 2014.

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

## House Floor Amendments to the original resolution

1. Add control and eradication of water hyacinth and hydrilla to the study.