



SIERRA CLUB

DELTA CHAPTER

Jan 18, 2018

Mr. Robert Bourgeois
Office of Fisheries
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
rbourgeois@wlf.la.gov

Re: Notice of Intent: Modify rules and regulations for approved Domestic Aquatic Organisms to include sterlet sturgeon

Dear Mr. Bourgeois:

Sierra Club is a national organization dedicated to exploring, enjoying and protecting the natural environment. Delta Chapter in Louisiana has more than 3,000 members who support and work for protection of public access and enjoyment of the beautiful places in our state.

We are very concerned about the proposed introduction of non-native species of fish to Louisiana. Given the numerous examples of escape of non-native species into the Louisiana natural environment we must register our objection to introduction of the starlet sturgeon. We suspect that such introduction could constitute a serious threat to Louisiana native species including gulf sturgeon, which is federally listed as a threatened species, freshwater shovelnose sturgeon, and pallid sturgeon, which is federally listed as an endangered species and found in the Mississippi, Atchafalaya and Red rivers.

We are in agreement with Louisiana Wildlife Federation's conclusion that there are too many examples of negative outcomes when introducing a non-native species for us to be assured that the benefits of introducing sterlet sturgeon for commercial aquaculture outweighs the potential costs to Louisiana's natural resources.

Haywood Martin, Chair
Sierra Club Delta Chapter