



18 May 2015

Judy Francis
Chair North Carolina Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan Committee
North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Asheville Regional Office
Office of Land & Water Stewardship
2090 U.S. 70 Highway
Swannanoa, NC 28778

Dear Ms. Francis:

The North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (NC AFS) is a 104-member society of scientists representing state and federal regulatory and resource management agencies, academic institutions, and private institutions. The American Fisheries Society (AFS) was founded in 1870 and is the oldest and largest professional society representing fisheries scientists, encompassing the entirety of North America. The AFS promotes quality scientific research and enlightened management of aquatic resources for optimum use and enjoyment of the public.

The NC AFS would like to offer this letter in support of North Carolina's Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan (draft dated May 01, 2015) and commend the North Carolina Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan Committee and its contributors for their expertise and efforts addressing this critically important issue. This plan will promote awareness of invasive and exotic species and conservation of North Carolina's indigenous aquatic species and habitats. We would like to suggest two species for inclusion for your consideration: the New Zealand Mud Snail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, which has a high risk of introduction to North Carolina due to established populations in other states popular among traveling anglers who may inadvertently transfer this rapid colonizer, and the Smallmouth Buffalo *Ictiobus bubalus* which is well-established in North Carolina's Piedmont rivers and often dominates the biomass of fishes in these areas. These species put North Carolina's aquatic ecosystems at similar risks as do the species listed in the management plan (Appendix D).

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the report. We urge its finalization and broad distribution as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Sparks, President
The North Carolina Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
<http://nc.fisheries.org/>