



NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



September 30, 2005

Subject: Operational Status of the Designated Port of New Orleans, Louisiana

Background: On September 2, 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region Law Enforcement office announced that until further notice wildlife inspection operations at the Port of New Orleans, Louisiana, would be closed due to the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. The Service has evaluated the situation and the feasibility of restoring operations.

Action: We will re-open our Wildlife Inspection Office on Monday, October 3, 2005 for import/export inspection services at the port of New Orleans. Due to continuing logistics and infrastructure problems in the New Orleans area, we will be operating on an intermittent schedule through Monday, October 16, 2005. We anticipate that we will resume normal operations at that time.

Our wildlife inspector assigned to New Orleans will contact local customs brokers, importers/exporters, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to advise them of this schedule and any changes that may occur. We hope that our efforts to facilitate wildlife trade at the port of New Orleans will contribute to the economic recovery of this hard hit region.

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