

## **Grants and Contracting Extensions Due to Hurricane Katrina**

As a result of the devastation from Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes that many of our grant and cooperative agreement recipients and partners that are located, or have projects located, in that area may be unable to meet continued performance under those agreements for some period of time. We recognize that some programs along the Gulf Coast remain under water, are addressing critical humanitarian support needs, and may have not been able to make a full assessment of their program and/or financial reporting submissions at this time. To that end, and in accordance with 43 CFR Part 12, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) authorizes that:

- 1) FWS representatives negotiate with financial assistance recipients, either physically located in or with a project in the Gulf Coast area, up to a one-year extension of performance and reporting terms and conditions of their agreements;
- and
- 2) any equipment purchased with financial assistance funds, i.e., boats, trucks, ATVs, may be used to assist with relief efforts in the Gulf region. The costs associated with the use of that equipment may not be charged to the Service.

Recipients are encouraged to contact their Service representative at your earliest convenience in order to discuss extensions and/or waivers that might be relevant to your particular project's circumstances. Any other recipient that is providing assistance or offering expertise to the Katrina recovery effort may also contact their Service project representative to discuss similar extensions.

Further, programs whose projects may have been partially completed or completed, and have now been destroyed or damaged, may be unable to demonstrate completion of their proposed and approved deliverable(s). The Service will work with each recipient to make final determinations of project resolution once final assessments can be made and reported to the Service.