



WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL

Project ID: 2005LA32B

Title: Total mercury and methylmercury in Louisiana fresh, brackish and salt marsh

Project Type: Research

Focus Categories: Wetlands, Toxic Substances, Sediments

Keywords: Water quality, fish advisories, food chain, health effects, biogeochemistry

Start Date: 03/01/2005

End Date: 02/28/2006

Federal Funds: \$13,951

Non-Federal Matching Funds: \$33,397

Congressional District: 6

Principal Investigators:

Istvan Devai
Louisiana State University

Ronald DeLaune

Abstract

The proposed research will determine the historical patterns of mercury deposition, rates of accumulation, sources, and movements of mercury in the Louisiana coastal marsh environment. The study will quantify the amount of methylmercury in Louisiana coastal marsh, which, serve as nursery ground for fish and other aquatic species. The study will complement ongoing studies by PI documenting methyl and total mercury in bottom sediment from numerous Louisiana water bodies. Due to high organic matter content of marsh soil, there likely will be greater amount of methylmercury.