

State of Montana
Office of the Governor

STATE LAW LIBRARY

FEB 13 1997

OF MONTANA



Executive Order No. 1-97

EXECUTIVE ORDER CONTINUING THE
GOVERNOR'S WHIRLING DISEASE TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the presence of *M. cerebralis*, the causative agent for whirling disease, has now been confirmed in 40 water bodies in Montana; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana is still at the very early stages of this problem, and all indications suggest that it is a problem that will escalate; and

WHEREAS, although extensive research efforts are now underway, it is still the case that there is no known cure for whirling disease once it enters a water body; and

WHEREAS, *M. cerebralis* continues to be detected in water bodies in Montana, and as the social and economic impacts multiply, the public concern over whirling disease will escalate; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Whirling Disease Task Force and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks have emerged as national leaders in the effort to manage wild fish populations infected by whirling disease; and

1 of Wild and Native Coldwater Fisheries.

2 3. Provide a forum for the discussion of public
3 policy issues associated with whirling disease in
4 Montana. The Task force maintains a unique position
5 to bring affected parties together to jointly develop
6 a shared understanding of policy options and trade-
7 offs. These efforts should complement the decision-
8 making roles of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks
9 Commission and the Department of Fish, Wildlife and
10 Parks.

11 4. Evaluate and, as appropriate, develop
12 recommendations to address the socio-economic impacts
13 of whirling disease.

14 B. The Whirling Disease Task Force may establish
15 subcommittees comprised of individuals with needed
16 technical, scientific, educational or economic
17 expertise to assist the Task Force in making informed
18 decisions.

19 II. COMPOSITION

20 The Whirling Disease Task Force shall be composed of not
21 more than 21 members, plus the Director of Montana Fish,
22 Wildlife and Parks who shall serve as an ex-officio member. The
23 names and addresses of members who shall serve at the pleasure
24 of the Governor shall be submitted by separate letter to the
25 Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Secretary of
26 State.

1 III. DURATION


2 This Task Force shall remain in existence until January 1,
3 1999, unless extended or terminated by subsequent Executive
4 Order.

5 This Order is effective immediately.

6
7
8
9
10 GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT
11 SEAL of the State of Montana,
12 this 7th day of February, 1997.

13 
14 _____
15 MARC RACICOT, Governor

16 ATTEST:

17 
18 _____
19 MIKE COONEY, Secretary of State
20 *by Leslee Jull, Deputy*