

## EMERGENCY FPPOA DECISION - INVASIVE SPECIES GIANT SALVINIA RESPONSE

### FROG POND LAKE, COLMESNEIL TX

JUNE 11 2023

#### BACKGROUND:

On June 7 2023, during annual lake weed spraying conducted by Lochow Ranch Pond & Lake Management an aggressive invasive species, giant salvinia, was found on the northwest side of Frog Pond Lake (see Attachment I for photos of impacted area).

Giant salvinia, also known as *Salvinia molesta*, is an aquatic fern native to South America. It is considered one of the most invasive aquatic plants in the world, and has been spreading across Texas and Louisiana bodies of water with devastating effects.

Giant salvinia has small floating leaves (See Attachment II for photo) that form dense mats on the water's surface, obstructing sunlight and reducing oxygen levels in the water, which can harm native aquatic species. The dense mats created by the plant can impede water flow, clog irrigation systems, and hinder boating, fishing, and other water-based activities.

Giant salvinia is capable of rapid growth, with each individual leaf capable of producing a new plant. It thrives in slow-moving or stagnant freshwater environments, such as ponds, lakes, and slow streams. Giant salvinia has the ability to double its coverage area in as little as two weeks under ideal conditions.

Efforts to control the spread of giant salvinia include physical removal, chemical treatment, and the introduction of biological controls such as weevils that feed on the plant. Prevention and early detection are crucial in managing its spread, as the plant can rapidly colonize new areas.

#### *Additional Information Sources:*

- <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/species/exotic/salvinia.phtml#:~:text=Giant%20salvinia%20leaves%20are%20quarter,other%20water%20related%20recreational%20activities>
- <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/aquatic/plants/giant-salvinia>
- Giant Salvinia Biocontrol Program (LSU)  
<https://www.facebook.com/weevilrockyou?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

## **RECOMMENDED EMERGENCY ACTIONS:**

Due to the potential environmental and economic damage caused by giant salvinia, it is important to take urgent emergency action to eradicate the plant and raise awareness with FPPOA members about its invasiveness and to take appropriate measures to prevent its introduction and spread into new ecosystems.

- Immediate action recommended by Lochow Ranch Pond & Lake Management is to spray a targeted chemical spray for giant salvinia where the plant was found and the surrounding 2 acres on Frog Pond Lake. Lochow to spray as soon as possible at an estimated cost of \$750.
- Notification to all FPPOA members of discovery, FPPOA Board actions, and recommended member actions.

## **EMERGENCY DECISION:**

Per FPPOA Bylaw Article III, the FPPOA Board's job is to protect Frog Pond Lake and Dam. Per FPPOA Bylaw Article VI, the FPPOA Board must have approval from FPPOA members to spend any amount greater than \$200.

The circumstances at hand require swift decision-making in order to address this emergency effectively. The FPPOA Board recognizes the importance of adhering to established FPPOA bylaws, however, given the urgency of the situation, the FPPOA Board is making the decision to prioritize FPPOA bylaw Article III over Article VI in order to quickly proceed with chemical treatment of the impacted area of the lake to protect the health of our fragile lake ecosystem.

FPPOA Bylaw Article VI will be immediately reinstated and endorsed post this one time decision. FPPOA Board will call an emergency board meeting this week to discuss and align on additional action, including full communication of the situation, decisions and recommendations, to all FPPOA members.

We, the undersigned FPPOA Board of Directors, hereby record our votes on the emergency decision outlined below.

1. Temporary override of FPPOA Bylaw Article VI
2. Immediate authorization of Lochow Ranch Pond & Lake Management to treat the impacted area and 2 acres of surrounding area at a cost of \$750, which is well within the FPPOA funds currently exceeding \$7000 (excludes Lake Aeration Pilot and Fish Funds, which will stay fully intact).

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FPPOA President, Kate Johnson  
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FPPOA Secretary, Sarah Parsons  
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FPPOA Treasurer, Greg Thompson  
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FPPOA Communications, Julie Askew  
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**ATTACHMENT I - PHOTO OF AREA WHERE GIANT SALVINIA WAS FOUND**



**ATTACHMENT II - PHOTO OF GIANT SALVINIA**

