



TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

REGION II
ELLINGTON AGRICULTURAL CENTER
5105 EDMONDSON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37211

To Whom It May Concern,

I am Ted Alfermann, serving as a fisheries manager for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). I am responsible for the management of J. Percy Priest, Old Hickory, and Cheatham Reservoirs situated near Nashville, TN. This letter aims to outline the longstanding partnership between TWRA and the Percy Priest Hybrid and Striper Club (PPHSC).

Throughout the years, the PPHSC has provided invaluable support to our agency by gathering data for hybrid and striped bass research and by fundraising to support our hatcheries. Every January, the club organizes a fishing, hunting, and boating tackle swap event that attracts hundreds of participants and generates significant funds for our state hatcheries. The funds generated directly support our hatcheries by covering the costs of high-protein fish food.

The better protein fish food significantly improved our hatcheries' performance. In the past, when we were forced to purchase subpar fish food, our hatcheries observed slower growth rates and diminished responsiveness to the feed across various species. Following the receipt of donations from the PPHSC for the acquisition of higher quality feed, hatchery staff observed that the fish adapted to the feed training process more efficiently and exhibited increased interest in the new feed. This resulted in improved growth rates and expedited size attainment for the fish. The duration required to grow a fish to an appropriate size is an essential metric, as earlier stocking can lead to lower water temperatures, thereby enhancing survival rates.

Enhancing survival rates directly correlates with increased opportunities for anglers to achieve successful catches. The members of the PPHSC not only utilize the resource but also contribute to its enhancement for the benefit of all. Their dedication to fostering interest in the fisheries and generating funds to support them is distinctly noteworthy among angler organizations. By directly acquiring high-quality feed for our hatcheries, we can allocate limited hatchery funds towards enhancing equipment and infrastructure, ultimately improving hatchery outcomes for all anglers.

The TWRA expresses sincere appreciation to the PPHSC for their ongoing support of our hatcheries and fisheries. Their generosity and commitment serve as a source of inspiration. We anticipate the continuation of our partnership with the PPHSC for many years ahead.

Sincerely,

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