Austin Booth
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Deputy Director

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Brad Carner
Deputy Director

Spencer Griffith
Deputy Director

Roger Mangham
Deputy Director

June 9th, 2022

Chef Philippe Parola
P. O. Box 84524
Baton Rouge, LA 70884

Dear Chef Parola

I would like to commend you on years of promoting the commercial harvest and consumption of Invasive Carp by rebranding, promotion, and use of your Silverfin™ products. Your efforts have and do play an integral role in a national effort to protect our country's aquatic resources, local economies, and citizens from Invasive Carp. Commercial harvest is one of the most effective means of controlling Invasive Carp densities, but because "carp" in general have not been widely accepted as a preferred food fish in domestic markets, demand for these fish has not been enough to encourage significant commercial harvest and processing of Invasive Carp for human consumption. Rebranding Invasive Carp and promoting its use, as you continue to do, draws attention, not only to the culinary value of these fish, but the importance and benefit of removing Invasive Carp from the wild.

Invasive Carp continue to pose more of an ecological, economic, and human health threat in the State of Arkansas. Providing recipes, commercially made food products, and promoting thee flavor of Invasive Carp will continue to draw interest and demand for these fish. Arkansas currently does not have a commercial processing facility willing to process Invasive Carp. Therefore, we do not have a convenient market or financial incentive for our state's commercial fishermen to target and remove Invasive Carp from our waters. Your efforts can help lay the path for our state to obtain a viable and efficient means to remove Invasive Carp, and protect our aquatic ecosystems and citizens from these invaders.

I would like to congratulate you on placing third in the recent Louisiana Seafood Cook-off, held during Navy Week this year. Your use of Silver Carp as the main item in your submission, is a testament to the potential these fish have as an accepted and sought after item on the menus of our country's restaurants and fast food venues.

On behalf of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, I support your efforts and encourage you to continue the charge of developing public interest in the consumption of Invasive Carp, while promoting the immensely valuable benefit of removing these species from our waters.

Thank you,

Ben Batten
Deputy Director

2 Natural Resources Drive • Little Rock, AR 72205 • www.agfc.com
Phone (800) 364-4263 • (501) 223-6300 • Fax (501) 223-6448

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's mission is to conserve and enhance Arkansas's fish and wildlife and their habitats while promoting sustainable use, public understanding and support.