

August 15, 2005

Mr. James Landreth, Vice President, Fossils and Hydro Operation
SCANA
Columbia, SC

Dear Sir:

Midlands Striper Club, the largest striped bass fishing club in South Carolina and the oldest inland striper fishing club in the nation, is extremely concerned about the maintenance of adequate dissolved oxygen levels needed to sustain the Lake Murray striped bass fishery during late summer. For this reason, we unanimously oppose the use of turbine five to pull water from the 50'-55' depths at the Lake Murray Dam during months when daytime air temperatures approach or exceed 90 degrees. Such temperatures are usually reached between late June and early September.

Our club and its family members have worked diligently through the years to promote a healthy striped bass fishery in Murray. The most important element in maintaining such a fishery during the summer months is maintaining dissolved oxygen levels at the 50-55 foot level in the big pool surrounding and in front of the power turbines. Stripers from throughout the lake system stage at this level during mid to late summer, seeking a critical combination of adequate oxygen and cool temperatures. If this water is pumped through the turbines, there is no way to replace it, as water from up-lake is typically oxygen poor during summer.

In 1991 MSC members saw the disastrous effects of a hot summer and running turbine five -- massive die-offs of large stripers evident throughout the big pool. Since that time, with SCE&G's cooperation in not pulling from this level and the efforts of DNR and clubs like MSC, our striper fishery has prospered.

Murray is now the state's premier striper fishery, with more fishing hours devoted to stripers than any other species and more fishing hours devoted to stripers on Murray than any other SC lake. It has been estimated that the economic impact of the Murray striper fishery is in the neighborhood of \$12 million annually.

The current die off of large striped bass over the past two weeks further illustrates the results of using turbine five at this time. It is MSC's fear that our striper has again been damaged and such damage is likely to occur annually, causing the ultimate collapse of this great fishery and the recreation and economic impact it brings to SC and the Midlands.

The citizens and anglers of South Carolina support the continued stocking and growth of striped bass in Lake Murray through their tax dollars, license fees and through their adherence to restricted daily size and creel limits. For SCE&G to fail to develop and act on a plan that will safeguard this fishery would be tantamount to wanton waste of these valuable resources. We urge SCE&G to find ways to eliminate the use of turbine five during July and August. We also strongly request that some type of oxygen injection

system be installed on the turbine intake towers for use at this critical 50'-55' level during summer.

Respectfully Submitted,

John E. Davis, Vice President and acting Conservation Chair, Midlands Striper Club

August 14, 2005

Midlands Striper Club

--- John Davis

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