



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION



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The mission of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division is to manage, protect, conserve, and enhance the wildlife and aquatic resources of Alabama for the sustainable benefit of the people of Alabama.

CHARLES F. "CHUCK" SYKES
DIRECTOR

FRED R. HARDERS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Dear Applicant,

The Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) is pleased with your interest and involvement with the aquatic resources of Alabama. The WFF has the responsibility of approving or disapproving any public water stocking application based on the potential benefit or harm to the ecosystem. Alabama has more fish, mussel, snail, and crayfish species than any other state. Therefore, it is paramount we evaluate each application thoroughly to ensure adequate protection of Alabama's aquatic resources for benefit of the resource and the people of Alabama.

If you are interested in conducting a public water stocking, it would be advisable to contact your local district fisheries office or the Montgomery Fisheries Section Office (334) 242-3471 to discuss your idea with a fisheries biologist. They will advise you whether your stocking may be beneficial or harmful. Some of the things the fisheries biologist will consider before approving any public water stocking are as follows, but not limited to:

- The stocked organisms potential to spread diseases and parasites to existing populations,
- The stocked organisms potential to compete with existing populations for food and habitat,
- The stocked organisms compatibility with current aquatic resource management goals for the particular waterbody,
- The potential impacts if the stocked organisms origin is different from the stocked waterbody,
- The stocked organisms potential to impact the genetic integrity and diversity of the existing populations,
- The stocked organisms potential to replenish, support, or re-establish declining or extirpated populations,
- The stocked organisms potential to cause habitat alterations, and
- The stocked organisms potential to interfere with fishing interests.
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If you have contacted a fisheries biologist and your idea seems beneficial, then the next step would be to complete the application and send it to the Montgomery Fisheries Section Office for evaluation. Please read the Application Process for Public Water Stocking carefully and provide all the required information.

I thank you for your interest in improving Alabama's aquatic resources.

Sincerely,

Stan Cook
Chief of Fisheries