STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
Phil Bryant
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
Jamie M. Miller, Executive Director

February 25, 2016

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

Dear Chef Parola,

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources shares your concerns about the invasive Asian Carp. We support your efforts to reduce the harmful effects of these exotic fish through your "Silverfin" campaign of harvesting and marketing for human consumption.

Of all the Asian Carp species, Silver Carp in particular seem to pose the greatest environmental threat. Their planktivorous feeding habits have the potential to harm estuarine ecosystems and the fisheries which are dependent on them. In addition, their large size and jumping behavior have caused significant injuries to boaters in infested areas.

Invasive species have been entering our area at an unprecedented and alarming rate. In just the last few years we have seen the arrival and establishment of Lionfish, Asian Tiger Shrimp and the Giant Applesnail. Despite being primarily a freshwater species, a large Silver Carp was caught in Bay St. Louis in 2014. No other sightings Silver Carp have been reported in coastal Mississippi, but we remain vigilant in our monitoring efforts and maintain a public outreach campaign to increase our chances of early detection.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is committed to enhancing, protecting and conserving the natural resources of the Mississippi coast and we wish you great success in creating a consumer demand and establishing a processing plant for these harmful invasive fish.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Jewell
Director, Office of Marine Fisheries

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