Louisiana Sea Grant College Program
Extension Program

LSU AgCenter & Louisiana Sea Grant
Louisiana State University
114 Renewable Natural Resources Bldg.
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

September 3, 2019

Dear Chef Parola,

Thank you for your efforts in creating new business and employment opportunities by developing both a commercial fishery and value added products from the invasive Asian silver and bighead carps. It is hoped that the new commercial fishery will also prove effective in preventing the spread and over-population of the carps to the detriment of Louisiana's native fish species

I have seen the population of silver and bighead carp spread and increase across Louisiana over the last decade. The spread towards the coast and brackish water is an increasing concern with the diversion and spillway openings. Additionally, my work with the freshwater commercial fishery has identified that changes such as alternative species must be harvested for the industry to remain viable in the future. Silver carp has also become a serious safety hazard for industry, research, and recreation on our inland waterways.

As a state/federal program that promotes research, education, and outreach on coastal and marine issues, we are keenly aware of both the harmful impacts of these invasive species and the need to adequately address their spread in Louisiana's rivers and streams. We are also sensitive, in these difficult economic times, to the growing number of unemployed Louisianans and support any efforts to generate new businesses and new jobs. We are confident that your efforts will aid in remedying both of these issues not just in Louisiana, but in communities in all the states of the Mississippi River Valley.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at (225) 578-0771 or by e-mail at janderson@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Lively

Dr. Julie A. Lively
Associate Professor & Fisheries Specialist
Louisiana State University AgCenter & Louisiana Sea Grant