



## **NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION !!!**

803-749-3888

**WRITE/ CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS**

The Lake Murray Association (LMA) has been representing users and homeowners of Lake Murray for over 15 years. We have sought to give a voice to Lake Murray. We now believe it is time for all lake users to know what could happen with **lake levels** in Lake Murray.

SCE&G is submitting a plan to FERC (Federal Level) for **re-licensing the management of Lake Murray for the next 30-50 years**. . The critical issue is how much water is to be released from the lake to downstream rivers during drought times. LMA began by asking for the water releases to the Lower Saluda River be slowed when there was a 6" drop in lake level. In an effort to move things forward and in the spirit of compromise, LMA has agreed with SCE&G to a 1-foot drop in lake level as a trigger for slowing releases to the river. **DNR wants a 2 ft drop before the outflow is slowed.**

DNR is demanding **guaranteed** high releases of water to the river in the spring to improve the spawning of the striped bass in the Congaree and Saluda Rivers **regardless** of a drought situation. Under DNR's proposal during periods of low inflow (no rain), the **lake could drop significantly**. If dry conditions persist, the lake could drop to **354' by early July**. By August, levels could be below 353' and by Dec. the lake could be at 350'.

Fish studies were done on the rivers but none on Lake Murray. LMA wants DNR to give as much consideration to wildlife and fish in Lake Murray as they did to the rivers. Fish in the river appears to be more important than fish in the lake and the lake users. Previous agreements stated that 400 cfs would flow downstream. **Nearly twice as much (700 cfs) is demanded in the new license year around and seven times as much could outflow (2700 cfs) April and May**

LMA wants to insure the lake reaches its proper spring level of 358' el so there will be water for fish-spawning, commercial and recreational uses.

In these economic times, both now and in the future, the lake's impact on the economy is huge. Last year **1.3 million visitors** came to our four county areas to enjoy Lake Murray and spent **\$58.5 million**. A fishing tournament alone brought \$46.5 million to the area. This would disappear the years the lake levels are at a deficit. The tremendous loss of revenue was already felt with the dam drawdown. Do we want a repeat?

E-mail/write and call your Federal and Local officials to insist they take notice and intervene with FERC and stop **DNR's agenda to "take over" the waters of Lake Murray** and give more consideration to the lake users, wildlife and the spawning of the fish on Lake Murray.

David Landis  
President  
The Lake Murray Association, Inc.

**Questions ?**

**Call LMA:**  
**David Landis at 803-520-7509 or**  
**Joy Downs at 803-781-8411.**

**Or check our website for more information [www.lakemurrayassociation.com](http://www.lakemurrayassociation.com)**

**(Sample letter and Official's addresses below. You can edit and print the letter without having to retype)**

*(Elected Official's address)*

Dear *(Elected Official)*

As you are aware, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) is submitting a plan to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for re-licensing the management of Lake Murray for the next 30-50 years. I'm asking your help and support **in opposing a DNR** action that will hurt Lake Murray.

- DNR (SC Dept. of Natural Resources) is unwilling to compromise on the issue of the amount of water to be released to the rivers during drought situations. (There has been drought 7 of the last 10 years.) Managing the lake during periods of drought is called the LIP or Low Inflow Protocol.
- **DNR** is demanding high releases of water be guaranteed during the spring to the downstream rivers to improve the spawning of the striped bass in the Congaree and Saluda Rivers regardless of a drought situation. (Present license states 200 cfs. (cubic feet per second) was later amended to 400 cfs. Now they want up to 700 year around and in spring it could be from 1000 up to 2700 cfs.
- Fluctuating lake levels in the spring and summer can dry up shorelines and disturb the spawning activity of fish in the lake. Fish in the lake are just as important as fish in the river.
- DNR also wants a striped bass regime that could be 35% of the Broad River flow in the spring season. During a drought, Lake Murray would then experience low lake levels resulting in docks sitting on the bottom and boats unusable during prime season.
- Low lake levels would hurt our economy: 1.3 million visitors in the 4 county area bordering the lake spent \$58.5 million last year. We would re-experience the loss of revenue we had during the water drawdown necessary for dam remediation.
- **All have agreed to** slow down releases during a drought, it is **the trigger** that determines **when to slow down releases of water**. How much it drops determines the amount of water that will be a guaranteed release...DNR does not want to change anything unless it drops 2 feet! LMA has compromised at a 1-foot trigger, though we prefer 6" drop to trigger a slow down of the water released. SCE&G agrees with the 1 foot. **DNR needs to agree as well.**

During droughts, both the river and the lake should "**share the pain**".

PLEASE VOICE YOUR CONCERN and help us preserve the use of Lake Murray...we NEED you!  
Please do not let DNR be the final decision on Lake Level. DNR feels they should be able to control the water in Lake Murray-**the stakeholders strongly disagree!**

Sincerely,

*(Your Signature)*

cc: Lake Murray Association  
P O Box 495  
Ballentine SC 29002  
[lakemurrayoffice@aol.com](mailto:lakemurrayoffice@aol.com)

cc John Frampton  
Director of SCDNR  
P.O. Box 167  
Columbia, SC 29292  
[framptonj@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:framptonj@dnr.sc.gov)

cc James Landreth [jlandreth@scana.com](mailto:jlandreth@scana.com)

cc Bill Argentieri [bargentieri@scana.com](mailto:bargentieri@scana.com)

## List of Officials to notify.

(Please send to your representative even if not listed below)

### National Representatives

The Honorable Joe Wilson  
212 Cannon Hse Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-2452 [jowilson.gov](mailto:jowilson.gov)

Senator Jim DeMint  
340 Russell Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-6121 [Demint.senate.gov](mailto:Demint.senate.gov)

Senator Lindsey Graham  
290 Russell Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-5972 [Igraham.senate.gov](mailto:Igraham.senate.gov)

### South Carolina Representatives

Senator Jake Knotts  
303 Gressette Bldg. Cola 29201  
ph 212-6350 email [siv@scsenate.org](mailto:siv@scsenate.org)

Senator Ronnie Cromer  
305 Gressette Bldg. Cola 29201  
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Senator John Courson  
412 Gressette Building  
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Rep. Marion Frye  
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