



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
& ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE
4876 Hay Point Landing Rd
Smyrna, DE 19977
Fisheries: (302) 735-8650

April 30, 2015

Neal Wharton
Sussex Tech High School Fishing Team Advisor
Delaware BASS Nation Youth Director

Dear Mr. Wharton,

The Division would like to thank the Sussex Tech High School Bass Fishing Team for providing bass caught at the April 26th tournament to our tidal Largemouth Bass enhancement program. Weather conditions this spring have made collecting enough adults to serve as brood stock for our fingerling stocking program difficult. Your willingness to partner with the Division on this important project was much appreciated and resulted in the addition of 11 males and 9 females for brood stock. The fish were taken to a special pond at the Eastern Shore Fisheries facility in Elkton, MD where they will spawn naturally and then be returned to the river. The fingerlings are placed into rearing ponds until they reach an 'advanced' size of at least 3" in total length and then they are stocked into the Nanticoke River system. Tidal fluctuations, high turbidity, and nutrient loads make successful reproduction challenging for a nest-building species such as Largemouth Bass, thus, the stocking program supplements natural reproduction. Our research has shown that stocked fish contribute between 18-20% to the Nanticoke River bass population.

The tournament was a great opportunity to see the team in action and meet the members. You have an impressive team of young, dedicated anglers who not only have an interest in sport fishing but in conservation of fisheries resources. Best of luck on your continued success!

Sincerely,

Edna Stetzar
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through Science and Service***

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