

**8 p.m.**

**April 12, 2023 - Update on Catfish Loss on Lake Bowen**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It came to our attention Tuesday, April 11, that catfish had begun floating to the surface on Lake Bowen in relatively small numbers and in a confined area of the lake. We immediately contacted the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) for their guidance with this most recent event. However, on the morning of April 12, while staff continued to patrol the lake, we observed that additional catfish loss had occurred and reached back out to SCDNR.

SCDNR team members spent the afternoon of April 12 performing an investigation on the lake, supported by our lake wardens and Spartanburg Water boats as requested. Following their investigation, SCDNR shared that they believed the recent catfish loss is a result of the algaecide application that was performed on March 30.

Though it is troubling to have additional fish losses attributed to the recent algaecide application, I remain confident in the health and safety of our reservoirs, and as much, in the safety and quality of the drinking water we provide.

Our watershed and laboratory staff sample numerous sites throughout our reservoirs, and perform thousands of analyses each year. In addition to our widespread sampling sites, the water entering our drinking water treatment plant and entering the distribution system is tested daily – 365 days a year. All of our testing is also regularly reported each month to SCDHEC as the regulatory and oversight agency in our state, directed by the EPA. Each year, the multitude of data that is collected and provided to SCDHEC is provided to the public in the form of our Consumer Confidence Report/Water Quality Report which can be found at <https://www.spartanburgwater.org/waterqualityreports>. The 2022 report will be released in June.

For nearly 100 years, Spartanburg Water has provided our community's residents with safe and reliable drinking water services. I am confident in our team and our continued ability to provide the very best drinking water resources for our community now and in the years to come.

Thank you for your continued support and confidence in our team and the essential services we provide.

**Most sincerely,**

**Guy Boyle  
Chief Executive Officer  
Spartanburg Water**