



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION

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BOB RILEY  
GOVERNOR

M. BARNETT LAWLEY  
COMMISSIONER

*The mission of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division is to manage, protect, conserve, and enhance the wildlife and aquatic resources of Alabama for the sustainable benefit of the people of Alabama.*

December 12, 2006

M. N. 'CORKY' FUGM  
DIRECTOR

FRED R. HARDERS  
ASST. DIRECTOR

Mr. Ronnie Hyer  
105 River Route  
Magnolia Springs, AL 36555

Dear Mr. Hyer:

This is to confirm our conversation of December 8 with respect to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division's involvement in protecting submerged historical sites and artifacts found on state owned river bottoms.

Incidental to pursuing our primary mission of enforcing fish and wildlife laws and regulations, we will cooperate with other agencies in enforcing laws which pertain to the protection of such places and articles. Our involvement includes the following:

1. Apprehension of persons found collecting on registered historical sites without proper authority. It is our understanding that diving for recreation on such sites does not require a permit, provided no collecting takes place.
2. Identifying persons and notifying the responsible authorities if we encounter activities that appear suspicious.
3. Apprehension of persons found recovering commercially valuable logs or timbers or articles that require digging or dredging on state owned river bottoms. Collection of small articles, other than mentioned above, is permissible, if these articles are not associated with a national register eligible archeological site. Any questions about a particular site should be addressed to the Alabama Historical Commission.

This is merely to explain the Division's position on this subject and in no way should be interpreted as the sole and primary source of information on the legality of these activities. You should consult the Alabama Historical Commission and the State Lands Division, DCNR, as the ultimate authority on matters of historical preservation and the protection of state owned river bottoms.

Sincerely,

Allan E. Andress, Chief  
Law Enforcement Section

AEA/jc

cc: Capt. Kenneth Blalock, District V  
Stacey Hathorn, Alabama Historical Commission  
Greg Lein, State Lands Division