

Dear Aqua Kids:

I am writing to express my overwhelming support of the Aqua Kids television show as an invaluable educational tool for teaching of children, especially young teenagers, about aquatic organisms and systems. Seldom has a show explored such a wide range of important aquatic issues providing examples from both marine and freshwater systems. I personally have never experienced a television program that discussed urban wetlands in Maryland in one episode (2007-13), the biodiversity in the Chesapeake Bay estuary in another (2007-12), and then covered shark tagging in the Caribbean (2007-09). Additionally, the incorporation of actual professionals not only lends solid credibility to your program, but also exposes aspiring young scientists to the people that are on the frontlines of the issues. Therefore, as a professor at a university that trains not only future biologists, but also educators, I highly endorse the use of the Aqua Kids program in lesson plans that cover aquatic topics.

Additionally, because I specialize in freshwater aquatic ecology I am ecstatic that a television program is showing the incredible diversity of aquatic organisms that we have right in our own backyards. In fact, some of these episodes may have the greatest educational impact on students. For example, if a student watches your program covering freshwater fish and then can proceed to a local stream and catch the same species that information has transformed from an image on the television to a living creature in their hand. That tangibility may promote more students to start taking an interest in their local environments, and thereby facilitating self-learning.

Sincerely,



Dr. Timothy R. Strakosh  
Assistant Professor of Aquatic Ecology