

# South Carolina Grass Carp Policy

by

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Diploid grass carp are illegal in South Carolina; however, triploid grass carp have been legal for use since 1985. To help ensure that only triploid fish are used in the State, the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department regulates the importation of grass carp by a permit process. Grass carp permits are issued only to reputable out-of-state suppliers. For each shipment of fish, the supplier indicates the number of fish and destination (stocking site or dealer) on the permit, which accompanies the shipment into the State. All triploid grass carp shipments to South Carolina must be tested by the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Department at their facility in Columbia to certify sterility. Five percent or 120 fish per shipment (whichever is less) are tested using the Coulter Counter Method. If one diploid is detected, the entire shipment is rejected and escorted out of the State. The permits receive final approval by the Department only after successful ploidy checks.

Hauling trucks and in-state facilities are subject to spot checks by the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department to verify ploidy. The production of sterile grass carp in South Carolina is only just beginning.

However, at the one production facility currently under development, the Department is requiring special precautions and structures to ensure that diploid brood stock do not escape into public waters. In-state holding facilities (dealers) should also be equipped with escapement barriers. Use of escapement barriers by purchasers is encouraged but not required.

## Issues and Concerns

There are no overriding issues or concerns in South Carolina that currently limit the use of grass carp in most waters. However, important considerations for stocking large impoundments in the State include the following:

- a. Determining stocking rates that control target species, and minimizing impacts to nontarget aquatic plants.
- b. Determining the potential for and impact from movement of sterile grass carp past dam structures to downstream waters.
- c. Assessing the impact of grass carp to operations at waterfowl management areas located adjacent to target waters.

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<sup>1</sup> Chairman, South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Council, Columbia, SC.

**FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION  
APPLICATION TO POSSESS TRIPLOID GRASS CARP  
FOR AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT**

Please Print!!

1. County \_\_\_\_\_ 2. GFC FILE # \_\_\_\_\_  
(For Office Use Only)
3. Name of Water Body \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Acreage \_\_\_\_\_
5. Principal Use of Waters \_\_\_\_\_  
(Fishing, boating, retention, fish farming, irrigation, water conveyance, other)
6. Person requesting permit:
- a. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Homeowners Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person or Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
Site Address \_\_\_\_\_
- b. List plants or describe problem \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\***

7. Provide a map with directions from a major thoroughfare which will allow the water body to be visited by someone unfamiliar with the area.
8. Mark points on map where water enters or leaves the water body.
9. If barriers are necessary, an additional form must be signed to complete this application. This form will be supplied by Commission personnel after inspection of your site.
10. Recommendations made by Commission employees for stocking grass carp to control or manage aquatic vegetation are made based on research and field observations.
11. Please check one of the following:  
\_\_\_\_ (a) Lake owned by a single owner.  
\_\_\_\_ (b) Lake owned and represented by Homeowners Association.  
\_\_\_\_ (c) Lake owned by private multiple or divided interest owners (persons who own and pay taxes on the bottom of the water body)  
\_\_\_\_ (d) Lake is public

(Turn page over for Page 2 of application)

*Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Application to Possess Triploid Grass Carp  
for Aquatic Plant Management (Continued)*

**PAGE 2/TGC APPLICATION**

Complete either a, b, c, or d below based on your response to Section 11.

- a. If you have checked 11(a), is your pond twenty acres or less in size, located entirely on your own property with no other owners?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  
- b. If you checked 11(b) please indicate name of Homeowners Association and have the president or other authorized representative of the Homeowners Association sign on the line marked Office of Association (below) and Section 12 (below).

Name of Homeowners Association \_\_\_\_\_

Officer of Association \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Title)

**Note:** As an Officer of Association, you are signing that the Association at large which owns this water body, wants to stock triploid grass carp.

- c. If you checked 11(c) above, attach a list of all riparian owners, their addresses, and telephone numbers. Do you verify that you have notified all riparian owners and advised them of your intention to apply for a permit to stock triploid grass carp?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_. Do all riparian owners consent to the stocking of triploid grass carp in this water body? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_.

**Note:** The Commission will not issue a permit to stock triploid grass carp until all riparian owners of multiple owner water bodies identified in this application agree to the use of triploid grass carp for aquatic vegetation management and control.

- d. Public waters may be eligible for stocking by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission with public funds, if the Commission determines the use of triploid grass carp is a biologically sound management tool and in the best interest of the resource. Determination of public waters eligibility will be made during inspection of the water body and depends if public boat ramps, recreational areas, or picnic ground facilities which allow unrestricted public utilization of the water body are located on or adjacent to the water body. Are you requesting the water body be considered for stocking with public funds? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_.

12. I, the undersigned, certify that the information contained within this document is correct and true to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant Date

**MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:**  
**DAVID EGGEMAN**  
**GAME & FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION**  
**620 SOUTH MERIDIAN STREET**  
**TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-1600.**

*Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission Application to Possess Triploid Grass Carp for Aquatic Plant Management (Concluded)*

39-23.088 Regulations Governing Grass Carp.

(1) No person shall take, possess, sell or otherwise transfer, buy or otherwise receive, transport or stock any grass carp without first obtaining a permit therefor from the Commission. Any grass carp inadvertently taken must be immediately returned unharmed to the water.

(2) Permits for grass carp other than triploid grass carp:

Grass carp, other than triploid grass carp, may be possessed only as authorized by permit issued by the Commission for the production of triploid grass carp and subject to the following:

(a) Grass carp, other than triploid grass carp, held outdoors may only be held in a water body that has the lowest point of the top edge of its levee, dike or bank or tank at an elevation of at least one foot above the 100-year flood elevation determined by reference to elevation maps issued by the National Flood Insurance Program, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Such water body shall have no water discharge. Such water body shall be inaccessible to the public at all times by being securely enclosed by fences with locked gates or by the presence of the permittee or his agents guarding such water body and forbidding public access to such water body.

(b) Grass carp, other than triploid grass carp, held indoors may only be held in a container or tank having no water discharge or having a water discharge through a closed drain system that terminates in a dry-bed, waste-water pond. Such dry-bed, waste-water pond shall not be contiguous to any natural water body nor discharge its waters to any other water body at any time.

(c) Grass carp, other than triploid grass carp, may not be possessed in any number exceeding the number authorized by the permit. Grass carp, other than triploid grass carp, that are produced as a by-product in the production of triploid grass carp shall be destroyed, unless such grass carp that are produced as by-product do not cause the permittee to exceed the number of grass carp, other than triploid grass carp, that the permittee is authorized to possess by permit.

(3) Permits for triploid grass carp:

Triploid grass carp may be possessed, stocked, sold, transferred or transported only as authorized by permit issued by the Commission subject to the following:

(a) Triploid grass carp may be held outdoors only in a water body upon which is placed a structure installed in such a manner as to prevent escape of the triploid grass carp from the water body, or in a water body having a natural configuration that forecloses escape of such triploid grass carp. Such structure or configuration shall be maintained by the permittee as long as triploid grass carp remain in the water body.

(b) No person shall sell or otherwise transfer any triploid grass carp, except as authorized by permit from the Commission in addition to any license required for such transfer or sale by s. 372.65, F.S. No person shall sell or otherwise transfer any triploid grass carp unless the recipient of such grass carp has a permit as provided by this section. A copy of such recipient's permit shall be maintained in the transferor's records for a period of one year following such transfer and made available for inspection upon request of the Commission. Any grass carp sold or otherwise transferred shall be certified as triploid grass carp as provided in s. 39-1.004 prior to such sale or transfer or prior to transporting such grass carp for such sale or transfer. The transferor shall furnish to the Commission a report within 30 days following each calendar quarter indicating the transferor's permit number; the name, address and permit number of each recipient of such triploid grass carp; the date of each sale or other transfer; and the number of triploid grass carp sold or transferred, for each sale or other transfer made during the calendar quarter.

39-23.088 Regulations Governing Grass Carp (Continued)

(c) No person shall transport any triploid grass carp without having a copy of the Commission permit authorizing such transportation accompanying the shipment of triploid grass carp, and without such shipment containing only triploid grass carp, certified as provided in s. 39-1.004, and the certificate shall accompany such shipment of triploid grass carp.

(d) The Commission may deny an application for a permit to stock triploid grass carp in any water body, other than a private pond, if such proposed stocking is inconsistent with the principal or planned use of the water body, the optimum sustained use by the public of the water body's living aquatic resources, or sound biological management principles.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of (3)(d) of this section, the Commission may grant an application for a research permit to possess or stock triploid grass carp for legitimate research purposes, subject to the following:

1. The research permit shall expire 12 months from the date of issuance.
2. A detailed research proposal shall accompany the application for the research permit. Such proposal shall state with particularity the research objectives and justifications, research project schedule, research methodology, and safeguards that shall assure that any detrimental effect upon the water body or its living aquatic resources will not be of a permanent or substantial nature.
3. A detailed annual report of research findings, which shall include a description of activities undertaken in the permit period, progress toward research project objectives and proposed activities to be undertaken in the ensuing months, shall be submitted prior to renewal of the research permit. Receipt and approval by the Commission is a condition precedent to renewal of the research permit.

(4) All places where grass carp are possessed shall be subject to inspection by Commission personnel at any time. Such inspection may include obtaining blood samples from grass carp for purposes of ascertaining ploidy.

(5) This rule shall take effect on July 1, 1992.

Specific Authority: Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 369.22, 372.021, F.S. Law Implemented: Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const., 369.22, 372.26, F.S. History: New - 6-1-86; Amended - 7-1-89, 7-1-90, 7-1-92