

# FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

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To Whom It May Concern:

This is in reference to your request for a permit to possess triploid grass carp for aquatic vegetation management purposes. The triploid grass carp, a sterile fish, is being permitted for possession under GFC Rule 39-23.088, Regulations Governing Grass Carp.

We have enclosed the following:

- (1) Application to possess triploid grass carp for aquatic plant management purposes
- (2) Facts about vegetation control using triploid grass carp
- (3) Regulations Governing Grass Carp

If you are interested in obtaining a permit for triploid grass carp, please complete the enclosed application form and return to me at the address indicated on the form, along with a list of names and mailing addresses of all riparian land owners (if applicable), and a map with directions from a major thoroughfare to the water body site. The application will not be acted upon until the list of all riparian owners (if applicable) is received in this office. In addition, please make note of any locked gates, bad dogs, or other obstacles that may prohibit the Commission biologist from inspecting the water area.

The application will be forwarded to the appropriate Commission biologist who will inspect the water area. This inspection will determine if the aquatic vegetation is problematic, and to locate any connections to other water areas. Should the application be approved, and the permit holder decide to purchase fish, the Commission requires that certified triploid grass carp be used to manage the problematic vegetation. A list of certified carp suppliers will be furnished to the permittee when the permit is issued. The Commission does not provide triploid grass carp for management purposes.

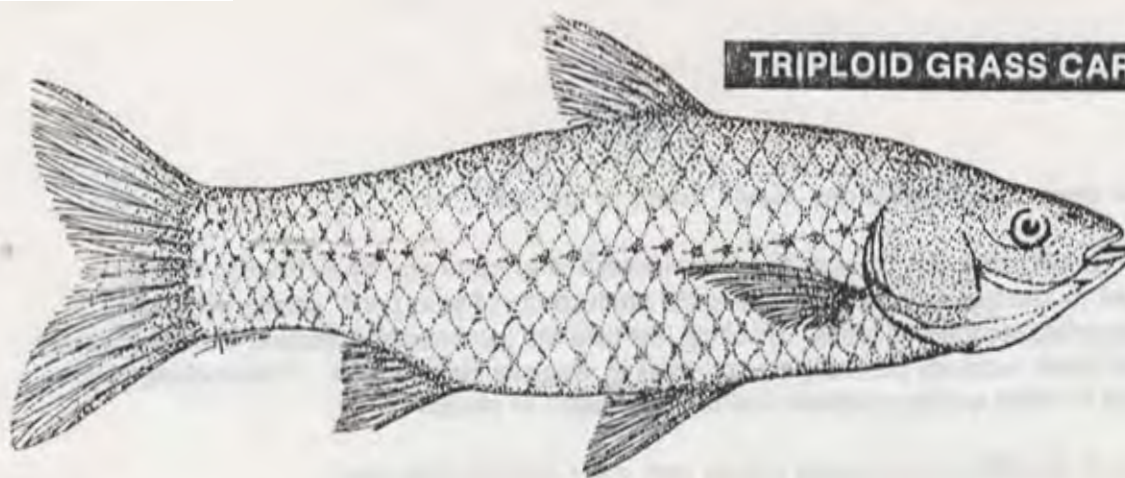
If you have questions or require additional information, please contact me at (904) 488-4066.

Sincerely,

*Clayton L. Phillippy*  
Clayton L. Phillippy  
Biological Administrator III

CLP/rlw  
jh2:tgcappl.tr  
Enclosures  
03/11/92





### FACTS ABOUT VEGETATION CONTROL USING TRIPLOID GRASS CARP

- Q. What types of vegetation do triploid grass carp control?
- A. Preliminary information indicated that most submersed vegetation including hydrilla and chara are preferred plant foods of triploid grass carp. Other plant species of the duckweed group are also utilized by the triploid. Plants that may not be effectively controlled by the triploid grass carp include eelgrass, Eurasian watermilfoil, smartweed, stonewort, water hyacinth, American lotus, yellow water lily, fragrant water lily, maidencane, dollarweed, alligatorweed, torpedoglass and cattails.
- Q. How do I use triploid grass carp to achieve vegetation control?
- A. Triploid grass carp may be stocked directly or used in conjunction with chemical control. Recommendations cannot be made until a fisheries biologist inspects the pond site. The names and telephone numbers of persons to contact are listed at the end of this fact sheet.
- Q. Is a permit required prior to the application of herbicides?
- A. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is charged with the responsibility for permitting herbicides for vegetation control. You should contact a DNR botanist from one of these cities nearest you to obtain information regarding chemical aquatic plant control and permit requirements.

West Palm Beach - (407)793-5666  
 Orlando - (407)423-6037  
 Floral City - (904)726-8622  
 Bartow - (813)534-7074

Tallahassee - (904)487-2600  
 Lake City - (904)758-0464  
 Tampa - (813)620-6155

- Q. How much does it cost to achieve initial control of vegetation using herbicides?
- A. The average cost for a herbicide application is approximately \$250 per surface acre.
- Q. How soon after herbicide treatment can I stock triploid grass carp?
- A. Maximum results from a herbicide treatment are achieved approximately 20 to 30 days after application. At that time, the number of triploid grass carp recommended by a fisheries biologist should be stocked.

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Q. How many triploid grass carp should I stock in my pond?

A. You should stock according to the recommendation given to you by a fisheries biologist. Based on the type of plants and biological productivity of your pond, he/she will make appropriate recommendations. Stocking less than the recommended number is false economy since fewer numbers generally do not result in adequate plant control. Overstocking may result in water quality problems due to over control of plants.

Q. What is the difference between a grass carp and a triploid grass carp?

A. The most important difference is that the grass carp is capable of reproducing and the triploid grass carp is not. The Commission has been very concerned with possibility of grass carp reproduction. Therefore, permits are not issued for its management use in Florida.

Q. Has reproduction of grass carp occurred in the continental United States?

A. Yes, it has spawned extensively in the Mississippi River. Commission biologists believe spawning requirements for grass carp are also found in certain Florida streams.

Q. Has all the research been completed on grass carp?

A. Pond and lake investigations were initiated in 1980. Presently, methods to remove triploid grass carp after they have removed vegetation are under investigation. During this period, the Commission is making the triploid grass carp available for vegetation control as an alternative to expensive recurring herbicide treatments.

Q. How do I obtain triploid grass carp?

A. A list of approved commercial sources is available from Commission offices listed below. Before stocking triploid grass carp, you should contact the Commission to obtain a permit. Your pond or lake will be inspected and recommendations made relative to how many fish should be stocked, what type and how much herbicide should be applied before stocking and, if necessary, what type of fish barrier should be installed to ensure your fish do not migrate out of your pond. To receive this advice, you should contact either Lowell Trent at 904/357-6631 or David Eggeman at 813/648-3202. The Commission does not provide triploid grass carp to private pond owners for management purposes.

Q. Do triploid grass carp work without the aid of initial herbicide treatment?

A. Yes; however, certain conditions indicate that, for best results, triploid grass carp are most effective in controlling vegetation after the initial plant biomass is reduced with herbicides. Fewer fish may be required when used with herbicides. Over control of vegetation is less likely with fewer fish.

Q. What is the annual survival rate for triploid grass carp?

A. Further investigation is needed to answer this question; however, preliminary research findings indicate that stocking additional fish may be necessary to offset initial mortality by birds and predator species of fish.



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 therefore 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.

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(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.

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

**Note: The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will not contact riparian owners of water bodies to obtain approval to issue permits for triploid grass carp. It is the duty of the applicant to contact all riparian owners of multiple-owner water bodies to advise them of the permit application and proposed stocking, and to obtain their consent before the form is mailed to Tallahassee. Your county tax collector can assist you in finding out who the riparian owners are. Failure to obtain their consent could make you liable for renovating and restocking the lake if they later object.**

(d) If you have checked 11(d) and are applying for public funds to purchase fish, check Yes. Complete the rest of the application and mail to the address indicated. Please note that limited funds are available for this purpose and are prioritized on a state wide basis.

12. Sign on line identified Signature of Applicant and fill in the correct date to indicate the information contained within this document is true and correct to the best of your knowledge. Mail completed application to the address indicated.