



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mobile District

News Release

Release No. 07-39

Contacts: E. Patrick Robbins (251) 690-2512
ervin.p.robbins@usace.army.mil

For Immediate Release:
June 18, 2007

News Release: www.sam.usace.army.mil/pa/

Marilyn Phipps (251) 690-2506
marilyn.j.phipps@usace.army.mil

Corps will introduce sterile grass carp this summer to reduce hydrilla in Walter F. George Lake

Mobile, Alabama — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Mobile District announced Monday that the Environmental Assessment evaluating the use of the sterile triploid grass carp for hydrilla management in Walter F. George Lake has been completed and a Finding of No Significant Impact signed by the District Commander.

The district prepared an EA to determine the impact of using the sterile grass carp to reduce the infestation of the invasive aquatic plant within Walter F. George Lake. The EA process included two public meetings to obtain public and agency comments on the recommended plan and alternatives.

The three components of corps' plan are to release the sterile grass carp, to continue chemical treatments and to establish native aquatic plant beds.

The initial carp release of 12 fish per acre of hydrilla could start as early as July. Then, every five to seven years, three fish would be released per acre of hydrilla to maintain control of the invasive weed.

The continued chemical treatments of endothall, diquat, fluridone and copper will decrease as the grass carp begin to effectively control the hydrilla.

- more -

2-2-2-2 Corps to introduce grass carp to reduce hydrilla in George Lake

The corps also would introduce native aquatic plants in the lake.

Other alternatives that the corps considered in the EA included taking no action, using maximum chemical treatment, flow assisted delivery system and the release of the sterile grass carp only. Other action alternatives were considered in the EA, but were not analyzed because they did not meet the purpose or need of the proposed action. The EA analyzed issues such as land use, air quality, noise, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, toxic substances and the cumulative environmental effects.

The EA concluded that recommend plan would result in no significant adverse environmental impact. Controlling the expansion of hydrilla on W. F. George Lake will have positive impacts on water quality, fishery habitat and population, recreation, aesthetics and property values.

The corps released the draft EA May 1 for review and comments. The 10 comments that the corps received were addressed in the final EA.

The final EA that includes the comments on the draft EA as well as the FONSI are available online at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/pd/Pd1.htm>