



Standards for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Triploid Grass Carp Inspection and Certification Program



PURPOSE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) offers a Triploid Grass Carp Inspection and Certification Program to assist in the protection of aquatic habitats. Many states rely on this Program to prevent the unauthorized (i.e., accidental or deliberate) stocking of genetically diploid (fertile) grass carp. The Program is intended to provide assurance that shipments of grass carp, alleged to be all triploid (sterile), do not, within the confidence limits of the inspection program, contain diploid individuals.



USFWS, Warm Springs Regional Fisheries Center

A raceway at a private aquaculture facility that contains pre-screened grass carp awaiting a USFWS inspection and certification.

AUTHORIZATION

The 104th Congress, authorized the 'Collection of Fees for Triploid Grass Carp Certification Inspections' (S.268) and established a fee-for-service system where the Secretary of the Interior may collect money from private fish producers for the cost of triploid grass carp certification inspections and to allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to retain those funds to be used for a Grass Carp inspection program.



Blood samples are collected from individual grass carp for ploidy determination.

INSPECTION PROGRAM

A set of quality assurance standards was developed for provide consistency and fairness in dealing with different circumstances encountered in the implementation of this national Program.

Critical elements of the Program include:

- (1) Standards for USFWS Inspectors;
- (2) Standards for Grass Carp Producers;
- (3) Checklist for Inspectors and Producers;
- (4) Standards for Collection and Fees.



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Blood samples are analyzed using a Coulter Counter Particle Sizer with Channelizer.

OVERVIEW

Triploid Grass Carp producers may voluntarily participate in the Program by following the Standards for Grass Carp Producers and contacting the USFWS for an inspection. The Producer must individually determine by Coulter Counter techniques the ploidy of all grass carp to be certified and isolate the triploid grass carp prior to the inspection visit by the USFWS Inspector. The USFWS Inspection requires the USFWS Inspector to observe the Producer verify the ploidy of 120 grass carp randomly sampled by the USFWS Inspector from the isolated lot of pre-screened individuals. Any non-triploid or questionable data result in a failed inspection and no certificate is awarded. All fish in the lot must be individually retested by the Producer before another inspection of that lot of fish can be rescheduled. If all 120 grass carp are verified as triploids a Triploid Certificate is awarded for the entire lot of pre-screened individuals. Once inspected and certified, no additional fish can be added to an identified lot of triploid grass carp. Producers who receive a Triploid Certificate from the USFWS Inspector must sell or ship the certified lot of fish within four working days. If fish are not sold or shipped within the four day working period of the certificate, the fish must be re-certified in order to retain USFWS certification for sale or shipment. Receiving states are notified by the USFWS Inspector and provided with a copy of the Triploid Certificate within 24 hours of the inspection.

Detailed Program information is available on the Internet at: <http://www.fws.gov/warmsprings/FishHealth/frgrscrp.html>.

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