



Approved List Development: Key issues that were encountered

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Development of a New Regulations

- During the last legislative session, TPWD was directed to publish a list of exotic aquatic plants that are approved for use in Texas without a permit
- TPWD was also directed to develop rules that are as permissive as possible without allowing plants that pose environmental, economic, or health problems
- New rules will be considered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission in January 2011

Development of New Regulations

- TWPD compiled a list of exotic (non-native) aquatic plants (including macroalgae) currently imported into Texas (over 3,500 plant names).
- Plant names reduced to about 500 species names.

Development of New Regulations

- All plants on the draft list (with the exception of microalgae) were evaluated for potential risk to aquatic environments using a scientific risk analysis based on Pheloung et al. (1999).
- Algae were handled differently due to difficulties with evaluating thousands of strains.

Significant Issues

- Definition of an aquatic plant

Any member of the Kingdom Plantae, as documented using the most recent posting of the Integrated Taxonomic Information System, that is typically found in either aquatic or riparian habitats.

Mosses

Algae

Bluegreen algae

- Definition of an exotic aquatic plant
 - Included vascular plants, macroalgae, microalgae, genetically modified organisms, and hybrids of exotics

Definition of a GMO (GMM ?)

Definition of Native species

Significant Issues

- Cultivars versus species level regulations
- Proprietary issues with algae
- Use of GMM
- Economic considerations

Some businesses said they would go out of business

Some businesses said they would move out of state

- Public input
- Attacks on expertise
- Privacy concerns
- Permitting misunderstanding

**TPWD was directed to
discontinue development
of new Regulations in
January 2011**

TEXAS

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