

South Carolina State Report (Freshwater Invasive Plants)  
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Julie Holling, Program Manager  
SCDNR Aquatic Nuisance Species Program  
2730 Fish Hatchery Rd.  
West Columbia, SC 29172  
803-755-2836, office  
803-528-4720, mobile  
[hollingi@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:hollingi@dnr.sc.gov)

Chris Page retired at the beginning of the year. We are currently working with a two person staff and hoping to hire a technician soon.

Our program works to control aquatic invasive freshwater plants, as well as some natives if they are causing issues with navigation or access. We work on all public waters. This includes the rivers and some reservoirs. Most of the hydroelectric reservoirs are managed by the power companies that own them, but we assist them upon request. The exceptions are Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie, which are owned by Santee Cooper (SC Public Service Authority) and manages those lakes. We use an integrated management approach, but primarily use herbicide treatments and biological controls, incorporating other methods where feasible.

This year, the growth has not been quick, so we have not done many treatments. We treated 168 acres of water hyacinth on the Combahee River, as well as several lakes on State Parks across the state. Triploid grass carp were stocked at the end of May in Lake Greenwood, Lake Murray, Goose Creek Reservoir, Spartanburg Water's Lake Bowen and Reservoir #1, and a small pond on Crackerneck Wildlife Management Area (WMA). We have more treatments lined up for the next fiscal year starting in July.

Last year, we treated or arranged the treatment of the following:

- 212 acres of water hyacinth of the Ashepoo River.
- 280 acres of water hyacinth, water primrose, *Hydrilla*, and fanwort on Back River Reservoir.
- 134 acres of water hyacinth, water primrose, and alligatorweed on Black River and Black Mingo Creek.
- 112 acres of *Hydrilla*, *Elodea*, fanwort, water hyacinth, and water primrose on the Cooper River.
- 215 acres of water hyacinth, water primrose, spatterdock, duckweed, *Hygrophila*, common salvinia, and water lettuce in Goose Creek Reservoir
- 92 acres of water hyacinth on the Waccamaw River
- 600 acres of *Phragmites* on Santee Coastal WMA
- 117 acres of giant salvinia on Santee Cooper WMA
- 329 acres of tallow tree on Bear Island WMA
- 300 acres of Cuban bullrush on Donnelley WMA
- 26 acres of various emergent and submersed vegetation on State Park lakes

The following triploid grass carp stockings were made at the end of May last year:

- Lake Murray – 1500
- Goose Creek Reservoir - 800
- Lake Greenwood – 300
- Lake Bowen – 65
- Spartanburg Reservoir #1 – 25
- Lake Wallace – 140
- Kendall Lake – 120
- Second Millpond – 200

The US Department of Agriculture provided us with approximately 3,000 alligatorweed flea beetles at the beginning of May 2021, which were released on Goose Creek Reservoir.

Our funding is from the Water Recreation Fund, which is a small portion of the state's gas tax and varies from year to year. That money is used to cover all our program expenses and treatments.

We do most of our community outreach at the Southeastern Wildlife Expo in Charleston and at the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic in Columbia.