

**Summary of Public Comments, Responses, and Plan Modifications to the Draft 2017  
South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Plan**

**Comments and Revisions:**

**Opposed:**

These invasive plants y'all speak of do not harm the lakes and rivers. Y'all killing these stuff out is the reason why South Carolina duck hunting and fishing is at it lowest in the state. The fish have nowhere to hide their eggs and the ducks have nothing to feed on. Take this into consideration. There is a lot of money spent each and every year to duck hunting and fishing.

Chris Waters

Sent from my iPad. Loved the Hydrilla when we had it. I wish you would stop putting the carp in the lake and revive some Hydrilla. I think this grass could choke out the weeds that now grow in Santee Cooper. Over the past few years the overhead spraying has killed many of the cypress trees. Maybe there is a better way of getting the poison on the weeds. The other states have Hydrilla in there lakes and the fishing is fantastic! Why don't we let some grass back in the lake and control some of it, lake Murray also.

Johnny Geddings

**Support:**

As a member of the Goat Island boat club I am in total agreement with the 2017 plan.

Thank you, Bob Miller

I first want to thank all involved for all the hard work that goes into getting this plan together every year. It is greatly appreciated! I am a member of the Goat Island boat club and am very concerned about the health and well being of our lake.

I am fully in favor of the plan.

Sincerely, Jennifer Miller

I agree with the proposal set forth by Santee Cooper.

Key Thrasher

Churchbranch / Manning, SC

To whom it may concern, Being that I am a resident of Clarendon County and live on Lake Marion, I am sincerely concerned with the health and welfare of our lake systems in South Carolina. Since moving here from New York State, I have had the pleasure of using the resources which our lakes provide. It is in our best interest to support all that you do to keep the integrity of the lake systems intact. This would include the controlling of invasive weeds which threaten the lakes. Please continue to carry on with your ongoing programs to control these threats. I will be glad to support you in any way I can. Regards, Jeannette Palladino, Secretary, Goat Island Boat Club.

Dear DNR,

I read with interest the subject plan and wanted to add my input to the aggressive action which must be taken to abate the growing (pun intended) problem with invasive weeds. I have seen the spread of crested floating heart first hand on the area of my lot which was primarily weed free two years ago to the current situation of considerable areas completely filled with it. Please help.

Regards,

Mark Knechtel

1369 Little John Road

Manning, SC 29102

I support the 2017 Aquatic Management Plan especially as it pertains to Lake Marion. I agree with the proposal to control invasive weed species. I completely support efforts to control Crested Floating Heart especially in residential areas and around docks where I have seen a marked increase in the past few years. Control in past years has been very beneficial. I hope the DNR will continue with their efforts for this and other invasive species. Thank you,  
Dianne Munkittrick

Invasive weeds in the Lake Marion and Moultrie have been greatly removed by your constant weed control practices in the past few years. We are able to get out of our docks without wrapping up our props with weeds. We appreciate the work you do  
Michael Palladino

I reside on Lake Marion near Santee. In recent years I have noticed the treatment plan to be very effective and the nuisance vegetation reduced as a result. In years prior the problem of excessive vegetation in the mouth of the Congaree River and several areas of Lake Marion had become extreme.

I support any effort made to maintain or increase treatment levels.

Regards

Mark G. Munkittrick

1055 Chapel Branch Road

Santee, SC 29142

Greetings

As a citizen who lives on Lake Marion I am in full support of the plant management plan for the Cooper River lake system.

Thank you for all you do.

Jerry Hatcher  
1234 Limerick Ln.  
Manning, SC 29102

I want to express my support of the 2017 Aquatic Plant Management Plan for the Santee Cooper Lakes !  
Thank you !  
Sherry Newsome  
Potato Creek

Please protect our property, family and friends. If the invasive weeds are not controlled in our waters it causes our property value to lower. It also stops my children and grandchildren from enjoying swimming and boating. It also causes a lot of unwelcome snakes and alligators around the pier. We do not want invasive weeds anywhere around our property.  
Marlene Hinds

I am in favor of the 2017 plan. Ann Kelley.

Dear Sirs/Madams,  
I am writing to support the Draft 2017 Annual South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Plan as presented on the SC-DNR website. I recommend adoption of this plan to help control the invasive weeds/plants in South Carolina lakes and streams.  
Thank you,  
Eddie V. Gleaton, Jr.  
1043 Autumn Lane, Summerton, SC 29148

I have reviewed the draft 2017 SC Aquatic Plant Management Plan prepared by the SCDNR and SC Aquatic Plant Management Council and wish to indicate my full support of the plan as written.

My husband and I are members of the Goat Island Boat Club on Lake Marion. We're all recreational boaters and fully appreciate your efforts to control the nuisance plants that have choked our waters in the past. I can remember times when several landings, restaurants and marinas were unusable due to hydrilla and other non native plants in and around the entrance ways to these locations. With your help and the infusion of the sterile grass carp into our lakes, those areas are mostly free of the plants and are now accessible. Please continue to maintain a manageable population of these grass carp in our lakes to keep the weeds under control.

Thanks again for what you do. We support and appreciate your efforts.  
Betty Cozart  
306 Broad River Drive  
Santee, SC 29142

Yes . I support the invasive weed plan. Live on Lake Marion in Santee and floating crested heart is spreading in area's. Thanks for all you do.

Katie Hatcher

Gentlemen:

I have resided in the Wyboo Creek Section of Lake Marion for 17 years. In those years I have seen the importance of the invasive weed spraying program. Without the program, our creeks and lakes would become overrun with invasive weeds and we would be unable to operate our boats due to excessive weeds becoming entangled in our boats and propellers. I also believe that the program has not impacted the fishing in the rivers and lakes of SC.

I therefore fully support the plan for 2017. If the plan was not approved, boating on the Rivers and Lakes in the region would be severely impacted.

Sincerely,

Catherine H. White

1021 Carving Trace

Manning, SC 29102

(803)478-5022

e-mail: [hbwhite@ftc-i.net](mailto:hbwhite@ftc-i.net)

I have reviewed the 2017 DRAFT S.C. Aquatic Plant Management Plan and strongly support the efforts of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources and the Aquatic Plant Management Council for their plan for management of nuisance aquatic vegetation in public waters. As a homeowner on the shores of Lake Marion, I have personally observed the negative impact of nuisance plants when left uncontrolled and improperly managed. The likes of hydrilla, water hyacinth and crested floating heart can ruin recreational boating activities, make access to the lake difficult to impossible, starve out native grasses necessary for wildlife and fishing habitat and drive home and property values down. Eradication is preferred, but if not possible then management and control of these species is necessary. I am a proponent of triploid grass carp as well as chemical herbicide applications used to control these nuisance species. Regular stocking of the grass carp has worked extremely well in our lakes and should remain a part of this program.

Thanks to DNR and the Council for protecting our lakes and waters of the state.

Dale Cozart

306 Broad River Drive

Santee, SC 29142

Homeowner on Lake Marion

Recreational Boater

Fisherman

Member of the Goat Island Boat Club

Our major problems are floating crested heart and a tall grass-like plant we call bull rush. Between the two we are getting close to being closed off from the main lake. Each spring

and summer the crested heart grows so much we have to basically cut a path from our dock to the main lake. As you can imagine that is not good for the boat motor. Our area does get a spraying during the year, which will affect the crested heart for a while, but without a second treatment it comes right back. The bull rush is growing to our left and in the back of the lagoon. If it is not stopped the whole lagoon will be overgrown in a few years. We are not able to fish in some of our favorites spots now (back of the Cow Pasture) due to this grass. We are located in a lagoon off Goat Island. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Alice M. Singleton  
2018 Goat Island Road  
Summerton, SC

Employ humans as collectors of these plants in boats and harvest for compost to fortify soil and sell the compost, very valuable, as well as donate to low income people to produce foodstuffs etc.

Very best regards, Teresa J Phelan, Fountain Inn

Good Day Gentlemen:

Great plan, if there is anything I can do to assist in these efforts please let me know.

Glenn Stafford  
15 Tippecanoe Street  
Simpsonville , SC 29680

I fully support the 2017 plan to control invasive species on the Santee Cooper Lakes. I live on water front property and have personally witnessed the problems caused by hydrilla and never want to see it allowed a resurgence in Santee Cooper lakes. Crested Floating Heart is a huge issue in the Potato Creek / Nelson's Cut area of Lake Marion every spring and summer. Without proper control of all the invasive aquatic species, especially in the shallower waters and shoreline of the lake there would be no boating or fishing.

Debra Gleaton  
Summerton, SC  
Goat Island Boat Club

I would like to voice my support of the SCDNR and Santee Cooper in their efforts for Aquatic Plant Management.

As a member of the Goat Island Boat Club, we believe that SCDNR and Santee Cooper have our best interest in mind and the best plan for our Lake.

Thank you.....

Deborah Blesie

**Response:**

The plan was modified to include stocking 10,000 sterile grass carp in the Spring of 2017 and to provide baseline stocking at that level for the next 5 years to slowly offset the mortality rate expected during those years and gradually decrease stocked levels to a 1:5 ratio (32,000). This represents a compromise between differing opinions of stocking 13,700 or 8,700 triploid carp to maintain 43,000 or 26,600 triploid carp respectively. Annual data should include estimates of hydrilla acreage, estimates of native vegetation acreage, and fall – based triploid grass carp surveys. Grass carp surveys should function to further assess the relative condition of the population and aid in yearly stocking decisions which can change based on information noted above. While we are committed to providing distinct age class fish through stocking for upcoming years, all efforts will be made to determine an appropriate balance in the Santee Cooper system by maintaining control of hydrilla while promoting beneficial native vegetation.

**Plan Modifications:**

The plan was modified to include stocking 10,000 sterile grass carp in the 2017 and to provide baseline stocking at that level for the next 5 years to slowly offset the mortality rate expected during those years and gradually decrease stocked levels to a 1:5 ratio (32,000). Annual data should include estimates of hydrilla acreage, estimates of native vegetation acreage, and fall – based triploid grass carp surveys. Grass carp surveys should function to further assess the relative condition of the population and aid in yearly stocking decisions which can change based on information noted above. While we are committed to providing distinct age class fish through stocking for upcoming years, all efforts will be made to determine an appropriate balance in the Santee Cooper system by maintaining control of hydrilla while promoting beneficial native vegetation.