

SENATE, No. 939

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Triploid Grass Carp Commission to study use of triploid grass carp in freshwater lakes for weed control.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the use of triploid grass carp in freshwater
2 lakes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. There is established in the Department of Environmental
8 Protection the Triploid Grass Carp Commission. The purpose of
9 the commission shall be to study the use of triploid grass carp in
10 freshwater lakes to control the growth of aquatic plants, to assess
11 risks of such use on the State's fisheries and ecosystems, and to
12 evaluate and make recommendations on the regulation of their use.
13 The commission shall:

14 (1) study the efficacy of the use of temperature shocking to
15 produce sterile grass carp;

16 (2) examine the methods and effectiveness of the use of triploid
17 grass carp in other states for the control of aquatic plants;

18 (3) evaluate the regulations and limitations in effect in other
19 states on the use of triploid grass carp and the success of their
20 protection of native fisheries and aquatic ecosystems;

21 (4) assess the current restrictions in the State on the use of
22 triploid grass carp in freshwater lakes;

23 (5) evaluate whether triploid grass carp may be safely used in
24 the State for aquatic plant control without negatively impacting
25 native fisheries or aquatic ecosystems; and

26 (6) compare the use of triploid grass carp as an alternative to the
27 use of herbicides for aquatic weed control.

28 b. The commission shall consist of nine members, appointed by
29 the Governor as follows:

30 (1) a representative of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation;

31 (2) a representative of the Musconetcong Watershed
32 Association;

33 (3) a member of the Highlands Water Protection and Planning
34 Council;

35 (4) a representative of the Coalition for the Delaware River
36 Watershed;

37 (5) a representative of the New Jersey Audubon Society;

38 (6) a representative of the New Jersey Bass Federation;

39 (7) a representative of the Knee Deep Club of Lake Hopatcong;

40 (8) a representative of Rutgers, the State University, with
41 expertise in freshwater fisheries and aquatic ecosystems; and

42 (9) a representative of Rowan University, with expertise in
43 freshwater fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.

44 c. All appointments to the commission shall be made no later
45 than 90 days after the effective date of this act. Each member shall
46 serve for the duration of the commission, and vacancies shall be
47 filled in the same manner as the original appointments. The
48 members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but

1 shall be eligible for reimbursement for necessary and reasonable
2 expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties within
3 the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the
4 commission for its purposes.

5 d. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable
6 following the appointment of its members and shall select a
7 chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among its members, as
8 well as a secretary who need not be a member of the commission.
9 A majority of the membership of the commission shall constitute a
10 quorum for the transaction of commission business. The
11 commission may meet and hold hearings at the place or places the
12 commission designates.

13 e. The Department of Environmental Protection shall provide
14 staff support to the commission. The commission shall be entitled
15 to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of the
16 employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board,
17 bureau, commission, or agency as the commission may require and
18 as may be available to the commission for its purposes.

19 f. No later than one year after its organization, the commission
20 shall prepare and submit to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2
21 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the Legislature, a final report
22 detailing the commission's findings, including any
23 recommendations for legislative or regulatory action that are
24 necessary to effectuate its recommendations.

25 g. The commission shall expire 30 days after submission of its
26 final report pursuant to subsection f. of this section.

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28 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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31 STATEMENT 32

33 This bill would establish in the Department of Environmental
34 Protection the Triploid Grass Carp Commission. The purpose of
35 the commission is to study the use of triploid grass carp in
36 freshwater lakes to control the growth of aquatic plants, to assess
37 risks of such use on the State's fisheries, and to evaluate and make
38 recommendations on the regulation of their use. The commission is
39 required to:

40 (1) study the efficacy of the use of temperature shocking to
41 produce sterile grass carp;

42 (2) examine the methods and effectiveness of the use of triploid
43 grass carp in other states for the control of aquatic plants;

44 (3) evaluate the regulations and limitations in effect in other
45 states on the use of triploid grass carp and the success of their
46 protection of native fisheries and aquatic ecosystems;

47 (4) assess the current restrictions in the State on the use of
48 triploid grass carp in freshwater lakes;

1 (5) evaluate whether triploid grass carp may be safely used in
2 the State for aquatic plant control without negatively impacting
3 native fisheries or aquatic ecosystems; and

4 (6) compare the use of triploid grass carp as an alternative to the
5 use of herbicides for aquatic weed control.

6 The commission would be comprised of nine members appointed
7 by the Governor, as follows: a representative of the Lake
8 Hopatcong Foundation; a representative of the Musconetcong
9 Watershed Association; a member of the Highlands Water
10 Protection and Planning Council; a representative of the Coalition
11 for the Delaware River Watershed; a representative of the New
12 Jersey Audubon Society; a representative of the New Jersey Bass
13 Federation; a representative of the Knee Deep Club of Lake
14 Hopatcong; and one representative each from Rutgers, the State
15 University, and Rowan University, with expertise in freshwater
16 fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. The commission would be
17 required to submit its findings and recommendations to the
18 Governor and the Legislature no later than one year after its
19 organization.

20 The commission would expire 30 days after submission of its
21 report under the bill.