

## **2014 Kerr Reservoir AVMP Action Plan**

**Date:** April 30, 2014

**Current Status of Invasive Vegetation:** 2013 survey estimates 1116 acres of hydrilla, increased from 888 acres identified in 2012 survey. Of the 228 acre increase in 2013, approximately 214 acres are located in the western part of the lake near Staunton View Park.

### **A. Chemical Control – herbicide treatments**

**Objective:** Target herbicide treatments of hydrilla in high use and high threat areas.

#### **2013 Actions Completed:**

- 1) **USACE**
  - a. No USACE areas treated with herbicides. High water kept hydrilla below surface at USACE areas.
  - b. Four commercial herbicide applicators received authorization.
  - c. 71 acres of treatment by commercial applicators contracted by shoreline permit holders.
  - d. One herbicide applicator cited for failure to comply with reporting requirements

#### **2014 Proposed Actions:**

- 1) **USACE**
  - a. Treat hydrilla in USACE managed areas as needed.
  - b. Continue to review applicator permit applications, pre-treatment requests, and post treatment reports
- 2) **NCDPR**
  - a. NCDPR and NC Division of Water Resources partnership is funding the treatment of 30-45 hydrilla acres in Kerr Lake State Recreation Area. Subject to available funding and site conditions.

### **B. Biological Control - stocking of triploid grass carp**

**Objective:** Decrease acreage of hydrilla throughout the reservoir with emphasis on Nutbush and Little Nutbush Creek

#### **2013 Actions Completed:**

- 1) **USACE**
  - a. Purchased 13,320 triploid grass carp. Fish were stocked at three locations on October 31, 2013 with assistance from VDGIF and NCDPR staff. USACE obtained fish stocking permits from NCDWR and VDGIF.
- 2) **VDGIF**
  - a. Made stocking recommendations, issued stocking permit, and assisted in fish stocking
  - b. Annual fish monitoring
- 3) **NCWRC**

- a. Made stocking recommendations and issued stocking permit
  - b. Annual fish monitoring
- 4) NCDPR
- a. Assisted in fish stocking

2014 Proposed Actions:

- 1) USACE
  - a. Supplemental stocking of 4,200 triploid grass carp. Estimated mortality (30% of initial stocking 13,320 = 3,996 fish) plus fish per increase in acreage of hydrilla for Nutbush Arm of the Lake since initial stocking (14 acres x 15 fish/acre = 210 fish) = 4,206 fish total for restocking.
- 2) VDGIF
  - a. Note condition of triploid grass carp collected during annual fisheries monitoring

**C. Hand Removal**

Objective: Temporarily open areas congested with hydrilla and remove plants in small areas, concentrating on high use and high threat areas

2013 Actions Completed:

- 1) USACE
  - a. No requests received

2014 Proposed Actions:

- 1) USACE
  - a. Review request for hand removal

**D. Native Aquatic Vegetation**

Objectives: Promote native aquatic vegetation in areas where invasive plants have been removed and suitable areas that have not been colonized by native vegetation

2013 Action Completed

- 1) USACE
  - a. Identified potential sites for pilot planting

2014 Proposed Actions:

- 1) USACE
  - a. USACE Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility staff site visit
  - b. Identify Partners/Volunteers to assist with plantings
  - c. Complete plans for planting pilot project

## **E. Survey and Monitoring**

Objectives: Assess effectiveness of control measures and population of aquatic vegetation

### 2013 Actions Completed:

- 1) USACE
  - a. Funded 2013 NCSU to complete Kerr Lake Aquatic Vegetation Survey

### 2014 Proposed Actions:

- 1) USACE
  - a. Fund 2014 NCSU to complete Kerr Lake Aquatic Vegetation Survey. Subject to available funding.

## **F. Public Education**

Objective: Inform the public and stake holders about how to identify native and invasive aquatic vegetation, report occurrences of invasive species, avoid spreading invasive vegetation, participate and/or contribute to aquatic vegetation management activities, and report unauthorized treatment and illegal transport or dispersal of invasive plants.

### 2013 Actions Completed:

- 1) USACE
  - a. Conducted two public scoping meetings and distributed Environmental Assessment (EA) for public comment during development of Kerr AVMP
  - b. Maintained public information on Corps' web page  
<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/DistrictLakesandDams/JohnHKerr/NaturalResources/AquaticVegetationManagement.aspx>
  - c. Included printed information on aquatic vegetation in shoreline permit holder mailings
- 2) NC Agricultural Extension Service
  - a. Provided information and updates to public and interested stake holders via "kerrhydrilla" mailing list
  - b. Participated in EA scoping meetings
- 3) NCSU
  - a. Participated in EA scoping meetings
  - b. Conducted aquatic vegetation survey
  - c. Maintain NCSU aquatic vegetation management site  
<http://www.weedscience.ncsu.edu/aquaticweeds/default.asp>

### 2014 Proposed Actions:

- 1) All Managing Agencies - install/replace hydrilla warning/information signs at access points
- 2) USACE

- a. Continue to maintain AVMP web page and providing printed information on aquatic vegetation in shoreline permit mailings

## **G. Enforcement**

Objective: Ensure compliance with existing laws and regulations pertaining to aquatic weeds, herbicide application, fish stocking, and planting of aquatic vegetation

### 2014 Proposed Actions:

- 1) USACE
  - a. Continue to enforce rules and regulations
  - b. Provide information to the public on the Corps Watch program which provides a \$1000 reward for information leading to the arrest and prosecution of individuals causing damage to USACE property including intentional spread of federally listed noxious weeds including hydrilla, unauthorized application of pesticides, and unauthorized release of fish including grass carp.
  - c. Adopt posted restrictions to address invasive species including requirement to clean visible mud, plants, and animals from boats, trailers and other equipment to avoid spread of invasive species