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Particle Size Analyzer Identifies Carp Species as Diploids or Triploids



The grass carp was introduced into the United States in 1963 by the United States Bureau of Sport Fisheries. The grass carp were thought to be a solution to weed control, since they were herbivores. However, there was concern that the grass carp might destroy valuable wetlands and swamps if allowed to reproduce naturally. Researchers have developed a population of sterile grass carp, called a triploid, which effectively controls the population of the grass carp.

Identification of the Triploid (sterile) or Diploid (non-sterile) grass carp is effectively done using an electrical sensing zone particle size analyzer, better known as an Elzone or Coulter Counter. Blood samples are analyzed on the Elzone looking for the mutated triploid chromosome number. The following web site is just one source for additional information regarding the grass carp, govdocs.aquake.org/cgi/reprint.

MAS routinely uses these types of particle size analyzers, which are perfect for this application as well as many other particle counting or particle sizing applications.

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