

## SCREENING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PONDS STOCKED WITH TRIPLOID GRASS CARP

Bar spacing or mesh size should be selected to maximize the passage of floating materials (leaves, letter, etc) while effectively prohibiting escape of grass carp. The sizes typically sold in Connecticut are 10" or 12" triploid grass carp. The maximum mesh size allowed is 1 ½".

Screens should be constructed from rigid materials such as aluminum, steel or stiff plastic (polyvinylchloride or PVC). Prefabricated fence materials such as chicken wire and hardware cloth should NOT be used since they are more prone to clogging and are more likely to deteriorate (rust) rapidly. Likewise, screens constructed from wood should be avoided because they can be damaged by beavers (*Castor canadensis*).

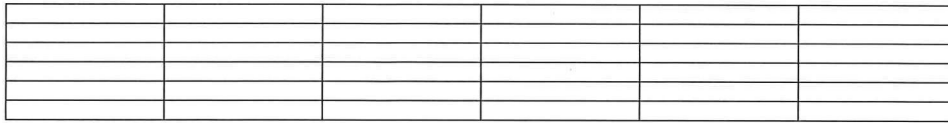
Screening should be installed to cover the entire outlet opening when the pond is served by a small culvert (pipe) or similar structure, provided that doing so will not result in back-flooding issues. When the outlet is served by a dam, spillway, or swale, the screening must be placed in such a manner as to ensure containment of the fish under high water or flood conditions. This may involve extending the screening well beyond the area of normal flow. Since grass carp are excellent jumpers, screening height should extend 2 ½ to 3 feet above the normal high mark. Screening must be securely anchored to the pond bottom or outlet to prevent fish from swimming underneath or around it. Screens must extend several inches into the substrate, since sediments can shift or erode, thereby creating an escape route for grass carp.

Screens installed on dams and spillways may require permitting by the Dam Safety Section of the DEEP Inland Water Resources Division. Applicants considering the installation of a screening device on any dam or spillway should contact the Dam Inspection & Safety Section at (860) 424-3706 for guidance. Since the Dam Inspection & Safety Section has jurisdiction for issuing permits required for dam construction/reconstruction, the Inland Fisheries Division will not approve screening devices that are disallowed by the Dam Safety Section.

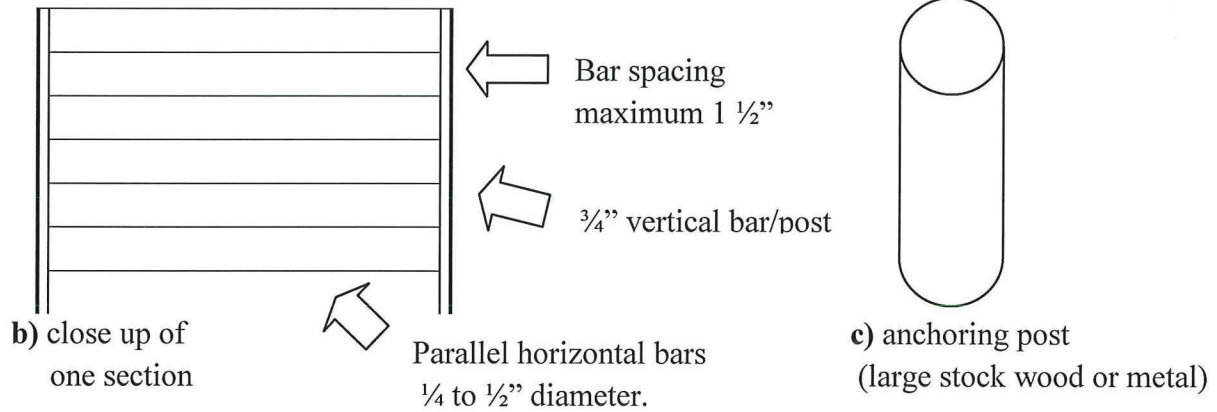
Please note that screen installation may also require approval by your local Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency. You should contact your town hall for further information before proceeding.

Regardless of the screen design that is installed, pond owners must be prepared to regularly inspect the screening device and manually remove any debris that has accumulated. Inspections and cleaning may become more frequent when excessive debris is in the water, such as during and after the autumn leaf drop.

Figure 1. General layout for parallel bar style emigration control screen.



a) Entire screen – Should extend from bottom of inlet/outlet to 2 ½ to 3 above high water mark.



*Note – Parallel bars can be secured to ¾" vertical bars 48" apart or attached directly to large stock anchoring posts.*

**Acceptable Inlet/Outlet Screening Examples**

