

FROM: Krantz

Riverkeeper References

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3 QUATIC  
SYSTEMS

George Krantz,  
F&I,  
Frank Dawson

Circulate

[Signature] King  
[Signature] ~~Williams~~ Wharton  
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enlist your help with an  
Potomac River and surrounding  
Chesapeake Bay tributaries. If left  
Hydrilla verticillata, could leave  
area covered by a nearly  
total infestation.

Species of submerged aquatic  
plants identified in Florida in 1960.  
Hydrilla verticillata was introduced into  
the Chesapeake Bay from the Middle East,  
most identified in Florida in 1960.  
Due to its prolific (5 ways) reproductive potential, it is able  
to survive and flourish in streams, lakes, and tidal freshwater  
under a wide range of environmental conditions.

Hydrilla is the same organism that has posed a multimillion-  
dollar control problem in Florida and has spread through the  
southern states of Georgia, Alabama, the Carolinas, Tennessee  
and now Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and the District of  
Columbia. It has been reported as far west as California, and  
as far north as Canada.

Hydrilla forms thick mats of stems and leaves below and at the  
water surface. It makes swimming, boating, fishing and water  
skiing difficult, dangerous or impossible, hinders commercial  
navigation, clogs water intake systems, crowds out desirable  
SAV's and provides breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Hydrilla has already seriously affected the recreational uses of  
a number of Maryland and Virginia ponds and lakes, as well as  
Dyke Marsh, a tidal freshwater Potomac River marsh below  
Alexandria, VA. In 1983, small patches also were identified in  
shallow shoreline waters of the tidal Potomac both upstream and  
downstream from Dyke Marsh. The colony at Dyke Marsh enlarged  
from 0.2 acres in 1982 to over 10 acres in 1983. The concern is  
that it may spread uncontrollably throughout the Potomac River  
and the entire freshwater Chesapeake Bay Systems. More than  
30,000 acres of shoreline waters in the tidal freshwater  
Potomac alone could be potentially infested with the  
potential to cause the problems noted above.

INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON THE POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

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