

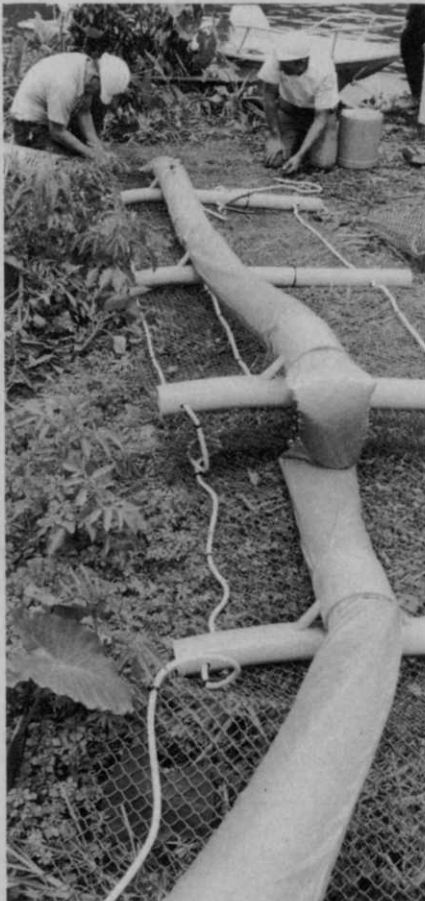


Completed N-Bar installation near Tampa, Fla.



Work crews install a barrier by floating it into place and then tying it down to concrete blocks. Barrier is easy to maneuver.

Weed Wall For Aquatics



Max Farnham and Bill Boren (r) work on a barrier. Note type of construction.

Mechanical methods of containing aquatic weed growth are being considered increasingly where undesirable vegetation cannot be controlled with chemicals. Indeed, chemical and mechanical as well as biological means are often necessary to bring prolific species of aquatic weeds under control.

One of the newest mechanical systems to be introduced is N-Bar floating barrier. It has successfully been used to control the movement of water hyacinths in Florida. Presently, installations can be seen in Lake Apopka and in the Hillsborough River near Tampa.

How does N-Bar work? The barrier combines features of a floating boom and an underwater fence. It is constructed in 50 foot lengths of plastic-coated metal mesh, 4 feet high, to which risers of polyethylene pipe are attached using nylon tie-wraps. An inflatable rubber boom protected with a sleeve of polyester, rubber coated fabric extends the length of the unit and floats the barrier. Barrier is anchored to concrete blocks. Weeds are contained behind the barrier while water is permitted to travel across the system.

Douglas W. Troll, president of Sea

Guard, Inc., manufacturers of the product, says that the plastic and rubber coated system is essentially rust proof. Once installed, the barrier permits passage of water, conforms to wave and wind action, but will screen out most solids. Position of the barrier can be changed when desired. "It can be removed and placed in other desired areas with minimum effort," Troll told WEEDS TREES AND TURF.

Pleasure craft can still use water, notes Troll. By making a series of turns, boats can enter and leave a baracaded area without damaging the barrier or disrupting the weed screening action.

"Our first installation was at the Tampa Water Plant Intake," recalls Troll. "Aquatic weeds had been breaking loose upstream in the Hillsborough River and fouling the plant intake. Pump suction were restricted. Placing the barrier ahead of the intake area kept unwanted vegetation back yet permitted water to pass."

Sea Guard suggests that other uses for the N-Bar would be in ponds used for irrigation. Algae and weeds could be contained and kept away from intake pumps.

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