

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

FISHPOND MANAGEMENT

(acre)

CODE 399

DEFINITION

Managing impounded water for the production of fish or other aquatic organisms (non-commercial use).

herbicides will have a restrictive use, unless the flow can be temporarily stopped.

Additional Criteria to Develop and Maintain a Desired Species Composition and Ratio

PURPOSE

- To provide favorable habitats for fish and other aquatic organisms
- To develop and maintain a desired species composition and ratio.
- To develop and maintain a desired level of production

Species selections and stocking rates shall follow policy and guidelines of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Fish species most commonly stocked in Arkansas' ponds, smaller lakes, and reservoirs are largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, hybrid sunfish, white amur (grass carp), channel catfish, and fathead minnow.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

In warm-water ponds, lakes, and reservoirs.

Stocking rates, species selections, and combinations shall also depend on the size, depth, water temperature, and water quality of the area to be stocked.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Pond construction will meet or exceed the requirements of Conservation Practice Standard 378, Pond.

All Federal, State, and local regulations will be followed and necessary permits obtained prior to stocking.

Additional Criteria to Provide Favorable Habitats for Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms.

The site will be protected from flooding, sedimentation, and contamination. Unwanted aquatic vegetation shall be controlled. If the pond has an outlet flow, the use of aquatic

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider alternatives to the use of pesticides in the drainage area upland of the site to avoid negative impacts to water quality in the pond.

Consider the use of filter strips or other practices to ensure that discharges from the pond meet state water quality standards.

Consider placing logs and downed trees in the water and along the edge of the pond for fish cover and wildlife habitat.

Consider removing a certain number and size of fish each year so that the pond does not become overcrowded with stunted fish.

Consider using non-lethal methods to control natural predators. All migratory birds are

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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protected unless they have a specific hunting season.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for management of fish and other aquatic organisms will be in keeping with this standard and will describe the requirements for applying this practice to achieve its intended purpose.

Specifications will be recorded using approved specifications sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other documentation.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Requirements for operation and maintenance of this practice shall be incorporated into site specifications.

A maintenance plan would address some, or all of the following:

1. Supplemental feeding,
2. Periodic removal of undesirable and overpopulated organisms,
3. Control of unwanted aquatic plants and enhancement of desirable plants,
4. Fertilization,
5. Aeration of the water,
6. Adequate spawning conditions,
7. Inlet and outlet flow,
8. Predator control, and
9. Fish health.