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).

PURPOSES

- To provide favorable habitat 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.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

In warm and cold water ponds, lakes, and reservoirs where fish or other aquatic organisms are desired.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Structures will meet or exceed the requirements of the appropriate National Standard; i.e., a constructed pond will meet or exceed the requirement in Conservation Practice Standard 378, Pond.

All federal, state, and local regulations will be followed and necessary permits obtained prior to stocking, etc.

Species that are considered invasive or may become invasive in surrounding waters will not be recommended or stocked.

Species for stocking will be limited to those that are adapted for use in ponds, lakes, or reservoirs in your state or area.

Stocking rates and species selection and combinations depend upon the size, depth, water temperature, and water quality of the area to be stocked.

Additional Criteria to Provide Favorable Habitat for Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms

The site will be protected from sedimentation and contamination.

Aquatic vegetation shall be controlled.

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

Species selection(s) and stocking rates shall follow Fishpond Management specifications or Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks guidelines. All stocking must be in compliance with federal and state laws.

To maintain the desired species composition and species ratios, a plan will be developed with the client to monitor changes in species composition and sizes ratios through observations, seining, and catch records.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the use of native species.

Consider the effects of fertilization or supplemental feeding on organism size and growth rates, as well as on water quality and organism health.

Consider alternatives to the use of pesticides in the drainage area above the site, which may have negative impacts to water quality.

Consider the use of filter strips or other practices in the drainage area to maximize the quality of the surface and ground water entering the water body.

Consider methods to prevent desired fish species in the pond, lake, and reservoir from escaping into adjoining waters.

Consider protection of the water body from flooding.

Consider methods to prevent introduction of non-native species into adjoining waters where native species might be adversely affected, or to prevent non-compatible species from entering the pond, lake, or reservoir.

Consider providing additional fish and wildlife habitat within or around the impoundment for cover and breeding purposes that will not compromise the integrity of the structure or the purpose of this practice.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for fish and other aquatic organism management will be in keeping with this standard and will describe the requirements for applying this practice to achieve its intended purpose. Specifications are developed for and attached to this standard.

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

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The client will receive a plan or specifications describing the following management and corrective actions that are required for the successful management of the pond, lake, or reservoir.

- Managing fish or other aquatic organism populations.
- Supplemental feeding.
- Removing undesirable and overpopulated organisms.
- Aquatic plant control.

REFERENCES

Producing Fish and Wildlife from Kansas Ponds, revised in 1995, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. (Copies available and provided to all NRCS offices.)

Private Lands Wildlife Management from Kansas State University. (Copies in all NRCS offices.)

Ponds-Planning, Design, and Construction, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Agricultural Handbook Number 590.