

Stream Habitat Improvement and Management

(pen & ink change – 11/05)

~~Fish Stream Improvement 395-1~~

~~Fish Stream Improvement (feet)~~

Definition

Improving a stream channel to make a new fish habitat or to enhance an existing habitat.

Purpose

To increase the production of desired species of fish.

Conditions where practice applies

In streams where poor habitat limits production of desired species.

Planning considerations

Water Quantity

1. Effects on the water budget.

Water Quality

1. Effects on channel erosion and the movement of sediment and soluble and sediment-attached substances that would be carried by runoff.
2. Effects on wetlands or water-related wildlife habitats.
3. Short-term and construction-related effects on the quality of water resources.
4. Effects on stream temperatures to provide desired effects for aquatic and wildlife communities.
5. Effects on the visual quality of water resources.

Specifications guide

Methods for providing or improving food supply, shelter, spawning areas, water quality, or other elements of fish habitat.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Soil Conservation Service

Technical Guide
Section IV
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~~**FISH STREAM IMPROVEMENT (Feet)**~~

Specifications Guide

There are two basic freshwater stream habitat types in North Carolina for consideration under this standard. These are:

Warmwater Streams - These streams are inclusive of the large Coastal Plain streams up to and including the smallmouth bass habitat of the lower mountain region.

Coldwater Streams - These are the trout streams of the mountain region of the state.

Planning for Fish Stream Improvement - Planning for fish stream improvement should include one or more of the following measures:

- (1) Maintenance of riparian vegetation;
- (2) Critical area stabilization for sediment reduction;
- (3) Streambank protection from livestock use - may include fencing;
- (4) Installation of field borders or filter strips for protection or enhancement of water quality;
- (5) Stabilization of streambanks to prevent channel shifting, bank caving, etc., with resultant sedimentation;
- (6) Establishment of tree cover along streams through crop and pasture areas for stream water temperature enhancement;
- (7) Planning for stream access -- may be streambank fishing easements and/or access points;
- (8) Channel clearing and snagging for the purpose of fisherman access in a boat;
- (9) In-stream structures for pool creation -- especially applicable for coldwater streams;
- (10) Assist landowner involved in livestock production to adequately handle the waste by-products of such operations.