

# Mulching-Plastic: Table 1 Summary of Effects to Atlantic Salmon

## Practice Information

Mulching is used to help control soil erosion, protect crops, conserve moisture, moderate soil temperature, prevent soil compaction and crusting, reduce runoff, and suppress growth of weeds. The practice is utilized on sites subject to erosion and high runoff rates that need the additional protection from material brought in from off the site. The material may be manufactured and commercially available, such as plastics or fabrics. Selection of materials is dependent upon site condition and the availability of materials. Manufactured mulches should be applied according to the manufacturer's specifications. Mulching is a high input practice used primarily on construction sites. However, plastic and fabric mulches are often used on cropland in the production of specialty crops including grapes, other fruits, and vegetables.



Network Diagram Effect Number	Life cycle affected:	Effect on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH):	Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Measures (CMs):	Effect on EFH (with CMs):
D.7 Increase in runoff	Eggs & Larvae, Juveniles, Adults, Spawning Adults	May adversely affect: increased peak flows result in increased suspended sediment from gully and streambank erosion	Runoff Control Measures: Contour Farming, Field Border, Row Arrangement installed to minimize peak flow events as needed for site specific conditions.	No effect
I.1 Decrease in contaminants, pathogens, sediments to receiving waters	Eggs & Larvae, Juveniles, Adults, Spawning Adults	None	None	No effect

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I.6 Decrease in herbicide use	Eggs & Larvae, Juveniles, Adults, Spawning Adults	None	None	No effect
I.7 Decrease in potential for herbicide movement offsite	Eggs & Larvae, Juveniles, Adults, Spawning Adults	None	None	No effect
I.10 Decrease in irrigation water	Eggs & Larvae, Juveniles, Adults, Spawning Adults	None	None	No effect
C.2 Increase in quality of surface waters and aquatic habitats	Eggs & Larvae, Juveniles, Adults, Spawning Adults	None	None	No effect
C.3 Increase in water quantity available for other uses	Eggs & Larvae, Juveniles, Adults, Spawning Adults	None	None	No effect