

FISH PASSAGE

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 396



FISH PASSAGE

Fish passage is the modification or removal of barriers that restrict or prevent movement or migration of fish. A fish passage allows fish to move upstream and downstream.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purpose of this practice is to allow upstream and downstream movement of fish past barriers where feasible or desirable.

This practice applies to all rivers, streams, and outlets of ponds or lakes where barriers impede desired fish passage. Modification or removal of barriers, particularly on large river systems, may significantly affect hydrology, for example, by creating impoundments or increasing seasonal inundation in the flood plain.

The context and intensity of these impacts must be considered when planning any project involving a fish passage.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Fish Passage is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with the following practices:

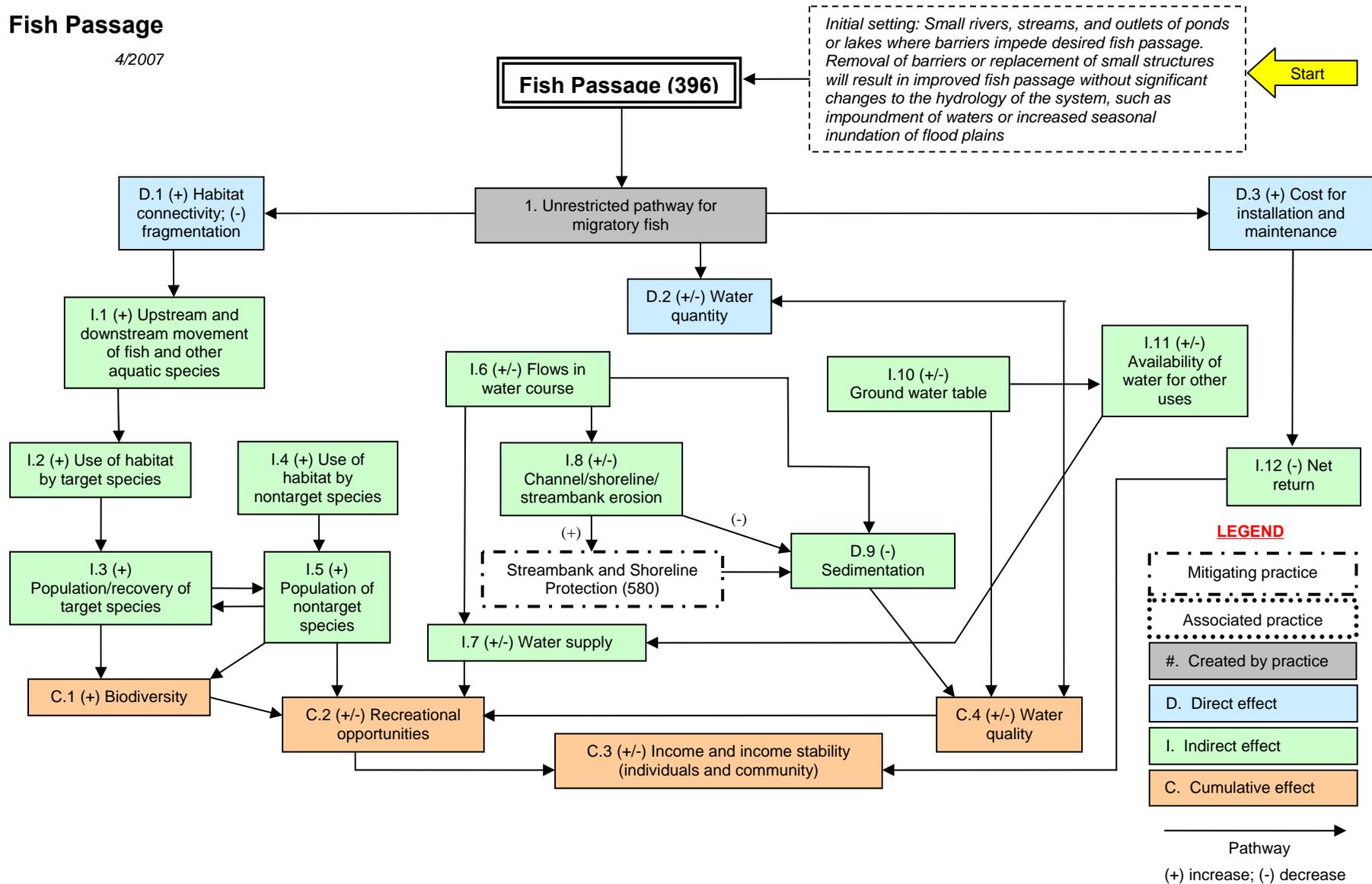
- Obstruction Removal (500)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
- Stream Habitat Improvement Management (395)

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated Job Sheets for further information.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

Fish Passage

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Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The scope of the practice implementation and resulting effects are limited to those described in the “initial setting.” Projects involving larger river systems, impoundment of waters, increased seasonal inundation of flood plains, or any other changes to the hydrologic system may need to be evaluated in a site-specific EA.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.