

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



Fishpond, photo courtesy USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Purpose

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

Benefits

Fishpond management can be used to improve fish production in almost any pond, lake, or reservoir where a crop of fish is wanted. The practice can increase food supplies and decrease competition from unwanted plants and animals.

Applications

This practice applies in warmwater ponds, lakes and reservoirs.

Design and Installation

For a constructed pond, refer to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Standard (378) Pond to ensure proper construction and adherence with required guidelines. All federal, state, and local regulations should be followed and any necessary permits should be obtained prior to stocking.

In order to protect the pond's water quality and preserve the habitat for fish, the pond should be protected from contamination. Contamination sources can include livestock, barnyard runoff, leaking septic fields, pesticides, and excess nutrient runoff. The site should also be protected from flooding and sedimentation.

When stocking the pond, invasive species or species that may become invasive in surrounding waters should be avoided. Specific guidance on species selection and stocking rates can be found in the FOTG Standard (399) Fishpond Management.

Maintenance

Maintenance specifications for this practice are site-specific and will be described in detail by an NRCS conservationist when constructing

the practice plan. Maintenance topics that may be covered in the plan include the following:

1. Managing fish or other aquatic organism populations
2. Supplemental feeding
3. Removing undesirable and overpopulated organisms
4. Aquatic plant control

Relative Cost

Installation low ●●●○○ high

Maintenance low ●●○○○ high

For Additional Information...

Visit the Indiana NRCS office online at <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/>, see the Indiana Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Standard (399) Fishpond Management, or contact your local USDA-NRCS office.

Local USDA-NRCS office information