

Documenting Trout and Anadromous Fish

Project Development and
Environmental Analysis Branch



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Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to identify and address what is required to respond to environmental concerns (e.g., moratorium, buffer zones) regarding trout streams or anadromous fish in project planning, design and construction.

Responsibility

The Project Planning Engineer (PPE) is responsible for ensuring that environmental concerns regarding designated trout streams and movement of anadromous fish are taken into consideration during project planning, design and construction. The project development engineer(s) will coordinate with the following state and federal agencies and DOT units to perform the procedure: NCDOT Units:

Project Development (PD)

Natural Environment Unit (NEU)

Roadway Design State Agency:

NC Division of Marine Fisheries

NC Wildlife Resources Commission Other Agencies:

National Marine Fisheries (NOAA-Fisheries)

Scheduling and Time Constraints

Time constraints and scheduling should be addressed before the completion of each major step in the procedure (e.g., document completion, permit application) and should be considered in setting or resetting the construction let date.

Procedures

The PPE will follow the procedures below to document Trout and Anadromous Fish Impacts.

Step 1. The Natural Environment Unit's (NEU) Project Management Group (PMG) receives an Environmental Input Request (EIR) from Project Development (PD) identifying concerns regarding trout or anadromous fish in the proposed project construction area.

If project is in the Western or Central Region or in a trout county, take the following steps:

- Determine NC Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) classification. If it is a Trout DWQ class – a 25-foot year-round buffer is required. Incorporate recommendation into the National Resources Technical Review (NRTR).
- Determine if it is a designated NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) trout stream (contact NCWRC). If no, no further action is required. If yes, an in-stream moratorium and design standard are required. Incorporate recommendation into the National Resources Technical Review (NRTR).

If project is in the Eastern or Central Region or in a designated anadromous fish county, take the following steps:

- Determine if in NCWRC and/or NC Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) waters (contact NCWRC and/or NCDMF). If no, no further action is required. If yes, an in-stream moratorium and design standard are required. Incorporate recommendation into the NRTR.

Step 2. NEU's PMG incorporates applicable recommendation(s) regarding trout stream buffer or anadromous fish moratorium into the NRTR.

Step 3. NEU submits recommendation(s) to the PPE.

Step 4. PPE determines if there are conflicts with conditions/constraints (check with Construction and Design units): • If yes, coordinate with applicable agency (e.g., NCDWQ, NCWRC, or NCDMF) to resolve conflict. (When resolved, go to next step in procedure.) • If no conflict(s), go to next step in procedure.

Step 5. PPE incorporates appropriate information and recommendation(s) into environmental document.

Step 6. PPE sends draft environmental document to FHWA for review/comment.

Background

It is the responsibility of NCDOT to ensure that replacement of existing and new highway stream crossing structures will not impact designated trout streams and will not impede the movement of anadromous fish. This is in compliance with environmental regulations set forth by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Policy, Regulatory, and Legal Requirements

Federal Regulation:

[Public Notice-Final Regional Conditions for Nationwide Permits \(Army Corps of Engineers\)](#)

State Regulation:

[15A NCAC 04B.0125 \(Buffer Zone Requirements\)](#)

[15A NCAC 02B.0101E5 \(High Quality Waters\)](#)

NCDOT Policies:

[Guidelines for Construction of Highway Improvements Adjacent to or Crossing Trout Waters in North Carolina \(Oct. 27, 1992\)](#)

[Stream Crossing Guidelines for Anadromous Fish](#)

Warnings and Precautions

Include any warnings or precautions, such as penalties, fines, or consequences that need to be highlighted under this heading.

Resources and Tools

[Guidelines for Construction of Highway Improvements Adjacent to or Crossing Trout Waters in North Carolina \(Oct. 27, 1992\)](#)

[Stream Crossing Guidelines for Anadromous Fish](#)

Contacts

- For suggestions to change this procedure contact: Karen Capps (919) 715-7299
- For questions about performing this procedure contact: John Williams (919) 715-5504

User Access

- Restricted NCDOT, FHWA, MPO, RPO, Consultants, etc.

Flowchart

Click [HERE](#)

