

# DIKE

## PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 356



### DIKE

A dike is an embankment constructed of earthen or other suitable material to protect land against overflow or to regulate water.

### PRACTICE INFORMATION

Dikes or levees are used where the control of water level is desired. They are used to prevent or reduce flood damage to people and property, for flow control in conjunction with floodways, to impound or regulate water for fish and wildlife management, or to manage water for production of seasonally flooded crops such as rice and cranberries.

Dikes for cropland water management include perimeter and interior dikes to temporarily impound water for harvesting, trash removal, pest control, seasonal flooding, or other management purposes. These dikes usually have small interior drainage areas in relation to the surface area of the regulated water level.

Considerations for locating a dike include the foundation soils; property lines; setbacks from property lines; exposure to open water; distance to streambanks; availability of outlets by gravity or pumping; buried utilities; cultural resources; and natural resources such as wetlands, natural areas, and fish and wildlife habitat.

### COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

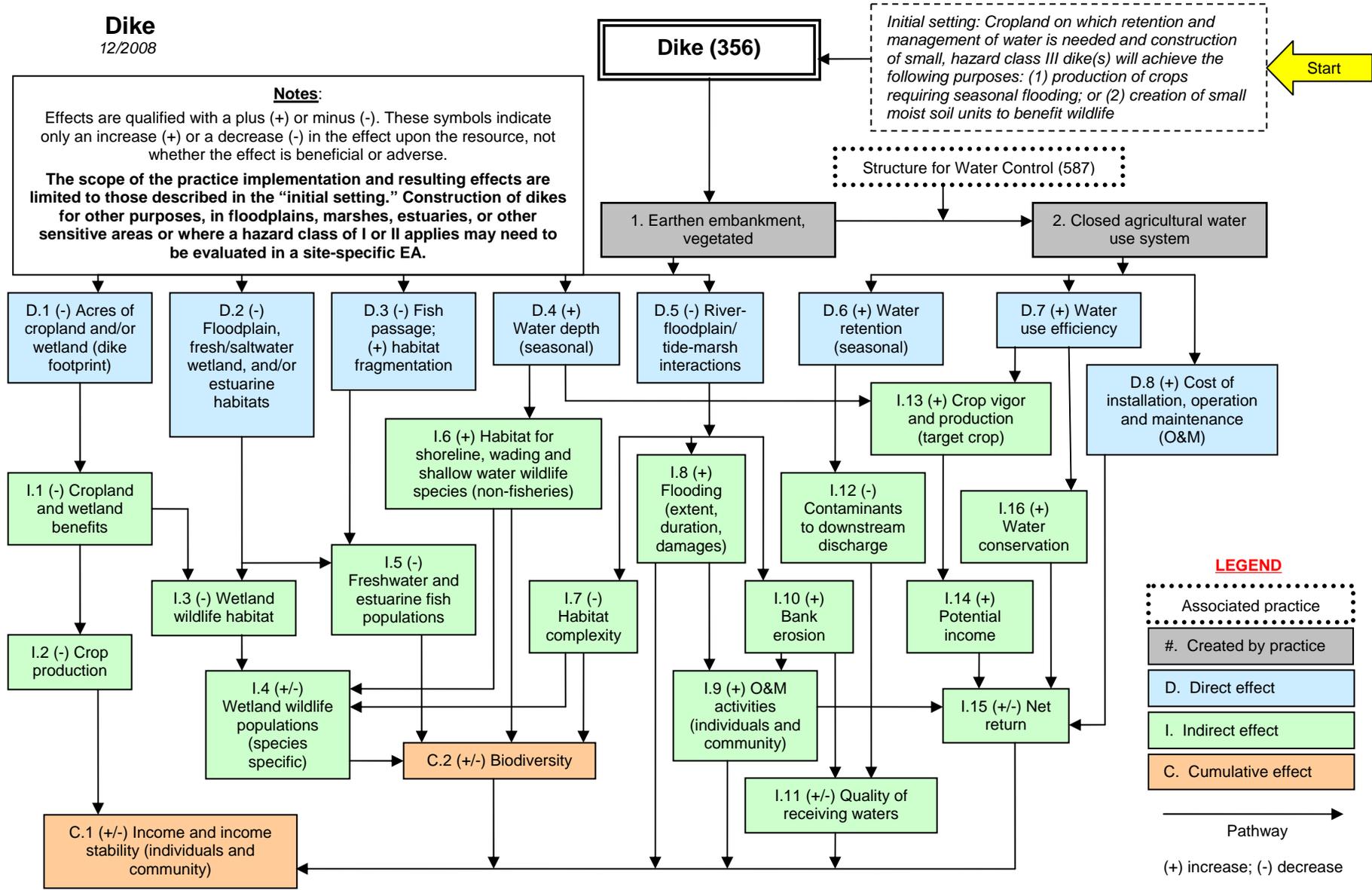
Dike is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with practices such as:

- Structure for Water Control (587)
- Land Smoothing (466)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pest Management (595)
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)

For further information, refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and job sheets.

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.

**Dike**  
12/2008



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.