August 2011

BIVALVE AQUACULTURE GEAR AND BIOFOULING CONTROL

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 400

BIVALVE AQUACULTURE GEAR AND BIOFOULING CONTROL

Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control consists of actions that reduce, clean or remove biofouling organisms and other waste from bivalve production areas while minimizing environmental risk.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Biofouling in aquaculture is a complex and recurring problem that greatly reduces the efficiency of aquaculture facilities. It can physically damage equipment and increase drag which increases the risk of gear escaping into the marine environment. Water flow through containment gear can be significantly lessened, directly reducing food supply, health and vigor of the livestock. Removal of biofouling from gear can cause excessive organic loading and release of aquatic nuisance species into surrounding waters.

Biofouling control includes avoidance, suppression and removal of biofouling organisms from gear in ways that avoid degradation of the marine and associated upland environment.

Managing risk of accidental loss of gear due to inadequate securing, excessive biofouling and ice or hazardous weather damage is a general criterion of the practice.

Record keeping of gear cycling, replacement, movement and removal is required to monitor losses that may pose an environmental or navigational hazard.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control is commonly used in a Conservation Management System in combination with practices such as:

- Access Control (472)
- Combustion System Improvement (372)
- Integrated Pest Management (595)

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.

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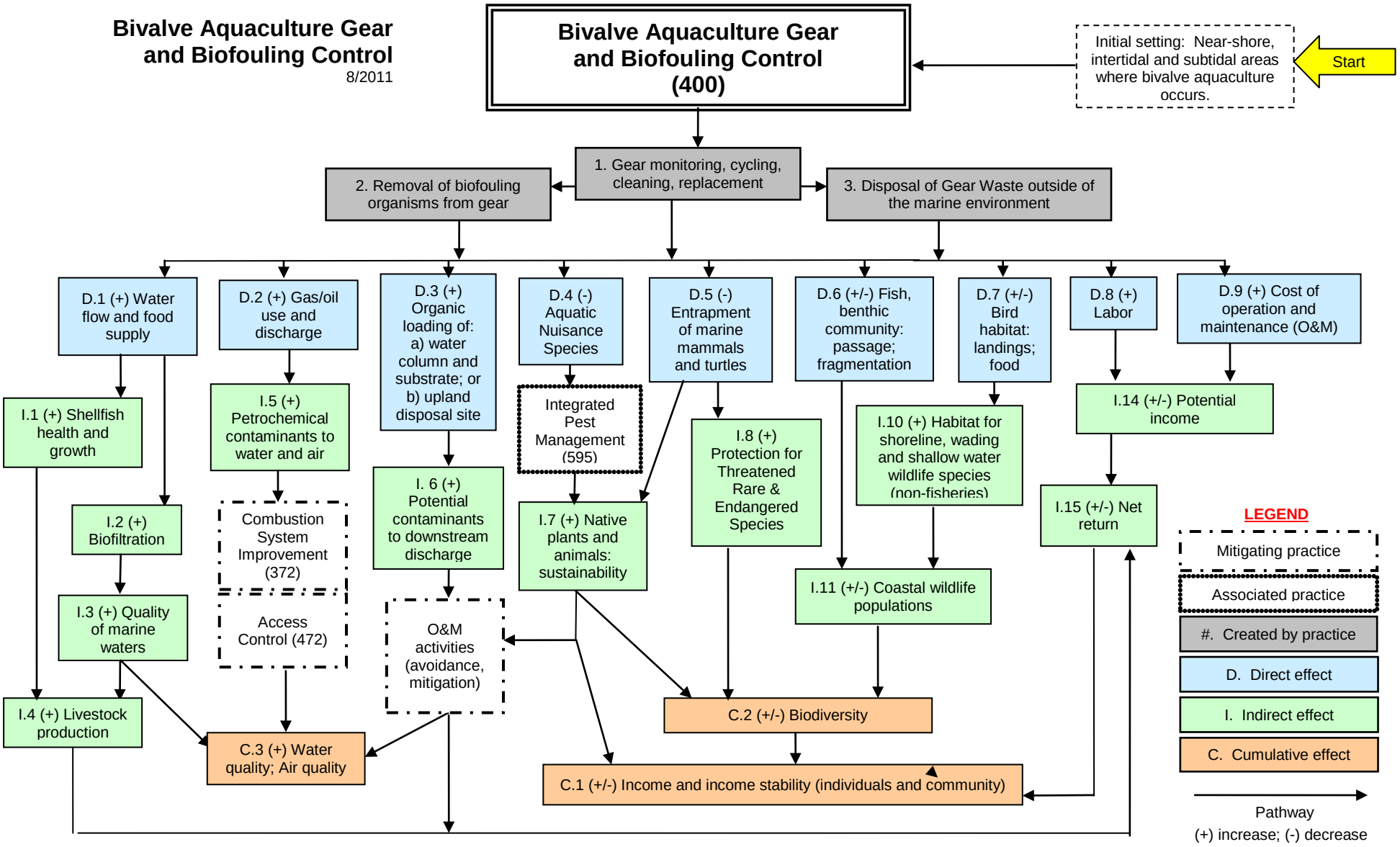

Notes: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The 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.