

## Conservation Practice Standard Overview

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### Aquaculture Ponds (397)

An aquaculture pond is a water impoundment constructed and managed for farming of freshwater and saltwater organisms including fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and aquatic plants.

#### Practice Information

This practice applies to all types of ponds installed or modified for commercial production of fish and other animals and plants. It also applies to operations that charge a fee for public fishing.

The purpose of the practice is to provide a favorable water environment for producing, growing, harvesting, and marketing commercial aquaculture crops.

The plan for a commercial fishpond is based on the limitations and potentials of the natural resources necessary for installation of a successful operation. A thorough assessment is made to determine the feasibility of the project. Soils are evaluated to determine if seepage will be a limitation; water is tested to determine if the quantity and quality is sufficient; down stream impacts are investigated including water treatment requirements; access to the site is considered; and compliance with laws and various regulations are considered.



The State fishery agency or appropriate State university or research institution should be contacted for recommendation on pond size, water depths, and adapted commercial aquatic species.

An aquaculture pond will require maintenance over the expected life of the practice.

#### Common Associated Practices

An Aquaculture Pond (397) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Access Control (472), Dike (356), Access Road (560), Waste Recycling (633) Nutrient Management (590), and Pond Sealing or Lining (521A, 521B, 521C, 521D).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.