



Conservation Practice Overview

May 2025

Fish Raceway or Tank (Code 398)

A fish raceway or tank is a channel or tank with a continuous flow of water constructed or used for high-density production of fish or other aquatic organisms.

Practice Information

A fish raceway or tank requires a continuous flow of water of suitable temperature, quantity, and quality for intensive management and enhanced production of fish or other aquatic organisms. In turn, the water leaving the aquaculture facility (effluent) may require treatment before being released into receiving waterbodies.

A fish raceway or tank includes earthen channels as well as channels and tanks constructed of concrete, concrete block, timber, rock, fiberglass, or other materials that convey flowing or recirculating water for aquaculture production.

An aquaculture resource assessment usually occurs when planning this practice. The assessment helps determine the feasibility of the practice considering economics, water availability, markets, management requirements, and other considerations.

Develop plans for treatment or use of waste generated or caused by the operation of fish raceways or tanks and made a part of the design and installation of the practice. Waste treatment may include the construction of waste storage ponds, storage structures, treatment lagoons, settling basins, or other facilities. Waste utilization may include composting, land application, or hauling to available lands.

In situations where water availability or effluent standards are limiting factors, consider the use of recirculating aquaculture that can minimize water use and allow for secondary use of wastewater (e.g., re-use for fish, aquaponic crop, algae, or invertebrate production).

Common Associated Practices

Conservation practices commonly applied with a Fish Raceway or Tank (Code 398) include Compost Facility (Code 317), Dike (Code 356), Grassed Waterway (Code 412), Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (Code 443), Nutrient Management (Code 590), Open Channel (Code 582), Structure for Water Control (Code 587), Underground Outlet (Code 620), Waste Recycling (Code 633), Waste Storage Structure (Code 313), and Waste Treatment Lagoons (Code 359).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.