



## Conservation Practice Overview

September 2020

### Aquaculture Pond (Code 397)

A water impoundment 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 aquatic organisms and plants. It also applies to operations that charge a fee for public fishing. Purposes of the practice are to provide a favorable water environment for aquaculture crops and to reduce or manage nutrient-enriched and pathogen-laden discharges.



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

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Aquaculture Pond (Code 397) is commonly applied with NRCS CPSs Fence (Code 382), Dike (Code 356), Fishpond Management (Code 399), and Nutrient Management (Code 590), and NRCS CPS Pond Sealing or Lining - Compacted Soil (Codes 520) or Pond Sealing or Lining - Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner (Code 521).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.