

Fish Habitat Factsheet #3

Sources of Financial & Technical Assistance for Fish Habitat Projects

Successful fish habitat projects require proper planning to ensure proper design, installation, maintenance and monitoring. State and federal agencies often work cooperatively with landowners and offer a variety of financial incentives for landowners, if landowners agree to follow project guidelines and fulfill their obligations. This factsheet summarizes programs offered by partner agencies to assist landowners interested in developing fish habitat improvement projects on their properties.



Funding opportunities exist to help landowners restore, manage and protect valuable fish habitats. Photo: John Farrell

Fish habitat improvement project funding can be awarded under a contract between partner agencies and landowners, if a proposed project meets agency guidelines and the landowner is willing to fulfill his/her obligations to the project.

A project can be located either in waterbodies or on lands that surround waterbodies. It is important for landowners to realize that financial support for habitat projects depends on the amount of funds received by county, state, and federal partners.



U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

USDA/NRCS can provide technical and financial assistance for landowners to:

- restore wetlands affected by agriculture (by recent cropping, grazing or long-term effects from drainage, erosion, siltation, fertilizer runoff, etc.)
- address water quality issues responsible for wetlands damage
- implement grazing systems close to fish habitat areas to reduce or prevent habitat damage from livestock stream-crossings.

NRCS funding can be 50 to 100 percent of a project, depending on the project's size, type, duration and landowner obligations.

More information: Contact your local USDA/NRCS office



U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Funds are administered by FSA; NRCS provides technical support to help landowners buffer streams, repair riparian areas (i.e., grassland, woodland, wetland, stream banks), plant grass, and restore wetlands. Activities may include livestock fencing, developing alternative water sources, and seedling/shrub plantings in buffer areas between water bodies and surrounding land. Although funds are usually about 50 percent of project costs, awards may be higher in some cases.

More information: Contact your local USDA/NRCS office

- Jefferson County: Farm Service Agency, 21168 State Rte 232 Watertown, NY, 13601, 315-782-7289
- St. Lawrence County: Farm Service Agency
1942 Old DeKalb Rd, Canton, NY, 13617-3134, 315-386-2401



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The USFWS provides technical and financial assistance to volunteer private landowners and tribes willing to partner with the agency to restore, enhance, and manage private land to improve fish and wildlife habitats of Federal trust species (including threatened and endangered species and migratory birds) of special concern and those of economic and ecological importance (Northern pike, musky, walleye). Typical projects include restoration of wetlands, grasslands, and in-stream, streambank, riparian and floodplain areas.

More information:

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NY Field Office, 3817 Luker Rd, Cortland, NY 13045, 607-753-9934, FWSES_NYFO@fws.gov
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Lower Great Lakes Fishery Resource Office
405 North French Rd, Suite 120A, Amherst, NY 14428, 716-691-5456



Ducks Unlimited (DU)

DU's mission is to restore, protect, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for the benefit of waterfowl, other fish and wildlife and people. DU offers cooperating landowners assistance to improve fish and wildlife habitats and long-term land protection through conservation easements — legal agreements between DU and interested landowners to conserve important habitats on landowner property; can reduce property and income taxes.

More information: Contact your local DU office: www.ducks.org

- Ducks Unlimited, Inc. Great Lakes/Atlantic Regional Office
1220 Eisenhower Place, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108-3281
734-623-2000

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