

Essential Fish Habitat-List of Best Management Practices

- - During the course of construction or post-construction, the impairment of the hydrologic flow of any creek system will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.
- - Construction BMPs must include measures to reduce temporary impacts including turbidity and sedimentation. For example, temporary sediment and runoff control fences (e.g., a silt fence consisting of geotextile fabric installed between supporting posts) should be installed along approaches adjacent to EFH; floating turbidity barriers should be used when activities could result in increased turbidity downstream of work site.
- -To the maximum extent practicable, construction activities impacting EFH should be conducted during low biological use periods (winter months, Nov1- Feb 28).
- - To the maximum extent practicable, plan the stages of development so that only the areas that are actively being developed are exposed. All other areas should have a good cover of either temporary or permanent vegetation.
- -SCDOT must not conduct work in a manner that results in permanent bank erosion or decreased stabilization. Sediment entering the waterway due to equipment presence and operation must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.
- -Grading should be completed as soon as possible after it has begun.
- -Keep runoff velocities low and retain runoff on the site using sediment and erosion control BMPs to the maximum extent practicable.
- -Any excavated material must not be disposed of in the adjacent waterway or sidecast into adjacent marsh.
- -To the maximum extent practicable, project areas that are excavated adjacent to the marsh must be graded down to adjacent marsh levels.
- -Where necessary, banks should be stabilized with bioengineering material (e.g, biologs, fiber matting, etc.).
- -Raw or live concrete (which is toxic to aquatic life) may not come in contact with the wetlands or open water until the concrete has cured.
- -At the end of the workday, remove debris that may enter EFH by wind, tides, etc.
- -Temporary impacts from work mats should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Temporary work trestles or use of existing infrastructure is preferred.
- - Riprap should be minimized to the least amount practicable. Riprap placed within tidal wetlands should consist of clean rock or masonry clean of pollutants and debris.
- -Material (e.g., riprap, pilings) may not be placed in waterways such that it impairs the hydrologic flow at mean low tide unless the rip rap is needed to support the integrity of the bridge abutment or roadway that is susceptible to scour.
- -Any impact pile driving shall be conducted out-of-water or at low tide where practicable.

- -Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow.
- -All steps necessary must be taken to prevent oil, tar, trash, debris and other pollutants from entering adjacent wetlands and/or waterways.
- -Once initiated, projects must be carried to completion in an expeditious manner in order to minimize the period of disturbance and upon completion, all disturbed areas must be permanently stabilized with vegetative cover and/or rip-rap, as appropriate. Native vegetation and/or native seed mixtures should be utilized.
- -Construction access areas must be clearly identified in the permit application or construction access must consist of minimal clearing for installation of elevated working platform(s), timber mat(s) or barge(s). Impacts will be temporary and minor in nature. There will be no mechanized equipment allowed to operate within jurisdictional areas unless it has been clearly identified and authorized in the approved plans. All impacts for construction access count towards the thresholds allowed under this General Permit.