Barriers To Prevent Non-Native Fish Movement: A Review[AFS]

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Barriers to non-native fish movement are important tools in the conservation of native fish species. Natural and manmade barriers provide protection to some of the last populations of native fish, and barriers are frequently used to help restore a species to a larger portion of its native range. We surveyed barriers being used to prevent non-native fish movement in an effort to make a wide variety of barrier designs available to managers and researchers. Barrier design, longevity, cost, and functionality vary, and there is some indication that those designing barriers lack the information necessary to build the best barrier to meet their management needs. A wide variety of materials are used to build barriers and each has associated advantages and disadvantages. We review the major types of barrier construction, as well as noteworthy innovative designs, and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each. The falls barrier was found to be the most common type of barrier currently used to exclude non-native fish. Results of this survey have provided an array of barrier designs and have helped to highlight gaps in the knowledge base necessary to construct effective barriers. Other types of barriers included mesh, perched culverts and velocity barriers. Knowledge gaps in the design of barriers include, the jumping performance of wild fish, proper barrier siting, and barrier designs that can accommodate both high and low di charges. A comprehensive manual on barrier design and an understanding of the jumping ability of wild fish are necessary before barrier designers can be expected to consistently build effective barriers. focused on species of special concern, non-native species introductions, impacts of fire on fish and aquatic ecosystems, and hydroelectric development.