
CALIFORNIA SALMONID STREAM HABITAT RESTORATION MANUAL

APPENDIX S.

FISH SCREEN CRITERIA¹

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

1. STRUCTURE PLACEMENT

A. Streams And Rivers (flowing water): The screen face shall be parallel to the flow and adjacent bankline (water's edge), with the screen face at or streamward of a line defined by the annual low-flow water's edge.

The upstream and downstream transitions to the screen structure shall be designed and constructed to match the back-line, minimizing eddies upstream of, in front of and downstream of, the screen.

Where feasible, this "on-stream" fish screen structure placement is preferred by the California Department of Fish and Game.

B. In Canals (flowing water): The screen structure shall be located as close to the river source as practical, in an effort to minimize the approach channel length and the fish return bypass length. This "in canal" fish screen location shall only be used where an "on-stream" screen design is not feasible. This situation is most common at existing diversion dams with headgate structures.

The current National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries - Southwest Region criteria for these types of installations shall be used.

C. Small Pumped Diversions: Small pumped diversions (less than 40 cubic-feet per second) which are screened using "manufactured, self-contained" screens shall conform to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries - Southwest Region criteria.

D. Non-Flowing Waters (tidal areas, lakes and reservoirs): The preferred location for the diversion intake structure shall be offshore, in deep water, to minimize fish contact with the diversion. Other configurations will be considered as exceptions to the screening criteria as described in Section 5.F. below.

2. APPROACH VELOCITY (Local velocity component perpendicular to the screen face)

A. Flow Uniformity: The design of the screen shall distribute the approach velocity uniformly across the face of the screen. Provisions shall be made in the design of the

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screen to allow for adjustment of flow patterns. The intent is to ensure uniform flow distribution through the entire face of the screen as it is constructed and operated.

B. Self-Cleaning Screens: The design approach velocity shall not exceed:

1. Streams And Rivers (flowing waters) - Either:

a. 0.33 feet per second, where exposure to the fish screen shall not exceed fifteen minutes, or

b. 0.40 feet per second, for small (less than 40 cubic-feet per second) pumped diversions using Amanufactured, self-contained@ screens.

2. In Canals (flowing waters) - 0.40 feet per second, with a bypass entrance located every one-minute of travel time along the screen face.

3. Non-Flowing Waters (tidal areas, lakes and reservoirs) - The specific screen approach velocity shall be determined for each installation, based on the species and life stage of fish being protected. Velocities which exceed those described above will require a variance to these criteria (see Section 5.F. below).

(Note: At this time, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has selected a 0.2 feet per second approach velocity for use in waters where the Delta smelt is found. Thus, fish screens in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary should use this criterion for design purposes.)

C. Screens Which Are Not Self-Cleaning: The screens shall be designed with an approach velocity one-fourth that outlined in Section B. above. The screen shall be cleaned before the approach velocity exceeds the criteria described in Section B.

D. Frequency Of Cleaning: Fish screens shall be cleaned as frequently as necessary to prevent flow impedance and violation of the approach velocity criteria. A cleaning cycle once every 5 minutes is deemed to meet this standard.

E. Screen Area Calculation: The required wetted screen area (square feet), excluding the area affected by structural components, is calculated by dividing the maximum diverted flow (cubic-feet per second) by the allowable approach velocity (feet per second).
Example:

$$1.0 \text{ cubic-feet per second} / 0.33 \text{ feet per second} = 3.0 \text{ square feet}$$

Unless otherwise specifically agreed to, this calculation shall be done at the minimum stream stage.

3. SWEEPING VELOCITY (Velocity component parallel to screen face)

A. In Streams And Rivers: The sweeping velocity should be at least two times the allowable approach velocity.

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B. In Canals: The sweeping velocity shall exceed the allowable approach velocity. Experience has shown that sweeping velocities of 2.0 feet per second (or greater) are preferable.

C. Design Considerations: Screen faces shall be designed flush with any adjacent screen bay piers or walls, to allow an unimpeded flow of water parallel to the screen face.

4. SCREEN OPENINGS

A. Porosity: The screen surface shall have a minimum open area of 27 percent. We recommend the maximum possible open area consistent with the availability of appropriate material, and structural design considerations.

The use of open areas less than 40 percent shall include consideration of increasing the screen surface area, to reduce slot velocities, assisting in both fish protection and screen cleaning.

B. Round Openings: Round openings in the screening shall not exceed 3.96mm (5/32in). In waters where steelhead rainbow trout fry are present, this dimension shall not exceed 2.38mm (3/32in).

C. Square Openings: Square openings in screening shall not exceed 3.96mm (5/32in) measured diagonally. In waters where steelhead rainbow trout fry are present, this dimension shall not exceed 2.38mm (3/32in) measured diagonally.

D. Slotted Openings: Slotted openings shall not exceed 2.38mm (3/32in) in width. In waters where steelhead rainbow trout fry are present, this dimension shall not exceed 1.75mm (0.0689in).

5. SCREEN CONSTRUCTION

A. Material Selection: Screens may be constructed of any rigid material, perforated, woven, or slotted that provides water passage while physically excluding fish. The largest possible screen open area which is consistent with other project requirements should be used. Reducing the screen slot velocity is desirable both to protect fish and to ease cleaning requirements. Care should be taken to avoid the use of materials with sharp edges or projections which could harm fish.

B. Corrosion And Fouling Protection: Stainless steel or other corrosion-resistant material is the screen material recommended to reduce clogging due to corrosion. The use of both active and passive corrosion protection systems should be considered.

Consideration should be given to anti-fouling material choices, to reduce biological fouling problems. Care should be taken not to use materials deemed deleterious to fish and other wildlife.

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C. Project Review And Approval: Plans and design calculations, which show that all the applicable screening criteria have been met, shall be provided to the Department before written approval can be granted by the appropriate Regional Manager.

The approval shall be documented in writing to the project sponsor, with copies to both the Deputy Director, Habitat Conservation Division and the Deputy Director, Wildlife and Inland Fisheries Division. Such approval may include a requirement for post-construction evaluation, monitoring and reporting.

D. Assurances: All fish screens constructed after the effective date of these criteria shall be designed and constructed to satisfy the current criteria. Owners of existing screens, approved by the Department prior to the effective date of these criteria, shall not be required to upgrade their facilities to satisfy the current criteria unless:

1. The controlling screen components deteriorate and require replacement (i.e., change the opening size or opening orientation when the screen panels or rotary drum screen coverings need replacing),
2. Relocation, modification or reconstruction (i.e., a change of screen alignment or an increase in the intake size to satisfy diversion requirements) of the intake facilities, or
3. The owner proposes to increase the rate of diversion which would result in violation of the criteria without additional modifications.

E. Supplemental Criteria: Supplemental criteria may be issued by the Department for a project, to accommodate new fish screening technology or to address species-specific or site-specific circumstances.

F. Variances: Written variances to these criteria may be granted with the approval of the appropriate Regional Manager and concurrence from both the Deputy Director, Habitat Conservation Division and the Deputy Director, Wildlife and Inland Fisheries Division. At a minimum, the rationale for the variance must be described and justified in the request.

Evaluation and monitoring may be required as a condition of any variance, to ensure that the requested variance does not result in a reduced level of protection for the aquatic resources.

It is the responsibility of the project sponsor to obtain the most current version of the appropriate fish screen criteria. Project sponsors should contact the Department of Fish and Game, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (for projects in marine and anadromous waters) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (for projects in anadromous and fresh waters) for guidance.

Copies of the current criteria are available from the Department of Fish and Game through the appropriate Regional office, which should be the first point of contact for any fish screening project.

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Northern California and North Coast Region; 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001 - (530) 225-2300.

Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region; 1701 Nimbus Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 - (916) 358-2900.

Central Coast Region; 7329 Silverado Trail/P.O. Box 46, Yountville, CA 94599 - (707) 944-5500.

San Joaquin Valley-Southern Sierra Region; 1234 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710 - (209) 243-4005.

South Coast Region; 4649 View Crest Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123 - (619) 467-4201.

Eastern Sierra and Inland Deserts Region; 4775 Bird Farms Road, Chino Hills, CA 91709 - (909) 597-9823.

Marine Region; 20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, #100, Monterey, CA 93940 - (831) 649-2870.

Technical assistance can be obtained directly from the Habitat Conservation Division; 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 - (916) 653-1070.

The current National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries criteria are available from their Southwest Region; 777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 - (707) 575-6050.

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Fish Screening Criteria for Anadromous Salmonids ¹ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Southwest Region

January 1997

I. General Considerations

This document provides guidelines and criteria for functional designs of downstream migrant fish passage facilities at hydroelectric, irrigation, and other water withdrawal projects. It is promulgated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA), Southwest Region as a result of its authority and responsibility for prescribing fishways under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Federal Power Act, administered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The guidelines and criteria are general in nature. There may be cases where site constraints or extenuating circumstances dictate a waiver or modification of one or more of these criteria. Conversely, where there is an opportunity to protect fish, site-specific criteria may be added. Variances from established criteria will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

The swimming ability of fish is a primary consideration in designing a fish screen facility. Research shows that swimming ability varies depending on multiple factors relating to fish physiology, biology, and the aquatic environment. These factors include: species, physiological development, duration of swimming time required, behavioral aspects, physical condition, water quality, temperature, lighting conditions, and many others. Since conditions affecting swimming ability are variable and complex, screen criteria must be expressed in general terms and the specifics of any screen design must address on-site conditions.

NOAA may require project sponsors to investigate site-specific variables critical to the fish screen system design. This investigation may include fish behavioral response to hydraulic conditions, weather conditions (ice, wind, flooding, etc.), river stage-discharge relationships, seasonal operations, sediment and debris problems, resident fish populations, potential for creating predation opportunity, and other pertinent information. The size of salmonids present at a potential screen site usually is not known, and can change from year-to-year based on flow and temperature conditions. Thus, adequate data to describe the size-time relationship requires substantial sampling over a number of years. NOAA will normally assume that fry-sized salmonids are present at all sites unless adequate biological investigation proves otherwise. The burden of proof is the responsibility of the owner of the screen facility.²

New facilities which propose to utilize unproven fish protection technology frequently require: 1) development of a biological basis for the concept; 2) demonstration of favorable behavioral responses in a laboratory setting; 3) an acceptable plan for evaluating the prototype installation;

² Adapted from NOAA, Southwest Region

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and 4) an acceptable alternate plan should the prototype not adequately protect fish. Additional information can be found in *Experimental Fish Guidance Devices*, position statement of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, Southwest Region, January 1994.

Striped Bass, Herring, Shad, Cyprinids, and other anadromous fish species may have eggs and/or very small fry which are moved with any water current (tides, streamflows, etc.). Installations where these species are present may require individual evaluation of the proposed project using more conservative screening requirements. In instances where state or local regulatory agencies require more stringent screen criteria to protect species other than salmonids, NOAA will generally defer to the more conservative criteria.

General screen criteria and procedural guidelines are provided below. Specific exceptions to these criteria occur in the design of small screen systems (less than 40 cubic feet per second) and certain small pump intakes. These exceptions are listed in Section K. Modified Criteria for Small Screens, and in the separate addendum entitled: Juvenile Fish Screen Criteria For Pump Intakes, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, Portland, Oregon, May 9, 1996.

II. General Procedural Guidelines

For projects where NOAA had jurisdiction, such as FERC license applications and ESA consultations, a functional design must be developed as part of the application or consultation. These designs must reflect NOAA design criteria and be acceptable to NOAA. Acceptable designs typically define type, location, method of operation, and other important characteristics of the fish screen facility. Design drawings should show structural dimensions in plan, elevation, and cross-sectional views, along with important component details. Hydraulic information should include: hydraulic capacity, expected water surface elevations, and flows through various areas of the structures. Documentation of relevant hydrologic information is required. Types of materials must be identified where they will directly affect fish. A plan for operations and maintenance procedures should be included-i.e., preventive and corrective maintenance procedures, inspections and reporting requirements, maintenance logs, etc. - particularly with respect to debris, screen cleaning, and sedimentation issues. The final detailed design shall be based on the functional design, unless changes are agreed to by NOAA.

All juvenile passage facilities shall be designed to function properly through the full range of hydraulic conditions expected at a particular site during fish migration periods, and shall account for debris and sedimentation conditions which may occur.

III. Screen Criteria for Juvenile Salmonids

A. Structure Placement

1. General:

The screened intake shall be designed to withdraw water from the most appropriate elevation, considering juvenile fish attraction, appropriate water temperature control downstream or a combination thereof. The design must accommodate the expected range of water surface elevations.

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For on-river screens, it is preferable to keep the fish in the main channel rather than put them through intermediate screen bypasses. NOAA decides whether to require intermediate bypasses for on-river, straight profile screens by considering the biological and hydraulic conditions existing at each individual project site.

2. Streams and Rivers:

Where physically practical, the screen shall be constructed at the diversion entrance. The screen face should be generally parallel to river flow and aligned with the adjacent bankline. A smooth transition between the bankline and the screen structure is important to minimize eddies and undesirable flow patterns in the vicinity of the screen. If trash racks are used, sufficient hydraulic gradient is required to route juvenile fish from between the trash rack and screens to safety. Physical factors that may preclude screen construction at the diversion entrance include excess river gradient, potential for damage by large debris, and potential for heavy sedimentation. Large stream-side installations may require intermediate bypasses along the screen face to prevent excessive exposure time. The need for intermediate bypasses shall be decided on a case-by-case basis.

3. Canals:

Where installation of fish screens at the diversion entrance is undesirable or impractical, the screens may be installed at a suitable location downstream of the canal entrance. All screens downstream of the diversion entrance shall provide an effective juvenile bypass system - designed to collect juvenile fish and safely transport them back to the river with minimum delay. The angle of the screen to flow should be adequate to effectively guide fish to the bypass. Juvenile bypass systems are part of the overall screen system and must be accepted by NOAA.

4. Lakes, Reservoirs, and Tidal Areas

a. Where possible, intakes should be located off shore to minimize fish contact with the facility. Water velocity from any direction toward the screen shall not exceed the allowable approach velocity. Where possible, locate intakes where sufficient sweeping velocity exists. This minimizes sediment accumulation in and around the screen, facilitates debris removal, and encourages fish movement away from the screen face.

b. If a screen intake is used to route fish past a dam, the intake shall be designed to withdraw water from the most appropriate elevation in order to provide the best juvenile fish attraction to the bypass channel as well as to achieve appropriate water temperature control downstream. The entire range of forebay fluctuations shall be accommodated by the design, unless otherwise approved by NOAA.

B. Approach Velocity

Definition: *Approach Velocity* is the water velocity vector component perpendicular to the screen face. Approach velocity shall be measured approximately three inches in front of the screen surface.

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1. Fry Criteria - less than 2.36 inches {60 millimeters (mm)} in length.

If a biological justification cannot demonstrate the absence of fry-sized salmonids in the vicinity of the screen, fry will be assumed present and the following criteria apply:

Design approach velocity shall not exceed:

Streams and Rivers: 0.33 feet per second

Canals: 0.40 feet per second

Lakes, Reservoirs, Tidal: 0.33 feet per second (salmonids)³

2. Fingerling Criteria - 2.36 inches {60 mm} and longer

If biological justification can demonstrate the absence of fry-sized salmonids in the vicinity of the screen, the following criteria apply:

Design approach velocity shall not exceed:

All locations: 0.8 feet per second

3. The *total submerged screen area required* (excluding area of structural components) is calculated by dividing the maximum diverted flow by the allowable approach velocity. (Also see Section K, Modified Criteria for Small Screens, part 1).

4. The screen design must provide for uniform flow distribution over the surface of the screen, thereby minimizing approach velocity. This may be accomplished by providing adjustable porosity control on the downstream side of the screens, unless it can be shown unequivocally (such as with a physical hydraulic model study) that localized areas of high velocity can be avoided at all flows.

C. Sweeping Velocity

Definition: *Sweeping Velocity* is the water velocity vector component parallel and adjacent to the screen face.

1. Sweeping Velocity shall be greater than approach velocity. For canal installations, this is accomplished by angling screen face less than 45° relative to flow (see Section K. Modified Criteria for Small Screens). This angle may be dictated by specific canal geometry, or hydraulic and sediment conditions.

D. Screen Face Material

³ Other species may require different approach velocity standards. e.g. in California the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service requires 0.2 fps approach velocity where delta smelt are present in the tidal areas of the San Francisco Bay estuary.

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1. Fry criteria. If a biological justification cannot demonstrate the absence of fry-sized salmonids in the vicinity of the screen, fry will be assumed present and the following criteria apply for screen material:

- a. Perforated plate: screen openings shall not exceed 3/32 inches (2.38 mm), measured in diameter.
- b. Profile bar: screen openings shall not exceed 0.0689 inches (1.75 mm) in width.
- c. Woven wire: Screen openings shall not exceed 3/32 inches (2.38 mm), measured diagonally (e.g.: 6-14 mesh).
- d. Screen material shall provide a minimum of 27% open area.

2. Fingerling criteria

If biological justification can demonstrate the absence of fry-sized salmonids in the vicinity of the screen, the following criteria apply for screen material:

- a. Perforated plate: Screen openings shall not exceed 1/4 inch (6.35 mm) in diameter.
 - b. Profile bar: screen openings shall not exceed 1/4 inch (6.35 mm) in width.
 - c. Woven wire: Screen openings shall not exceed 1/4 inch (6.35 mm) in the narrow direction.
 - d. Screen material shall provide a minimum of 40% open area.
3. The screen material shall be corrosion resistant and sufficiently durable to maintain a smooth and uniform surface with long term use.

E. Civil Works and Structural Features

- 1. The face of all screen surfaces shall be placed flush with any adjacent screen bay, pier noses, and walls, allowing fish unimpeded movement parallel to the screen face and ready access to bypass routes.
- 2. Structural features shall be provided to protect the integrity of the fish screens from large debris. Trash racks, log booms, sediment sluices, or other measures may be needed. A reliable on-going preventive maintenance and repair program is necessary to ensure facilities are kept free of debris and the screen mesh, seals, drive units, and other components are functioning correctly.
- 3. Screens located in canals - surfaces shall be constructed at an angle to the approaching flow, with the downstream end terminating at the bypass system entrance.
- 4. The civil works design shall attempt to eliminate undesirable hydraulic effects (e.g. - eddies, stagnant flow zones) that may delay or injure fish, or provide predator opportunities. Upstream training wall(s), or some acceptable variation thereof, shall be utilized to control hydraulic

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conditions and define the angle of flow to the screen face. Large facilities may require hydraulic monitoring to identify and correct areas of concern.

F. Juvenile Bypass System Layout

Juvenile bypass systems are water channels which transport juvenile fish from the face of a screen to a relatively safe location in the main migratory route of the river or stream. Juvenile bypass systems are necessary for screens located in canals because anadromous fish must be routed back to their main migratory route. For other screen locations and configurations, NOAA accepts the option which, in its judgement, provides the highest degree of fish protection given existing site and project constraints.

1. The screen and bypass shall work in tandem to move out-migrating salmonids (including adults) to the bypass outfall with minimum injury or delay. Bypass entrance(s) shall be designed such that out-migrants can easily locate and enter them. Screens installed in canal diversions shall be constructed with the downstream end of the screen terminating at a bypass entrance. Multiple bypass entrances (intermediate bypasses) shall be employed if the sweeping velocity will not move fish to the bypass within 60 seconds⁴ assuming the fish are transported at this velocity. Exceptions will be made for sites without sufficient hydraulic conditions, or for screens built on river banks with satisfactory river conditions.
2. All components of the bypass system, from entrance to outfall, shall be of sufficient hydraulic capacity to minimize the potential for debris blockage.
3. To improve bypass collection efficiency for a single bank of vertically oriented screens, a bypass training wall may be located at an angle to the screens.
4. In cases where insufficient flow is available to satisfy hydraulic requirements at the main bypass entrance(s), a *secondary screen* may be required. Located in the main screen's bypass channel, a secondary screen allows the prescribed bypass flow to be used to effectively attract fish into the bypass entrance(s) while allowing all but a reduced residual bypass flow to be routed back (by pump or gravity) for the primary diversion use. The residual bypass flow (not passing through the secondary screen) then conveys fish to the bypass outfall location or other destination.
5. Access is required at locations in the bypass system where debris accumulation may occur.
6. The screen civil works floor shall allow fish to be routed to the river safely in the event the canal is dewatered. This may entail a sumped drain with a small gate and drain pipe, or similar provisions.

⁴ In California, 60 second exposure time applies to screens in canals, using a 0.4 fps approach velocity. Where more conservative approach velocities are used, longer exposure times may be approved on a case-by-case basis, and exceptions to established criteria shall be treated as variances.

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G. Bypass Entrance

1. Each bypass entrance shall be provided with independent flow control, acceptable to NOAA.
2. Bypass entrance velocity must equal or exceed the maximum velocity vector resultant along the screen, upstream of the entrance. A gradual and efficient acceleration into the bypass is required to minimize delay of out-migrants.
3. Ambient lighting conditions are required from the bypass entrance to the bypass flow control.
4. The bypass entrance must extend from floor to water surface.

H. Bypass Conduit Design

1. Smooth interior pipe surfaces and conduit joints shall be required to minimize turbulence, debris accumulation, and the risk of injury to juvenile fish. Surface smoothness must be acceptable to the NOAA.
2. Fish shall not free-fall within a confined shaft in a bypass system.
3. Fish shall not be pumped within the bypass system.
4. Pressure in the bypass pipe shall be equal to or above atmospheric pressure.
5. Extreme bends shall be avoided in the pipe layout to avoid excessive physical contact between small fish and hard surfaces and to minimize debris clogging. Bypass pipe centerline radius of curvature (R/D) shall be 5 or greater. Greater R/D may be required for supercritical velocities.
6. Bypass pipes or open channels shall be designed to minimize debris clogging and sediment deposition and to facilitate cleaning. Pipe diameter shall be 24 inches (0.610 m) or greater and pipe velocity shall be 2.0 fps (0.610 mps) or greater, unless otherwise approved by NOAA. (See *Modified Criteria for Small Screens* for the entire operational range).
7. No closure valves are allowed within bypass pipes.
8. Depth of flow in a bypass conduit shall be 0.75 ft. (0.23 m) or greater, unless otherwise authorized by NOAA. (See *Modified Criteria for Small Screens*).
9. Bypass system sampling stations shall not impair normal operation of the screen facility.
10. No hydraulic jumps should exist within the bypass system.

I. Bypass Outfall

1. Ambient river velocities at bypass outfalls should be greater than 4.0 fps (1.2 mps), or as close as obtainable.

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2. Bypass outfalls shall be located and designed to minimize avian and aquatic predation in areas free of eddies, reverse flow, or known predator habitat.
3. Bypass outfalls shall be located where there is sufficient depth (depending on the impact velocity and quantity of bypass flow) to avoid fish injuries at all river and bypass flows.
4. Impact velocity, including vertical and horizontal components, shall not exceed 25.0 fps (7.6 mps).
5. Bypass outfall discharges shall be designed to avoid adult attraction or jumping injuries.

J. Operations and Maintenance

1. Fish screens shall be automatically cleaned as frequently as necessary to prevent accumulation of debris. The cleaning system and protocol must be effective, reliable, and satisfactory to NOAA. Proven cleaning technologies are preferred.
2. Open channel intakes shall include a trash rack in the screen facility design which shall be kept free of debris. In certain cases, a satisfactory profile bar screen design can substitute for a trash rack.
3. The head differential to trigger screen cleaning for intermittent type systems shall be a maximum of 0.1 feet (.03 m), unless otherwise agreed to by NOAA.
4. The completed screen and bypass facility shall be made available for inspection by NOAA to verify compliance with design and operational criteria.
5. Screen and bypass facilities shall be evaluated for biological effectiveness and to verify that hydraulic design objectives are achieved.

K. Modified Criteria for Small Screens (Diversion Flow less than 40 cfs)

The following criteria vary from the standard screen criteria listed above. These criteria specifically apply to small screens. Forty cfs is the approximate cut off: however, some smaller diversions may be required to apply the general criteria listed above, while some larger diversions may be allowed to use the Small screen criteria below. NOAA will decide on a case-by-case basis depending on site constraints.

1. The required screen area is a function of the approach velocity listed in Section B, Approach Velocity, Parts 1, 2, and 3 above. Note that A_{maximum} refers to the greatest flow diverted, not necessarily the water right.
2. Screen Orientation:
 - a. For screen lengths six feet or less, screen orientation may be angles perpendicular to the flow.

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b. For screen lengths greater than six feet, screen-to-flow angle must be less than 45 degrees. (See Section C Sweeping Velocity, part 1).

c. For drum screens, design submergence shall be 75% of drum diameter. Submergence shall not exceed 85%, nor be less than 65% of drum diameter.

d. Minimum bypass pipe diameter shall be 10 inches (25.4 cm), unless otherwise approved by NOAA.

e. Minimum pipe depth is 1.8 inches (4.6 cm) and is controlled by designing the pipe gradient for minimum bypass flow.

Questions concerning this document can be directed to NOAA Hydraulic Engineering Staff at:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
Southwest Region
777 Sonoma Ave., Room 325
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
Phone: (707) 575-6050

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Fish Screen Operation and Maintenance Best Management Practices

- Fish screens shall be operated and maintained in compliance with current law, including Fish and Game Code, and Department of Fish and Game (DFG) fish screening criteria. DFG screening criteria may be referenced on the internet at:
http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Resources/Projects/Engin/Engin_ScreenCriteria.asp
- Notwithstanding Fish and Game Code section 6027, fish screens and bypass pipes or channels shall be in-place and maintained in working order at all times water is being diverted.
- If a screen site is dewatered for repairs or maintenance when targeted fish species are likely to be present, measures will be taken to minimize harm and mortality to targeted species resulting from fish relocation and dewatering activities. The responsible party shall notify DFG before the project site is de-watered and the stream flow diverted. The notification will provide a reasonable time for DFG personnel to supervise the implementation of a water diversion plan and oversee the safe removal and relocation of salmonids and other fish life from the project area. If the project requires dewatering of the site, and the relocation of salmonids, the responsible party will implement the following measures to minimize harm and mortality to listed salmonids:
- All electrofishing shall be performed by a qualified fisheries biologist and conducted according to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Guidelines for Electrofishing Waters Containing Salmonids Listed under the Endangered Species Act, June 2000.
- The responsible party will provide fish relocation data to DFG on a form provided by the DFG, unless the relocation work is performed by DFG personnel.
- Additional measures to minimize injury and mortality of salmonids during fish relocation and dewatering activities shall be implemented as described in Part IX, pages 52 and 53 of the *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*.
- If a fish screen is removed for cleaning or repair, a replacement screen shall be installed immediately or the diversion shut down until a screen is in place.
- Fish screens shall be inspected and maintained regularly (not less than two times per week) to ensure that they are functioning as designed and meeting DFG fish screening criteria.
- Existing roads shall be used to access screen sites with vehicles and/or equipment whenever possible. If it is necessary to create access to a screen site for repairs or maintenance, access points should be identified at stable stream bank locations which minimize riparian disturbance.
- Sediment and debris removal at a screen site shall take place as often as needed to ensure that screening criteria are met. Sediment and debris will be removed and disposed of where they will not re-enter the water course.

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- Stationary equipment used in performing screen maintenance and repairs, such as motors, pumps, generators, and welders, located within or adjacent to a stream shall be positioned over drip pans.
- Equipment which is used to maintain and/or repair fish screens shall be in good condition and checked and maintained on a daily basis to prevent leaks of materials that could be deleterious to aquatic life, wildlife, or riparian habitat.
- All activities performed in or near a stream will have absorbent materials designed for spill containment and cleanup at the activity site for use in case of an accidental spill. Clean-up of spills shall begin immediately after any spill occurs. The State Office of Emergency Services (1-800-852-7550) and DFG shall be notified immediately after any spill occurs.
- To the extent possible repairs to a fish screen or screen site shall be made during a period of time when the target species of fish are not likely to be present (for example, in a seasonal creek, repair work should be performed when the stream is dry).
- Equipment used to maintain and/or repair fish screens shall not operate in a live stream except as may be necessary to construct coffer dams to divert stream flow and isolate the work site.
- For minor actions, where the disturbance to construct coffer dams to isolate the work site would be greater than to complete the action, measures will be put in place immediately downstream of the work site to capture suspended sediment.
- Turbid water which is generated by screen maintenance or repair activities shall be discharged to an area where it will not re-enter the stream. If the DFG determines that turbidity/siltation levels resulting from screen maintenance or repair activities constitute a threat to aquatic life, all activities associated with the turbidity/siltation shall cease until effective DFG-approved sediment control devices are installed and/or abatement procedures are implemented.
- No debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, spoils, sawdust, rubbish, cement, or concrete or washings thereof; asphalt, paint, or other coating material; oil or petroleum products; or other organic or earthen material from any fish screen operation/maintenance/repair or associated activity of whatever nature shall be allowed to enter into, or placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into a stream channel. When operations are completed, any excess materials or debris shall be removed from the work area and disposed of in a lawful manner.