

Removing and Relocating Fish from ADAP Project Sites

De-fishing techniques and requirements will vary according to the waterway classification.

Note: The state does not require an HPA in artificial waterways, however, to comply with King County code, landowners will need to follow these protocols where salmonids are found.

1. For waterways classified as artificial low, qualified King County Roads Division staff will set overnight traps to determine whether fish are in the waterway and possible abundance:
 - a. If no fish are trapped, ESA-qualified King County Roads Division staff will use additional information (i.e., visual detection of fish that may not have been susceptible to trap capture and assessment of water flow and quality) and their best professional judgment to determine whether to conduct additional defishing,
 - b. If fish are trapped, the protocol under #2 below shall be followed.
 - c. In addition, if the farmer or contractor sees fish during construction, they shall stop the project and call qualified KC Roads Division staff to conduct defishing. There will be no penalty to the farmer for this, and doing so will allow drainage maintenance to occur with minimal harm to fish.
 - d. The waterway classification will be revised if appropriate based on the defishing data.
2. For waterways classified as artificial moderate, modified low, and modified moderate, ESA-qualified King County Roads Division staff will set overnight traps to relocate caught fish outside of the project area. ESA-qualified King County Roads Division staff will then perform at least one pass using other defishing methods (electrofishing, seine netting, etc.) and may use other county staff or non-county technicians who are trained in defishing to assist.
3. For all waterways classified as high, King County Roads Division staff who are qualified according to NOAA guidelines will conduct defishing according to training and protocols they follow under the ESA 4(d) exemption for road maintenance.
4. Qualified King County Roads Division defishers will be on-site during dewatering to relocate any fish that may not have been captured and moved earlier.
5. At this time, natural waterways (i.e., those not straightened or modified) will not be included in the streamlined ADAP.