

## Monitor the habitat of fisheries

**Overview**

This standard is about monitoring the habitat of fisheries. It includes understanding habitat specifications, collecting information and reporting on habitats, including the condition of aquatic, bankside, buffer zone and substrate habitats, which involves routine and non-routine tasks.

This standard requires that the following is monitored within the fisheries habitat:

- water depth
- water flow/exchange
- bankside vegetation
- aquatic vegetation
- canopy cover
- silting
- aquatic invertebrates
- invasive species
- protected species.

This standard requires that you carry out work safely in line with relevant legal health and safety requirements and that you work to maintain bio-security and minimise environmental disturbance at all times.

The legislation controlling the application of this standard will vary depending on the location of the fishery – in England, Wales, Northern Ireland or Scotland.

## Monitor the habitat of fisheries

---

### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

1. carry out all activities required to safely monitor the habitat of the fisheries in line with relevant health and safety requirements
2. select and use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work required
3. obtain the planned habitat survey specification and relevant permissions, according to site requirements
4. confirm access to the fishery according to riparian and fishery ownership
5. monitor and record the condition of the habitat of the fishery
6. sample and record details of aquatic invertebrate populations and plant communities
7. take action to report the presence of protected or invasive species as required by legislation
8. collect representative samples to accurately identify environmental conditions in the water body
9. monitor and report on influences that impact on the fishery
10. follow relevant fishery protocols for monitoring the habitats of fisheries
11. maintain appropriate levels of bio-security when monitoring the habitat of fisheries
12. maintain accurate information to keep up-to-date records on the habitat of fisheries

## Monitor the habitat of fisheries

---

### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

1. the relevant health and safety requirements associated with monitoring the habitat of fisheries
2. how to monitor the habitat of fisheries using recognised systems
3. the different types of aquatic habitats and the fisheries they support
4. the factors that can influence the condition of the aquatic habitat (human and environmental)
5. the role of bankside habitat in maintaining a fishery
6. the habitat requirements for the different life stages of fish
7. the factors that influence the availability of food in a fishery
8. how to recognise common invertebrates
9. how to recognise common plant species using identification keys
10. the significance of aquatic invertebrates to a fishery
11. the factors that can influence spawning in a fishery
12. the likely causes of bankside damage
13. the influence of canopy cover on a fishery
14. site designations and the protection and limitations these offer
15. the plants within the fishery that require protection from humans and fish
16. how to ensure fish passage is appropriate to allow fish to move freely without barriers
17. the relevant riparian rights and fisheries ownership rights and how they vary
18. the types of invasive and protected species and their impact on bankside and the habitat of the fisheries
19. how to report invasive and protected species
20. the importance of bio-security and its role in minimising risks to the fishery.

---

## Glossary

The definitions below should help you understand the standard:

**Bankside**

Area of ground including the bank adjacent to the water and the top of this area

**Buffer zone**

Area from the top of the bank to the major change in riparian vegetation or stock exclusion boundary

**Canopy cover**

Wetted area covered by tree or shrub canopies

**Designation**

Classifications that are applied to areas of land e.g. SSSI, SPAN.B

**Habitat conditions:**

- water depth
- water flow/exchange
- bankside vegetation
- aquatic vegetation
- canopy cover
- silting
- aquatic invertebrates
- Invasive species

**Riparian**

Wetlands adjacent to rivers and streams

## Monitor the habitat of fisheries

<b>Developed by</b>	Lantra
<b>Version Number</b>	1
<b>Date Approved</b>	February 2018
<b>Indicative Review Date</b>	February 2021
<b>Validity</b>	Current
<b>Status</b>	Original
<b>Originating Organisation</b>	Lantra
<b>Original URN</b>	FiM3
<b>Relevant Occupations</b>	Ghillie; Angling Guide; Bailiff/Warden; Head Bailiff; Superintendent; Fishery Manager; Senior Fishery Manager
<b>Suite</b>	Fisheries Management
<b>Keywords</b>	fish; monitoring; fisheries; habitat