

Science Project: Screening for Intake and Outfalls: A Best Practice Guide

Summary W6-103/TS

Water abstraction intakes and outfalls may cause death to individual fish and detrimentally affect populations if not screened effectively. Options for ensuring that operators fulfil their legal responsibilities are reviewed and best practice for a range of situations identified.

The subject was last reviewed in 1992 for the National Rivers Authority. Since that time, a number of legislative changes have broadened the requirements for fish screening. Additionally, the Water Framework Directive will include demanding environmental objectives that will strengthen existing Environment Agency powers towards achieving good ecological status.

The guide reviews the whole range of technologies in common use for fish screening, including physical and behavioural screens. Effective screening must be targeted to the species and life stages of fish that are to be protected. The wide range of available technologies offers various options to the operator seeking a screening solution. The review is intended to guide the users toward current best practice and assist in the task of screen selection and specification.

The potential impacts of fish entrainment and impingement should be recognised by operators at an early stage of the application process, to facilitate dialogue with the appropriate regulatory body and ensure that effective screening, and if needed, mitigation measures are incorporated into the proposals.

This Summary relates to information from Science Project W6-103 reported in detail in the following output:-

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