

What you can do for fish

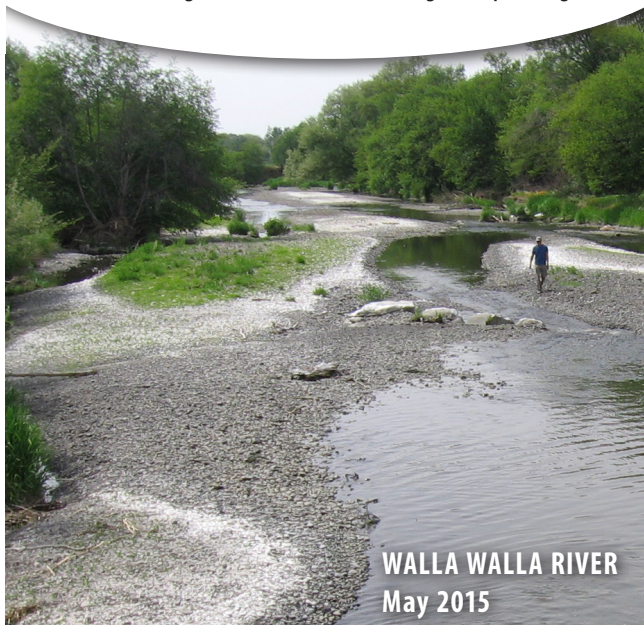
Landowners along rivers and streams play an important role in fish survival during a drought.

There are many ways you can help:

- Allow WDFW staff access to rivers and streams to assess flow conditions and fix blockages
- Use water wisely
- Alert WDFW of stranded fish
- Don't let people build rock dams in your section of stream
- Report blockages that prevent fish migration

Notify WDFW of drought impacts

wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/drought/reporting/



WDFW protects fish during drought

WDFW partners with tribes and other agencies to implement projects that protect fish. These include keeping river and stream channels passable for fish and hauling fish to cooler waters when necessary.



Fish biologists rescue juvenile salmon stranded by drought conditions.



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Helping fish survive drought



How does drought affect fish?

Drought conditions reduce water levels in streams and rivers, which affects fish in many ways:

- Higher water temperatures are lethal
- Prevents migration to spawning grounds and holding areas with cover
- Spawning and feeding grounds dry up
- Increased fish injury and vulnerability to disease and predation

What to look for

Rock dams and other blockages



Stranded, injured, or dead fish



Rock dams block fish and are illegal

Rock dams block fish from swimming upstream or downstream to find cool water, spawn, and feed. Help maintain good fish habitat by not leaving rock dams in the stream.



WDFW removes rock dams

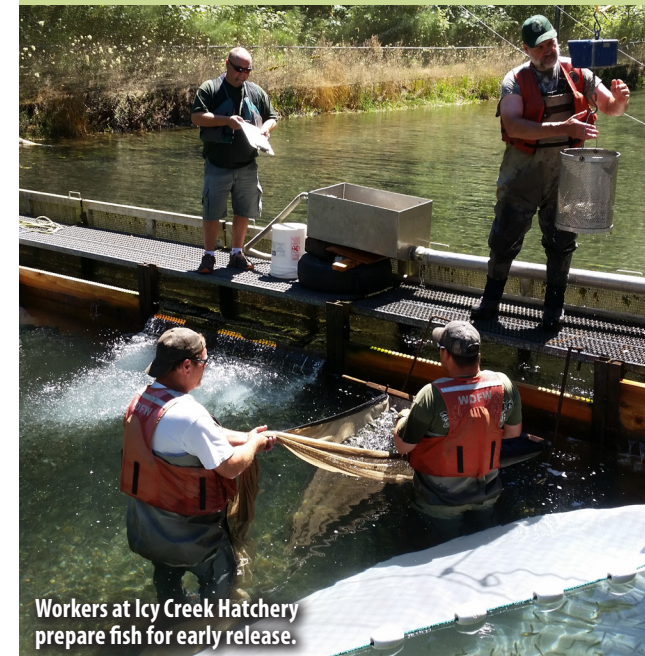


Keeping hatchery fish healthy

Higher water temperatures and low stream flows create problems at WDFW's fish hatcheries. Warm water temperatures make fish more susceptible to disease and stress, which means fewer fish survive.

WDFW is implementing contingency plans for operating fish hatcheries most vulnerable to drought conditions. Actions can include:

- Pumping water from deep wells
- Recirculating water
- Reducing fish density in ponds
- Disease treatment
- Trucking fish to hatcheries with better conditions
- Releasing hatchery fish early



Workers at Icy Creek Hatchery prepare fish for early release.