

# Screen your water diversion

All irrigators who draw from fish-bearing waters must have an approved fish screen on their pump or diversion. It is the irrigator's responsibility to install and maintain their fish screens.

State fish screening laws apply to landowners watering lawns, orchards and crops, and pastures.

*Ask how we can help properly screen your water diversion!*



Damaged and non-compliant fish screens can harm fish, allow debris build-up, and interfere with your ability to get water.

Call the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for fish screen advice and possible funding assistance. We will help you meet state and federal fish screening and fish passage laws.

## Benefits of fish screening

Fish screens benefit irrigators and support salmon restoration efforts. Proper fish screens:

- Provide more reliable water flow.
- Prevent your system from clogging with debris and reduce maintenance.
- Protect fish and increase survival of Washington's salmon and steelhead.
- Ensure you meet state and federal laws.



*WDFW has helped landowners screen water diversions since 1946; protecting fish while maintaining reliable irrigation water is our specialty.*



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[wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/habitat/planning/screening](http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/habitat/planning/screening)



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**



## Fish Screening Program

Helping water users protect fish



# What is a fish screen?

Fish screens keep fish out of irrigation systems and ditches, reduce maintenance, and ensure reliable water flow.

Approved fish screens take in water evenly across the submerged surface, eliminating strong suction points that harm fish.



Fish screens must be in place when withdrawing water from fish-bearing streams.



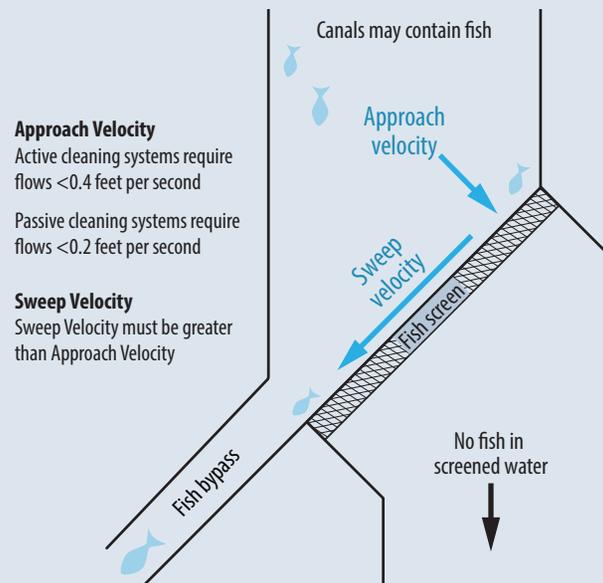
# Screening is a complex process

Choosing the right fish screen requires evaluating many aspects of your diversion. Factors reviewed for screen selection include:

- Site specific conditions (elevation, flow, etc.)
- Passive versus active cleaning systems
- Effective screening area
- Screen submergence
- Compliant approach and sweep flow velocities
- Appropriate mesh type and material

WDFW can help you through the screen selection process to correctly obtain water and protect fish.

Water velocities must be at the right ratio for your fish screen to properly function and be compliant.



# Fish screening assistance available

WDFW understands the importance of irrigation water to farmers. Our fish screening experts help irrigators install screens that ensure reliable water flow and reduce maintenance.



WDFW's maintenance program makes it easy!

Contact WDFW about a service agreement to ensure proper operation and maintenance of your fish screen.