

R-CM 14: Improving Movement of Fish

Removal of barriers and installation of structures to aid fish movement and provide expanded access to fish habitat and breeding grounds.

This strategy delivers on these Regional Themes	Biodiversity	Biosecurity	Coastal Systems	Sustainable Industries	Water
	✓		✓		✓
This strategy delivers on these Strategic Outcomes	Supportive, policies, plans and regulations	Collaborative, adaptive planning and action	Traditional Owner Benefits	Sustained and diverse resourcing	Community stewardship, values and action
		✓			✓
Outcome	<p>Improving the movement of fish throughout the region's waterways will lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More secure and healthy fish populations and aquatic ecosystems. ▪ Increased resilience of aquatic organisms and ability to adapt to impacts of climate change. ▪ Social and recreational benefits to local communities. 				
Justification	<p>Many waterways in the Wet Tropics have been modified by urban or agricultural development. These changes have had huge impacts on the movement of fish throughout waterways, in many areas severely restricting their access to important habitat or breeding areas. The removal of barriers, installation of fish passages and re-engineering roads and crossings can all contribute to improved fish movement and long term aquatic health within the Wet Tropics. Community involvement in these projects is vital to raise awareness and act as a catalyst for further projects.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Systematically review waterways in the Wet Tropics to identify barriers restricting fish movement. 2) Consult with the community and technical specialists to prioritise sites for on-ground work. 3) Develop appropriate strategies to either remove barriers or install fish passages. 4) Collaborate with research organisations to monitor fish movement throughout the landscape to ensure strategies have been successful. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Some projects have been identified which are partially completed, requiring minimal resources to finalise. ✓ There is often strong community support for improving fish movement throughout the region – there are good social and recreational benefits to having healthy fish populations, in addition to the obvious environmental outcomes. ✗ Competing interests around waterway use and management may make it difficult to implement projects or achieve the desired outcome. ✗ Heavy modification of waterways and surrounding areas may make it difficult to re-establish effective fish movement. 				

Local Landscape Projects	Local Landscape Project	Location
	SC12 Fish Highways	Wetlands of the Tully – Murray, Barretts, Bunta and Whyanbeel Lagoons
	HB8 Removing Fish Barriers	Post Office Ck
	HB10 Fish Ladder on Lagoon Ck	Lagoon Ck
	HB13 Fish Movement	Focus on waterways with man-made barriers eg. Road crossings, floodgates