



Policy Statement: Stocking is only one tool in fisheries management and has very specific applications.

Principles Applied:

- Priority is given to native, naturally reproducing species within their natural habitats and range.
- TUC supports the management of introduced species as naturalized populations where they currently exist.
- TUC only supports development of new fisheries using naturalized stocks, where there is evidence that no social and/or ecological conflicts exists between the proposed fishery and existing native or naturalized stocks.
- Restoring/ protecting habitat is the most cost effective and ecologically sound management approach

Policy Rationale and Considerations:

Stocking of Native Species

- Where native fish populations already exist, habitat rehabilitation and stricter harvest regulations are preferred for the rehabilitation of these native species.
- Where population rehabilitation is the goal and no remnant population exists, an assessment is necessary to determine if conditions are conducive to the proposed species before stocking is initiated.
- Before hatchery strains are considered for supplemental stocking for rehabilitation, genetically similar populations of the specific native species, that are geographically proximate should be considered first in order to maintain regional/watershed genetic integrity and health.

Stocking of Non-Native Species

- Supplemental stocking of an existing naturalized populations should include a monitoring program to quantify success and establish effective conditions, densities and release locations for future stocking and future projects
- Establishment of new fisheries or expansion of existing fisheries will only be supported where there is no identifiable effect on native species or established naturalized species.

General Considerations

- In all cases a pre-stocking assessment needs to be completed.
- In all cases, details including numbers of individuals, time of year, transport conditions, stocking densities and stocking locations should be professionally evaluated and recorded
- All stocking programs require permits.
- Stocking native and non-native species in isolated put-and-take locations can be an effective management tool to divert pressure from stressed natural fisheries

Objectives of Policy Statement

The intent of the policy is to clearly demonstrate TUC's priorities to native, naturally reproducing fish populations and the habitats that sustain them. The policy also recognizes the role of naturalized fish populations where they do not pose a major threat to native fish populations.

Implications to Organization

This policy fits within the intent and direction of the National Conservation Agenda and to the policy statements on Habitat and Coldwater Fish Communities.

Delivery

This policy is to be delivered through all our day to day dealings through our Chapters and our programs.

Supporting Information:

A Position Statement with supporting information has been prepared by S. D'Amelio 09/09 2004

Prepared by/Date: J. Imhof, November 24, 2010

Reviewed by/Date: Jeff Surtees/December 9, 2010

Approved by/Date: Board of Directors/December 13, 2010