

Fish Passage



Allen Gillette

ODOT Aquatic Biology and Fish Passage Program Coordinator

- 7 Years with ODOT

Allen came to ODOT with 10 years of experience serving as a Fish Biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Tribes, and the Private Sector. Allen's area of expertise include Fish Biology, Fish Habitat, and Fish Passage Restoration.





Fish Passage Takeaways

1. Early and Often Coordination.
2. Fish Passage criteria can impact scope, schedule, and budget.
3. Fish Passage can be complex. Ask questions and lean on resources.



Fish Passage Criteria

- Oregon has unique Fish Passage Laws.
- These laws require EARLY (Scoping Phase) coordination with regulatory agencies.
- Regulatory Agencies determine if the law is “triggered” by project actions.
- ODFW, NMFS, and USFWS have criteria that can result in larger road stream crossing structures, more R/W needs, and instream work.



Oregon's Fish Passage Law



- Regulated by ODFW
- Oregon Administrative Rules updated in 2023
- Work near water + Fish use = “Trigger”
- Culvert and bridge repair / replacement, scour repair, and other work in, over, or near waters of the state
- Triggers can occur regardless of planned, unplanned, or emergency work



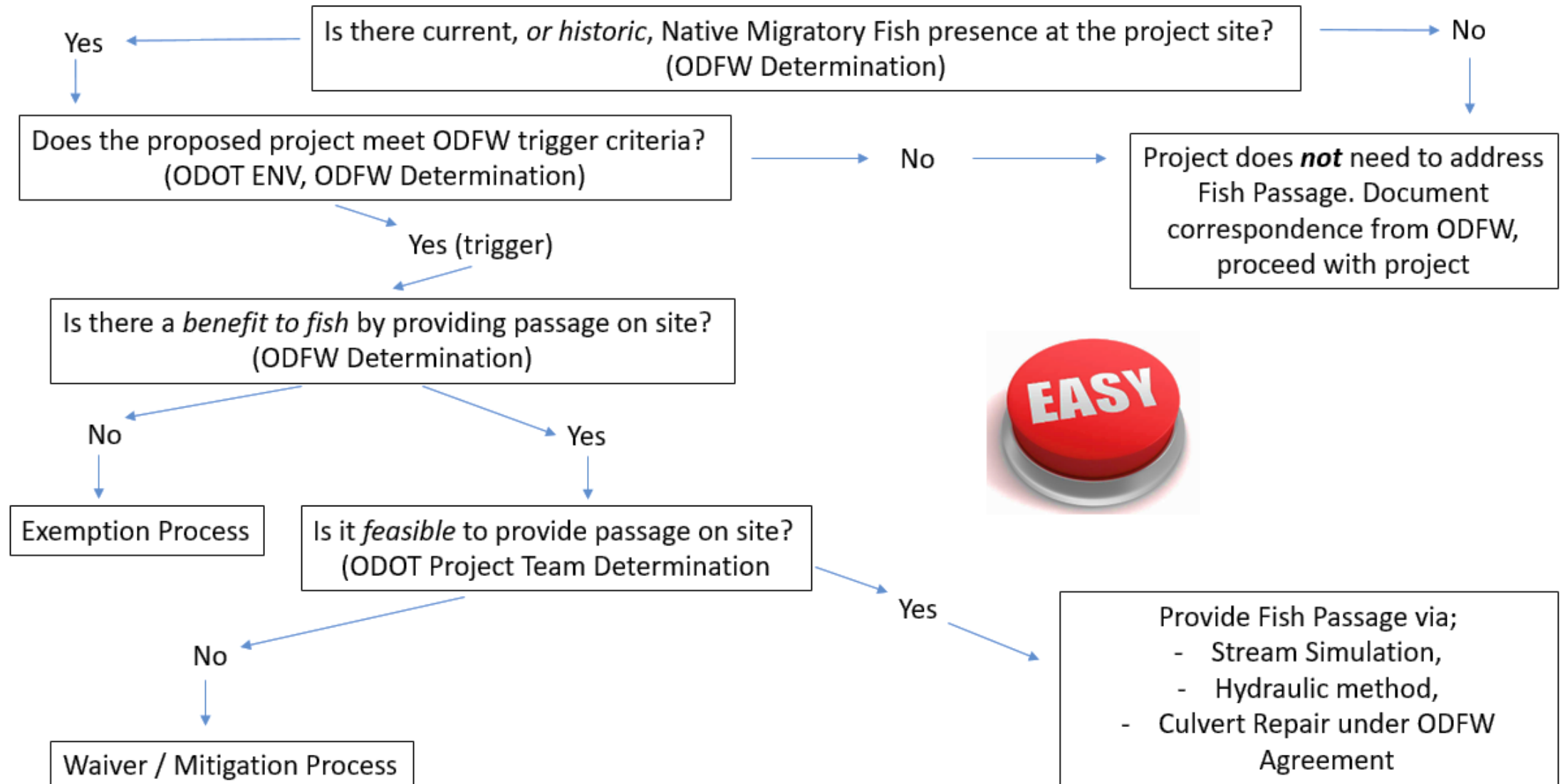
How to Address Fish Passage

1.) Early and Often Coordination:

- ODOT REC
- Regulatory Liaisons
- Hydraulic Engineers
- PDT

2.) See bullet 1

Fish Passage Process



Incorporating Fish Passage Criteria into Projects

- New road stream crossing structure size based on Stream Size Width X 1.5 or 2.2
- Increased capacity for high flows, wood and sediment transport
- Channel work to match surrounding conditions (In Water Work Window)
- Providing fish passage during construction
 - Easements
 - Gravity Bypass
 - Partial Isolation
- Post Construction Monitoring (5 years)



Fish Passage QC Review

- Ensures applications are complete AND meet criteria
- Completed by Qualified Biologist
- Completed before submittal to Agencies
- Plan for this during contract Scope and Task Development



QC Checklist for Fish Passage Application Plan for Road-Stream Crossing

Project Name:		Key Number:
QC Preparer ¹ Name		QC Reviewer ¹ Name
		Date of Peer Review

¹QC Review should be completed by a qualified ODOT Biologist. Qualification includes more than 5 years of experience in reviewing fish passage designs and working knowledge of State and Federal Fish Passage Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules (Section 635-412).

		Yes	No	N/A
1.	Is the Project Location information section filled out and accurate?	☐	☐	
2.	Is the existing Crossing Information table filled out and accurate?	☐	☐	☐
3.	Are all of the applicable metrics in the stream table filled out and accurate?	☐	☐	☐
4.	Is the information in the Proposed Crossing section filled out and accurate?	☐	☐	
5.	If the application seeks to obtain fish passage approval utilizing the hydraulic method, does the application package include drainage area and proposed project modeling clearly showing how the proposed project meets state and or federal fish passage criteria?	☐	☐	☐
6.	Does the application package clearly meet fish passage criteria as outlined in OARS 615-412, NOAA criteria, and/or Large Scale Crossing Design Guidance (ODFW 2008)?	☐	☐	☐



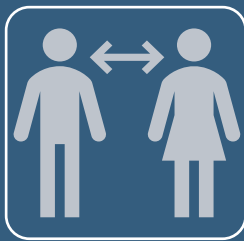
Fish Passage Tips and Tricks



Consider the need to address fish passage at Scoping.



Incorporate appropriate tasks during contract development.



Early and often coordination with ODOT REC.



Stay engaged with PDT throughout design and construction to understand criteria and project implications.



Questions?

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