FACTSHEET

Timber Crib

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

CONDITIONS WHERE APPLICABLE

Timber cribs are utilized as a component of marine infrastructure (wharves, slipways, sea walls, etc.) and sometimes as erosion control structures in inland waterways (i.e., abutments).

CONSIDERATIONS

- Construction of timber crib structures, if done improperly, can result in degradation of fish habitat. If improper fill of ballast material is used, silt can be released into waterbodies/watercourses, resulting in potential negative impacts on fish and fish habitat. The location of timber cribs could also result in the physical disturbance or loss of fish habitat.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

In order to avoid damage to fish habitat, the following measures should be implemented:

- Any material used to fill a submerged timber crib structure should be free of fines or sediment (e.g., material such as blasted rock or boulders) to a level above the extent of highest normal water levels.

- Material designated as ballast to fill any timber crib structure should never be removed directly from any watercourse or waterbody, from any shoreline below the high water mark, or from any streambank area.

- During all construction and associated activities, the alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat (e.g., removal of bottom substrate) in any waterbody should be avoided and siltation kept to an absolute minimum (see Factsheets # 6, 7, 10 and 17 regarding measures to control siltation).

- Shoreline or streambank disturbance should be restricted to the immediate work area. Disturbed shorelines or streambanks must be stabilized by the use of rip-rap, seeding or sodding (see Factsheet # 11 regarding stream bank stabilization in freshwater environments).

- Untreated wood or pressure treated wood is recommended for use in or near freshwater and marine environments. Manually applied wood treatments may also be utilized. Preservatives such as pentachlorophenol (PCP) should not be used in freshwater or marine

Infill materials for timber cribs.

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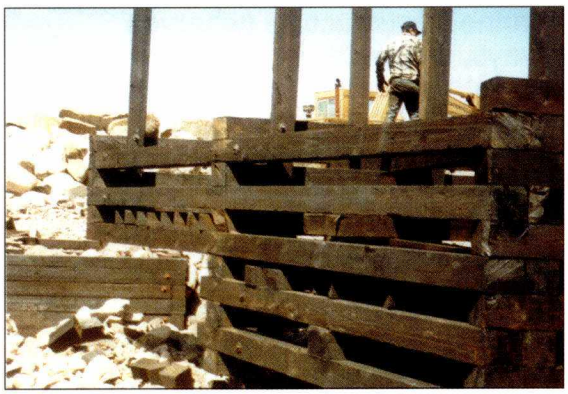
environments; Creosote should not be used in freshwater but may be used in marine environments; chromium copper arsenate (CCA) can be used in freshwater. Freshly treated preserved wood should be avoided. Environment Canada should be contacted regarding wood preservatives, weathering, and the location of treatment sites for manually applied preservatives.

MAINTENANCE

- Regular maintenance must be carried out on timber cribs to prevent collapsing and possible shifting of the crib or ballast. Any timber crib material moved by ice or wave action should be recovered by the owner.

Timber crib construction: untreated/pressure treated wood.



Timber crib construction for marine environment.

This Fact Sheet does not constitute DFO approval; other mitigative strategies may be required. The proponent is advised to contact all other appropriate regulatory agencies.

For more information contact the nearest Department of Fisheries and Oceans office.