

Instructional Scenario

Fishing Spot



Course/Duty Area: Introduction to Natural Resources & Ecology Systems/Managing Aquatic Resources

Scenario:

You and your dad decide to create a better fishing spot in the river on your family property by cutting down some of the trees that line the stream bank. After a couple of months, you notice the species of fish that you are catching has changed. You both begin to evaluate the situation to attract the fish you were catching back to that spot.

Big Question:

What happened to the species of fish you were catching, and what can be done to “fix” the problem, short term as well as for years to come?

Focused Questions:

- What species of fish prefer cool, shaded streams?
- Why did removing the trees cause the species to change?
- What can you do as a landowner to improve the habitat quickly?
- What can you, as a landowner, do to improve the habitat for years to come?
- Are there any other changes to the area other than the water, such as streambank, for example?
- List ways this event has changed the ecosystem of your stream.

Student Project or Outcome:

Students can identify fish and other aquatic species and the environment each prefers. They will need to include the definition and conditions of habitat for the species they desire for a body of water.

Project-Based Assessment:

- Students should research Virginia’s native and non-native fish. In their research, they should find the preferred habitats and environments of the different species of fish.
- Visit a Virginia fish hatchery and note the differences among fish and the stocking of fish in their immediate area, as well as throughout the whole state of Virginia.
- Have students work together to build or collect materials to improve fish habitat in a local stream.

Teacher Resources:

- [Wildlife Species Information: Fishes](#), Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

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