

1 **Do Instream Structures Enhance Salmonid Abundance? A Meta-Analysis**

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25 **Abstract:** Despite the widespread use of stream restoration structures to improve fish
26 habitat, few quantitative studies have evaluated their effectiveness. This study uses a
27 meta-analysis approach to test the effectiveness of five types of instream restoration
28 structures (weirs, deflectors, cover structures, boulder placement and large woody debris)
29 on both salmonid abundance and physical habitat characteristics. Compilation of data
30 from 211 stream restoration projects showed a significant increase in pool area, average
31 depth, large woody debris and percent cover as well as a decrease in riffle area following
32 the installation of instream structures. There was also a significant increase in salmonid
33 density (mean effect size of 0.51, or 167%) and biomass (mean effect size of 0.48, or
34 162%) following the installation of structures. Large differences were observed between
35 species, with rainbow trout showing the largest increases in density and biomass. This
36 compilation highlights the potential of instream structures to create better habitat for and
37 increase the abundance of salmonids, but the scarcity of long-term monitoring of the
38 effectiveness of instream structures is problematic.

39 **Key Words:**

40 Hydraulic structure, river, enhancement, improvement, fish habitat

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42

43 **Introduction**

44 It is widely acknowledged that humans are negatively affecting the aquatic
45 systems on which our survival depends (Richter et al. 1997; Ricciardi and Rasmussen
46 1999; Lake et al. 2007). In response to this degradation, the number of stream restoration
47 projects has grown exponentially since the 1980s (Kondolf and Micheli 1995; Bash and
48 Ryan 2002) and spending on restoration in the United States alone exceeds U.S.\$1 billion
49 per year (Bernhardt et al. 2005; Roni et al. 2008). Despite over a century of restoration
50 activity, many unanswered questions remain regarding the effectiveness of various
51 restoration approaches, which is in part due to the lack of project monitoring, and
52 inconsistent results from studies that have been monitored (Bernhardt et al. 2005).

53 A number of literature reviews conclude that salmonid abundance typically
54 increases following restoration (Bayley 2002; Roni et al. 2002; 2008), even if some case
55 studies were not successful (e.g. Johnson et al. 2005; Rosi-Marshall et al. 2006; Klein et
56 al. 2007). However, traditional literature reviews, while qualitatively describing the
57 results of many individual case studies, do not allow statistical testing of overall trends
58 (Roberts et al. 2006). Meta-analysis overcomes this problem by allowing the formal
59 combination of results from a large number of case studies (Gates 2002). In a recent
60 meta-analysis of instream structures, Stewart et al. (2009) found only equivocal evidence
61 of their effectiveness at increasing salmonid abundance and significant variability in
62 success among projects. Their commendable use of strict inclusion criteria required that
63 all projects include some inherent replication or pseudoreplication, which resulted in only
64 17 studies and 38 data points in their analysis. Their small sample size prevented a

65 comparison between structure types or fish species and limits the conclusions that can be
66 drawn from this study.

67 Instream structures, such as weirs, deflectors, cover structures, boulder
68 placements and large woody debris (LWD), are a common method of restoring habitat in
69 rivers (Wesche 1985; Hey 1996; Roni et al. 2008). These structures act to alter flow and
70 scour patterns, resulting in a more diversified physical habitat (Champoux et al. 2003;
71 Thompson 2006). The installation of instream structures is typically carried out with the
72 expectation that improved physical habitat will result in increases in the abundance and
73 biomass of economically and culturally important salmonids (Roni et al. 2008).
74 However, the number of projects that monitor physical habitat changes remains low;
75 Bash and Ryan (2002) observed that twice as many restoration projects monitored
76 salmonid populations compared to those that conducted physical habitat assessments.
77 Furthermore, to the best of our knowledge, there has been no meta-analysis on the
78 geomorphological impacts of these structures on key habitat characteristics such as pool
79 area, depth or cover.

80 The objective of this study is to conduct a meta-analysis of the effectiveness of
81 five types of instream restoration structures (weirs, deflectors, cover structures – which
82 provide protection from overhead predators, boulder placement and LWD) using a
83 sufficiently large number of case studies to test the impact of each type of structure on
84 both salmonid abundance and physical habitat characteristics. Our extensive analysis,
85 which includes a larger number of target species and types of restoration structure,
86 compliments the more focussed study of Stewart et al. (2009).

87 **Methods**

88 **Literature search**

89 A literature search was conducted by performing key word searches on major
90 biological and environmental science catalogues. ISI web of knowledge, Scopus and
91 JSTOR were searched using keywords “trout OR salmo* AND river OR stream AND
92 restor* OR enhance* OR improve* AND habitat” (where * represents a wildcard). The
93 abstracts and references of articles that appeared relevant were examined. Searching
94 through the reference lists of these articles turned up additional articles and reports. Only
95 studies that provided salmonid density of at least a treated reach and a control reach were
96 included in the meta-analysis. Time series studies, site comparisons and Before-After,
97 Control-Intervention (BACI) studies were included. Projects needed to have installed
98 one of more of the following: weirs, deflectors, cover structures, boulder placements, and
99 LWD. A total of 51 reports met our criteria (see references with asterisk and Appendix
100 A). Some reports were compilations of many different projects, thus providing a total of
101 211 stream projects for our analysis.

102 For each project, we recorded information about the restoration project (year of
103 completion, type of structure installed, cost, length of the restored reach), project
104 monitoring (number of years and type of monitoring - pre-and post restoration and/or
105 treatment and control), and on the species and size classes of salmonids. When available,
106 biomass data and physical habitat data were recorded for the pre- and post-restoration
107 and/or the treatment and control sections. Physical habitat data consisted of the percent
108 pool and riffle areas, mean stream width, number of pieces of LWD, percent cover and
109 mean stream depth. It is possible that differences exist in how physical habitat data were
110 measured among studies. However, in each report the overall change was used to assess

111 the impact of restoration, which makes it unlikely that different definitions of LWD or
112 cover between projects biased our overall results. For each species and size class of fish,
113 the density ($\text{no.}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ or $\text{no.}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}$) and biomass ($\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$) were recorded, or calculated, for the
114 pre- and post-restoration and/or the treatment and control sections. No distinction was
115 made between projects that collected density data via electro-fishing versus snorkelling.
116 Although there is evidence that each method of estimating fish abundance has limitations
117 (Peterson et al. 2004), the method used was consistent within each project and should not
118 bias our results.

119 **Data analysis**

120 Effect size (L) was calculated for each study using the log response ratio

121

$$122 \quad L = \ln(x_{\text{tr}} / x_{\text{c}}) \quad (1)$$

123

124 where x_{tr} is the treatment mean and x_{c} the control mean (Hedges et al. 1999). The log
125 response ratio was chosen because it measures the proportional change of important
126 ecological variables caused by the treatment (Janetski et al. 2009). We did not use
127 Cohen's D effect size (Stewart et al. 2009), because it requires a measure of the standard
128 deviation of the response, which is not available for many single-site restoration projects.
129 For BACI data the change in the treated reach served as the treatment value and the
130 change in the reference reach served as the control. When BACI data were unavailable,
131 the mean difference was used for the control and treatment sites, or for before and after
132 restoration.

133 Data were available for 8 species of salmonids: brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*),
134 brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), rainbow and steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), cutthroat
135 trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*), Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Atlantic salmon
136 (*Salmo salar*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and arctic grayling
137 (*Thymallus arcticus*). However, fewer than 10 studies monitored densities of Chinook
138 salmon or arctic grayling, so these were not included in the comparison of individual
139 species. Because steelhead trout are anadromous, whereas rainbow trout remain in fresh
140 water throughout their lives, these two forms were analysed separately.

141 Three size classes of salmonids were created based on the most common size
142 classification used in the analysed reports: (1) <10cm in length, which included fish aged
143 0+ and those classified as fry; (2) 10-15 cm in length, which included fish aged 1+ and
144 those classified as parr; and (3) >15cm, which included age 2+ and 3+ fish and all fish
145 classified as smolts or adults.

146 Effect size was calculated for total salmonid density in all cases, and for each of
147 the following variables when available: total salmonid biomass, pool area (%), riffle area
148 (%), width, depth, cover (%), and the number of pieces of LWD (pieces per 100m). For
149 each project the density effect size was also calculated separately for each species, size
150 class and year of monitoring. In order to assess overall project effectiveness, data for the
151 last monitored year were used, to prevent projects with many years of monitoring from
152 being over represented.

153 One-sample t-tests were used to determine if the mean effect sizes were
154 significantly different than 0 at $\alpha=0.05$. ANOVAs were used to test whether there were
155 significant differences ($\alpha=0.05$) between changes in density based on fish species, fish

156 size class, the use of one structure type or multiple structure types, project age and
157 publication type. Multiple regression analysis was used to determine the effect of
158 changes in physical habitat factors on changes in salmonid density. Differences among
159 structure types, on both biotic and abiotic variables, were also investigated through
160 ANOVAs: these tests only included projects that used a single structure type.

161 **Results**

162 **Physical effects**

163 Fifty-three percent of studies installed only one type of structure, 28% used a
164 combination of two structures, 13% combined three structures, 1% combined all 5
165 structures and 4% did not specify the type of structure(s) installed. The most common
166 instream structures used were cover structures (88), followed by deflectors (87), weirs
167 (69), LWD (46), and boulder placements (41). In 113 projects (54%), at least one
168 physical habitat characteristic was monitored in addition to salmonid density and 78
169 (37%) projects reported biomass data as well as density data.

170 The installation of instream structures had significant effects on the physical
171 habitat characteristics of the streams. Overall, there was a significant increase in pool
172 area (mean effect size = 0.65; $T_{72} = 5.56$, $P < 0.0001$; Fig. 1a), a corresponding decrease
173 in riffle area (mean effect size = -0.52; $T_{38} = -4.87$, $P < 0.0001$), an increase in the
174 number of pieces of LWD in the river (mean effect size = 0.73; $T_{14} = 3.21$, $P = 0.006$; Fig.
175 1b) (LWD projects were not included in the analysis of the overall LWD effect size), an
176 increase in channel depth (mean effect size = 0.29; $T_{37} = 2.93$, $P = 0.006$; Fig. 1c), and an
177 increase in percent cover (mean effect size = 1.14; $T_{25} = 4.67$, $P < 0.0001$; Fig. 1d).

Fig.1

178 However, the presence of instream structures had no significant effect on stream width
179 (mean effect size = -0.01; $T_{75} = -0.11$, $P = 0.91$).

180 Projects with multiple structures increased pool area more than projects with only
181 one type of structure (ANOVA, $F_{[1,73]} = 38.5$, $P < 0.0001$; Fig. 1a). For all other physical
182 variables, however, there were no significant differences between the effect sizes for
183 projects with multiple and single structures (ANOVA, all p-values > 0.08).

184 To investigate whether the five structure types had different effects on the
185 physical habitat of streams, we compared the effect sizes for only single-structure
186 projects (i.e. the light grey bars in Fig. 1). Effect size did not differ significantly between
187 structure types for any of the six abiotic variables (ANOVA, all p values > 0.4 ; Fig.1).

188 Fig. 1 also illustrates the mean effect size with 95% confidence intervals for all structure
189 types, regardless of whether they were used alone or in combination (dark grey bars).

190 **Effects on salmonids**

191 Overall, average salmonid density and biomass increased following instream
192 structure restoration, with mean effect sizes of 0.51 ($T_{210} = 6.86$, $P < 0.0001$) and 0.48
193 ($T_{77} = 5.85$, $P < 0.0001$) respectively (Fig. 2a and b). However, 56 projects (27%)
194 showed a decrease in density following restoration and 10 showed a decrease in biomass
195 (13% of those that monitored biomass). There was no significant difference between
196 density or biomass effect size for projects that installed only one type of structure
197 compared to those that installed multiple structure types (ANOVA, $F_{[1,199]} = 2.34$, $P =$
198 0.128 and $F_{[1,32]} = 2.73$, $P = 0.11$), nor was there a significant difference in density or
199 biomass effect among structure types (ANOVA, $F_{[4,108]} = 0.64$, $P = 0.63$ and $F_{[4,17]} = 1.10$,
200 $P = 0.39$ respectively).

Fig. 2

201 The density effect size varied significantly between species of salmonid
202 (ANOVA, $F_{[6,327]} = 5.20$, $P < 0.0001$) (Fig.3). Based on a Tukey-Kramer post-hoc test,
203 the effect size was largest for rainbow trout (1.48, $n = 11$), and smallest for steelhead
204 trout (0.15, $n = 50$; Fig. 3). Ninety-five percent confidence intervals indicate that all
205 species except brook trout and steelhead trout responded positively to the restoration
206 efforts. Size classes responded differently to restoration, with an increasing linear trend
207 among the three salmonid size classes (ANOVA, $F_{[2,319]} = 2.93$, $P = 0.055$; Fig. 4).

Fig. 3&4

208 Backward stepwise regression was used to investigate the relationship between
209 change in the 6 abiotic variables (pool area, riffle area, width, LWD, depth and cover)
210 and biotic variables (density and biomass). Depth effect size was the only significant
211 predictor of density effect size, although the R^2 value was low (0.11, $n = 38$, $P = 0.037$;
212 Fig. 5a). Similarly, pool area effect size was the only significant predictor of biomass
213 effect size ($R^2 = 0.51$, $n = 8$, $P = 0.046$; Fig. 5b).

Fig. 5

214 **Monitoring programs**

215 The number of projects monitored decreased with increasing project age: 86
216 projects were monitored 1-year post construction while fewer than five projects were
217 monitored 10 years post construction (Fig. 6a). None of the projects were monitored for
218 over 20 years and 45% of all projects were only monitored once. The results for projects
219 over 5 years post construction were combined due to small sample sizes. There was a
220 significant difference in salmonid density effect size based on project age (ANOVA,
221 $F_{[4,188]} = 2.59$, $P = 0.04$). The mean density effect size was greatest in projects monitored
222 2 years after completion (Fig. 6b).

Fig. 6

223 Project cost was only reported in 24% of studies (51 out of 211). The mean cost
224 of a project, indexed to the dollar value in 2000, was USD \$127 490 while the median
225 cost was \$36 295. The average cost per metre of restored river length was \$34.85 with
226 some projects spending less than \$5 per metre of stream restored and others upwards of
227 \$100. There was no relationship between total project cost, or project cost per metre of
228 stream restored, and change in salmonid density ($n = 54$, $P = 0.52$ and $n = 49$, $P = 0.74$
229 respectively). Out of the total of 211 analysed projects, 148 (70%) came from the grey
230 literature. A comparison of results published in the primary literature and in the grey
231 literature revealed a slightly larger mean effect size of instream structures on salmonid
232 density in the primary literature (0.55 compared to 0.49), but this difference was not
233 significant (ANOVA, $F_{[1,209]} = 0.06$, $P = 0.81$).

234 **Discussion**

235 Meta-analysis of a large number of restoration projects showed that 73% of
236 projects resulted in increased local salmonid densities and 87% in increased biomass,
237 with an average effect size of 0.51 (167%) and 0.48 (162%), respectively. These findings
238 are in agreement with the qualitative findings of previous studies (e.g. Hunt 1988; Keeley
239 et al. 1996; McCubbing and Ward 1997). The 27% of projects that showed a decrease in
240 overall salmonid density and 13% of projects that recorded a decrease in biomass
241 following restoration did so for a number of reasons. Poor study design (e.g. badly
242 chosen reference reach, short monitoring program), unexpected physical changes (e.g.
243 decreased depth, decreased spawning gravel) and unexpected events (e.g. 100 year flood,
244 fish kill, settling pond blowout) were listed as potential reasons for decreased density
245 (Olsen et al. 1984; Thorn and Anderson 2001; Johnson et al. 2005). Structural failure was

246 reported for only 4 of 56 projects that showed reduced salmonid density (Linløkken
247 1997; Reeves et al. 1997), however that does not mean that more projects did not
248 experience any structural problems, only that they were not reported in relation to the
249 salmonid response to restoration. Increased fishing pressure in the restored reaches was
250 occasionally considered the cause of poor study outcomes (Hunt 1988; Avery 2004), but
251 was usually not measured. A number of studies reported that though overall salmonid
252 density decreased, the density of large fish had increased and that the larger decrease in
253 fish under 10cm was responsible for the overall trend (Avery 2004; Rosi-Marshall et al.
254 2006). This trend may explain why a lower proportion of studies failed to increase
255 salmonid biomass compared to density. However, the majority of studies that showed
256 decreased salmonid densities following restoration provide no reason for this outcome.
257 The large variation in how salmonids responded to stream restoration is in agreement
258 with previous observations (Roni et al. 2008; Stewart et al. 2009).

259 In contrast to our results, Stewart et al. (2009) concluded that the “widespread use
260 of in-stream structures for restoration is not supported by the current scientific evidence
261 base” (p. 939). Stewart et al. (2009) also conclude that instream structures are more
262 effective on small streams (<8m in width), whereas our analysis showed no difference in
263 density effect size between streams of different widths; in fact streams over 8m in width
264 had a larger mean density increase following restoration than smaller streams ($L=0.59$,
265 $95\% \text{ C.I.} = 0.28 - 0.90$, $n=56$ compared to $L=0.41$, $95\% \text{ C.I.} = 0.24 - 0.58$, $n=108$). A re-
266 analysis of Stewart et al.’s (2009) data using L (eq. 1) as the measure of effect size was
267 conducted to reconcile these different findings. Note that we have removed from the
268 dataset the four projects in which either engineered instream structures were not used or

269 no measure of abundance was reported (Mesick 1995; Scruton et al. 1998; Wu et al.
270 2000; Wang et al. 2002). We have also corrected a few errors in their data set: the
271 treatment and control sections were reversed in Binns (2004); the n value listed
272 corresponded to fish counted rather than river reaches in Linløkken (1997); and not all
273 data from Gargan et al. (2002) were used. The results of our reanalysis show a clear
274 positive effect size of 1.1 for instream structures ($T_{28} = 4.90$, $P < 0.0001$), markedly larger
275 than the average effect size in this study (0.51).

276 It is difficult to distinguish between increased fish abundance due to increased
277 recruitment, survival or growth and increases caused by immigration and redistribution
278 within the reach (Gowan and Fausch 1996). In order to measure changes in population
279 size, the spatial and temporal scale of the study must be fairly large (Stewart et al. 2009).
280 Unfortunately, many studies that attempt to determine the effect of instream structures on
281 salmonid abundance are of short duration and at the reach rather than watershed scale.
282 We excluded studies that specifically measured habitat preference, but did include studies
283 measuring changes in abundance at the reach scale or for only a year following
284 restoration. It is likely, therefore, that some of the studies reporting an increase in
285 salmonid density are due to redistribution of fish. However, as Gowan and Fausch (1996)
286 point out, immigration to preferred habitat is likely to increase the watershed-wide trout
287 population, since it implies an increase in stream habitat capacity.

288 As expected, the installation of instream structures resulted in significant changes
289 to the physical stream habitat. An increase in pool area, volume or frequency is a typical
290 goal in instream structure installation (Roni et al. 2008). Our analysis indicated that all
291 types of instream structures have the potential to increase pool area in a stream. Cover,

292 which is a key salmonid habitat variable (Lewis 1969), can obviously be improved by
293 cover structures but also by weirs and deflectors (the increase for boulder structures was
294 not significant). Surprisingly, none of the projects analysed in this study measured the
295 change in cover following the installation of LWD structures, despite the fact they are
296 often installed to increase cover (Cederholm et al. 1997). Increased mean channel depth
297 is another common restoration goal; deflectors, cover structures and boulder placements
298 were all found to significantly increase depth while weirs showed a non-significant
299 increase in depth. These physical characteristics are closely linked: increased pool area
300 implies deeper channels and more cover since deep water functions as shelter from
301 predators (Lozarich and Quinn 1995).

302 We found no significant effect of structure type on the observed change in
303 salmonid density. Other studies that have directly compared different structure types
304 have obtained conflicting results. Some studies suggest that deflectors outperform other
305 structure types (e.g. Ward and Slaney 1981; Hunt 1988), others that boulder placements
306 improve salmonid densities more than deflectors or weirs (e.g. Olsen et al. 1984), and yet
307 others have concluded that weirs are preferable (e.g. Van-Zyll-De-Jong et al. 1997). We
308 found evidence that weirs tended to be installed in steeper sloped streams while
309 deflectors and cover structures were more frequently implemented on shallower slopes (<
310 0.5%). There is unfortunately not enough evidence to determine whether failure is more
311 likely for a given type of structure on streams of different slopes. As different structures
312 target different aspects of habitat quality, the best structure for increasing salmonid
313 densities will be the one that best ameliorates the physical habitat deficiencies in an
314 individual stream. It is therefore difficult to provide general recommendations without

315 thorough knowledge of the specific problem. Our results imply that stream restoration
316 practitioners are adept at picking the correct restoration technique, to create the correct
317 habitat for the particular stream, but no one approach will work for all streams.

318 Surprisingly, despite the clear effect of instream structures on both physical
319 habitat variables (see Fig. 1) and salmonid density (see Fig. 2a), change in habitat
320 variables are not good predictors of changes in salmonid density, which raises the
321 question: “what causes changes in salmonid density?” In order to increase salmonid
322 abundance the restoration work must increase habitat that is limiting the population
323 (Rosenfeld and Hatfield 2006). Determining these bottlenecks requires careful study by
324 trained restoration practitioners, and even then mistakes are made (Hicks and Reeves
325 1994). Furthermore if multiple factors are co-limiting then several habitat changes would
326 be required to provide adequate salmonid habitat. As for structure type, habitat variables
327 that contribute to increased salmonid density likely vary from project to project, making
328 it very difficult to establish a causal relationship from a large database which includes
329 rivers in diverse environments.

330 There were significant differences between individual species density responses
331 to the addition of instream structures. There is some evidence that instream structures are
332 more effective for resident than for anadromous fish (Hicks and Reeves 1994),
333 presumably because resident fish are larger and spend more time in the stream. Our
334 observation that the effect size was higher for rainbow trout than for steelhead was
335 consistent with this finding, whereas the stronger response by juveniles of anadromous
336 Atlantic salmon than by resident brook and brown trout was not. Because older juvenile
337 Atlantic salmon prefer deeper habitats (Armstrong et al. 2003), our analysis suggests that

338 deeper habitats may have been limiting densities in those streams chosen for restoration.
339 Similarly, the biomass of brook and brown trout responded more strongly than density
340 (Whiteway, unpublished data), suggesting that restoration projects were more beneficial
341 for larger than smaller fish (see below).

342 The observation that larger salmonids respond most strongly to instream
343 structures suggests that they provide habitat that is particularly suited to adult salmonids.
344 Previous studies have similarly documented better responses of larger fish to instream
345 structures (e.g. Hunt 1988; Gowan and Fausch 1996) and many studies specifically seek
346 to increase legal (often over 15cm) size trout (Burgess 1985; Hunt 1988). Energy intake
347 is predicted to be higher in deeper water, meaning that the larger a fish's energy
348 requirement (a function of size), the deeper the required habitat (Rosenfeld and Taylor
349 2009). Smaller trout do not show a strong preference for pool habitat (Bisson et al. 1988),
350 which is likely why density increases are lower for these size classes. The observation
351 that changes in pool area and biomass were more strongly correlated than pool area and
352 density also suggests that increased pool area results in preferable habitat for larger
353 salmonids.

354 Instream structures are typically designed to last at least 20 years (Frissell and
355 Nawa 1992) though different structures have varying rates of structural failure during this
356 time (Roni et al. 2002). While there is a consensus that more long-term monitoring on
357 the effect of instream structures is needed (Frissell and Nawa 1992; Kondolf and Micheli
358 1995; Roni et al. 2008), the duration of monitoring projects remains short, averaging only
359 3 years. There are significant problems with determining project effectiveness when
360 monitoring is done for only 1 or 2 years post-restoration as it may take up to 5 years after

361 restoration work is completed before the full effect on salmonids can be seen (Hunt 1976,
362 Kondolf 1995). Surprisingly our results show that the mean density effect size is largest
363 for projects that have been in place for 2 years, and that the projects that monitor for 5
364 years or longer show a significantly lower density increase. It is possible that this is the
365 result of gradual failure of the structures, however very few projects reported on the
366 stability of the evaluated structures, which prevented us from drawing any conclusions
367 about structural failure rates over time. Kondolf and Micheli (1995) recommend at least
368 10 years of post-restoration monitoring to measure physical changes in the river channel,
369 since low recurrence floods are likely to alter the channel and because geomorphological
370 adjustments following the installation of instream structures may take some time. The
371 length of monitoring should also be determined based on the size and dynamic nature of
372 the channel since it takes longer for geomorphological adjustments to take place on large
373 rivers.

374 The median cost of the projects in our analysis was \$36 295, almost double the
375 \$20 000 median cost of over 6000 instream habitat improvement projects compiled by
376 Bernhardt et al. (2005). Costs were lower for projects that were able to use volunteer
377 labour or readily available construction material. Higher costs can be expected for
378 projects on inaccessible river reaches and projects that require the use of heavy
379 machinery. There is, however, no evidence to suggest that higher spending leads to
380 higher project success, as measured by increased salmonid density.

381 There is often a concern that successful restoration projects are more likely to be
382 reported in the primary literature than unsuccessful projects (Kondolf and Micheli 1995).
383 While it is impossible to analyze projects that have not been reported in any literature,

384 comparing results that were published in the grey literature with those published in the
385 primary literature allowed us to discount this potential bias.

386 This meta-analysis suggests that stream restoration projects are generally
387 successful at improving salmonid habitat, salmonid density and total salmonid biomass in
388 streams. While it is recommended that the installation of instream structures be used
389 primarily as a temporary tool while larger scale watershed changes are made (Roper et al.
390 1997), for example reforestation riparian zones to provide natural LWD, the success of
391 these structures remains an important consideration.

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569 **Figure captions**

570 **Fig. 1.** Effect of different types of instream structures on the mean (+ 95% confidence
571 interval) effect size ($L = \ln(x_{tr} / x_c)$) of a) pool area, b) pieces of LWD, c) stream depth
572 and d) cover. Within the “all” bars, the black all bar represents the average effect for all
573 structure types, the white bar for projects that utilized only one type of structure and the
574 striped bar for projects that used 2 or more structure types. Within each structure type the
575 dark grey bar represents the mean for all projects that used that structure (whether or not
576 another type of structure was used) and the light grey represents the mean for projects
577 that only used that type of structure.

578 **Fig. 2.** The effect of structure type on the mean effect size (+ 95% C.I.) of a) salmonid
579 density and b) biomass. Within the “all” bars, the black all bar represents the average
580 effect for all structure types, the white bar for projects that utilized only one type of
581 structure and the striped bar for projects that used 2 or more structure types. Within each
582 structure type the dark grey bar represents the mean for all projects that used that
583 structure (whether or not another type of structure was used) and the light grey represents
584 the mean for projects that only used that type of structure.

585 **Fig. 3.** The effect of instream structures on the mean density effect size (+ 95% C.I.) of
586 different salmonid species. Similar letters indicate that the mean does not differ
587 significantly between species.

588 **Fig. 4.** The effect of instream structures on the mean density effect size (+ 95% C.I.) for
589 salmonids of different size (< 10cm, between 10 and 15 cm, and > 15cm).

590 **Fig. 5.** Linear regression of a) salmonid density effect size against depth effect size
591 ($y=0.612x+0.341$, $r^2=0.112$) and b) salmonid biomass effect size against pool area effect
592 size ($y=0.306x+0.202$, $r^2=0.510$).

593 **Fig. 6.** Project monitoring a) number of projects monitored in each year following
594 restoration, separated into projects monitored only once (in dark grey) and those
595 monitored more than once (in pale grey) and b) salmonid density mean effect size (+ 95%
596 C.I.) of projects monitored at different ages.

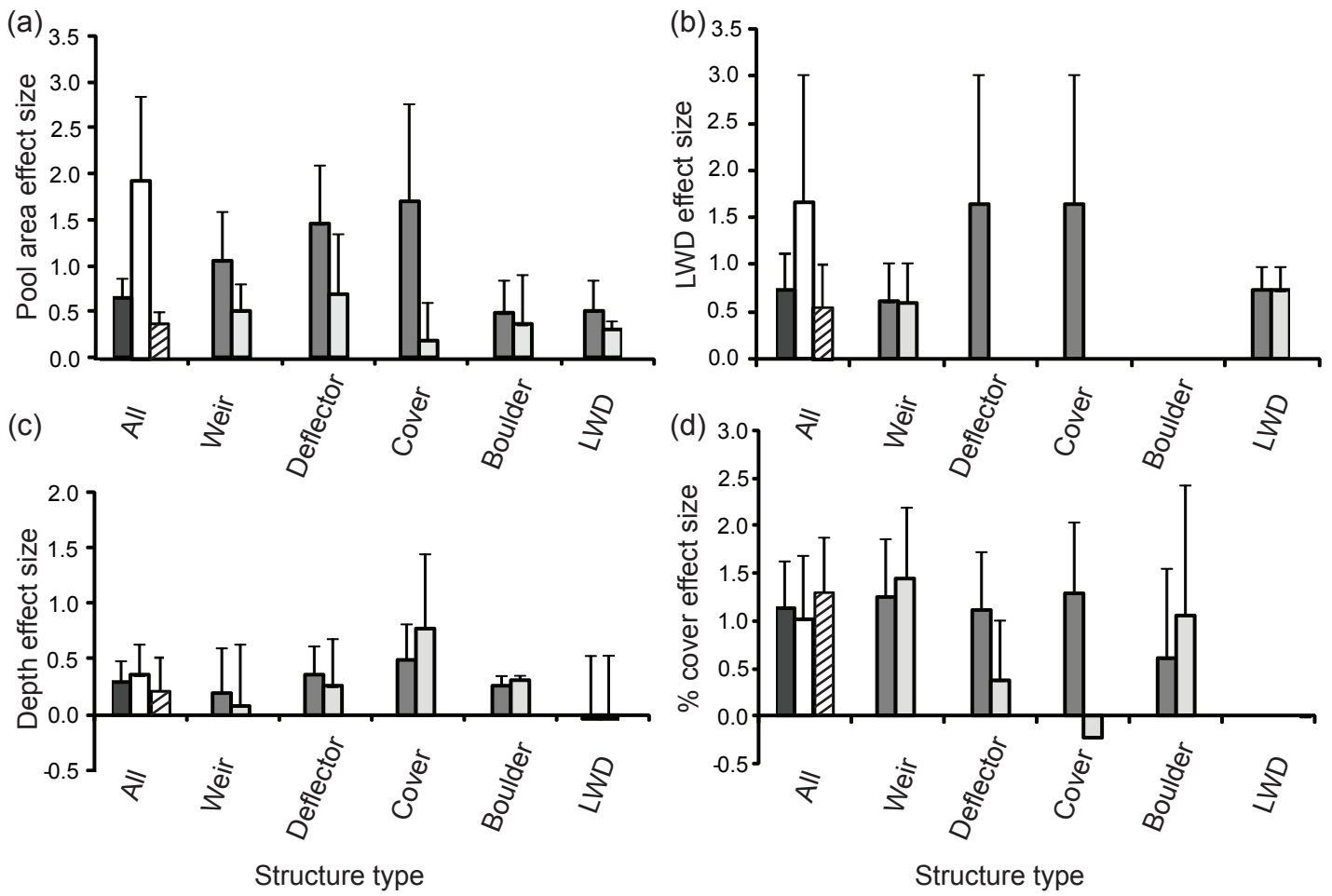


Figure 1. Whiteway et al.

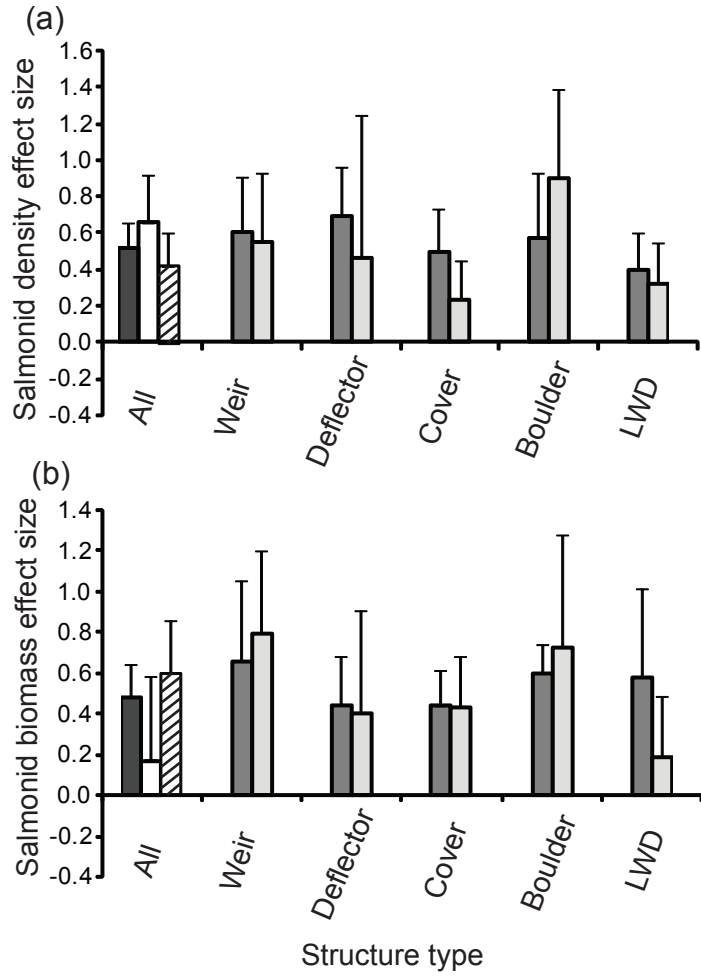


Figure 2. Whiteway et al.

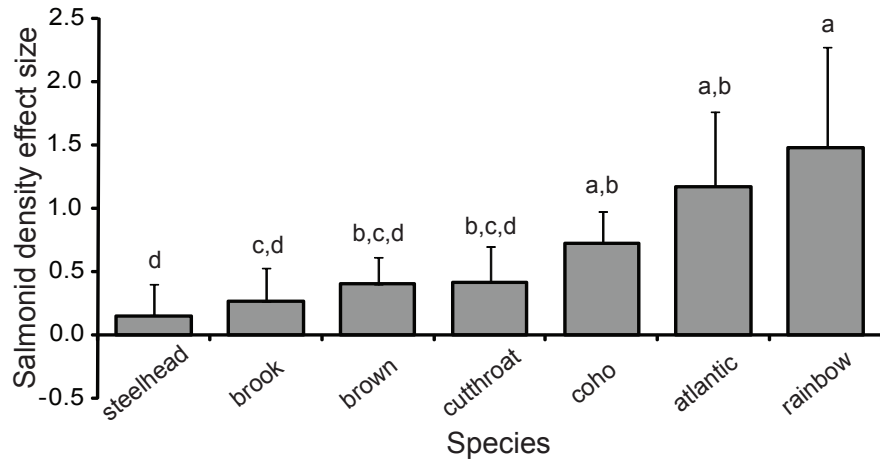


Figure 3. Whiteway et al.

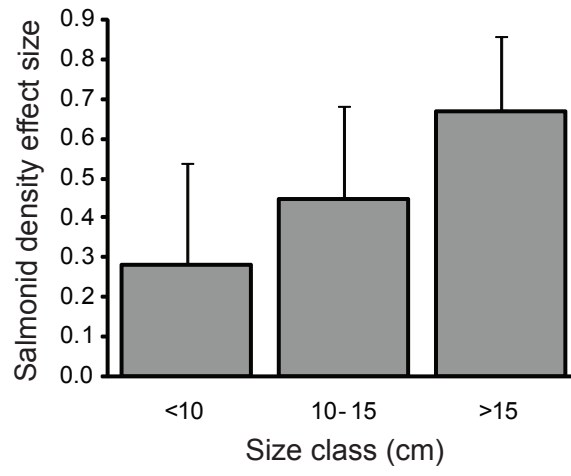


Figure 4. Whiteway et al.

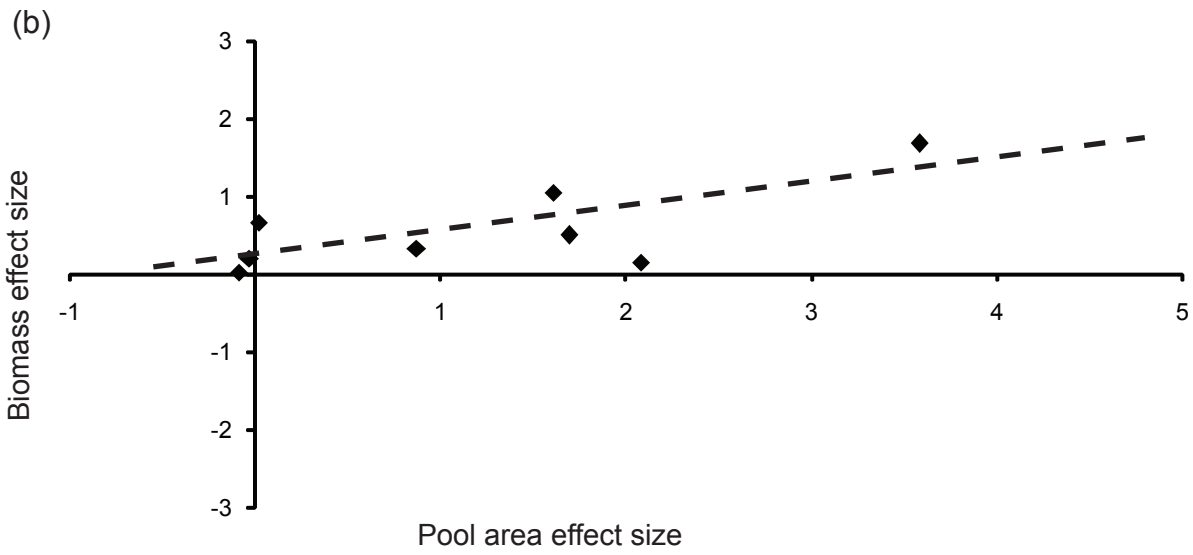
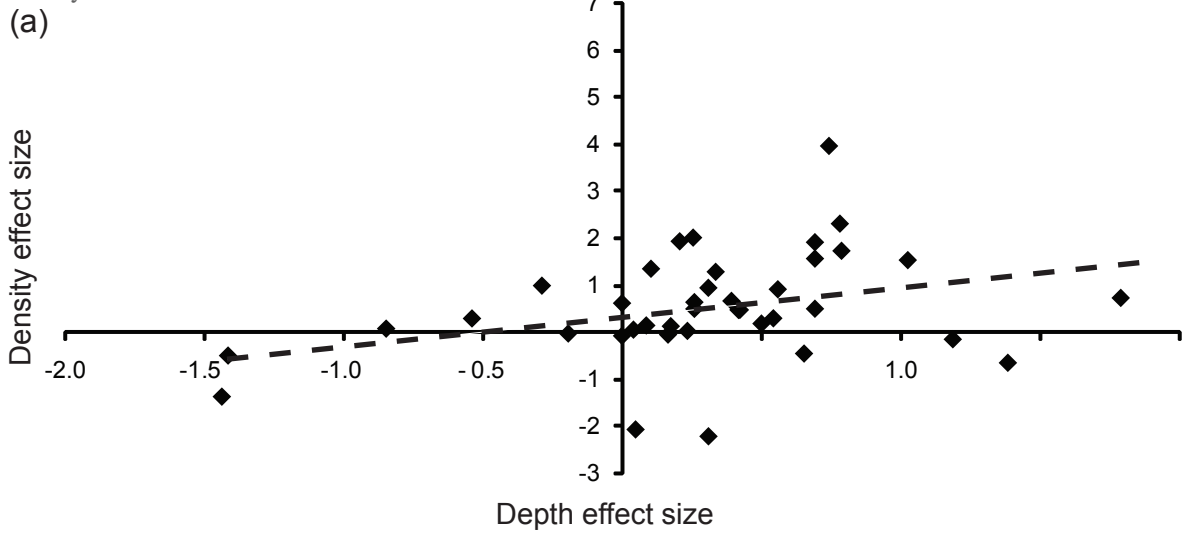
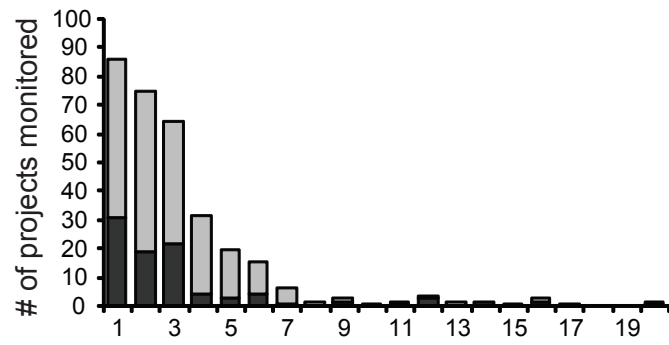


Figure 5. Whiteway et al.

(a)



(b)

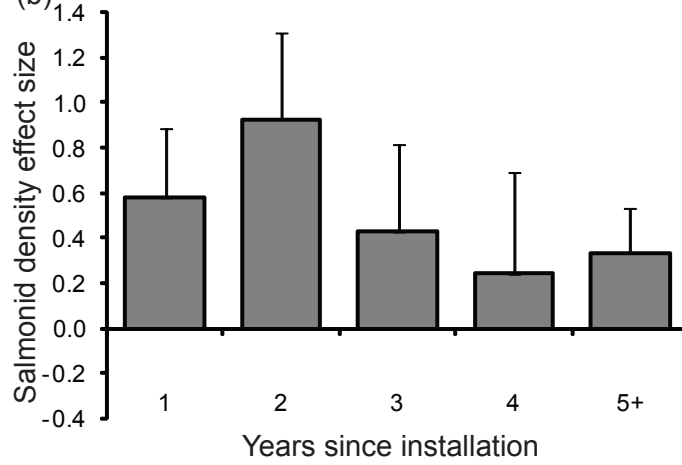


Figure 6. Whiteway et al.

1 Appendix A

2 Additional references of studies included in meta-analysis

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