



LEA's Benthic Barriers



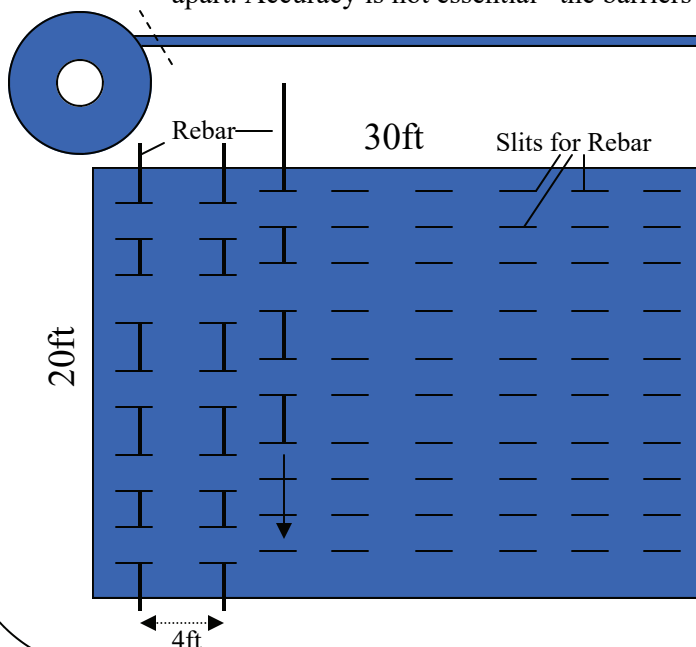
Benthic Barriers visible in the Songo

LEA's Benthic Barriers have been the key to our success for years. We have refined our method to be simple to build and easy to deploy. The barriers are approximately 20' x 30' and constructed of boat shrink wrap and coated steel rebar. To deploy the barriers you simply unroll them like a carpet over the invasive plants. Deployment requires 2 divers and at least 1 surface support.

Cost: Coated Rebar is ~\$1/foot and 8 20' pieces are used. A 100' roll of shrink wrap material is \$200 (~3 barriers per roll). Each barrier then costs around \$220, plus labor. However, barriers are quite durable and can be reused for multiple years. If a barrier is ripped, then you only need to replace the shrink wrap material. Coated rebar is more expensive, but does not rust.

How to make a reusable Benthic Barrier:

To construct, unroll ~30' of shrink wrap material and cut away from roll. While the material is still folded make small incisions for gas exchange, cutting through multiple layers to make more holes with one cut. Cuts should be about 2", and spaced about 1' apart. Accuracy is not essential— the barriers are more of an art than a science.



Unfold the barrier and lay the rebar out above the material approximately every 4 feet to have 8 pieces of rebar in total. Then cut small slits perpendicular to the rebar that you will use to weave the rebar through the barrier. The rebar should always start and end on top of the barrier to keep it down underwater. Use zip-ties to fasten the rebar to the barrier. Weave all 8 pieces into the barrier and then roll tightly to prepare for deployment.