# Special Public Notice

**US Army Corps of Engineers**
Seattle District

**Regulatory Branch**
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**Public Notice Date: July 26, 2022**

## USER GUIDE FOR 2021 NATIONWIDE PERMITS IN WASHINGTON STATE

The 2021 Nationwide Permits (NWPs) replace the 2017 versions of these NWPs. The attached User Guide for the 2021 Nationwide Permits is designed for anyone that uses or seeks information about the NWP program in Washington State. Members of the regulated public, environmental consultants, Tribes, and local, state, and federal agencies will find this guide useful to understanding the requirements of NWPs within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District Regulatory boundaries.

This guide combines several published documents into a single document for convenience. This guide also contains “User Notes,” to provide additional information that might aid applicants through the permitting process. The NWP user guide includes the following:

Nationwide Permit National Conditions and Definitions
Seattle District Regional General Conditions
Seattle District Regional Conditions for Specific NWPs
Section 401 Water Quality Certification General Conditions
Section 401 Water Quality Certifications for Specific NWPs
Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Decisions

This Special Public Notice also corrects an omission in the April 7, 2022, Special Public Notice regarding the Washington State Department of Ecology Water Quality Certification conditions for NWP 40. Those conditions were inadvertently omitted. These conditions and all other Water Quality Certification conditions are listed in the attached user guide.

For information on the Seattle District Regulatory program including the Nationwide Permits and contact information for a project manager in your area visit our website at: http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory/

If you have questions about the 2021 NWPs or would like to request a paper copy of the attached user guide via U.S. mail, please send an email providing us your mailing address to NWP-SeattleTeam@usace.army.mil or call (206) 764-3495.

Attachment:
User Guide for 2021 Nationwide Permits in Washington State

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

**Effective Date: July 26, 2022**

# User Guide
# 2021 Nationwide Permits in Washington State

## March 2021– March 2026

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# Foreword

## Who should use this Guide?

The Nationwide Permit (NWP) user guide is designed for anyone that uses, or seeks information about, the NWP program in Washington State. Members of the regulated public, environmental consultants, Tribes, and local, state, and federal agencies will find this guide useful to understanding the requirements of using NWPs within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District Regulatory boundaries.

## What this guide does

This guide combines several published documents into a single document for convenience. The NWP user guide includes the following:

Nationwide Permit National Conditions and Definitions
Seattle District Regional General Conditions
Seattle District Regional Conditions for Specific NWPs
Section 401 Water Quality Certification General Conditions
Section 401 Water Quality Certifications for Specific NWPs
Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Decisions

This guide also contains "***User Notes***," to provide additional information that might aid in the permitting process.

## What this guide does not do

This guide does not supersede any federal or state policy or public notice.

This guide is not a permit.

## Contact Information

For information on the Seattle District Regulatory program including the Nationwide Permits and contact information for a project manager in your area visit: http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory/

## Table of Contents

# Section 1: Understanding the Nationwide Permits

## Introduction

Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for administering a Regulatory Program that evaluates and permits activities in waters of the United States, including wetlands, streams, lakes and marine waters. Under Section 404 the Corps regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Under Section 10 the Corps regulates structures and/or work in or affecting the course, condition, or capacity of navigable waters of the United States. A list of navigable waters in Washington State is available in the Permit Guidebook at: www.nws.usace.army.mil (select the Regulatory Branch/Permit Information button, then Permit Guidebook, Streams, Rivers, and Tidal Waters). Detailed information about the permitting program is located throughout the Permit Guidebook.

The Regulatory program is committed to protecting the nation's aquatic resources and navigation capacity, while allowing reasonable development through fair and balanced decisions. A proposed project's impacts to aquatic waterbodies will determine what permit type is required. An individual, or standard permit, is required when projects have more than minimal individual or cumulative impacts. These permits are evaluated using environmental criteria, and involve a comprehensive public interest review. General permits, which include the NWPs, allow for a streamlined review for structures, work, and/or discharges that result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. The NWPs are the subject of this guide.

## Nationwide Permits

Activities requiring Corps authorization that are similar in nature and have minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects may qualify for authorization by an NWP. On September 15, 2020, the Corps published in the *Federal Register* its proposal to reissue the 52 existing NWPs and issue five new NWPs. On January 13, 2021, the Corps published a final rule in the *Federal Register* (86 FR 2744) announcing the reissuance of 12 existing NWPs and four new NWPs, as well as the reissuance of the NWP general conditions and definitions with some modifications. Those 16 NWPs (12, 21, 29, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 48, 50, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57 and 58) went into effect on March 15, 2021, and expire on March 14, 2026. On December 27, 2021, the Corps published a final rule in the *Federal Register* (86 FR 73522) announcing the reissuance of 40 existing NWPs and one new NWP. Those 41 NWPs (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 45, 46, 49, 53, 54 and 59) went into effect on February 25, 2022, and expire on March 14, 2026. The Seattle District has issued regional conditions to ensure the NWPs

result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects within its Regulatory boundaries.

The information in this guide summarizes how the NWP program is implemented in Washington State, unless the NWPs are revised, rescinded, or revoked.
The 2021 NWPs expire on March 14, 2026.

For a project to be authorized by NWP, project proponents must meet the conditions described in the NWP itself, as well as all the NWP general conditions issued by Corps Headquarters, and all of the regional conditions for the Seattle District. The regional general conditions for the Seattle District are described in Section 3 of this guide.
The NWP general conditions issued by Corps Headquarters are described in Section 4.
The terms and conditions and Seattle District regional conditions specific to each NWP, and applicable Ecology and EPA Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification conditions and State Coastal Zone Management consistency decisions are described in Section 5.

## Pre-Construction Notification

Most NWP actions in the Seattle District require the submission a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) to the Corps, prior to commencing any work. In the Seattle District, a completed Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) or federal form ENG 4345 is acceptable to meet the requirements of a PCN. Submission of a JARPA or ENG 4345 is not mandatory, but all PCNs must meet the requirements of NWP general condition 32 – Pre-Construction Notification.

The most recent JARPA can be accessed through the Washington State Governor's Office of Regulatory Innovation and Assistance at: http://www.epermitting.wa.gov

The most recent federal form ENG 4345 can be found through Corps Regulatory Headquarters at: http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Obtain-a-Permit/

Per NWP general condition 18 – Endangered Species, and NWP general condition 20 – Historic Properties, submittal of a PCN and receipt of written approval from the Corps before work commences is required for all NWP activities which involve the potential to affect a threatened or endangered species, listed critical habitat, and/or historic properties. Because of the presence of threatened or endangered species and/or their critical habitat in many waters of the U.S. in Washington State, if you will be performing an activity in fish bearing waters you should contact the Seattle District to determine if a PCN will be required before you commence work. Additionally, because Native American tribes currently and historically have lived along and fished many waters in Washington State there is a potential for the presence of historic properties in and near all regulated waters within the Seattle District Regulatory boundaries.

In Washington State, Regional General Conditions (RGC) may require PCN when working in certain areas or performing specific activates. RGC 2 - Aquatic Resources Requiring Special Protection requires PCN for activities resulting in a loss of rare and difficult to mitigate waters of the U.S. RGC 5 – Bank Stabilization requires PCN for new or maintenance bank stabilization activities in waters of the U.S. where salmonid species are present or could be present. RGC 6 - Crossings of Waters of the United States requires PCN for any project including installing, replacing, or modifying crossings of waters of the U.S. such as culverts or bridges. RGC 7 – Stream Loss requires PCN for all activities that result in the loss of any linear feet of streams. Some NWPs have regional conditions requiring PCN under specific circumstances which are listed below the permit text of each NWP in Section 5.

For NWPs without a PCN requirement, project proponents will need to contact the appropriate certifying authority for their project directly to discuss any Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification requirements, or Coastal Zone Management federal consistency decision requirements from Ecology if their project is located within one of Washington's 15 coastal counties.

## Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification

Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, an activity involving a discharge into waters of the U.S. authorized by a federal permit must receive a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the appropriate certifying authority. The issuance of a WQC means the certifying authority has reasonable assurance that water quality requirements will be met for a given proposal.

Per 33 U.S.C. 1341, a WQC is required for construction and operation of facilities which may result in a *discharge* into navigable waters. Under the Clean Water Act, a discharge may include the re-suspension of sediments, the discharge of oils and grease, or the discharge of other potential pollutants. Activities which only require a permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (i.e., activities which do not result in a discharge of dredged or fill material under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act) may still require a WQC, as Ecology and the EPA have determined that there may be other discharges associated with those activities.

In Washington State, two agencies and twelve (12) tribes have WQC authority. The EPA has WQC authority in Indian country on behalf of tribes who do not have treatment in a similar manner as a state and on lands with exclusive federal jurisdiction. Indian country includes lands within reservation boundaries, trust lands exterior to reservation boundaries, Indian allotment lands and dependent Indian communities (see 18 U.S.C. 1151 for a full definition of Indian country). Ecology has WQC authority for activities on all other federal, public, and private lands in Washington State.

To date, the tribes that have treatment in a similar manner as a state and WQC authority over activities on their respective tribal lands include the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Quinault Indian Nation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and the Tulalip Tribes.

Ecology and EPA have issued WQC decisions for the NWP program. Activities and projects authorized by NWPs must meet all of the WQC general conditions from the certifying authority, as well as the NWP specific WQC conditions where applicable. The general conditions for the certifying agencies are described in Section 7.

For each NWP, Ecology and EPA has either made a WQC decision to grant, grant with conditions, or deny. When WQC is granted, this means the proposed project or activity does not require individual WQC provided the conditions of the WQC are met. If a project or activity does not meet the WQC conditions or is denied, an individual WQC is required prior to authorization from the Corps.

Section 401 Water Quality Certifications for the NWPs can be viewed online at: http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory/Permit-Guidebook/NWPs/

Information about Ecology's Clean Water Act - Section 401 Water Quality Certifications can be found at: https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/401-Water-quality-certification - Contact Ecology at (360) 407-6076, or at: ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov

## Coastal Zone Management Act

The Coastal Zone Management Act requires federally permitted activities within and outside the coastal zone, which have reasonably foreseeable effects on any coastal use or natural resource of the coastal zone, be consistent with the enforceable policies of a state's federally approved coastal management program. Ecology is the agency responsible for federal consistency review in Washington's 15 coastal counties:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clallam | Jefferson | Mason | San Juan | Thurston |
| Grays Harbor | King | Pacific | Skagit | Wahkiakum |
| Island | Kitsap | Pierce | Snohomish | Whatcom |

Ecology reviews activities to be authorized by the NWP program to determine if they are consistent with the enforceable policies within Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program. For each NWP, Ecology issued a decision to concur, concur with conditions, or object. For NWPs where the decision is concur, the project or activity does not

require an individual decision. If a project or activity has a decision of concur with conditions, or object, project proponents should coordinate with the Corps. The Corps must receive a decision from Ecology prior to authorizing work under any NWP.

Ecology's CZM federal consistency decisions for the NWPs do not apply to federal activities or federal development projects that are subject to 15 CFR 930 - Subpart C – *Consistency for Federal Agency Activities*. For those federal activities or federal development projects, the federal agency is required to send Ecology a federal consistency determination per the requirements of Subpart C.

Washington State Coastal Zone Management program federal consistency decisions for the NWPs can be viewed online at: http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory/Permit-Guidebook/NWPs/

Information about Ecology's Coastal Zone Management program can be found at: https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Shoreline-coastal-management/Coastal-zone-management - Contact Ecology at (360) 407-6076, or at: ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov

District Engineer's Decision

In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. District engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP. Further information on the district engineer's decision is in Section 6.

## Section 2: Related Laws and Information

### Tribal Rights

Within the Seattle District Regulatory boundary there are 29 federally-recognized tribes, most with treaty-reserved rights, including, but not limited to reserved water rights as well as treaty fishing, hunting, and gathering rights. In addition to their reservation and trust lands, these rights often extend to adjacent fresh and marine waters and may potentially include upland areas. NWP general condition 17 - Tribal Rights states no activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.

After receipt of a complete PCN, additional information may be requested, or concerns may be raised on your project or activity related to impacts to reserved tribal rights. This may add time to the permit review process.

### Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is a law regarding the conservation of threatened or endangered plants and animals and the habitats on which they depend. The ESA protects vulnerable species through provisions to identify and list them as threatened and endangered, and prohibits take of listed species. In addition, the ESA enables conservation of listed species by enabling designation of critical habitat and prohibiting the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service lead ESA implementation.

The ESA extends the prohibition against take to actions permitted, funded, or carried out by federal agencies (action agencies). For actions that may affect listed species and/or their critical habitat, the ESA requires action agencies to consult with one or both of the Services. The Corps is an action agency when it reviews permit applications, including NWP verifications. The consultation process enables the Services and action agencies to ensure that 1) take from those actions will not jeopardize listed species, 2) that adverse effects on habitat do not amount to destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat, and 3) that the adverse effects of actions on listed species and critical habitat are appropriately minimized.

To facilitate the consultation process and comply with the ESA, the Corps requests project proponents design their projects to meet a programmatic consultation. For work that does not meet an ESA programmatic consultation, project proponents must prepare a biological assessment of the work they propose. A biological assessment describes the impacts a proposed project will have on listed and/or proposed-for-listing ESA

species and designated and/or proposed critical habitat. More detailed information of how to prepare and submit a biological assessment and a list of programmatic consultations and their requirements can be found on the Seattle District's web page at: www.nws.usace.army.mil (select Regulatory/Permits, then Permit Guidebook, Endangered Species).

Refer to NWP general condition 18 – Endangered Species and NWP general condition 32 – Pre-Construction Notification for requirements and procedures related to the ESA and submitting a complete PCN. Special conditions may be added to NWP verifications to ensure compliance with the ESA. Project proponents should be aware ESA coordination and/or consultation may add time to the permit review process.

## Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act governs marine fisheries management in the U.S. This law mandates the identification of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for federally managed species as well as the development of measures to conserve and enhance the habitat necessary for fish to carry out their life cycles. It requires federal agencies to consult with NMFS before authorizing, funding, or conducting an activity that may adversely affect EFH. When consulted NMFS provides guidance in the form of conservation recommendations to help federal agencies minimize the impact of their actions on EFH.

## National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to determine how a proposed project may affect recorded or undiscovered cultural resources and/or historic properties within the permit area. Section 106 directs federal agencies with jurisdiction over a proposed federal undertaking (i.e., federal permit) to take into account the effect of the undertaking on any historic property listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. Compliance with Section 106 is a requirement of all NWP verifications pursuant to NWP general condition 20 – Historic Properties.

A cultural resource/historic property survey, conducted by a professional archaeologist, may be necessary before an NWP verification can be completed. Project proponents should be aware that Section 106 coordination and/or consultation may add time to the permit review process.

## Hydraulic Project Approval

Pursuant to Washington Hydraulic Code (77.55), the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife requires a Hydraulic Project Approval, or HPA, for any work that would affect the bed or flow of state waters including all work in salt water or fresh water, which often includes wetlands. Information on HPAs and a link to the Aquatic Protection Permitting System can be accessed at: https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/hpa

## Activities on State-Owned Aquatic Lands

All projects proposed to occur on state-owned aquatic lands require separate authorization from the Washington Department of Natural Resources. WDNR is the manager of 2.6 million acres of state-owned aquatic lands. WDNR's administrative rules (WAC 332-30-107 (6)) require substantial and/or irreversible impacts to state-owned aquatic lands be fully mitigated. Contact WDNR's Aquatic Resources Division at (360) 902-1100. Information on Leasing & Land Transactions can be found at: http://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/aquatics/leasing-and-land-transactions

## Marine Sanctuaries, Estuarine Reserves, and Freshwater Reserves

WDNR presently manages eight aquatic reserves in Washington State located at Cherry Point in Whatcom County, Cypress Island in Skagit County, Fildago Bay in Skagit County, Maury Island in King County, Protection Island in Jefferson County, Smith and Minor Islands in Island County, Nisqually Reach in Thurston and Pierce Counties, and Lake Kapowsin in Pierce County. Projects or work occurring on state-owned aquatic lands within designated aquatic reserve boundaries must be in compliance with the site specific management plan. Contact the WDNR Aquatic Resources Division at (360) 902-1100. Information on the Aquatic Reserves Program can be found at: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/aquatic-reserves

## Mitigation

NWP general condition 23 – Mitigation details the factors for determining appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal for projects authorized by NWP.

The April 10, 2008 Final Compensatory Mitigation Rule (33 CFR 332) established standards and criteria for the use of all types of compensatory mitigation to offset unavoidable impacts to waters of the U.S. authorized through the issuance of Department of the Army permits. Detailed mitigation policy information is at:

http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramandPermits/mitig_info.aspx

In the Seattle District, you can prepare wetland compensatory mitigation plans in accordance with Ecology's *Wetland Mitigation in Washington State: Part 1 – Agency Policies and Guidance*, and *Wetland Mitigation in Washington State: Part 2 – Developing Mitigation Plans*. Check for the most up to date publications on Ecology's website.

Not all projects will require compensatory mitigation. Contact a Corps project manager with questions related to compensatory mitigation requirements for specific projects.

## Wetland and Eelgrass Delineations

Wetland delineations are an important component of any jurisdictional determination involving wetlands. Wetland delineations must be conducted in accordance with the *1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual* and all applicable regional supplements and guidance, including the *Arid West Regional Supplement Version 2.0* dated September 2008 and the *Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Regional Supplement Version 2.0* dated May 2010, or the most recent approved version. Refer to *Components of a Complete Wetland Delineation Report* for more details at: http://www.nws.usace.army.mil (select the Regulatory Permit Information button, then select Forms, Templates, & Info Papers under the Quick Links menu).

The Washington State Wetland Rating System categorizes wetlands based on specific attributes such as rarity, sensitivity to disturbance, the type and extent of functions they provide and the practicability of being replaced. A wetland rating can provide important information to regulatory agencies reviewing permit applications. Documents and forms for the eastern Washington rating system and western Washington rating system are available on Ecology's website.

Vegetated shallows supporting eelgrass are considered special aquatic sites under the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230.43). The Seattle District has interim procedures to assist prospective permittees when a delineation of eelgrass is needed to evaluate work in marine waters. The procedure titled *Components of a Complete Eelgrass Delineation Report* can be found at: www.nws.usace.army.mil (select the Regulatory Permit Information button, then select Forms, Templates, & Info Papers under the Quick Links menu).

## Dredged Material Management Program

The Seattle District Dredged Material Management Office is consulted for all proposed activities involving excavation or dredging of a water of the U.S. Based on this

consultation, you may be asked to provide additional information regarding the chemical and biological content of the proposed excavated or dredged material as part of your permit application.

Toxic Clean Up Sites

Any activity or work authorized under NWP will not preclude the permittee from cleanup-related liabilities where the work is undertaken at a cleanup site designated under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, WAC 173-340) or the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. Chapter 103), also known as Superfund. The lead agency for a MTCA cleanup site (Ecology) or CERCLA cleanup site (EPA) is consulted for all proposed activities within the cleanup site boundary to ensure the proposed activities are consistent with the installed remedy. Based on this coordination, a permittee may be required to provide additional information, conduct additional monitoring, employ additional best management practices, and/or provide reports.

*User Note 1*: *For MTCA cleanup site locations, visit Ecology's What's In My Neighborhood search tool, or contact Ecology's Aquatic Lands Cleanup Unit at (360) 407-7536.*

*User Note 2: To find a specific CERCLA Superfund site location on EPA's website, search for "Superfund Sites Where You Live." Frequently searched for sites in Washington include Commencement Bay Nearshore/Tideflats (*Tacoma*), Wyckoff Eagle Harbor (*Bainbridge Island*), Lower Duwamish Waterway (*Seattle*), East and West Waterways (*Seattle*), and Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (*Bremerton*).*

## Section 3: Regional General Conditions (RGCs) for the Seattle District

The following conditions apply to all NWPs described in this document for the Seattle District in Washington State, as applicable.

### 1. Project Drawings

Drawings must be submitted with pre-construction notification (PCN). Drawings must provide a clear understanding of the proposed project, and how waters of the United States will be affected. Drawings must be originals and not reduced copies of large-scale plans. Engineering drawings are not required. Existing and proposed site conditions (manmade and landscape features) must be drawn to scale.

### 2. Aquatic Resources Requiring Special Protection

A PCN is required for activities resulting in a loss of waters of the United States in wetlands in dunal systems along the Washington coast, mature forested wetlands, bogs and peatlands, aspen-dominated wetlands, alkali wetlands, vernal pools, camas prairie wetlands, estuarine wetlands, and wetlands in coastal lagoons.

### 3. New Bank Stabilization in Tidal Waters of Puget Sound

Activities involving new bank stabilization in tidal waters in Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 (within the areas identified on Figures 1a through 1e) cannot be authorized by NWP.

*User Note: For the purposes of this condition, replacement of existing, currently serviceable, previously authorized bank stabilization within the original footprint is not considered "new" bank stabilization.*

### 4. Commencement Bay

No permanent losses of wetlands or mudflats within the Commencement Bay Study Area may be authorized by any NWP (see Figure 2).

### 5. Bank Stabilization

All projects including new or maintenance bank stabilization activities in waters of the United States where salmonid species are present or could be present, requires PCN to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) (see NWP general condition 32).

For new bank stabilization projects only, the following must be submitted to the Corps:

a. The cause of the erosion and the distance of any existing structures from the area(s) being stabilized.

b. The type and length of existing bank stabilization within 300 feet of the proposed project.

c. A description of current conditions and expected post-project conditions in the waterbody.

d. A statement describing how the project incorporates elements avoiding and minimizing adverse environmental effects to the aquatic environment and nearshore riparian area, including vegetation impacts in the waterbody.

In addition to a. through d., the results from any relevant geotechnical investigations can be submitted with the PCN if it describes current or expected conditions in the waterbody.

6. Crossings of Waters of the United States

Any project including installing, replacing, or modifying crossings of waters of the United States, such as culverts or bridges, requires submittal of a PCN to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (see NWP general condition 32).

If a culvert is proposed to cross waters of the U.S. where salmonid species are present or could be present, the project must apply the stream simulation design method from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife located in the *Water Crossing Design Guidelines* (2013), or a design method which provides passage at all life stages at all flows where the salmonid species would naturally seek passage. If the stream simulation design method is not applied for a culvert where salmonid species are present or could be present, the project proponent must provide a rationale in the PCN sufficient to establish one of the following:

a. The existence of extraordinary site conditions.

b. How the proposed design will provide equivalent or better fish passage and fisheries habitat benefits than the stream simulation design method.

Culverts installed under emergency authorization that do not meet the above design criteria will be required to meet the above design criteria to receive an after-the-fact nationwide permit verification.

7. Stream Loss

A PCN is required for all activities that result in the loss of any linear feet of streams.

8. Construction Boundaries

Permittees must clearly mark all construction area boundaries within waters of the United States before beginning work on projects that involve grading or placement of fill. Boundary markers and/or construction fencing must be maintained and clearly visible for the duration of construction. Permittees should avoid and minimize removal of native vegetation (including submerged aquatic vegetation) to the maximum extent possible.

9. ESA Reporting to NMFS

For any nationwide permit that may affect threatened or endangered species; Incidents where any individuals of fish species, marine mammals and/or sea turtles listed by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the Endangered Species Act appear to be injured or killed as a result of discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. or structures or work in navigable waters of the U.S. authorized by this Nationwide Permit verification shall be reported to NMFS, Office of Protected Resources at (301) 713-1401 and the Regulatory Office of the Seattle District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (206) 764-3495. The finder should leave the animal alone, make note of any circumstances likely causing the death or injury, note the location and number of individuals involved and, if possible, take photographs. Adult animals should not be disturbed unless circumstances arise where they are obviously injured or killed by discharge exposure or some unnatural cause. The finder may be asked to carry out instructions provided by the NMFS to collect specimens or take other measures to ensure that evidence intrinsic to the specimen is preserved.

## Section 4: Nationwide Permit General Conditions

Note: To qualify for NWP authorization, the prospective permittee must comply with the following general conditions, as applicable, in addition to any regional or case-specific conditions imposed by the division engineer or district engineer. Prospective permittees should contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine if regional conditions have been imposed on an NWP. Prospective permittees should also contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine the status of Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification and/or Coastal Zone Management Act consistency for an NWP. Every person who may wish to obtain permit authorization under one or more NWPs, or who is currently relying on an existing or prior permit authorization under one or more NWPs, has been and is on notice that all of the provisions of 33 CFR 330.1 through 330.6 apply to every NWP authorization. Note especially 33 CFR 330.5 relating to the modification, suspension, or revocation of any NWP authorization.

### 1. Navigation

(a) No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.

(b) Any safety lights and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, must be installed and maintained at the permittee's expense on authorized facilities in navigable waters of the United States.

(c) The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his or her authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

### 2. Aquatic Life Movements

No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. All permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies shall be suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of those aquatic species. If a bottomless culvert cannot be used, then the crossing should be designed and constructed to minimize adverse effects to aquatic life movements.

3. Spawning Areas

Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

4. Migratory Bird Breeding Areas

Activities in waters of the United States that serve as breeding areas for migratory birds must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

5. Shellfish Beds

No activity may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWPs 4 and 48, or is a shellfish seeding or habitat restoration activity authorized by NWP 27.

6. Suitable Material

No activity may use unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.). Material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see section 307 of the Clean Water Act).

7. Water Supply Intakes

No activity may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake, except where the activity is for the repair or improvement of public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.

8. Adverse Effects From Impoundments

If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to accelerating the passage of water, and/or restricting its flow must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

9. Management of Water Flows

To the maximum extent practicable, the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization, storm water management activities, and temporary and permanent road crossings, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high flows, unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage

high flows. The activity may alter the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).

10. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains

The activity must comply with applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

11. Equipment

Heavy equipment working in wetlands or mudflats must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.

12. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls

Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow, or during low tides.

13. Removal of Temporary Structures and Fills

Temporary structures must be removed, to the maximum extent practicable, after their use has been discontinued. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The affected areas must be revegetated, as appropriate.

14. Proper Maintenance

Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety and compliance with applicable NWP general conditions, as well as any activity-specific conditions added by the district engineer to an NWP authorization.

15. Single and Complete Project

The activity must be a single and complete project. The same NWP cannot be used more than once for the same single and complete project.

16. Wild and Scenic Rivers

(a) No NWP activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, unless the appropriate Federal agency with direct management responsibility for such river, has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(b) If a proposed NWP activity will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification (see general condition 32). The district engineer will coordinate the PCN with the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river. Permittees shall not begin the NWP activity until notified by the district engineer that the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river has determined in writing that the proposed NWP activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(c) Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency responsible for the designated Wild and Scenic River or study river (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Information on these rivers is also available at: http://www.rivers.gov/

17. Tribal Rights

No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.

18. Endangered Species

(a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation. No activity is authorized under any NWP which "may affect" a listed species or critical habitat, unless ESA section 7 consultation addressing the consequences of the proposed activity on listed species or critical habitat has been completed. See 50 CFR 402.02 for the definition of "effects of the action" for the purposes of ESA section 7 consultation, as well as 50 CFR 402.17, which provides further explanation under ESA section 7 regarding "activities that are reasonably certain to occur" and "consequences caused by the proposed action."

(b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)(1)). If pre-construction notification is

required for the proposed activity, the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation has not been submitted, additional ESA section 7 consultation may be necessary for the activity and the respective federal agency would be responsible for fulfilling its obligation under section 7 of the ESA.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation, and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the district engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that might affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or that utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. The district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity “may affect” or will have “no effect” to listed species and designated critical habitat and will notify the non-Federal applicant of the Corps’ determination within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification. For activities where the non-Federal applicant has identified listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, and has so notified the Corps, the applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification that the proposed activity will have “no effect” on listed species (or species proposed for listing or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), or until ESA section 7 consultation or conference has been completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(d) As a result of formal or informal consultation or conference with the FWS or NMFS the district engineer may add species-specific permit conditions to the NWPs.

(e) Authorization of an activity by an NWP does not authorize the “take” of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with “incidental take” provisions, etc.) from the FWS or the NMFS, the Endangered Species Act prohibits any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take a listed species, where "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The word “harm” in the definition of “take" means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such an act

may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering.

(f) If the non-federal permittee has a valid ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit with an approved Habitat Conservation Plan for a project or a group of projects that includes the proposed NWP activity, the non-federal applicant should provide a copy of that ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit with the PCN required by paragraph (c) of this general condition. The district engineer will coordinate with the agency that issued the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit to determine whether the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation conducted for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. If that coordination results in concurrence from the agency that the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, the district engineer does not need to conduct a separate ESA section 7 consultation for the proposed NWP activity. The district engineer will notify the non-federal applicant within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit covers the proposed NWP activity or whether additional ESA section 7 consultation is required.

(g) Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the FWS and NMFS or their world wide web pages at http://www.fws.gov/ or http://www.fws.gov/ipac and http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/ respectively.

19. Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles

The permittee is responsible for ensuring that an action authorized by an NWP complies with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The permittee is responsible for contacting the appropriate local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine what measures, if any, are necessary or appropriate to reduce adverse effects to migratory birds or eagles, including whether "incidental take" permits are necessary and available under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act for a particular activity.

20. Historic Properties

(a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which may have the potential to cause effects to properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied.

(b) Federal permittees should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed NWP activity,

the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation is not submitted, then additional consultation under section 106 may be necessary. The respective federal agency is responsible for fulfilling its obligation to comply with section 106.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. For such activities, the pre-construction notification must state which historic properties might have the potential to be affected by the proposed NWP activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location of, or potential for, the presence of historic properties can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or designated tribal representative, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). When reviewing pre-construction notifications, district engineers will comply with the current procedures for addressing the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts commensurate with potential impacts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and/or field survey. Based on the information submitted in the PCN and these identification efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed NWP activity has the potential to cause effects on the historic properties. Section 106 consultation is not required when the district engineer determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR 800.3(a)). Section 106 consultation is required when the district engineer determines that the activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. The district engineer will conduct consultation with consulting parties identified under 36 CFR 800.2(c) when he or she makes any of the following effect determinations for the purposes of section 106 of the NHPA: no historic properties affected, no adverse effect, or adverse effect.

(d) Where the non-Federal applicant has identified historic properties on which the proposed NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects and has so notified the Corps, the non-Federal applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer either that the activity has no potential to cause effects to historic properties or that NHPA section 106 consultation has been completed. For non-federal permittees, the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether NHPA section 106 consultation is required. If NHPA section 106 consultation is required, the district engineer will notify the non-Federal applicant that he or she cannot begin the activity until section 106 consultation is completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard

back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 306113) prevents the Corps from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Corps is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, SHPO/THPO, appropriate Indian tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affects historic properties on tribal lands or affects properties of interest to those tribes, and other parties known to have a legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties.

21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts

Permittees that discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activity authorized by an NWP, they must immediately notify the district engineer of what they have found, and to the maximum extent practicable, avoid construction activities that may affect the remains and artifacts until the required coordination has been completed. The district engineer will initiate the Federal, Tribal, and state coordination required to determine if the items or remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

22. Designated Critical Resource Waters

Critical resource waters include, NOAA-managed marine sanctuaries and marine monuments, and National Estuarine Research Reserves. The district engineer may designate, after notice and opportunity for public comment, additional waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance, such as outstanding national resource waters or state natural heritage sites. The district engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for public comment.

(a) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States are not authorized by NWPs 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, 50, 51, 52, 57 and 58 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters.

(b) For NWPs 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, and 54, notification is required in accordance with general condition 32, for any activity proposed by permittees in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The district engineer may authorize activities under these NWPs only after she or he determines that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

23. Mitigation

The district engineer will consider the following factors when determining appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal:

(a) The activity must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the United States to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site).

(b) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating for resource losses) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal.

(c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland losses that exceed 1/10-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. For wetland losses of 1/10-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects.

(d) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all losses of stream bed that exceed 3/100-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. This compensatory mitigation requirement may be satisfied through the restoration or enhancement of riparian areas next to streams in accordance with paragraph (e) of this general condition. For losses of stream bed of 3/100-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects. Compensatory mitigation for losses of streams should be provided, if practicable, through stream

rehabilitation, enhancement, or preservation, since streams are difficult-to-replace resources (see 33 CFR 332.3(e)(3)).

(e) Compensatory mitigation plans for NWP activities in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the restoration or enhancement, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., conservation easements) of riparian areas next to open waters. In some cases, the restoration or maintenance/protection of riparian areas may be the only compensatory mitigation required. If restoring riparian areas involves planting vegetation, only native species should be planted. The width of the required riparian area will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the riparian area will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the district engineer may require slightly wider riparian areas to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. If it is not possible to restore or maintain/protect a riparian area on both sides of a stream, or if the waterbody is a lake or coastal waters, then restoring or maintaining/protecting a riparian area along a single bank or shoreline may be sufficient. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the district engineer will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., riparian areas and/or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where riparian areas are determined to be the most appropriate form of minimization or compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses.

(f) Compensatory mitigation projects provided to offset losses of aquatic resources must comply with the applicable provisions of 33 CFR part 332.

(1) The prospective permittee is responsible for proposing an appropriate compensatory mitigation option if compensatory mitigation is necessary to ensure that the activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. For the NWPs, the preferred mechanism for providing compensatory mitigation is mitigation bank credits or in-lieu fee program credits (see 33 CFR 332.3(b)(2) and (3)). However, if an appropriate number and type of mitigation bank or in-lieu credits are not available at the time the PCN is submitted to the district engineer, the district engineer may approve the use of permittee-responsible mitigation.

(2) The amount of compensatory mitigation required by the district engineer must be sufficient to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see 33 CFR 330.1(e)(3)). (See also 33 CFR 332.3(f).)

(3) Since the likelihood of success is greater and the impacts to potentially valuable uplands are reduced, aquatic resource restoration should be the first compensatory mitigation option considered for permittee-responsible mitigation.

(4) If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, the prospective permittee is responsible for submitting a mitigation plan. A conceptual or detailed mitigation plan may be used by the district engineer to make the decision on the NWP verification request, but a final mitigation plan that addresses the applicable requirements of 33 CFR 332.4(c)(2) through (14) must be approved by the district engineer before the permittee begins work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation (see 33 CFR 332.3(k)(3)). If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, and the proposed compensatory mitigation site is located on land in which another federal agency holds an easement, the district engineer will coordinate with that federal agency to determine if proposed compensatory mitigation project is compatible with the terms of the easement.

(5) If mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program credits are the proposed option, the mitigation plan needs to address only the baseline conditions at the impact site and the number of credits to be provided (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(6) Compensatory mitigation requirements (e.g., resource type and amount to be provided as compensatory mitigation, site protection, ecological performance standards, monitoring requirements) may be addressed through conditions added to the NWP authorization, instead of components of a compensatory mitigation plan (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(g) Compensatory mitigation will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of the NWPs. For example, if an NWP has an acreage limit of 1/2-acre, it cannot be used to authorize any NWP activity resulting in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, even if compensatory mitigation is provided that replaces or restores some of the lost waters. However, compensatory mitigation can and should be used, as necessary, to ensure that an NWP activity already meeting the established acreage limits also satisfies the no more than minimal impact requirement for the NWPs.

(h) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee programs, or permittee-responsible mitigation. When developing a compensatory mitigation proposal, the permittee must consider appropriate and practicable options consistent with the framework at 33 CFR 332.3(b). For activities resulting in the loss of marine or estuarine resources, permittee-responsible mitigation may be environmentally preferable if there are no mitigation banks or in-lieu fee programs in the area that have marine or estuarine credits available for sale or transfer to the permittee. For permittee-responsible mitigation, the special conditions of the NWP verification must clearly indicate the party or parties responsible for the implementation and performance of the compensatory mitigation project, and, if required, its long-term management.

(i) Where certain functions and services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected by a regulated activity, such as discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that will convert a forested or scrub-shrub wetland to a herbaceous wetland in a permanently maintained utility line right-of-way, mitigation may be required to reduce the adverse environmental effects of the activity to the no more than minimal level.

24. Safety of Impoundment Structures

To ensure that all impoundment structures are safely designed, the district engineer may require non-Federal applicants to demonstrate that the structures comply with established state or federal, dam safety criteria or have been designed by qualified persons. The district engineer may also require documentation that the design has been independently reviewed by similarly qualified persons, and appropriate modifications made to ensure safety.

25. Water Quality

(a) Where the certifying authority (state, authorized tribe, or EPA, as appropriate) has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, a CWA section 401 water quality certification for the proposed discharge must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(c)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a water quality certification previously issued by certifying authority for the issuance of the NWP, then the permittee must obtain a water quality certification or waiver for the proposed discharge in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP.

(b) If the NWP activity requires pre-construction notification and the certifying authority has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, the proposed discharge is not authorized by an NWP until water quality certification is obtained or waived. If the certifying authority issues a water quality certification for the proposed discharge, the permittee must submit a copy of the certification to the district engineer. The discharge is not authorized by an NWP until the district engineer has notified the permittee that the water quality certification requirement has been satisfied by the issuance of a water quality certification or a waiver.

(c) The district engineer or certifying authority may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality.

26. Coastal Zone Management

In coastal states where an NWP has not previously received a state coastal zone management consistency concurrence, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained, or a presumption of concurrence must

occur (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a coastal zone management consistency concurrence previously issued by the state, then the permittee must obtain an individual coastal zone management consistency concurrence or presumption of concurrence in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP. The district engineer or a state may require additional measures to ensure that the authorized activity is consistent with state coastal zone management requirements.

27. Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions

The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the Division Engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state, Indian Tribe, or U.S. EPA in its CWA section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

28. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits

The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is authorized, subject to the following restrictions:

(a) If only one of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project has a specified acreage limit, the acreage loss of waters of the United States cannot exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit. For example, if a road crossing over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14, with associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre.

(b) If one or more of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project has specified acreage limits, the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by those NWPs cannot exceed their respective specified acreage limits. For example, if a commercial development is constructed under NWP 39, and the single and complete project includes the filling of an upland ditch authorized by NWP 46, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the commercial development under NWP 39 cannot exceed 1/2-acre, and the total acreage loss of waters of United States due to the NWP 39 and 46 activities cannot exceed 1 acre.

29. Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications

If the permittee sells the property associated with a nationwide permit verification, the permittee may transfer the nationwide permit verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the appropriate Corps district office to validate the transfer. A copy of the nationwide permit verification must be attached to the letter, and the letter must contain the following statement and signature:

"When the structures or work authorized by this nationwide permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this nationwide permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below."

_____
(Transferee)

_____
(Date)

30. Compliance Certification

Each permittee who receives an NWP verification letter from the Corps must provide a signed certification documenting completion of the authorized activity and implementation of any required compensatory mitigation. The success of any required permittee-responsible mitigation, including the achievement of ecological performance standards, will be addressed separately by the district engineer. The Corps will provide the permittee the certification document with the NWP verification letter. The certification document will include:

(a) A statement that the authorized activity was done in accordance with the NWP authorization, including any general, regional, or activity-specific conditions;

(b) A statement that the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions. If credits from a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program are used to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements, the certification must include the documentation required by 33 CFR 332.3(l)(3) to confirm that the permittee secured the appropriate number and resource type of credits; and

(c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the activity and mitigation.

The completed certification document must be submitted to the district engineer within 30 days of completion of the authorized activity or the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation, whichever occurs later.

31. Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States

If an NWP activity also requires review by, or permission from, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized Civil Works project (a "USACE project"), the prospective permittee must submit a pre-construction notification. See paragraph (b)(10) of general condition 32. An activity that requires section 408 permission and/or review is not authorized by an NWP until the appropriate Corps office issues the section 408 permission or completes its review to alter, occupy, or use the USACE project, and the district engineer issues a written NWP verification.

32. Pre-Construction Notification

(a) *Timing*. Where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the district engineer by submitting a pre-construction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The district engineer must determine if the PCN is complete within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt and, if the PCN is determined to be incomplete, notify the prospective permittee within that 30 day period to request the additional information necessary to make the PCN complete. The request must specify the information needed to make the PCN complete. As a general rule, district engineers will request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the PCN is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of the requested information has been received by the district engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity until either:

(1) He or she is notified in writing by the district engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the district or division engineer; or

(2) 45 calendar days have passed from the district engineer's receipt of the complete PCN and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the district or division engineer. However, if the permittee was required to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 18 that listed species or critical habitat might be affected or are in the vicinity of the activity, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 20 that the activity might have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that there is "no effect" on listed species or "no potential to cause effects" on historic properties, or that any consultation required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)) and/or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)) has been completed. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP, the permittee may not begin the activity until the district engineer issues the waiver. If the district or division engineer notifies the permittee in writing that an individual permit is required within 45 calendar days of receipt of a complete PCN, the permittee cannot begin the activity until an individual permit has been obtained.

Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the NWP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

(b) *Contents of Pre-Construction Notification*: The PCN must be in writing and include the following information:

(1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;

(2) Location of the proposed activity;

(3) Identify the specific NWP or NWP(s) the prospective permittee wants to use to authorize the proposed activity;

(4) (i) A description of the proposed activity; the activity's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the activity would cause, including the anticipated amount of loss of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters expected to result from the NWP activity, in acres, linear feet, or other appropriate unit of measure; a description of any proposed mitigation measures intended to reduce the adverse environmental effects caused by the proposed activity; and any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings for linear projects that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification. The description of the proposed activity and any proposed mitigation measures should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse environmental effects of the activity will be no more than minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures.

(ii) For linear projects where one or more single and complete crossings require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include the quantity of anticipated losses of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters for each single and complete crossing of those wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters (including those single and complete crossings authorized by an NWP but do not require PCNs). This information will be used by the district engineer to evaluate the cumulative adverse environmental effects of the proposed linear project, and does not change those non-PCN NWP activities into NWP PCNs.

(iii) Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP. (Sketches usually clarify the activity and when provided results in a quicker decision. Sketches should contain sufficient detail to provide an illustrative description of the proposed activity (e.g., a conceptual plan), but do not need to be detailed engineering plans);

(5) The PCN must include a delineation of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters, such as lakes and ponds, and perennial and intermittent streams, on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters on the project site, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, as appropriate;

(6) If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed and a PCN is required, the prospective permittee must submit a statement describing how the mitigation requirement will be satisfied, or explaining why the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal and why compensatory mitigation should not be required. As an alternative, the prospective permittee may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan.

(7) For non-federal permittees, if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, Federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act;

(8) For non-federal permittees, if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to a historic property listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, the PCN must state which historic property might have the potential to be affected by the proposed activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, Federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act;

(9) For an activity that will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the PCN must identify the Wild and Scenic River or the “study river” (see general condition 16); and

(10) For an NWP activity that requires permission from, or review by, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy

or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers federally authorized civil works project, the pre-construction notification must include a statement confirming that the project proponent has submitted a written request for section 408 permission from, or review by, the Corps office having jurisdiction over that USACE project.

(c) *Form of Pre-Construction Notification*: The nationwide permit pre-construction notification form (Form ENG 6082) should be used for NWP PCNs. A letter containing the required information may also be used. Applicants may provide electronic files of PCNs and supporting materials if the district engineer has established tools and procedures for electronic submittals.

(d) *Agency Coordination*:

(1) The district engineer will consider any comments from Federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the activity's adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal.

(2) Agency coordination is required for:

(i) all NWP activities that require pre-construction notification and result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States;

(ii) NWP 13 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, fills greater than one cubic yard per running foot, or involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites; and

(iii) NWP 54 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, or that extend into the waterbody more than 30 feet from the mean low water line in tidal waters or the ordinary high water mark in the Great Lakes.

(3) When agency coordination is required, the district engineer will immediately provide (e.g., via e-mail, facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy of the complete PCN to the appropriate Federal or state offices (FWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to notify the district engineer via telephone, facsimile transmission, or e-mail that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. The comments must explain why the agency believes the adverse environmental effects will be more than minimal. If so contacted by an agency, the district engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the pre-construction notification. The district engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs, including the need for mitigation to ensure that the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The district engineer will provide no response to

the resource agency, except as provided below. The district engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each pre-construction notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. For NWP 37, the emergency watershed protection and rehabilitation activity may proceed immediately in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur. The district engineer will consider any comments received to decide whether the NWP 37 authorization should be modified, suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedures at 33 CFR 330.5.

(4) In cases of where the prospective permittee is not a Federal agency, the district engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 calendar days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations, as required by section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

(5) Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps with either electronic files or multiple copies of pre-construction notifications to expedite agency coordination.

## Section 5: Nationwide Permits - Regional Conditions, 401 Certification, and CZM Consistency

### 1. Aids to Navigation

The placement of aids to navigation and regulatory markers that are approved by and installed in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard (see 33 CFR, chapter I, subchapter C, part 66). (Authority: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10))

NWP 1 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – The Corps did not request Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this NWP. See NWP general condition 25 – Water Quality.

### 2. Structures in Artificial Canals

Structures constructed in artificial canals within principally residential developments where the connection of the canal to a navigable water of the United States has been previously authorized (see 33 CFR 322.5(g)). (Authority: Section 10)

NWP 2 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – The Corps did not request Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this NWP. See NWP general condition 25 – Water Quality.

*User Note: Designated Artificial Canals in Seattle District are Birch Bay Village at Birch Bay, Lagoon Point Association at Whidbey Island, Mariners Cove at Whidbey Island, Newport Shores at Lake Washington, Sandy Point at Lummi Bay, Shelter Bay at Swinomish Channel, Twin Bridge Marine Park at Swinomish Channel, and Willow Grove Boat Launch Basin at Willow Grove Island in the Columbia River.*

3. Maintenance

(a) The repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized, currently serviceable structure or fill, or of any currently serviceable structure or fill authorized by 33 CFR 330.3, provided that the structure or fill is not to be put to uses differing from those uses specified or contemplated for it in the original permit or the most recently authorized modification. Minor deviations in the structure's configuration or filled area, including those due to changes in materials, construction techniques, requirements of other regulatory agencies, or current construction codes or safety standards that are necessary to make the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement are authorized. This NWP also authorizes the removal of previously authorized structures or fills. Any stream channel modification is limited to the minimum necessary for the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of the structure or fill; such modifications, including the removal of material from the stream channel, must be immediately adjacent to the project. This NWP also authorizes the removal of accumulated sediment and debris within, and in the immediate vicinity of, the structure or fill. This NWP also authorizes the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of those structures or fills destroyed or damaged by storms, floods, fire or other discrete events, provided the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement is commenced, or is under contract to commence, within two years of the date of their destruction or damage. In cases of catastrophic events, such as hurricanes or tornadoes, this two-year limit may be waived by the district engineer, provided the permittee can demonstrate funding, contract, or other similar delays.

(b) This NWP also authorizes the removal of accumulated sediments and debris outside the immediate vicinity of existing structures (e.g., bridges, culverted road crossings, water intake structures, etc.). The removal of sediment is limited to the minimum necessary to restore the waterway in the vicinity of the structure to the approximate dimensions that existed when the structure was built, but cannot extend farther than 200 feet in any direction from the structure. This 200 foot limit does not apply to maintenance dredging to remove accumulated sediments blocking or restricting outfall and intake structures or to maintenance dredging to remove accumulated sediments from canals associated with outfall and intake structures. All dredged or excavated materials must be deposited and retained in an area that has no waters of the United States unless otherwise specifically approved by the district engineer under separate authorization.

(c) This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to conduct the maintenance activity. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. After conducting the maintenance activity, temporary fills must be removed in

their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

(d) This NWP does not authorize maintenance dredging for the primary purpose of navigation. This NWP does not authorize beach restoration. This NWP does not authorize new stream channelization or stream relocation projects.

Notification: For activities authorized by paragraph (b) of this NWP, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity (see general condition 32). The pre-construction notification must include information regarding the original design capacities and configurations of the outfalls, intakes, small impoundments, and canals. (Authorities: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Sections 10 and 404))

Note: This NWP authorizes the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized structure or fill that does not qualify for the Clean Water Act Section 404(f) exemption for maintenance.

NWP 3 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The project or activity involves the complete replacement of a shoreline stabilization using hard armoring.

2. The project or activity increases the original footprint of the structure by more than 1/10$^{th}$ acre in wetlands; or

3. The project or activity includes adding a new structure, such as a weir, flap gate/tide gate, or culvert to the site.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required when the project involves:

1. Maintenance, repair, or replacement of shoreline stabilization using hard armoring approaches; or

2. Extending existing infrastructure beyond its prior footprint in fish bearing waters of the U.S.; or

3. Excavation or dredging in marine waters.

*User Note: To facilitate the review of the applicability of NWP 3 to your project, information on previous Corps authorizations, current state of the existing structure or fill, and current and proposed use of structure or fill can be submitted with a PCN.*

4. Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Devices and Activities

Fish and wildlife harvesting devices and activities such as pound nets, crab traps, crab dredging, eel pots, lobster traps, duck blinds, and clam and oyster digging, fish aggregating devices, and small fish attraction devices such as open water fish concentrators (sea kites, etc.). This NWP does not authorize artificial reefs or impoundments and semi-impoundments of waters of the United States for the culture or holding of motile species such as lobster, or the use of covered oyster trays or clam racks. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 4 Regional Conditions – (2)

1. A pre-construction notification must be submitted to the district engineer (see NWP general condition 32) if the activity involves a discharge of dredged or fill material.

2. The harvest of clams by means of hydraulic escalator harvester equipment is not authorized by this NWP.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

5. Scientific Measurement Devices

Devices, whose purpose is to measure and record scientific data, such as staff gages, tide and current gages, meteorological stations, water recording and biological observation devices, water quality testing and improvement devices, and similar structures. Small weirs and flumes constructed primarily to record water quantity and velocity are also authorized provided the discharge of dredged or fill material is limited to 25 cubic yards. Upon completion of the use of the device to measure and record

scientific data, the measuring device and any other structures or fills associated with that device (e.g., foundations, anchors, buoys, lines, etc.) must be removed to the maximum extent practicable and the site restored to pre-construction elevations. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 5 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. A pre-construction notification must be submitted to the district engineer (see NWP general condition 32) for the construction of weirs and flumes.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

6. Survey Activities

Survey activities, such as core sampling, seismic exploratory operations, plugging of seismic shot holes and other exploratory-type bore holes, exploratory trenching, soil surveys, sampling, sample plots or transects for wetland delineations, and historic resources surveys. For the purposes of this NWP, the term "exploratory trenching" means mechanical land clearing of the upper soil profile to expose bedrock or substrate, for the purpose of mapping or sampling the exposed material. The area in which the exploratory trench is dug must be restored to its pre-construction elevation upon completion of the work and must not drain a water of the United States. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. This NWP authorizes the construction of temporary pads, provided the discharge of dredged or fill material does not exceed 1/10-acre in waters of the U.S. Discharges of dredged or fill material and structures associated with the recovery of historic resources are not authorized by this NWP. Drilling and the discharge of excavated material from test wells for oil and gas exploration are not authorized by this NWP; the plugging of such wells is authorized. Fill placed for roads and other similar activities is not authorized by this NWP. The NWP does not authorize any permanent structures. The discharge of drilling mud and cuttings may require a permit under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 6 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The project or activity involves oil or natural gas exploration; or

2. The project or activity requires trenching in wetlands.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required when the project involves:

1. Oil or natural gas exploration; or

2. Trenching in marine waters that could result in a discharge of greater than 25 cubic yards of material.

7. Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures

Activities related to the construction or modification of outfall structures and associated intake structures, where the effluent from the outfall is authorized, conditionally authorized, or specifically exempted by, or otherwise in compliance with regulations issued under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program (Section 402 of the Clean Water Act). The construction of intake structures is not authorized by this NWP unless they are directly associated with an authorized outfall structure.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 7 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

8. Oil and Gas Structures on the Outer Continental Shelf

Structures for the exploration, production, and transportation of oil, gas, and minerals on the outer continental shelf within areas leased for such purposes by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Such structures shall not be placed within the limits of any designated shipping safety fairway or traffic separation scheme, except temporary anchors that comply with the fairway regulations in 33 CFR 322.5(l). The district engineer will review such proposals to ensure compliance with the provisions of the fairway regulations in 33 CFR 322.5(l). Any Corps review under this NWP will be limited to the effects on navigation and national security in accordance with 33 CFR 322.5(f), as well as 33 CFR 322.5(l) and 33 CFR part 334. Such structures will not be placed in established danger zones or restricted areas as designated in 33 CFR part 334, nor will such structures be permitted in EPA or Corps-designated dredged material disposal areas.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 10)

NWP 8 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – The Corps did not request Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this NWP. See NWP general condition 25 – Water Quality.

9. Structures in Fleeting and Anchorage Areas

Structures, buoys, floats, and other devices placed within anchorage or fleeting areas to facilitate moorage of vessels where such areas have been established for that purpose. (Authority: Section 10)

NWP 9 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – The Corps did not request Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this NWP. See NWP general condition 25 – Water Quality.

10. Mooring Buoys

Non-commercial, single-boat, mooring buoys. (Authority: Section 10)

NWP 10 Regional Conditions – (4)

1. A pre-construction notification (PCN) must be submitted to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity (see NWP general condition 32). The PCN must include a map, aerial photo, or project drawing identifying all existing mooring buoys within a 250-foot radius of the proposed buoy.

2. NWP 10 must not be used in marine waters if it would result in a concentration of more than one mooring structure per acre, unless waived by the district engineer. Mooring structures include buoys, piers, floats, and boatlifts.

3. The buoy system must contain an embedded anchor and mid-line float where site conditions allow. If an embedded anchor cannot be used, the project proponent must provide a written statement with the PCN describing why site conditions prohibit use of an embedded anchor.

4. Mooring buoys must be permanently marked with the Corps reference number in print large enough to be read from a distance of 20 feet.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – The Corps did not request Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this NWP. See NWP general condition 25 – Water Quality.

11. Temporary Recreational Structures

Temporary buoys, markers, small floating docks, and similar structures placed for recreational use during specific events such as water skiing competitions and boat races or seasonal use, provided that such structures are removed within 30 days after use has been discontinued. At Corps of Engineers reservoirs, the reservoir managers must approve each buoy or marker individually. (Authority: Section 10)

NWP 11 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – The Corps did not request Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this NWP. See NWP general condition 25 – Water Quality.

12. Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline Activities

Activities required for the construction, maintenance, repair, and removal of oil and natural gas pipelines and associated facilities in waters of the United States, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States for each single and complete project.

*Oil or natural gas pipelines*: This NWP authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States and structures or work in navigable waters for crossings of those waters associated with the construction, maintenance, or repair of oil and natural gas pipelines. There must be no change in pre-construction contours of waters of the United States. An "oil or natural gas pipeline" is defined as any pipe or pipeline for the transportation of any form of oil or natural gas, including products derived from oil or natural gas, such as gasoline, jet fuel, diesel fuel. heating oil, petrochemical feedstocks, waxes, lubricating oils, and asphalt.

Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast into waters of the United States for no more than three months, provided the material is not placed in such a manner that it is dispersed by currents or other forces. The district engineer may extend the period of temporary side casting for no more than a total of 180 days, where appropriate. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. The trench cannot be constructed or backfilled in such a manner as to drain waters of the United States (e.g., backfilling with extensive gravel layers, creating a french drain effect). Any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the utility line crossing of each waterbody.

*Oil or natural gas pipeline substations*: This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or expansion of substation facilities (e.g., oil or natural gas or gaseous fuel custody transfer stations, boosting stations, compression stations, metering stations, pressure regulating stations) associated with an oil or natural gas pipeline in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters of the United States to construct, maintain, or expand substation facilities.

*Foundations for above-ground oil or natural gas pipelines*: This NWP authorizes the construction or maintenance of foundations for above-ground oil or natural gas pipelines in all waters of the United States, provided the foundations are the minimum size necessary.

*Access roads*: This NWP authorizes the construction of access roads for the construction and maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines, in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters for access roads. Access roads must be the minimum width necessary (see Note 2, below). Access roads must be constructed so that the length of the road minimizes any adverse effects on waters of the United States and must be as near as possible to pre-construction contours and elevations (e.g., at grade corduroy roads or geotextile/gravel roads). Access roads constructed above pre-construction contours and elevations in waters of the United States must be properly bridged or culverted to maintain surface flows.

This NWP may authorize oil or natural gas pipelines in or affecting navigable waters of the United States even if there is no associated discharge of dredged or fill material (see 33 CFR part 322). Oil or natural gas pipelines routed in, over, or under section 10 waters without a discharge of dredged or fill material may require a section 10 permit.

This NWP authorizes, to the extent that Department of the Army authorization is required, temporary structures, fills, and work necessary for the remediation of inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States through sub-soil fissures or fractures that might occur during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing oil or natural gas pipelines. These remediation activities must be done as soon as practicable, to restore the affected waterbody. District engineers may add special conditions to this NWP to require a remediation plan for addressing inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing oil or natural gas pipelines.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to conduct the oil or natural gas pipeline activity. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. After construction, temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) a section 10 permit is required; (2) the discharge will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States; or (3) the proposed oil or natural gas pipeline activity is associated with an overall project that is greater than 250 miles in length and the project purpose is to install new pipeline (vs. conduct repair or maintenance activities) along the majority of the distance of the overall project length. If the proposed oil or gas pipeline is greater than 250 miles in length, the pre-construction notification must include the locations and proposed impacts (in acres or other appropriate unit of measure) for all crossings of waters of the United States that require DA authorization, including those crossings authorized by an NWP would not otherwise require pre-construction notification. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note 1: Where the oil or natural gas pipeline is constructed, installed, or maintained in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) within the coastal United States, the Great Lakes, and United States territories, a copy of the NWP verification will be sent by the Corps to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), for charting the oil or natural gas pipeline to protect navigation.

Note 2: For oil or natural gas pipeline activities crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. Oil or natural gas pipeline activities must comply with 33 CFR 330.6(d).

Note 3: Access roads used for both construction and maintenance may be authorized, provided they meet the terms and conditions of this NWP. Access roads used solely for construction of the oil or natural gas pipeline must be removed upon completion of the work, in accordance with the requirements for temporary fills.

Note 4: Pipes or pipelines used to transport gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substances over navigable waters of the United States are considered to be bridges, and may require a permit from the U.S. Coast Guard pursuant to the General Bridge Act of 1946. However, any discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with such oil or natural gas pipelines will require a section 404 permit (see NWP 15).

Note 5: This NWP authorizes oil or natural gas pipeline maintenance and repair activities that do not qualify for the Clean Water Act section 404(f) exemption for maintenance of currently serviceable fills or fill structures.

Note 6: For NWP 12 activities that require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity,

including other separate and distant crossings that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). The district engineer will evaluate the PCN in accordance with Section D, "District Engineer's Decision." The district engineer may require mitigation to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see general condition 23).

NWP 12 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

13. Bank Stabilization

Bank stabilization activities necessary for erosion control or prevention, such as vegetative stabilization, bioengineering, sills, rip rap, revetment, gabion baskets, stream barbs, and bulkheads, or combinations of bank stabilization techniques, provided the activity meets all of the following criteria:

(a) No material is placed in excess of the minimum needed for erosion protection;

(b) The activity is no more than 500 feet in length along the bank, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the discharge of dredged or fill material will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects (an exception is for bulkheads – the district engineer cannot issue a waiver for a bulkhead that is greater than 1,000 feet in length along the bank);

(c) The activity will not exceed an average of one cubic yard per running foot, as measured along the length of the treated bank, below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the discharge of dredged or fill material will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;

(d) The activity does not involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the discharge of dredged or fill material will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;

(e) No material is of a type, or is placed in any location, or in any manner, that will impair surface water flow into or out of any waters of the United States;

(f) No material is placed in a manner that will be eroded by normal or expected high flows (properly anchored native trees and treetops may be used in low energy areas);

(g) Native plants appropriate for current site conditions, including salinity, must be used for bioengineering or vegetative bank stabilization;

(h) The activity is not a stream channelization activity; and

(i) The activity must be properly maintained, which may require repairing it after severe storms or erosion events. This NWP authorizes those maintenance and repair activities if they require authorization.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to construct the bank stabilization activity. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. After construction, temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if the bank stabilization activity: (1) involves discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites; or (2) is in excess of 500 feet in length; or (3) will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material of greater than an average of one cubic yard per running foot as measured along the length of the treated bank, below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note: In coastal waters and the Great Lakes, living shorelines may be an appropriate option for bank stabilization, and may be authorized by NWP 54.

NWP 13 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The project or activity includes new, complete replacement, or expansion of existing, bank stabilization measures in marine and estuarine waters of the Salish Sea; or

2. The project or activity has a length greater than 500 feet (individually or cumulatively) along the bank; or

3. The project or activity has not been designed and stamped by a Professional Engineer or Engineering Geologist; or

4. The project or activity exceeds an average of one cubic yard per running foot below the OHWM or High Tide Line.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required when the project will have:

1. The entire scope of the project is greater than 300 linear feet; or

2. The project includes hard armoring approaches; or

3. The project is in marine waters and has not completed the assessments set forth in the Marine Shoreline Design Guidelines (for projects proposed on tribal lands or lands of exclusive federal jurisdiction in Washington State); or

4. The project involves permanent fill in wetlands that are waters of the U.S.

14. Linear Transportation Projects

Activities required for crossings of waters of the United States associated with the construction, expansion, modification, or improvement of linear transportation projects (e.g., roads, highways, railways, trails, driveways, airport runways, and taxiways) in waters of the United States. For linear transportation projects in non-tidal waters, the discharge of dredged or fill material cannot cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. For linear transportation projects in tidal waters, the discharge of dredged or fill material cannot cause the loss of greater than 1/3-acre of waters of the United States. Any stream channel modification, including bank stabilization, is limited to the minimum necessary to construct or protect the linear transportation project; such modifications must be in the immediate vicinity of the project.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to construct the linear transportation project. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

This NWP cannot be used to authorize non-linear features commonly associated with transportation projects, such as vehicle maintenance or storage buildings, parking lots, train stations, or aircraft hangars.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) the loss of waters of the United States exceeds 1/10-acre; or (2) there is a discharge of dredged or fill material in a special aquatic site, including wetlands. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note 1: For linear transportation projects crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. Linear transportation projects must comply with 33 CFR 330.6(d).

Note 2: Some discharges of dredged or fill material for the construction of farm roads or forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining equipment, may qualify for an exemption under Section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act (see 33 CFR 323.4).

Note 3: For NWP 14 activities that require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). The district engineer will evaluate the PCN in accordance with Section D, "District Engineer's Decision." The district engineer may require mitigation to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see general condition 23).

NWP 14 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. A pre-construction notification must be submitted to the district engineer (see NWP general condition 32) for linear transportation project crossings in tidal waters.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

1. Ecology WQC review is required if the project or activity is in a known contaminated or cleanup site to determine if an individual WQC is required or the project meets the programmatic WQC for this NWP.

2. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

a. The project or activity impacts more than 1/3rd acre of waters; or

b. This NWP is authorized in conjunction with any other NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

2. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if there is a pre-emption of local or state permit requirements necessary to demonstrate compliance with the CZMP enforceable policies.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required for projects authorized under one or more NWP by the Corps that result(s) in:

1. Greater than 1/10 acre of impacts to waters of the U.S.; or

2. Greater than 300 linear feet of impacts to waters of the U.S.

15. U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges

Discharges of dredged or fill material incidental to the construction of a bridge across navigable waters of the United States, including cofferdams, abutments, foundation seals, piers, and temporary construction and access fills, provided the construction of the bridge structure has been authorized by the U.S. Coast Guard under Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 or other applicable laws. Causeways and approach

fills are not included in this NWP and will require a separate Clean Water Act Section 404 permit. (Authority: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404))

NWP 15 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The project or activity triggers an individual U.S. Coast Guard bridge permit.

Note: An Advance Approval from the U.S. Coast Guard is not considered a bridge permit and would not require Ecology individual Water Quality Certification.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if an individual Water Quality Certification is required.

2. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if there is a pre-emption of local or state permit requirements necessary to demonstrate compliance with the CZMP enforceable policies.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

16. Return Water From Upland Contained Disposal Areas

Return water from an upland contained dredged material disposal area. The return water from a contained disposal area is administratively defined as a discharge of dredged material by 33 CFR 323.2(d), even though the disposal itself occurs in an area that has no waters of the United States and does not require a section 404 permit. This NWP satisfies the technical requirement for a section 404 permit for the return water where the quality of the return water is controlled by the state through the Clean Water Act Section 401 certification procedures. The dredging activity may require a section 404 permit (33 CFR 323.2(d)), and will require a section 10 permit if located in navigable waters of the United States. (Authority: Section 404)

NWP 16 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required when the project or activity is in or adjoining a designated federal or state contaminated or cleanup site where:

1. Cleanup has not yet occurred; or

2. Where contamination has been left in place.

17. Hydropower Projects

Discharges of dredged or fill material associated with hydropower projects having: (a) Less than 10,000 kW of total generating capacity at existing reservoirs, where the project, including the fill, is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under the Federal Power Act of 1920, as amended; or (b) a licensing exemption granted by the FERC pursuant to Section 408 of the Energy Security Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2705 and 2708) and Section 30 of the Federal Power Act, as amended.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 404)

NWP 17 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. Project proponents must submit documentation of their FERC license or exemption as part of the pre-construction notification.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required when the project will have:

1. Greater than 1/10 acre of impacts to waters of the U.S.; or

2. Greater than 300 linear feet of impacts to waters of the U.S.

18. Minor Discharges

Minor discharges of dredged or fill material into all waters of the United States, provided the activity meets all of the following criteria:

(a) The quantity of discharged dredged or fill material and the volume of area excavated do not exceed 25 cubic yards below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line;

(b) The discharge of dredged or fill material will not cause the loss of more than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States; and

(c) The discharge of dredged or fill material is not placed for the purpose of a stream diversion.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) the discharge of dredged or fill material or the volume of area excavated exceeds 10 cubic yards below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line, or (2) the discharge of dredged or fill material is in a special aquatic site, including wetlands. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 18 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

19. Minor Dredging

Dredging of no more than 25 cubic yards below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the mean high water mark from navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters). This NWP does not authorize the dredging or degradation through siltation of coral reefs, sites that support submerged aquatic vegetation (including sites where submerged aquatic vegetation is documented to exist but may not be present in a given year), anadromous fish spawning areas, or wetlands, or the connection of canals or other artificial waterways to navigable waters of the United States (see 33 CFR 322.5(g)). All dredged material must be deposited and retained in an area that has no waters of the United States unless otherwise specifically approved by the district engineer under separate authorization. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 19 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. A pre-construction notification must be submitted to the district engineer (see NWP general condition 32) for dredging proposed to occur in special aquatic sites (i.e., wetlands, vegetated shallows, riffle and pool complexes, or mudflats).

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

1. Ecology WQC review is required if the project or activity is in a known contaminated or cleanup site to determine if an individual WQC is required or the project meets the programmatic WQC for this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required when the project or activity is in or adjoining a designated federal or state contaminated or cleanup site where:

1. Cleanup has not yet occurred; or

2. Where contamination has been left in place.

20. Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances

Activities conducted in response to a discharge or release of oil or hazardous substances that are subject to the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (40 CFR part 300) including containment, cleanup, and mitigation efforts, provided that the activities are done under either: (1) the Spill Control and Countermeasure Plan required by 40 CFR 112.3; (2) the direction or oversight of the federal on-scene coordinator designated by 40 CFR part 300; or (3) any approved existing state, regional or local contingency plan provided that the Regional Response Team (if one exists in the area) concurs with the proposed response efforts. This NWP also authorizes activities required for the cleanup of oil releases in waters of the United States from electrical equipment that are governed by EPA's polychlorinated biphenyl spill response regulations at 40 CFR part 761. This NWP also authorizes the use of temporary structures and fills in waters of the U.S. for spill response training exercises. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 20 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

21. Surface Coal Mining Activities

Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with surface coal mining and reclamation operations, provided the following criteria are met:

(a) The activities are already authorized, or are currently being processed by states with approved programs under Title V of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 or by the Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement;

(b) The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into tidal waters or non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters; and

(c) The discharge is not associated with the construction of valley fills. A "valley fill" is a fill structure that is typically constructed within valleys associated with steep, mountainous terrain, associated with surface coal mining activities.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 21 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

22. Removal of Vessels

Temporary structures or minor discharges of dredged or fill material required for the removal of wrecked, abandoned, or disabled vessels, or the removal of man-made

obstructions to navigation. This NWP does not authorize maintenance dredging, shoal removal, or riverbank snagging.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) the vessel is listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; or (2) the activity is conducted in a special aquatic site, including coral reefs and wetlands. (See general condition 32.) If the vessel is listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the permittee cannot commence the activity until informed by the district engineer that compliance with the "Historic Properties" general condition is completed. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note 1: Intentional ocean disposal of vessels at sea requires a permit from the U.S. EPA under the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, which specifies that ocean disposal should only be pursued when land-based alternatives are not available. If a Department of the Army permit is required for vessel disposal in waters of the United States, separate authorization will be required.

Note 2: Compliance with general condition 18, Endangered Species, and general condition 20, Historic Properties, is required for all NWPs. The concern with historic properties is emphasized in the notification requirements for this NWP because of the possibility that shipwrecks may be historic properties.

NWP 22 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

23. Approved Categorical Exclusions

Activities undertaken, assisted, authorized, regulated, funded, or financed, in whole or in part, by another Federal agency or department where:

(a) That agency or department has determined, pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR part 1500 et seq.), that the activity is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment analysis, because it is included within a category of actions which neither individually nor cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment; and

(b) The Office of the Chief of Engineers (Attn: CECW-CO) has concurred with that agency's or department's determination that the activity is categorically excluded and approved the activity for authorization under NWP 23.

The Office of the Chief of Engineers may require additional conditions, including pre-construction notification, for authorization of an agency's categorical exclusions under this NWP.

Notification: Certain categorical exclusions approved for authorization under this NWP require the permittee to submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity (see general condition 32). The activities that require pre-construction notification are listed in the appropriate Regulatory Guidance Letter(s). (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note: The agency or department may submit an application for an activity believed to be categorically excluded to the Office of the Chief of Engineers (Attn: CECW-CO). Prior to approval for authorization under this NWP of any agency's activity, the Office of the Chief of Engineers will solicit public comment. As of the date of issuance of this NWP, agencies with approved categorical exclusions are: the Bureau of Reclamation, Federal Highway Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard. Activities approved for authorization under this NWP as of the date of this notice are found in Corps Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-07. Any future approved categorical exclusions will be announced in Regulatory Guidance Letters and posted on this same web site.

NWP 23 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. A pre-construction notification (PCN) must be submitted to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity (see NWP general condition 32). The PCN must include a statement or form bearing the signature of an official of the Federal agency that issued the categorical exclusion, or of an official with delegated authority from that Federal agency verifying the proposed work is categorically excluded.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The project or activity has fill impacts to waters greater than 1/2 acre.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required when the project will have:

1. Greater than 1/10 acre of impacts to waters of the U.S.; or

2. Greater than 300 linear feet of impacts to waters of the U.S.

24. Indian Tribe or State Administered Section 404 Programs

Any activity permitted by a state or Indian Tribe administering its own section 404 permit program pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1344(g)-(l) is permitted pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. (Authority: Section 10)

Note 1: As of the date of the promulgation of this NWP, only Florida, New Jersey and Michigan administer their own Clean Water Act Section 404 permit programs.

Note 2: Those activities that do not involve an Indian Tribe or State Clean Water Act Section 404 permit are not included in this NWP, but certain structures will be exempted by Section 154 of Pub. L. 94-587, 90 Stat. 2917 (33 U.S.C. 591) (see 33 CFR 322.4(b)).

NWP 24 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – The Corps did not request Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – This NWP is not used in Washington State.

**EPA 401 Certification** – The Corps did not request Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this NWP.

*User Note: This NWP is not used in Washington State.*

25. Structural Discharges

Discharges of dredged or fill material such as concrete, sand, rock, etc., into tightly sealed forms or cells where the material will be used as a structural member for standard pile supported structures, such as bridges, transmission line footings, and walkways, or for general navigation, such as mooring cells, including the excavation of bottom material from within the form prior to the discharge of concrete, sand, rock, etc. This NWP does not authorize filled structural members that would support buildings, building pads, homes, house pads, parking areas, storage areas and other such structures. The structure itself may require a separate section 10 permit if located in navigable waters of the United States. (Authority: Section 404)

NWP 25 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

26. [Reserved]

27. Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Establishment Activities

Activities in waters of the United States associated with the restoration, enhancement, and establishment of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and riparian areas, the restoration and enhancement of non-tidal streams and other non-tidal open waters, and the rehabilitation or enhancement of tidal streams, tidal wetlands, and tidal open waters, provided those activities result in net increases in aquatic resource functions and services.

To be authorized by this NWP, the aquatic habitat restoration, enhancement, or establishment activity must be planned, designed, and implemented so that it results in aquatic habitat that resembles an ecological reference. An ecological reference may be based on the characteristics of one or more intact aquatic habitats or riparian areas of the same type that exist in the region. An ecological reference may be based on a conceptual model developed from regional ecological knowledge of the target aquatic habitat type or riparian area.

To the extent that a Corps permit is required, activities authorized by this NWP include, but are not limited to the removal of accumulated sediments; releases of sediment from reservoirs to maintain sediment transport continuity to restore downstream habitats; the installation, removal, and maintenance of small water control structures, dikes, and berms, as well as discharges of dredged or fill material to restore appropriate stream channel configurations after small water control structures, dikes, and berms are removed; the installation of current deflectors; the enhancement, rehabilitation, or re-establishment of riffle and pool stream structure; the placement of in-stream habitat structures; modifications of the stream bed and/or banks to enhance, rehabilitate, or re-establish stream meanders; the removal of stream barriers, such as undersized culverts, fords, and grade control structures; the backfilling of artificial channels; the removal of existing drainage structures, such as drain tiles, and the filling, blocking, or reshaping of drainage ditches to restore wetland hydrology; the installation of structures or fills necessary to restore or enhance wetland or stream hydrology; the construction of small nesting islands; the construction of open water areas; the construction of oyster

habitat over unvegetated bottom in tidal waters; coral restoration or relocation activities; shellfish seeding; activities needed to reestablish vegetation, including plowing or discing for seed bed preparation and the planting of appropriate wetland species; re-establishment of submerged aquatic vegetation in areas where those plant communities previously existed; re-establishment of tidal wetlands in tidal waters where those wetlands previously existed; mechanized land clearing to remove non-native invasive, exotic, or nuisance vegetation; and other related activities. Only native plant species should be planted at the site.

This NWP authorizes the relocation of non-tidal waters, including non-tidal wetlands and streams, on the project site provided there are net increases in aquatic resource functions and services.

Except for the relocation of non-tidal waters on the project site, this NWP does not authorize the conversion of a stream or natural wetlands to another aquatic habitat type (e.g., the conversion of a stream to wetland or vice versa) or uplands. Changes in wetland plant communities that occur when wetland hydrology is more fully restored during wetland rehabilitation activities are not considered a conversion to another aquatic habitat type. This NWP does not authorize stream channelization. This NWP does not authorize the relocation of tidal waters or the conversion of tidal waters, including tidal wetlands, to other aquatic uses, such as the conversion of tidal wetlands into open water impoundments.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for activities authorized by this NWP since these activities must result in net increases in aquatic resource functions and services.

*Reversion*. For enhancement, restoration, and establishment activities conducted: (1) In accordance with the terms and conditions of a binding stream or wetland enhancement or restoration agreement, or a wetland establishment agreement, between the landowner and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the National Ocean Service (NOS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), or their designated state cooperating agencies; (2) as voluntary wetland restoration, enhancement, and establishment actions documented by the NRCS or USDA Technical Service Provider pursuant to NRCS Field Office Technical Guide standards; or (3) on reclaimed surface coal mine lands, in accordance with a Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act permit issued by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) or the applicable state agency, this NWP also authorizes any future discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the reversion of the area to its documented prior condition and use (i.e., prior to the restoration, enhancement, or establishment activities). The reversion must occur within five years after expiration of a limited term wetland restoration or establishment agreement or permit, and is authorized in these circumstances even if the discharge of dredged or fill material occurs after this NWP expires. The five-year reversion limit does not apply to agreements without time limits reached between the landowner and the FWS, NRCS,

FSA, NMFS, NOS, USFS, or an appropriate state cooperating agency. This NWP also authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States for the reversion of wetlands that were restored, enhanced, or established on prior-converted cropland or on uplands, in accordance with a binding agreement between the landowner and NRCS, FSA, FWS, or their designated state cooperating agencies (even though the restoration, enhancement, or establishment activity did not require a section 404 permit). The prior condition will be documented in the original agreement or permit, and the determination of return to prior conditions will be made by the Federal agency or appropriate state agency executing the agreement or permit. Before conducting any reversion activity, the permittee or the appropriate Federal or state agency must notify the district engineer and include the documentation of the prior condition. Once an area has reverted to its prior physical condition, it will be subject to whatever the Corps Regulatory requirements are applicable to that type of land at the time. The requirement that the activity results in a net increase in aquatic resource functions and services does not apply to reversion activities meeting the above conditions. Except for the activities described above, this NWP does not authorize any future discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the reversion of the area to its prior condition. In such cases a separate permit would be required for any reversion.

Reporting. For those activities that do not require pre-construction notification, the permittee must submit to the district engineer a copy of: (1) the binding stream enhancement or restoration agreement or wetland enhancement, restoration, or establishment agreement, or a project description, including project plans and location map; (2) the NRCS or USDA Technical Service Provider documentation for the voluntary stream enhancement or restoration action or wetland restoration, enhancement, or establishment action; or (3) the SMCRA permit issued by OSMRE or the applicable state agency. The report must also include information on baseline ecological conditions on the project site, such as a delineation of wetlands, streams, and/or other aquatic habitats. These documents must be submitted to the district engineer at least 30 days prior to commencing activities in waters of the United States authorized by this NWP.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing any activity (see general condition 32), except for the following activities:

(1) Activities conducted on non-Federal public lands and private lands, in accordance with the terms and conditions of a binding stream enhancement or restoration agreement or wetland enhancement, restoration, or establishment agreement between the landowner and the FWS, NRCS, FSA, NMFS, NOS, USFS or their designated state cooperating agencies;

(2) Activities conducted in accordance with the terms and conditions of a binding coral restoration or relocation agreement between the project proponent and the NMFS or any of its designated state cooperating agencies;

(3) Voluntary stream or wetland restoration or enhancement action, or wetland establishment action, documented by the NRCS or USDA Technical Service Provider pursuant to NRCS Field Office Technical Guide standards; or

(4) The reclamation of surface coal mine lands, in accordance with an SMCRA permit issued by the OSMRE or the applicable state agency.

However, the permittee must submit a copy of the appropriate documentation to the district engineer to fulfill the reporting requirement. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note: This NWP can be used to authorize compensatory mitigation projects, including mitigation banks and in-lieu fee projects. However, this NWP does not authorize the reversion of an area used for a compensatory mitigation project to its prior condition, since compensatory mitigation is generally intended to be permanent.

NWP 27 Regional Conditions – (5)

1. A pre-construction notification (PCN) must be submitted to the district engineer (see NWP general condition 32) for any proposed project located in a Department of the Army permit compensatory mitigation site, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund) site, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste clean-up site, Washington State Department of Ecology compensatory mitigation site, or Washington State Model Toxics Control Act clean-up site.

2. For projects subject to PCN, if there is a loss of waters of the U.S. the project proponent must explain in the PCN why the loss is necessary. The project proponent must also demonstrate how despite the loss of waters the overall project would result in a net increase in aquatic/ecological functions.

3. The PCN must contain a description of pre-project site conditions including presence of wetlands (including photographs) and aquatic/ecological functions the site provides within the watershed.

4. For projects that would result in a loss of waters of the U.S., the project proponent must include maintenance and monitoring plans with the PCN.

5. Restoration projects involving shellfish seeding must use shellfish native to the watershed.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

1. Ecology WQC review is required if the project or activity is in a known

contaminated or cleanup site to determine if an individual WQC is required or the project meets the programmatic WQC for this NWP.

2. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

a. The project or activity directly impacts 1/2 acre or more of tidal waters; or

b. The project or activity affects 1/2 acre or more of wetlands; or

c. The project or activity is a mitigation bank or an advance mitigation site.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required when the project:

1. Involves dam removal; or

2. Involves greater than 1 acre of impacts to waters of the U.S.; or

3. Would impact greater than 500 linear feet of waters of the U.S.; or

4. Involves greater than 1/2 acre of impacts to tidal wetlands or waters.

28. Modifications of Existing Marinas

Reconfiguration of existing docking facilities within an authorized marina area. No dredging, additional slips, dock spaces, or expansion of any kind within waters of the United States is authorized by this NWP. (Authority: Section 10)

NWP 28 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. A pre-construction notification (PCN) must be submitted to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity (see NWP general condition 32).

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

1. For projects or activities that have a potential to discharge to waters and/or have a potential to re-suspend sediments, Ecology WQC review is required if the

project or activity is in or adjoining a known contaminated or cleanup site to determine if an individual WQC is required or the project meets the programmatic WQC for this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – The Corps did not request Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this NWP. See NWP general condition 25 – Water Quality.

29. Residential Developments

Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction or expansion of a single residence, a multiple unit residential development, or a residential subdivision. This NWP authorizes the construction of building foundations and building pads and attendant features that are necessary for the use of the residence or residential development. Attendant features may include but are not limited to roads, parking lots, garages, yards, utility lines, storm water management facilities, septic fields, and recreation facilities such as playgrounds, playing fields, and golf courses (provided the golf course is an integral part of the residential development).

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

*Subdivisions*: For residential subdivisions, the aggregate total loss of waters of United States authorized by this NWP cannot exceed 1/2-acre. This includes any loss of waters of the United States associated with development of individual subdivision lots.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 29 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. Pre-construction notification must identify if the project is an individual lot within a subdivision or part of a multiphase development.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The residential development has impacts to waters greater than 1/4 acre; or

2. The project is a subdivision. (NOTE: “Subdivision” is the division or redivision of land into lots, tracts, parcels, sites, or divisions for the purpose of sale, lease, or transfer of ownership); or

3. This NWP is authorized in conjunction with any other NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

30. Moist Soil Management for Wildlife

Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States and maintenance activities that are associated with moist soil management for wildlife for the purpose of continuing ongoing, site-specific, wildlife management activities where soil manipulation is used to manage habitat and feeding areas for wildlife. Such activities include, but are not limited to, plowing or discing to impede succession, preparing seed beds, or establishing fire breaks. Sufficient riparian areas must be maintained adjacent to all open water bodies, including streams, to preclude water quality degradation due to erosion and sedimentation. This NWP does not authorize the construction of new dikes, roads, water control structures, or similar features associated with the management areas. The activity must not result in a net loss of aquatic resource functions and services. This NWP does not authorize the conversion of wetlands to uplands, impoundments, or other open water bodies. (Authority: Section 404)

Note: The repair, maintenance, or replacement of existing water control structures or the repair or maintenance of dikes may be authorized by NWP 3. Some such activities may qualify for an exemption under Section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act (see 33 CFR 323.4).

NWP 30 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology’s state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA’s WQC general conditions.

31. Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities

Discharges of dredged or fill material resulting from activities associated with the maintenance of existing flood control facilities, including debris basins, retention/detention basins, levees, and channels that: (i) were previously authorized by the Corps by individual permit, general permit, or 33 CFR 330.3, or did not require a permit at the time they were constructed, or (ii) were constructed by the Corps and transferred to a non-Federal sponsor for operation and maintenance. Activities authorized by this NWP are limited to those resulting from maintenance activities that are conducted within the "maintenance baseline," as described in the definition below. Discharges of dredged or fill materials associated with maintenance activities in flood control facilities in any watercourse that have previously been determined to be within the maintenance baseline are authorized under this NWP. To the extent that a Corps permit is required, this NWP authorizes the removal of vegetation from levees associated with the flood control project. This NWP does not authorize the removal of sediment and associated vegetation from natural water courses except when these activities have been included in the maintenance baseline. All dredged and excavated material must be deposited and retained in an area that has no waters of the United States unless otherwise specifically approved by the district engineer under separate authorization. Proper sediment controls must be used.

*Maintenance Baseline*: The maintenance baseline is a description of the physical characteristics (e.g., depth, width, length, location, configuration, or design flood capacity, etc.) of a flood control project within which maintenance activities are normally authorized by NWP 31, subject to any case-specific conditions required by the district engineer. The district engineer will approve the maintenance baseline based on the approved or constructed capacity of the flood control facility, whichever is smaller, including any areas where there are no constructed channels but which are part of the facility. The prospective permittee will provide documentation of the physical characteristics of the flood control facility (which will normally consist of as-built or approved drawings) and documentation of the approved and constructed design capacities of the flood control facility. If no evidence of the constructed capacity exists, the approved capacity will be used. The documentation will also include best management practices to ensure that the adverse environmental impacts caused by the maintenance activities are no more than minimal, especially in maintenance areas where there are no constructed channels. (The Corps may request maintenance records in areas where there has not been recent maintenance.) Revocation or modification of the final determination of the maintenance baseline can only be done in accordance with 33 CFR 330.5. Except in emergencies as described below, this NWP cannot be used until the district engineer approves the maintenance baseline and determines the need for mitigation and any regional or activity-specific conditions. Once determined, the maintenance baseline will remain valid for any subsequent reissuance of this NWP. This NWP does not authorize maintenance of a flood control facility that has been abandoned. A flood control facility will be considered abandoned if it has

operated at a significantly reduced capacity without needed maintenance being accomplished in a timely manner. A flood control facility will not be considered abandoned if the prospective permittee is in the process of obtaining other authorizations or approvals required for maintenance activities and is experiencing delays in obtaining those authorizations or approvals.

*Mitigation*: The district engineer will determine any required mitigation one-time only for impacts associated with maintenance work at the same time that the maintenance baseline is approved. Such one-time mitigation will be required when necessary to ensure that adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal, both individually and cumulatively. Such mitigation will only be required once for any specific reach of a flood control project. However, if one-time mitigation is required for impacts associated with maintenance activities, the district engineer will not delay needed maintenance, provided the district engineer and the permittee establish a schedule for identification, approval, development, construction and completion of any such required mitigation. Once the one-time mitigation described above has been completed, or a determination made that mitigation is not required, no further mitigation will be required for maintenance activities within the maintenance baseline (see Note, below). In determining appropriate mitigation, the district engineer will give special consideration to natural water courses that have been included in the maintenance baseline and require mitigation and/or best management practices as appropriate.

*Emergency Situations*: In emergency situations, this NWP may be used to authorize maintenance activities in flood control facilities for which no maintenance baseline has been approved. Emergency situations are those which would result in an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship if action is not taken before a maintenance baseline can be approved. In such situations, the determination of mitigation requirements, if any, may be deferred until the emergency has been resolved. Once the emergency has ended, a maintenance baseline must be established expeditiously, and mitigation, including mitigation for maintenance conducted during the emergency, must be required as appropriate.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer before any maintenance work is conducted (see general condition 32). The pre-construction notification may be for activity-specific maintenance or for maintenance of the entire flood control facility by submitting a five-year (or less) maintenance plan. The pre-construction notification must include a description of the maintenance baseline and the disposal site for dredged or excavated material. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note: If the maintenance baseline was approved by the district engineer under a prior version of NWP 31, and the district engineer imposed the one-time compensatory mitigation requirement on maintenance for a specific reach of a flood control project authorized by that prior version of NWP 31, during the period this version of NWP 31 is

in effect, the district engineer will not require additional compensatory mitigation for maintenance activities authorized by this NWP in that specific reach of the flood control project.

NWP 31 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

32. Completed Enforcement Actions

Any structure, work, or discharge of dredged or fill material remaining in place or undertaken for mitigation, restoration, or environmental benefit in compliance with either:

(i) The terms of a final written Corps non-judicial settlement agreement resolving a violation of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; or the terms of an EPA 309(a) order on consent resolving a violation of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, provided that:

(a) The activities authorized by this NWP cannot adversely affect more than 5 acres of non-tidal waters or 1 acre of tidal waters;

(b) The settlement agreement provides for environmental benefits, to an equal or greater degree, than the environmental detriments caused by the unauthorized activity that is authorized by this NWP; and

(c) The district engineer issues a verification letter authorizing the activity subject to the terms and conditions of this NWP and the settlement agreement, including a specified completion date; or

(ii) The terms of a final Federal court decision, consent decree, or settlement agreement resulting from an enforcement action brought by the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; or

(iii) The terms of a final court decision, consent decree, settlement agreement, or non-judicial settlement agreement resulting from a natural resource damage claim brought by a trustee or trustees for natural resources (as defined by the National Contingency Plan at 40 CFR subpart G) under Section 311 of the Clean Water Act, Section 107 of

the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, Section 312 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, Section 1002 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, or the Park System Resource Protection Act at 16 U.S.C. 19jj, to the extent that a Corps permit is required.

Compliance is a condition of the NWP itself; non-compliance of the terms and conditions of an NWP 32 authorization may result in an additional enforcement action (e.g., a Class I civil administrative penalty). Any authorization under this NWP is automatically revoked if the permittee does not comply with the terms of this NWP or the terms of the court decision, consent decree, or judicial/non-judicial settlement agreement. This NWP does not apply to any activities occurring after the date of the decision, decree, or agreement that are not for the purpose of mitigation, restoration, or environmental benefit. Before reaching any settlement agreement, the Corps will ensure compliance with the provisions of 33 CFR part 326 and 33 CFR 330.6(d)(2) and (e). (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 32 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

33. Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering

Temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, necessary for construction activities or access fills or dewatering of construction sites, provided that the associated primary activity is authorized by the Corps of Engineers or the U.S. Coast Guard. This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, necessary for construction activities not otherwise subject to the Corps or U.S. Coast Guard permit requirements. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain near normal downstream flows and to minimize flooding. Fill must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. The use of dredged material may be allowed if the district engineer determines that it will not cause more than minimal adverse environmental effects. Following completion of construction, temporary fill must be entirely removed to an area that has no waters of the United States, dredged material must be returned to its original location, and the affected areas must be restored to pre-construction elevations. The affected areas must also be revegetated, as appropriate. This permit does not authorize the use of cofferdams to dewater wetlands or other aquatic areas to change their use. Structures left in place

after construction is completed require a separate section 10 permit if located in navigable waters of the United States. (See 33 CFR part 322.)

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if the activity is conducted in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) (see general condition 32). The pre-construction notification must include a restoration plan showing how all temporary fills and structures will be removed and the area restored to pre-project conditions. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 33 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

34. Cranberry Production Activities

Discharges of dredged or fill material for dikes, berms, pumps, water control structures or leveling of cranberry beds associated with expansion, enhancement, or modification activities at existing cranberry production operations. The cumulative total acreage of disturbance per cranberry production operation, including but not limited to, filling, flooding, ditching, or clearing, must not exceed 10 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands. The activity must not result in a net loss of wetland acreage. This NWP does not authorize any discharge of dredged or fill material related to other cranberry production activities such as warehouses, processing facilities, or parking areas. For the purposes of this NWP, the cumulative total of 10 acres will be measured over the period that this NWP is valid.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer once during the period that this NWP is valid, and the NWP will then authorize discharges of dredge or fill material at an existing operation for the permit term, provided the 10-acre limit is not exceeded. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 404)

NWP 34 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The project or activity is a new, or expansion of existing cranberry operations.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

35. Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins

The removal of accumulated sediment for maintenance of existing marina basins, access channels to marinas or boat slips, and boat slips to previously authorized depths or controlling depths for ingress/egress, whichever is less. All dredged material must be deposited and retained in an area that has no waters of the United States unless otherwise specifically approved by the district engineer under separate authorization. Proper sediment controls must be used for the disposal site. (Authority: Section 10)

NWP 35 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. A pre-construction notification (PCN) must be submitted to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity (see NWP general condition 32).

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

1. For projects or activities that have a potential to discharge to waters and/or have a potential to re-suspend sediments, Ecology WQC review is required if the project or activity is in or adjoining a known contaminated or cleanup site to determine if an individual WQC is required or the project meets the programmatic WQC for this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – The Corps did not request Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this NWP. See NWP general condition 25 – Water Quality.

36. Boat Ramps

Activities required for the construction, repair, or replacement of boat ramps, provided the activity meets all of the following criteria:

(a) The discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States does not exceed 50 cubic yards of concrete, rock, crushed stone or gravel into forms, or in the form of pre-cast concrete planks or slabs, unless the district engineer waives the 50 cubic yard limit by making a written determination concluding that the discharge of dredged or fill material will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;

(b) The boat ramp does not exceed 20 feet in width, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the discharge of dredged or fill material will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;

(c) The base material is crushed stone, gravel or other suitable material;

(d) The excavation is limited to the area necessary for site preparation and all excavated material is removed to an area that has no waters of the United States; and,

(e) No material is placed in special aquatic sites, including wetlands.

The use of unsuitable material that is structurally unstable is not authorized. If dredging in navigable waters of the United States is necessary to provide access to the boat ramp, the dredging must be authorized by another NWP, a regional general permit, or an individual permit.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) The discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States exceeds 50 cubic yards, or (2) the boat ramp exceeds 20 feet in width. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 36 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. A pre-construction notification (PCN) must be submitted to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity (see NWP general condition 32).

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

1. Ecology WQC review is required if the project or activity is in a known contaminated or cleanup site to determine if an individual WQC is required or the

project meets the programmatic WQC for this NWP.

2. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if the project or activity involves poured- in- place concrete below the OHWM or High Tide Line.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required when the project:

1. Exceeds 20 feet in width; or

2. Will occur in or adjoining a designated federal or state contaminated or cleanup site where:

a. cleanup has not yet occurred; or

b. where contamination has been left in place.

37. Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation

Work done by or funded by:

(a) The Natural Resources Conservation Service for a situation requiring immediate action under its emergency Watershed Protection Program (7 CFR part 624);

(b) The U.S. Forest Service under its Burned-Area Emergency Rehabilitation Handbook (FSH 2509.13);

(c) The Department of the Interior for wildland fire management burned area emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (DOI Manual part 620, Ch. 3);

(d) The Office of Surface Mining, or states with approved programs, for abandoned mine land reclamation activities under Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (30 CFR subchapter R), where the activity does not involve coal extraction; or

(e) The Farm Service Agency under its Emergency Conservation Program (7 CFR part 701).

In general, the permittee should wait until the district engineer issues an NWP verification or 45 calendar days have passed before proceeding with the watershed protection and rehabilitation activity. However, in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur, the emergency watershed protection and rehabilitation activity may proceed immediately and the district engineer will consider the information in the pre-construction notification and any comments received as a result of agency coordination to decide whether the NWP 37 authorization should be modified, suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedures at 33 CFR 330.5.

Notification: Except in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity (see general condition 32). (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 37 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

38. Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste

Specific activities required to effect the containment, stabilization, or removal of hazardous or toxic waste materials that are performed, ordered, or sponsored by a government agency with established legal or regulatory authority. Court ordered remedial action plans or related settlements are also authorized by this NWP. This NWP does not authorize the establishment of new disposal sites or the expansion of existing sites used for the disposal of hazardous or toxic waste.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note: Activities undertaken entirely on a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) site by authority of CERCLA as approved or required by EPA, are not required to obtain permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

NWP 38 Regional Conditions – None

1. Non-government project proponents must submit a copy of court ordered remedial plans or related settlements with the pre-construction notification.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The project or activity is not authorized though a Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) order or a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) order.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

39. Commercial and Institutional Developments

Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction or expansion of commercial and institutional building foundations and building pads and attendant features that are necessary for the use and maintenance of the structures. Attendant features may include, but are not limited to, roads, parking lots, garages, yards, utility lines, storm water management facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, and recreation facilities such as playgrounds and playing fields. Examples of commercial developments include retail stores, industrial facilities, restaurants, business parks, and shopping centers. Examples of institutional developments include schools, fire stations, government office buildings, judicial buildings, public works buildings, libraries, hospitals, and places of worship. The construction of new golf courses and new ski areas is not authorized by this NWP.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note: For any activity that involves the construction of a wind energy generating structure, solar tower, or overhead transmission line, a copy of the PCN and NWP

verification will be provided by the Corps to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.

NWP 39 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. Pre-construction notification must identify if the project is an individual lot within a subdivision or part of a multiphase development.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The project or activity affects 1/4 acre or more of waters; or

2. This NWP is authorized in conjunction with any other NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

40. Agricultural Activities

Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for agricultural activities, including the construction of building pads for farm buildings. Authorized activities include the installation, placement, or construction of drainage tiles, ditches, or levees; mechanized land clearing; land leveling; the relocation of existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in waters of the United States; and similar activities.

This NWP also authorizes the construction of farm ponds in non-tidal waters of the United States, excluding perennial streams, provided the farm pond is used solely for agricultural purposes. This NWP does not authorize the construction of aquaculture ponds.

This NWP also authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal jurisdictional waters of the United States to relocate existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in non-tidal streams.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 404)

Note: Some discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States for agricultural activities may qualify for an exemption under Section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act (see 33 CFR 323.4). This NWP authorizes the construction of farm ponds that do not qualify for the Clean Water Act section 404(f)(1)(C) exemption because of the recapture provision at section 404(f)(2).

NWP 40 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The project or activity involves fill or mechanized clearing impacting more than 1/4 acre of waters.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

41. Reshaping Existing Drainage and Irrigation Ditches

Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States, excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters, to modify the cross-sectional configuration of currently serviceable drainage and irrigation ditches constructed in waters of the United States, for the purpose of improving water quality by regrading the drainage or irrigation ditch with gentler slopes, which can reduce erosion, increase growth of vegetation, and increase uptake of nutrients and other substances by vegetation. The reshaping of the drainage ditch cannot increase drainage capacity beyond the original as-built capacity nor can it expand the area drained by the drainage ditch as originally constructed (i.e., the capacity of the drainage ditch must be the same as originally constructed and it cannot drain additional wetlands or other waters of the United States). Compensatory mitigation is not required because the work is designed to improve water quality.

This NWP does not authorize the relocation of drainage or irrigation ditches constructed in waters of the United States; the location of the centerline of the reshaped drainage or

irrigation ditch must be approximately the same as the location of the centerline of the original drainage or irrigation ditch. This NWP does not authorize stream channelization or stream relocation projects. (Authority: Section 404)

NWP 41 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. A pre-construction notification must be submitted to the district engineer (see NWP general condition 32) if the activity involves permanent sidecasting of excavated material into waters of the U.S.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required when the project will have:

1. Greater than 1/10 acre of impacts to waters of the U.S.; or

2. Greater than 300 linear feet of impacts to waters of the U.S.

42. Recreational Facilities

Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Examples of recreational facilities that may be authorized by this NWP include playing fields (e.g., football fields, baseball fields), basketball courts, tennis courts, hiking trails, bike paths, golf courses, ski areas, horse paths, nature centers, and campgrounds (excluding recreational vehicle parks). This NWP also authorizes the construction or expansion of small support facilities, such as maintenance and storage buildings and stables that are directly related to the recreational activity, but it does not authorize the construction of hotels, restaurants, racetracks, stadiums, arenas, or similar facilities.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 404)

NWP 42 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. Pre-construction notification must identify if the project is an individual lot within a subdivision or part of a multiphase development.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The project or activity affects 1/4 acre or more of waters; or

2. This NWP is authorized in conjunction with any other NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

43. Stormwater Management Facilities

Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction of stormwater management facilities, including stormwater detention basins and retention basins and other stormwater management facilities; the construction of water control structures, outfall structures and emergency spillways; the construction of low impact development integrated management features such as bioretention facilities (e.g., rain gardens), vegetated filter strips, grassed swales, and infiltration trenches; and the construction of pollutant reduction green infrastructure features designed to reduce inputs of sediments, nutrients, and other pollutants into waters, such as features needed to meet reduction targets established under Total Maximum Daily Loads set under the Clean Water Act.

This NWP authorizes, to the extent that a section 404 permit is required, discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the maintenance of stormwater management facilities, low impact development integrated management features, and pollutant reduction green infrastructure features. The maintenance of stormwater management facilities, low impact development integrated management features, and pollutant reduction green infrastructure features that are not waters of the United States does not require a section 404 permit.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters. This NWP does not authorize

discharges of dredged or fill material for the construction of new stormwater management facilities in perennial streams.

Notification: For discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction of new stormwater management facilities or pollutant reduction green infrastructure features, or the expansion of existing stormwater management facilities or pollutant reduction green infrastructure features, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) Maintenance activities do not require pre-construction notification if they are limited to restoring the original design capacities of the stormwater management facility or pollutant reduction green infrastructure feature. (Authority: Section 404)

NWP 43 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. Pre-construction notification for new facilities must include a long-term maintenance plan if permits for periodic maintenance dredging will be required in waters of the U.S.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The project or activity includes a Category I or Category II, wetland as part of a stormwater or flow control system. Including a Category I or Category II wetland in a stormwater treatment or flow control system is considered an impact and will need to be mitigated; or

2. The project or activity includes a Category III (with a habitat score of ≥ 6) wetland as part of a stormwater or flow control system.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

44. Mining Activities

Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for mining activities, except for coal mining activities, provided the activity meets all of the following criteria:

(a) For mining activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal jurisdictional wetlands, the discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal jurisdictional wetlands;

(b) For mining activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material in non-tidal jurisdictional open waters (e.g., rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds) or work in non-tidal navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters), the mined area, including permanent and temporary impacts due to discharges of dredged or fill material into jurisdictional waters, must not exceed 1/2-acre; and

(c) The acreage loss under paragraph (a) plus the acreage impact under paragraph (b) does not exceed 1/2-acre.

This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) If reclamation is required by other statutes, then a copy of the final reclamation plan must be submitted with the pre-construction notification. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 44 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. Aggregate mining activities in streams authorized by this NWP must meet the following criteria:

a. Aggregate may not be excavated from a vegetated bar or flowing water or pushed across a wetted channel.

b. A 5-foot (horizontal) buffer must be left in an undisturbed state along the river edge of the aggregate bar during excavation. After aggregate material is removed, the area must be graded to restore a natural contour and not trap fish.

c. Aggregate material may be temporarily stockpiled within the channel above the plane of the water surface for up to 7 days. Aggregate material may not be stockpiled in wetlands or flowing water.

d. Aggregate material may not be disposed in the channel or where it could re-enter a water of the United States.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

45. Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events

This NWP authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material, including dredging or excavation, into all waters of the United States for activities associated with the restoration of upland areas damaged by storms, floods, or other discrete events. This NWP authorizes bank stabilization to protect the restored uplands. The restoration of the damaged areas, including any bank stabilization, must not exceed the contours, or ordinary high water mark, that existed before the damage occurred. The district engineer retains the right to determine the extent of the pre-existing conditions and the extent of any restoration work authorized by this NWP. The work must commence, or be under contract to commence, within two years of the date of damage, unless this condition is waived in writing by the district engineer. This NWP cannot be used to reclaim lands lost to normal erosion processes over an extended period.

This NWP does not authorize beach restoration or nourishment.

Minor dredging is limited to the amount necessary to restore the damaged upland area and should not significantly alter the pre-existing bottom contours of the waterbody.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer (see general condition 32) within 12 months of the date of the damage; for major storms, floods, or other discrete events, the district engineer may waive the 12-month limit for submitting a pre-construction notification if the permittee can demonstrate funding, contract, or other similar delays. The pre-construction notification must include documentation, such as a recent topographic survey or photographs, to justify the extent of the proposed restoration. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note: The uplands themselves that are lost as a result of a storm, flood, or other discrete event can be replaced without a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit, if the uplands are restored to the ordinary high water mark (in non-tidal waters) or high tide line (in tidal waters). (See also 33 CFR 328.5.) This NWP authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with the restoration of uplands.

NWP 45 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The project or activity involves impacts to waters greater than 1/2 acre.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

46. Discharges in Ditches

Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal ditches that are (1) constructed in uplands, (2) receive water from an area determined to be a water of the United States prior to the construction of the ditch, (3) divert water to an area determined to be a water of the United States prior to the construction of the ditch, and (4) determined to be waters of the United States. The discharge of dredged or fill material must not cause the loss of greater than one acre of waters of the United States.

This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into ditches constructed in streams or other waters of the United States, or in streams that have been relocated in uplands. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material that increase the capacity of the ditch and drain those areas determined to be waters of the United States prior to construction of the ditch.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 404)

NWP 46 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The project or activity involves impacts to waters greater than 1/2 acre.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required when the project will have:

1. Greater than 1/10 acre of impacts to waters of the U.S.; or

2. Greater than 300 linear feet of impacts to waters of the U.S.

47. [Reserved]

48. Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities

Structures or work in navigable waters of the United States and discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States necessary for new and continuing commercial shellfish mariculture operations (i.e., the cultivation of bivalve molluscs such as oysters, mussels, clams, and scallops) in authorized project areas. For the purposes of this NWP, the project area is the area in which the operator is authorized to conduct commercial shellfish mariculture activities, as identified through a lease or permit issued by an appropriate state or local government agency, a treaty, or any easement, lease, deed, contract, or other legally binding agreement that establishes an enforceable property interest for the operator.

This NWP authorizes the installation of buoys, floats, racks, trays, nets, lines, tubes, containers, and other structures into navigable waters of the United States. This NWP also authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States necessary for shellfish seeding, rearing, cultivating, transplanting, and harvesting activities. Rafts and other floating structures must be securely anchored and clearly marked.

This NWP does not authorize:

(a) The cultivation of a nonindigenous species unless that species has been previously cultivated in the waterbody;

(b) The cultivation of an aquatic nuisance species as defined in the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990; or

(c) Attendant features such as docks, piers, boat ramps, stockpiles, or staging areas, or the deposition of shell material back into waters of the United States as waste.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the activity directly affects more than 1/2-acre of submerged aquatic vegetation. If the operator will be conducting commercial shellfish mariculture activities in multiple contiguous project areas, he or she can either submit one PCN for those

contiguous project areas or submit a separate PCN for each project area. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note 1: The permittee should notify the applicable U.S. Coast Guard office regarding the project.

Note 2: To prevent introduction of aquatic nuisance species, no material that has been taken from a different waterbody may be reused in the current project area, unless it has been treated in accordance with the applicable regional aquatic nuisance species management plan.

Note 3: The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 defines "aquatic nuisance species" as "a nonindigenous species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters."

NWP 48 Regional Conditions – (1)

1. The commercial harvest of clams by means of hydraulic escalator harvester equipment is not authorized by NWP.

**Ecology 401 Certification** – *Seattle District Regulatory project managers have the most up to date information on the status of Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification for this NWP. Contact information for a project manager in your area is available at:* http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory/

**CZM Consistency** – Concur

**EPA 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

*User Note*: *Check the Seattle District website for the most up to date information on Shellfish permitting at:* https://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory/

49. Coal Remining Activities

Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States associated with the remining and reclamation of lands that were previously mined for coal. The activities must already be authorized, or they must currently be in process by the Department of the Interior Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, or by states with approved programs under Title IV or Title V of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). Areas previously mined include

reclaimed mine sites, abandoned mine land areas, or lands under bond forfeiture contracts.

As part of the project, the permittee may conduct new coal mining activities in conjunction with the remining activities when he or she clearly demonstrates to the district engineer that the overall mining plan will result in a net increase in aquatic resource functions. The Corps will consider the SMCRA agency's decision regarding the amount of currently undisturbed adjacent lands needed to facilitate the remining and reclamation of the previously mined area. The total area disturbed by new mining must not exceed 40 percent of the total acreage covered by both the remined area and the additional area necessary to carry out the reclamation of the previously mined area.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification and a document describing how the overall mining plan will result in a net increase in aquatic resource functions to the district engineer and receive written authorization prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 49 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required when the project will have:

1. Greater than 1/10 acre of impacts to waters of the U.S.; or

2. Greater than 300 linear feet of impacts to waters of the U.S.

50. Underground Coal Mining Activities

Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States associated with underground coal mining and reclamation operations provided the activities are authorized, or are currently being processed by the Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, or by states with approved programs under Title V of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material

into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters. This NWP does not authorize coal preparation and processing activities outside of the mine site.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer. (See general condition 32.) If reclamation is required by other statutes, then a copy of the reclamation plan must be submitted with the pre-construction notification. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 50 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

51. Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities

Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction, expansion, or modification of land-based renewable energy production facilities, including attendant features. Such facilities include infrastructure to collect solar (concentrating solar power and photovoltaic), wind, biomass, or geothermal energy. Attendant features may include, but are not limited to roads, parking lots, and stormwater management facilities within the land-based renewable energy generation facility.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if the discharge results in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note 1: Electric utility lines constructed to transfer the energy from the land-based renewable energy generation facility to a distribution system, regional grid, or other facility are generally considered to be linear projects and each separate and distant crossing of a waterbody is eligible for treatment as a separate single and complete linear project. Those electric utility lines may be authorized by NWP 57 or another Department of the Army authorization.

Note 2: If the only activities associated with the construction, expansion, or modification of a land-based renewable energy generation facility that require Department of the Army authorization are discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States to construct, maintain, repair, and/or remove electric utility lines and/or road crossings, then NWP 57and/or NWP 14 shall be used if those activities meet the terms and conditions of NWP 57 and 14, including any applicable regional conditions and any case-specific conditions imposed by the district engineer.

Note 3: For any activity that involves the construction of a wind energy generating structure, solar tower, or overhead transmission line, a copy of the PCN and NWP verification will be provided by the Corps to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.

NWP 51 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

52. Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects

Structures and work in navigable waters of the United States and discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States for the construction, expansion, modification, or removal of water-based wind, water-based solar, wave energy, or hydrokinetic renewable energy generation pilot projects and their attendant features. Attendant features may include, but are not limited to, land-based collection and distribution facilities, control facilities, roads, parking lots, and stormwater management facilities.

For the purposes of this NWP, the term “pilot project” means an experimental project where the water-based renewable energy generation units will be monitored to collect information on their performance and environmental effects at the project site.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. The placement of a transmission line on the bed of a navigable water of the United States from the renewable energy generation unit(s) to a land-based collection and distribution facility is considered a structure under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (see 33 CFR 322.2(b)), and the placement of the transmission line on the bed of a navigable water of the United States is not a loss of waters of the United States for the purposes of applying the 1/2-acre limit.

For each single and complete project, no more than 10 generation units (e.g., wind turbines, wave energy devices, or hydrokinetic devices) are authorized. For floating solar panels in navigable waters of the United States, each single and complete project cannot exceed 1/2-acre in water surface area covered by the floating solar panels.

This NWP does not authorize activities in coral reefs. Structures in an anchorage area established by the U.S. Coast Guard must comply with the requirements in 33 CFR 322.5(l)(2). Structures may not be placed in established danger zones or restricted areas designated in 33 CFR part 334, Federal navigation channels, shipping safety fairways or traffic separation schemes established by the U.S. Coast Guard (see 33 CFR 322.5(l)(1)), or EPA or Corps designated open water dredged material disposal areas.

Upon completion of the pilot project, the generation units, transmission lines, and other structures or fills associated with the pilot project must be removed to the maximum extent practicable unless they are authorized by a separate Department of the Army authorization, such as another NWP, an individual permit, or a regional general permit. Completion of the pilot project will be identified as the date of expiration of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license, or the expiration date of the NWP authorization if no FERC license is required.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note 1: Electric utility lines constructed to transfer the energy from the land-based collection facility to a distribution system, regional grid, or other facility are generally considered to be linear projects and each separate and distant crossing of a waterbody is eligible for treatment as a separate single and complete linear project. Those electric utility lines may be authorized by NWP 57 or another Department of the Army authorization.

Note 2: An activity that is located on an existing locally or federally maintained U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project requires separate review and/or approval from the Corps under 33 U.S.C. 408.

Note 3: If the pilot project generation units, including any transmission lines, are placed in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) within the coastal United States, the Great Lakes, and United States territories, copies of the NWP verification will be sent by the Corps to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, for charting the generation units and associated transmission line(s) to protect navigation.

Note 4: Hydrokinetic renewable energy generation projects that require authorization by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission under the Federal Power Act of 1920 do not require separate authorization from the Corps under section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

Note 5: For any activity that involves the construction of a wind energy generating structure, solar tower, or overhead transmission line, a copy of the PCN and NWP verification will be provided by the Corps to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.

NWP 52 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

53. Removal of Low-Head Dams

Structures and work in navigable waters of the United States and discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with the removal of low-head dams.

For the purposes of this NWP, the term “low-head dam” is generally defined as a dam or weir built across a stream to pass flows from upstream over all, or nearly all, of the width of the dam crest and does not have a separate spillway or spillway gates, but it may have an uncontrolled spillway. The dam crest is the top of the dam from left abutment to right abutment. A low-head dam may have been built for a range of purposes (e.g., check dam, mill dam, irrigation, water supply, recreation, hydroelectric, or cooling pond), but in all cases, it provides little or no storage function.

The removed low-head dam structure must be deposited and retained in an area that has no waters of the United States unless otherwise specifically approved by the district engineer under separate authorization.

Because the removal of the low-head dam will result in a net increase in ecological functions and services provided by the stream, as a general rule compensatory mitigation is not required for activities authorized by this NWP. However, the district engineer may determine for a particular low-head dam removal activity that compensatory mitigation is necessary to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note: This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or structures or work in navigable waters to restore the stream in the vicinity of the low-head dam, including the former impoundment area. Nationwide permit 27 or other Department of the Army permits may authorize such activities. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or structures or work in navigable waters to stabilize stream banks. Bank stabilization activities may be authorized by NWP 13 or other Department of the Army permits.

NWP 53 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required when the project will have:

1. Greater than 1/10 acre of impacts to waters of the U.S.; or

2. Greater than 300 linear feet of impacts to waters of the U.S.

54. Living Shorelines

Structures and work in navigable waters of the United States and discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States for the construction and maintenance of living shorelines to stabilize banks and shores in coastal waters, which includes the Great Lakes, along shores with small fetch and gentle slopes that are subject to low- to mid-energy waves. A living shoreline has a footprint that is made up mostly of native material. It incorporates vegetation or other living, natural "soft" elements alone or in combination with some type of harder shoreline structure (e.g., oyster or mussel reefs or rock sills) for added protection and stability. Living shorelines should maintain the natural continuity of the land-water interface, and retain or enhance shoreline ecological processes. Living shorelines must have a substantial biological component, either tidal or lacustrine fringe wetlands or oyster or mussel reef structures. The following conditions must be met:

(a) The structures and fill area, including sand fills, sills, breakwaters, or reefs, cannot extend into the waterbody more than 30 feet from the mean low water line in tidal waters or the ordinary high water mark in the Great Lakes, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the activity will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;

(b) The activity is no more than 500 feet in length along the bank, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the activity will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;

(c) Coir logs, coir mats, stone, native oyster shell, native wood debris, and other structural materials must be adequately anchored, of sufficient weight, or installed in a manner that prevents relocation in most wave action or water flow conditions, except for extremely severe storms;

(d) For living shorelines consisting of tidal or lacustrine fringe wetlands, native plants appropriate for current site conditions, including salinity and elevation, must be used if the site is planted by the permittee;

(e) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, and oyster or mussel reef structures in navigable waters, must be the minimum necessary for the establishment and maintenance of the living shoreline;

(f) If sills, breakwaters, or other structures must be constructed to protect fringe wetlands for the living shoreline, those structures must be the minimum size necessary to protect those fringe wetlands;

(g) The activity must be designed, constructed, and maintained so that it has no more than minimal adverse effects on water movement between the waterbody and the shore and the movement of aquatic organisms between the waterbody and the shore; and

(h) The living shoreline must be properly maintained, which may require periodic repair of sills, breakwaters, or reefs, or replacing sand fills after severe storms or erosion events. Vegetation may be replanted to maintain the living shoreline. This NWP authorizes those maintenance and repair activities, including any minor deviations necessary to address changing environmental conditions.

This NWP does not authorize beach nourishment or land reclamation activities.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the construction of the living shoreline. (See general condition 32.) The pre-construction notification must include a delineation of special aquatic sites (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). Pre-construction notification is not required for maintenance and repair activities for living shorelines unless required

by applicable NWP general conditions or regional conditions. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note: In waters outside of coastal waters, nature-based bank stabilization techniques, such as bioengineering and vegetative stabilization, may be authorized by NWP 13.

NWP 54 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions.

55. Seaweed Mariculture Activities

Structures in marine and estuarine waters, including structures anchored to the seabed in waters overlying the outer continental shelf, for seaweed mariculture activities. This NWP also authorizes structures for bivalve shellfish mariculture if shellfish production is a component of an integrated multi-trophic mariculture system (e.g., the production of seaweed and bivalve shellfish on the same structure or a nearby mariculture structure that is part of the single and complete project).

This NWP authorizes the installation of buoys, long-lines, floats, anchors, rafts, racks, and other similar structures into navigable waters of the United States. Rafts, racks and other floating structures must be securely anchored and clearly marked. To the maximum extent practicable, the permittee must remove these structures from navigable waters of the United States if they will no longer be used for seaweed mariculture activities or multi-trophic mariculture activities.

Structures in an anchorage area established by the U.S. Coast Guard must comply with the requirements in 33 CFR 322.5(l)(2). Structures may not be placed in established danger zones or restricted areas designated in 33 CFR part 334, Federal navigation channels, shipping safety fairways or traffic separation schemes established by the U.S. Coast Guard (see 33 CFR 322.5(l)(1)), or EPA or Corps designated open water dredged material disposal areas.

This NWP does not authorize:

(a) The cultivation of an aquatic nuisance species as defined in the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 or the cultivation of a

nonindigenous species unless that species has been previously cultivated in the waterbody; or

(b) Attendant features such as docks, piers, boat ramps, stockpiles, or staging areas.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer. (See general condition 32.)

In addition to the information required by paragraph (b) of general condition 32, the preconstruction notification must also include the following information: (1) a map showing the locations and dimensions of the structure(s); (2) the name(s) of the species that will be cultivated during the period this NWP is in effect; and (3) general water depths in the project area(s) (a detailed survey is not required). No more than one pre-construction notification per structure or group of structures should be submitted for the seaweed mariculture operation during the effective period of this NWP. The pre-construction notification should describe all species and culture activities the operator expects to undertake during the effective period of this NWP. (Authority: Section 10)

Note 1: The permittee should notify the applicable U.S. Coast Guard office regarding the project.

Note 2: To prevent introduction of aquatic nuisance species, no material that has been taken from a different waterbody may be reused in the current project area, unless it has been treated in accordance with the applicable regional aquatic nuisance species management plan.

Note 3: The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 defines “aquatic nuisance species” as “a nonindigenous species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.”

NWP 55 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – The Corps did not request Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this NWP. See NWP general condition 25 – Water Quality.

56. Finfish Mariculture Activities

Structures in marine and estuarine waters, including structures anchored to the seabed in waters overlying the outer continental shelf, for finfish mariculture activities. This NWP also authorizes structures for bivalve shellfish mariculture and/or seaweed mariculture if the structures for bivalve shellfish and/or seaweed production are a component of an integrated multi-trophic mariculture structure (e.g., the production of bivalve shellfish or seaweed on the structure used for finfish mariculture, or a nearby mariculture structure that is part of the single and complete project).

This NWP authorizes the installation of cages, net pens, anchors, floats, buoys, and other similar structures into navigable waters of the United States. Net pens, cages, and other floating structures must be securely anchored and clearly marked. To the maximum extent practicable, the permittee must remove these structures from navigable waters of the United States if they will no longer be used for finfish mariculture activities or multi-trophic mariculture activities.

This NWP does not authorize the construction of land-based fish hatcheries or other attendant features.

Structures in an anchorage area established by the U.S. Coast Guard must comply with the requirements in 33 CFR 322.5(l)(2). Structures may not be placed in established danger zones or restricted areas designated in 33 CFR part 334, Federal navigation channels, shipping safety fairways or traffic separation schemes established by the U.S. Coast Guard (see 33 CFR 322.5(l)(1)), or EPA or Corps designated open water dredged material disposal areas.

This NWP does not authorize:

(a) The cultivation of an aquatic nuisance species as defined in the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 or the cultivation of a nonindigenous species unless that species has been previously cultivated in the waterbody; or

(b) Attendant features such as docks, piers, boat ramps, stockpiles, or staging areas.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer. (See general condition 32.)

In addition to the information required by paragraph (b) of general condition 32, the pre-construction notification must also include the following information: (1) a map showing the locations and dimensions of the structure(s); (2) the name(s) of the species that will be cultivated during the period this NWP is in effect; and (3) general water depths in the project area(s) (a detailed survey is not required). No more than one pre-construction notification per structure or group of structures should be submitted for the finfish mariculture operation during the effective period of this NWP. The pre-construction

notification should describe all species and culture activities the operator expects to undertake during the effective period of this NWP. (Authority: Section 10)

Note 1: The permittee should notify the applicable U.S. Coast Guard office regarding the finfish mariculture activity.

Note 2: To prevent introduction of aquatic nuisance species, no material that has been taken from a different waterbody may be reused in the current project area, unless it has been treated in accordance with the applicable regional aquatic nuisance species management plan.

Note 3: The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 defines "aquatic nuisance species" as "a nonindigenous species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters."

NWP 56 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – The Corps did not request Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this NWP. See NWP general condition 25 – Water Quality.

57. Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities

Activities required for the construction, maintenance, repair, and removal of electric utility lines, telecommunication lines, and associated facilities in waters of the United States, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States for each single and complete project.

*Electric utility lines and telecommunication lines*: This NWP authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States and structures or work in navigable waters for crossings of those waters associated with the construction, maintenance, or repair of electric utility lines and telecommunication lines. There must be no change in pre-construction contours of waters of the United States. An "electric utility line and telecommunication line" is defined as any cable, line, fiber optic line, or wire for the transmission for any purpose of electrical energy, telephone, and telegraph messages, and internet, radio, and television communication.

Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast into waters of the United States for no more than three months, provided the material is not placed in such a manner that it is dispersed by currents or other forces. The district engineer may extend the period of temporary side casting for no more than a total of 180 days, where appropriate. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. The trench cannot be constructed or backfilled in such a manner as to drain waters of the United States (e.g., backfilling with extensive gravel layers, creating a french drain effect). Any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the electric utility line or telecommunication line crossing of each waterbody.

*Electric utility line and telecommunications substations*: This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or expansion of substation facilities associated with an electric utility line or telecommunication line in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters of the United States to construct, maintain, or expand substation facilities.

*Foundations for overhead electric utility line or telecommunication line towers, poles, and anchors*: This NWP authorizes the construction or maintenance of foundations for overhead electric utility line or telecommunication line towers, poles, and anchors in all waters of the United States, provided the foundations are the minimum size necessary and separate footings for each tower leg (rather than a larger single pad) are used where feasible.

*Access roads*: This NWP authorizes the construction of access roads for the construction and maintenance of electric utility lines or telecommunication lines, including overhead lines and substations, in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters for access roads. Access roads must be the minimum width necessary (see Note 2, below). Access roads must be constructed so that the length of the road minimizes any adverse effects on waters of the United States and must be as near as possible to pre-construction contours and elevations (e.g., at grade corduroy roads or geotextile/gravel roads). Access roads constructed above pre-construction contours and elevations in waters of the United States must be properly bridged or culverted to maintain surface flows.

This NWP may authorize electric utility lines or telecommunication lines in or affecting navigable waters of the United States even if there is no associated discharge of dredged or fill material (see 33 CFR part 322). Electric utility lines or telecommunication lines constructed over section 10 waters and electric utility lines or telecommunication

lines that are routed in or under section 10 waters without a discharge of dredged or fill material require a section 10 permit.

This NWP authorizes, to the extent that Department of the Army authorization is required, temporary structures, fills, and work necessary for the remediation of inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States through sub-soil fissures or fractures that might occur during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing electric utility lines or telecommunication lines. These remediation activities must be done as soon as practicable, to restore the affected waterbody. District engineers may add special conditions to this NWP to require a remediation plan for addressing inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing electric utility lines or telecommunication lines.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to conduct the electric utility line activity. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. After construction, temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) a section 10 permit is required; or (2) the discharge will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note 1: Where the electric utility line is constructed, installed, or maintained in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) within the coastal United States, the Great Lakes, and United States territories, a copy of the NWP verification will be sent by the Corps to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), for charting the electric utility line to protect navigation.

Note 2: For electric utility line or telecommunications activities crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. Electric utility line and telecommunications activities must comply with 33 CFR 330.6(d).

Note 3: Electric utility lines or telecommunication lines consisting of aerial electric power transmission lines crossing navigable waters of the United States (which are defined at

33 CFR part 329) must comply with the applicable minimum clearances specified in 33 CFR 322.5(i).

Note 4: Access roads used for both construction and maintenance may be authorized, provided they meet the terms and conditions of this NWP. Access roads used solely for construction of the electric utility line or telecommunication line must be removed upon completion of the work, in accordance with the requirements for temporary fills.

Note 5: This NWP authorizes electric utility line and telecommunication line maintenance and repair activities that do not qualify for the Clean Water Act section 404(f) exemption for maintenance of currently serviceable fills or fill structures.

Note 6: For overhead electric utility lines and telecommunication lines authorized by this NWP, a copy of the PCN and NWP verification will be provided by the Corps to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.

Note 7: For activities that require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). The district engineer will evaluate the PCN in accordance with Section D, "District Engineer's Decision." The district engineer may require mitigation to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see general condition 23).

NWP 57 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

1. Ecology WQC review is required if the project or activity is in a known contaminated or cleanup site to determine if an individual WQC is required or the project meets the programmatic WQC for this NWP.

2. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

a. The project or activity impacts more than 1/3$^{rd}$ acre of waters; or

b. The project or activity requires a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license; or

c. This NWP is authorized in conjunction with any other NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

2. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if they are pre-empting local or state permit requirements necessary to demonstrate compliance with the CZMP's enforceable policies.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

58. Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances

Activities required for the construction, maintenance, repair, and removal of utility lines for water and other substances, excluding oil, natural gas, products derived from oil or natural gas, and electricity. Oil or natural gas pipeline activities or electric utility line and telecommunications activities may be authorized by NWPs 12 or 57, respectively. This NWP also authorizes associated utility line facilities in waters of the United States, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States for each single and complete project.

*Utility lines*: This NWP authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States and structures or work in navigable waters for crossings of those waters associated with the construction, maintenance, or repair of utility lines for water and other substances, including outfall and intake structures. There must be no change in pre-construction contours of waters of the United States. A "utility line" is defined as any pipe or pipeline for the transportation of any gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substance, for any purpose that is not oil, natural gas, or petrochemicals. Examples of activities authorized by this NWP include utility lines that convey water, sewage, stormwater, wastewater, brine, irrigation water, and industrial products that are not petrochemicals. The term "utility line" does not include activities that drain a water of the United States, such as drainage tile or french drains, but it does apply to pipes conveying drainage from another area.

Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast into waters of the United States for no more than three months, provided the material is not placed in such a manner that it is dispersed by currents or other forces. The district engineer may extend the period of temporary side casting for no more than a total of 180 days, where appropriate. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. The trench cannot be constructed or backfilled in such a manner as to drain waters of the United States (e.g., backfilling with extensive gravel layers, creating a french drain effect). Any exposed slopes and stream banks

must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the utility line crossing of each waterbody.

*Utility line substations*: This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or expansion of substation facilities associated with a utility line in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters of the United States to construct, maintain, or expand substation facilities.

*Foundations for above-ground utility lines*: This NWP authorizes the construction or maintenance of foundations for above-ground utility lines in all waters of the United States, provided the foundations are the minimum size necessary.

*Access roads*: This NWP authorizes the construction of access roads for the construction and maintenance of utility lines, including utility line substations, in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters for access roads. Access roads must be the minimum width necessary (see Note 2, below). Access roads must be constructed so that the length of the road minimizes any adverse effects on waters of the United States and must be as near as possible to pre-construction contours and elevations (e.g., at grade corduroy roads or geotextile/gravel roads). Access roads constructed above pre-construction contours and elevations in waters of the United States must be properly bridged or culverted to maintain surface flows.

This NWP may authorize utility lines in or affecting navigable waters of the United States even if there is no associated discharge of dredged or fill material (see 33 CFR part 322). Overhead utility lines constructed over section 10 waters and utility lines that are routed in or under section 10 waters without a discharge of dredged or fill material require a section 10 permit.

This NWP authorizes, to the extent that Department of the Army authorization is required, temporary structures, fills, and work necessary for the remediation of inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States through sub-soil fissures or fractures that might occur during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing utility lines. These remediation activities must be done as soon as practicable, to restore the affected waterbody. District engineers may add special conditions to this NWP to require a remediation plan for addressing inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing utility lines.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to conduct the utility line activity. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. After construction, temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) a section 10 permit is required; or (2) the discharge will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note 1: Where the utility line is constructed, installed, or maintained in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) within the coastal United States, the Great Lakes, and United States territories, a copy of the NWP verification will be sent by the Corps to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), for charting the utility line to protect navigation.

Note 2: For utility line activities crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. Utility line activities must comply with 33 CFR 330.6(d).

Note 3: Access roads used for both construction and maintenance may be authorized, provided they meet the terms and conditions of this NWP. Access roads used solely for construction of the utility line must be removed upon completion of the work, in accordance with the requirements for temporary fills.

Note 4: Pipes or pipelines used to transport gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substances over navigable waters of the United States are considered to be bridges, not utility lines, and may require a permit from the U.S. Coast Guard pursuant to the General Bridge Act of 1946. However, any discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with such pipelines will require a section 404 permit (see NWP 15).

Note 5: This NWP authorizes utility line maintenance and repair activities that do not qualify for the Clean Water Act section 404(f) exemption for maintenance of currently serviceable fills or fill structures.

Note 6: For activities that require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). The district engineer will evaluate the PCN in accordance with Section D, "District Engineer's Decision." The district engineer may require mitigation to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see general condition 23).

NWP 58 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Granted with conditions, provided individual WQC review is not required per Ecology's state general conditions.

1. Ecology WQC review is required if the project or activity is in a known contaminated or cleanup site to determine if an individual WQC is required or the project meets the programmatic WQC for this NWP.

2. Ecology individual WQC is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

a. The project or activity impacts more than 1/3$^{rd}$ acre of waters; or

b. The project or activity requires a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license; or

c. This NWP is authorized in conjunction with any other NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Concur with Conditions.

1. A CZM Federal Consistency Decision is required for projects or activities under this NWP if a State 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

59. Water reclamation and reuse facilities

Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction, expansion, and maintenance of water reclamation and reuse facilities, including vegetated areas enhanced to improve water infiltration and constructed wetlands to improve water quality.

The discharge of dredged or fill material must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

This NWP also authorizes temporary fills, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to construct the water reuse project and attendant features. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. After construction, temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

NWP 59 Regional Conditions – None

**Ecology 401 Certification** – Denied. Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP.

**CZM Consistency** – Object. An individual CZM federal consistency decision is required for projects or activities authorized by this NWP.

**EPA 401 Certification** – Granted, provided the discharge authorized under the NWP will comply with EPA's WQC general conditions, except that an individual project-specific WQC is required when the project will have:

1. Greater than 1/10 acre of impacts to waters of the U.S.; or

2. Greater than 300 linear feet of impacts to waters of the U.S.

## Section 6: District Engineer's Decision

(Federal Register January 13, 2021, Vol. 86, No. 8)

1. In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the district engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. If a project proponent requests authorization by a specific NWP, the district engineer should issue the NWP verification for that activity if it meets the terms and conditions of that NWP, unless he or she determines, after considering mitigation, that the proposed activity will result in more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment and other aspects of the public interest and exercises discretionary authority to require an individual permit for the proposed activity. For a linear project, this determination will include an evaluation of the single and complete crossings of waters of the United States that require PCNs to determine whether they individually satisfy the terms and conditions of the NWP(s), as well as the cumulative effects caused by all of the crossings of waters of the United States authorized by an NWP. If an applicant requests a waiver of an applicable limit, as provided for in NWPs 13, 36, or 54, the district engineer will only grant the waiver upon a written determination that the NWP activity will result in only minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.

2. When making minimal adverse environmental effects determinations the district engineer will consider the direct and indirect effects caused by the NWP activity. He or she will also consider the cumulative adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by an NWP and whether those cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal. The district engineer will also consider site specific factors, such as the environmental setting in the vicinity of the NWP activity, the type of resource that will be affected by the NWP activity, the functions provided by the aquatic resources that will be affected by the NWP activity, the degree or magnitude to which the aquatic resources perform those functions, the extent that aquatic resource functions will be lost as a result of the NWP activity (e.g., partial or complete loss), the duration of the adverse effects (temporary or permanent), the importance of the aquatic resource functions to the region (e.g., watershed or ecoregion), and mitigation required by the district engineer. If an appropriate functional or condition assessment method is available and practicable to use, that assessment method may be used by the district engineer to assist in the minimal adverse environmental effects determination. The district engineer may add case-specific special conditions to the NWP authorization to address site-specific environmental concerns.

3. If the proposed activity requires a PCN and will result in a loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed, the prospective permittee should submit a mitigation proposal with the PCN. Applicants may also propose compensatory mitigation for NWP activities with smaller impacts, or for impacts to other types of waters. The district engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation or other mitigation

measures the applicant has included in the proposal in determining whether the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The compensatory mitigation proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the district engineer determines that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal, after considering mitigation, the district engineer will notify the permittee and include any activity-specific conditions in the NWP verification the district engineer deems necessary. Conditions for compensatory mitigation requirements must comply with the appropriate provisions at 33 CFR 332.3(k). The district engineer must approve the final mitigation plan before the permittee commences work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation. If the prospective permittee elects to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the PCN, the district engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan. The district engineer must review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan within 45 calendar days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the proposed mitigation would ensure that the NWP activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. If the net adverse environmental effects of the NWP activity (after consideration of the mitigation proposal) are determined by the district engineer to be no more than minimal, the district engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the NWP activity can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP, including any activity-specific conditions added to the NWP authorization by the district engineer.

4. If the district engineer determines that the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are more than minimal, then the district engineer will notify the applicant either: (a) that the activity does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an individual permit; (b) that the activity is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal; or (c) that the activity is authorized under the NWP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the district engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse environmental effects, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN period (unless additional time is required to comply with general conditions 18, 20, and/or 31), with activity-specific conditions that state the mitigation requirements. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or detailed mitigation plan or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal. When compensatory mitigation is required, no work in waters of the United States may occur until the district engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan or has determined that prior approval of a final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation.

Further Information

(Federal Register January 13, 2021, Vol. 86, No. 8)

1. District engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP.

2. NWPs do not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.

3. NWPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.

4. NWPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

5. NWPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project (see general condition 31).

## Section 7: Water Quality Certification

(Section 401 Water Quality Certifications can be viewed online at: http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory/Permit-Guidebook/NWPs/)

### Ecology Section 401 WQC general conditions

Ecology's Water Quality Certification conditions apply to projects or activities authorized under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the River and Harbors Act, where Ecology is the certifying authority. These Water Quality Certification conditions below supersede any previously issued Water Quality Certification conditions.

1. **In-water construction activities**. Ecology WQC review is required for projects or activities authorized under NWPs where the project proponent has indicated on the Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application (JARPA) question 9e that the project or activity will not meet State water quality standards, or has provided information indicating that the project or activity will cause, or may be likely to cause or contribute to an exceedance of a State water quality standard (Chapter 173-201A WAC) or sediment management standard (Chapter 173-204 WAC).

   Note: In-water activities include any activity within a jurisdictional wetland and/or waters.

2. **Projects or Activities Discharging to Impaired Waters**. Ecology WQC review is required for projects or activities that will occur in a 303(d) listed segment of a waterbody or upstream of a listed segment and may result in further exceedances of the specific listed parameter to determine if the project meets this programmatic WQC or will require individual WQC.

   To determine if your project or activity is in a 303(d) listed segment of a waterbody, visit Ecology's Water Quality Assessment webpage for maps and search tools.

3. **Aquatic resources requiring special protection**. Certain aquatic resources are unique and difficult-to-replace components of the aquatic environment in Washington. Activities that would affect these resources must be avoided to the greatest extent practicable. Compensating for adverse impacts to high value aquatic resources is typically difficult, prohibitively expensive, and may not be possible in some landscape settings.

   Ecology WQC review is required for projects or activities in areas identified below to determine if the project meets this programmatic WQC or will require

individual WQC.

a. Activities in or affecting the following aquatic resources:
    i. Wetlands with special characteristics (as defined in the Washington State Wetland Rating Systems for western and eastern Washington, Ecology Publications #14-06-029 and #14-06-030):
        - Estuarine wetlands.
        - Wetlands of High Conservation Value.
        - Bogs.
        - Old-growth forested wetlands and mature forested wetlands.
        - Wetlands in coastal lagoons.
        - Wetlands in dunal systems along the Washington coast.
        - Vernal pools.
        - Alkali wetlands.

    ii. Fens, aspen-dominated wetlands, camas prairie wetlands.

    iii. Category I wetlands.

    iv. Category II wetlands with a habitat score ≥ 8 points.

b. Activities in or resulting in a loss of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) beds.

This state general condition does not apply to the following NWPs:
NWP 20 – *Response Operations for Oil and Hazardous Substances*
NWP 32 – *Completed Enforcement Actions*
NWP 48 – *Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities*

4. **Loss of More than 300 Linear Feet of Streambed.** For any project that results in the loss of more than 300 linear feet of streambed Ecology WQC review is required to determine if the project meets this programmatic WQC or will require individual WQC.

5. **Temporary Fills.** For any project or activity with temporary fill in wetlands or other waters for more than six months Ecology WQC review is required to determine if the project meets this programmatic WQC or will require individual WQC.

6. **Mitigation.** Project proponents are required to show that they have followed the mitigation sequence and have first avoided and minimized impacts to aquatic resources wherever practicable. For projects requiring Ecology WQC review or an individual WQC with unavoidable impacts to aquatics resources, a mitigation plan must be provided.

a. Wetland mitigation plans submitted for Ecology review and approval shall be based on the most current guidance provided in Wetland Mitigation in Washington State, Parts 1 and 2 (available on Ecology's website) and shall, at a minimum, include the following:

    i. A description of the measures taken to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands and other waters of the U.S.

    ii. The nature of the proposed impacts (i.e., acreage of wetlands and functions lost or degraded).

    iii. The rationale for the mitigation site that was selected.

    iv. The goals and objectives of the compensatory mitigation project.

    v. How the mitigation project will be accomplished, including construction sequencing, best management practices to protect water quality, proposed performance standards for measuring success and the proposed buffer widths.

    vi. How it will be maintained and monitored to assess progress toward goals and objectives. Monitoring will generally be required for a minimum of five years. For forested and scrub-shrub wetlands, 10 years of monitoring will often be necessary.

    vii. How the compensatory mitigation site will be legally protected for the long term.

Refer to Wetland Mitigation in Washington State – Part 2: Developing Mitigation Plans (Ecology Publication #06-06-011b) and Selecting Wetland Mitigation Sites Using a Watershed Approach (Ecology Publications #09-06-032 (Western Washington) and #10-06-007 (Eastern Washington)) for guidance on selecting suitable mitigation sites and developing mitigation plans.

Ecology encourages the use of alternative mitigation approaches, including credit/debit methodology, advance mitigation, and other programmatic approaches such as mitigation banks and in-lieu fee programs. If you are interested in proposing use of an alternative mitigation approach, consult with the appropriate Ecology regional staff person. Information on alternative mitigation approaches is available on Ecology's website.

b. Mitigation for other aquatic resource impacts will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

7. **Stormwater Pollution Prevention**. All projects involving land disturbance or impervious surfaces must implement stormwater pollution prevention or control measures to avoid discharge of pollutants in stormwater runoff to waters.

   a. For land disturbances during construction, the applicant must obtain and implement permits (e.g., Construction Stormwater General Permit) where required and follow Ecology's current stormwater manual.

   b. Following construction, prevention or treatment of on-going stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces shall be provided.

   Ecology's Stormwater Management and Design Manuals and stormwater permit information are available on Ecology's website.

8. **Application**. For projects or activities that will require Ecology WQC review, or an individual WQC, project proponents must provide Ecology with a JARPA or the equivalent information, along with the documentation provided to the Corps, as described in national general condition 32, Pre-Construction Notification (PCN), including, where applicable:

   a. A description of the project, including site plans, project purpose, direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the project discharge(s) would cause, best management practices (BMPs), and proposed means to monitor the discharge(s).

   b. List of all federal, state or local agency authorizations required to be used for any part of the proposed project or any related activity.

   c. Drawings indicating the OHWM, delineation of special aquatic sites, and other waters of the state. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps and shall include Ecology's Wetland Rating form. Wetland Rating forms are subject to review and verification by Ecology staff.

      Guidance for determining the OHWM is available on Ecology's website.

   d. A statement describing how the mitigation requirement will be satisfied. A conceptual or detailed mitigation or restoration plan may be submitted. See state general condition 5.

   e. Other applicable requirements of Corps NWP general condition 32, Corps regional conditions, or notification conditions of the applicable NWP.

EPA Section 401 WQC general conditions

(Section 401 WQC decisions can be viewed online at: http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory/Permit-Guidebook/NWPs/)

EPA's Water Quality Certification conditions apply to projects or activities authorized under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the River and Harbors Act, where EPA is the certifying authority. These Water Quality Certification conditions below supersede any previously issued Water Quality Certification conditions.

1. **Aquatic Resources of Special Concern**
   Activities resulting in a point source discharge in the following types of aquatic resources of special concern shall request an individual project-specific CWA Section 401 WQC: mature forested wetlands; bogs, fens and other peatlands; vernal pools; aspen-dominated wetlands; alkali wetlands; camas prairie wetlands; wetlands in dunal systems along the Oregon or Washington Coast; riffle-pool complexes of streams; marine or estuarine mud-flats; salt marshes; marine waters with native eelgrass or kelp beds; or marine nearshore forage fish habitat. To identify whether a project would occur in any of these aquatic resources of special concern, project proponents shall use existing and available information to identify the location and type of resources, including using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online digital National Wetland Inventory maps, identifying project location on topographical maps, and/or providing on-site determinations as required by the Corps. When a project requires a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) to the Corps, project proponents shall work with the Corps to identify whether the project is in any of these specific aquatic resources of special concern.

2. **Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls**
   Turbidity shall not exceed background turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) above background instantaneously or more than 25 NTU above background for more than ten consecutive days. Projects or activities that are expected to exceed these levels require an individual project-specific CWA Section 401 WQC.

   The turbidity standard shall be met at the following distances from the discharge:

| Wetted Stream Width at Discharge Point | Approximate Downstream Point to Sample to Determine Compliance |
|---|---|
| Up to 30 feet | 50 feet |
| >30 to 100 feet | 100 feet |
| >100 feet to 200 feet | 200 feet |
| >200 feet | 300 feet |
| Lake, Pond, Reservoir | Lesser of 100 feet or maximum surface distance |

| For Marine Water | Point of Compliance for Temporary Area of Mixing |
|---|---|
| Estuaries or Marine Waters | Radius of 150 feet from the activity causing the turbidity exceedance |

Measures to prevent and/or reduce turbidity shall be implemented and monitored prior to, during, and after construction. Turbidity monitoring shall be done at the point of compliance within 24 hours of a precipitation event of 0.25 inches or greater. During monitoring and maintenance, if turbidity limits are exceeded or if measures are identified as ineffective, then additional measures shall be taken to come into compliance and EPA shall be notified within 48 hours of the exceedance or measure failure.

3. **Compliance with Stormwater Pollution Prevention and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Provisions**
   For land disturbances during construction that 1) disturb one or more acres of land, or 2) will disturb less than one acre of land but are part of a common plan of development or sale that will ultimately disturb one or more acres of land, the permittee shall obtain and implement Construction Stormwater General Permit requirements (see https://www.epa.gov/npdes/2017-construction-general-permit-cgp), including:

   1. The permittee shall develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP https://www.epa.gov/npdes/developing-stormwater-pollution-prevention-plan-swppp) and submit it to EPA Region 10 and appropriate Corps District; and
   2. Following construction, prevention or treatment of ongoing stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces that includes soil infiltration shall be implemented.

4. **Projects or Activities Discharging to Impaired Waters**
   Projects or activities are not authorized under the NWPs if the project will involve point source discharges into an active channel (e.g., flowing or open waters) of a water of the U.S. listed as impaired under CWA Section 303(d) and/or if the waterbody has an approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the discharge may result in further exceedance of a specific parameter (e.g., total suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, temperature) for which the waterbody is listed or has an approved TMDL. The current lists of impaired waters of the U.S. under CWA Section 303(d) and waters of the U.S. for which a TMDL has been approved are available on EPA Region 10's web site at: https://www.epa.gov/tmdl/impaired-waters-and-tmdls-region-10

5. **Notice to EPA**
   All project proponents shall provide notice to EPA Region 10 prior to commencing construction activities authorized by a NWP. This will provide EPA Region 10 with the opportunity to inspect the activity for the purposes of determining whether any

discharge from the proposed project will violate this CWA Section 401 WQC. Where the Corps requires a PCN for an applicable NWP, the project proponent shall also provide the PCN to EPA Region 10. EPA Region 10 will provide written notification to the project proponent if the proposed project will violate the water quality certification of the NWP.

6. **Unsuitable Materials**
   The project proponent shall not use wood products treated with leachable chemical components (e.g., copper, arsenic, zinc, creosote, chromium, chloride, fluoride, pentachlorophenol), which result in a discharge to waters of the U.S., unless the wood products meet the following criteria:

   1. Wood preservatives and their application shall be in compliance with EPA label requirements and criteria of approved EPA Registration Documents under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act;

   2. Use of chemically treated wood products shall follow the Western Wood Preservatives Institute (WWPI) guidelines and BMPs to minimize the preservative migrating from treated wood into the aquatic environment;

   3. For new or replacement wood structures, the wood shall be sealed with non-toxic products such as water-based silica or soy-based water repellants or sealers to prevent or limit leaching. Acceptable alternatives to chemically treated wood include untreated wood, steel (painted, unpainted or coated with epoxy petroleum compound or plastic), concrete and plastic lumber; and

   4. All removal of chemically treated wood products (including pilings) shall follow the most recent “EPA Region 10 Best Management Practices for Piling Removal and Placement in Washington State.”

Note: The Water Quality Certification conditions below issued by EPA on December 11, 2020, apply to NWP 40 - Agricultural Activities. For all other NWPs where EPA is the certifying authority, see: EPA Section 401 WQC general conditions

(Section 401 WQC decisions can be viewed online at: http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory/Permit-Guidebook/NWPs/)

**EPA General WQC Conditions for Nationwide Permit 40 – Agricultural Activities**

1. **Compliance with Stormwater Pollution Prevention and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Provisions**
   For land disturbances during construction that disturb one or more acres of land, or will disturb less than one acre of land but are part of a common plan of development or sale that will ultimately disturb one or more acres of land, the permittee must obtain and implement Construction Stormwater General Permit requirements (see https://www.epa.gov/npdes/2017-construction-general-permit-cgp), including:

   a. The permittee must develop an appropriate Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP https://www.epa.gov/npdes/developing-stormwater-pollution-prevention-plan-swppp); and

   b. Following construction, prevention or treatment of ongoing stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces that includes soil infiltration must be implemented.

2. **Projects or Activities Discharging to Impaired Waters**
   Projects or activities are not authorized under the NWPs if the project will involve point source discharges into an active channel of a water of the U.S. identified as a section 303(d) or TMDL listed impaired waterbody and the discharge may result in further exceedance of a specific parameter (e.g. total suspended solids, dissolved oxygen, temperature) for which the waterbody is listed. The current lists of 303(d) and TMDL listed waterbodies are available on EPA Region 10's web site at: https://www.epa.gov/tmdl/impaired-waters-and-tmdls-region-10

3. **Notice to EPA**
   All applicants must provide notice to EPA Region 10 prior to commencing construction to provide EPA Region 10 with the opportunity to inspect the activity for the purposes of determining whether any discharge from the proposed project will violate this water quality certification. Where the Corps requires a PCN for the applicable NWP, the applicant should also provide the PCN to Region 10. EPA Region 10 will provide written notification to the applicant if the proposed project will violate the water quality certification of the NWP.

4. **Unsuitable Materials**
   The applicant shall not cause a point source discharge of toxic chemical components (e.g., copper, arsenic, zinc, creosote, chromium, chloride, fluoride,

pentachlorophenol) into waters of the United States during installation or removal of structures, unless the structures meet the following conditions:

a. Wood preservatives and their application must be in compliance with EPA label requirements and criteria of approved EPA Registration Documents under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act;

b. Discharges of chemically treated wood products must follow the Western Wood Preservatives Institute (WWPI) guidelines and best management practices to minimize the preservative migrating from treated wood into the aquatic environment;

c. For new or replacement wood structures installed into waters of the United States, the wood must be sealed with non-toxic products such as water-based silica or soy-based water repellants or sealers to prevent or limit leaching. Acceptable alternatives to chemically treated wood are encouraged and include untreated wood, steel (painted, unpainted or coated with epoxy petroleum compound or plastic), concrete and plastic lumber; and

d. All removal of chemically treated wood products (including pilings) must follow the most recent “EPA Region 10 Best Management Practices for Piling Removal and Placement in Washington State.”

Tribes with 401 Water Quality Certification

(Response letters from Tribes can be viewed online at: http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory/Permit-Guidebook/NWPs/)

To date, the tribes that have treatment in a similar manner as a state and WQC authority over activities on their respective tribal lands include the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Quinault Indian Nation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and the Tulalip Tribes.

Where WQC is denied for activities occurring on their respective tribal lands, no proposed discharge is authorized by an NWP until water quality certification is obtained or waived. If the certifying authority issues a water quality certification for the proposed discharge, the permittee must submit a copy of the certification to the district engineer. The discharge is not authorized by an NWP until the district engineer has notified the permittee that the water quality certification requirement has been satisfied by the issuance of a water quality certification or a waiver.

For each Tribe with treatment in a similar manner as a state and WQC authority over activities on their respective tribal lands, the following WQC determinations are in effect for the 2021 NWPs:

Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation

Water Quality Certification Waived

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation

Water Quality Certification Waived

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe was granted treatment in a manner similar to a state on March 30, 2022. Refer to NWP general condition 25 - Water Quality to ensure compliance for NWP activities occurring on their respective tribal lands.

To obtain individual Section 401 WQC from this Tribe, contact the Natural Resources Department, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, 1033 Old Blyn Highway, Sequim, Washington 98382; telephone: (360) 683-1109.

Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Water Quality Certification Waived

Lummi Nation

Water Quality Certification Denied, individual 401 WQC coordination is required for all projects.

To obtain individual Section 401 WQC from this Tribe, contact the Water Resources Manager, Lummi Natural Resources Department, Lummi Nation, 2665 Kwina Road, Bellingham, Washington 98226; telephone: (360) 312-2319.

Makah Tribe

Water Quality Certification Denied, individual 401 WQC coordination is required for all projects.

To obtain individual Section 401 WQC from this Tribe, contact the Makah Fisheries Water Quality Department, Makah Tribe, P.O. Box 115, Neah Bay, Washington 98357-0115; telephone: (360) 645-3151.

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

Water Quality Certification Waived

Puyallup Tribe of Indians

Water Quality Certification Denied**,** individual 401 WQC coordination is required for all projects.

To obtain individual Section 401 WQC from this Tribe, contact the Director of Natural Resources, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, 3009 East Portland Avenue, Tacoma, Washington 98404; telephone: (253) 680-5520.

Quinault Indian Nation

Water Quality Certification Waived

Spokane Tribe of Indians

Water Quality Certification Waived

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Water Quality Certification Granted where all NWP national and regional terms and conditions are met.

Tulalip Tribes

Water Quality Certification Denied, individual 401 WQC coordination is required for all projects.

To obtain individual Section 401 WQC from this Tribe, contact the Tulalip Tribes Natural Resource Department, 6406 Marine Drive, Tulalip, Washington 98271-9694; telephone: (360) 716-4617.

## Appendix A: Definitions

(Federal Register January 13, 2021, Vol. 86, No. 8)

Best management practices (BMPs)
Policies, practices, procedures, or structures implemented to mitigate the adverse environmental effects on surface water quality resulting from development. BMPs are categorized as structural or non-structural.

Compensatory mitigation
The restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment (creation), enhancement, and/or in certain circumstances preservation of aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

Currently serviceable
Useable as is or with some maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction.

Direct effects
Effects that are caused by the activity and occur at the same time and place.

Discharge
The term “discharge” means any discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Ecological reference
A model used to plan and design an aquatic habitat and riparian area restoration, enhancement, or establishment activity under NWP 27. An ecological reference may be based on the structure, functions, and dynamics of an aquatic habitat type or a riparian area type that currently exists in the region where the proposed NWP 27 activity is located. Alternatively, an ecological reference may be based on a conceptual model for the aquatic habitat type or riparian area type to be restored, enhanced, or established as a result of the proposed NWP 27 activity. An ecological reference takes into account the range of variation of the aquatic habitat type or riparian area type in the region.

Enhancement
The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement results in the gain of selected aquatic resource function(s), but may also lead to a decline in other aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

Establishment (creation)

The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist at an upland site. Establishment results in a gain in aquatic resource area.

High Tide Line

The line of intersection of the land with the water's surface at the maximum height reached by a rising tide. The high tide line may be determined, in the absence of actual data, by a line of oil or scum along shore objects, a more or less continuous deposit of fine shell or debris on the foreshore or berm, other physical markings or characteristics, vegetation lines, tidal gages, or other suitable means that delineate the general height reached by a rising tide. The line encompasses spring high tides and other high tides that occur with periodic frequency but does not include storm surges in which there is a departure from the normal or predicted reach of the tide due to the piling up of water against a coast by strong winds such as those accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm.

Historic Property

Any prehistoric or historic district, site (including archaeological site), building, structure, or other object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria (36 CFR part 60).

Independent utility

A test to determine what constitutes a single and complete non-linear project in the Corps Regulatory Program. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. Portions of a multi-phase project that depend upon other phases of the project do not have independent utility. Phases of a project that would be constructed even if the other phases were not built can be considered as separate single and complete projects with independent utility.

Indirect effects

Effects that are caused by the activity and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable.

Loss of waters of the United States

Waters of the United States that are permanently adversely affected by filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. The loss of stream bed includes the acres of stream bed that are permanently adversely affected by filling or excavation because of the regulated activity. Permanent adverse effects include

permanent discharges of dredged or fill material that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody. The acreage of loss of waters of the United States is a threshold measurement of the impact to jurisdictional waters or wetlands for determining whether a project may qualify for an NWP; it is not a net threshold that is calculated after considering compensatory mitigation that may be used to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. Waters of the United States temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to pre-construction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the United States. Impacts resulting from activities that do not require Department of the Army authorization, such as activities eligible for exemptions under section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act, are not considered when calculating the loss of waters of the United States.

Navigable waters

Waters subject to section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. These waters are defined at 33 CFR part 329.

Non-tidal wetland

A non-tidal wetland is a wetland that is not subject to the ebb and flow of tidal waters. Non-tidal wetlands contiguous to tidal waters are located landward of the high tide line (i.e., spring high tide line).

Open water

For purposes of the NWPs, an open water is any area that in a year with normal patterns of precipitation has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that an ordinary high water mark can be determined. Aquatic vegetation within the area of flowing or standing water is either non-emergent, sparse, or absent. Vegetated shallows are considered to be open waters. Examples of “open waters” include rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.

Ordinary High Water Mark

The term ordinary high water mark means that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

Perennial stream

A perennial stream has surface water flowing continuously year-round during a typical year.

Practicable

Available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes.

Pre-construction notification

A request submitted by the project proponent to the Corps for confirmation that a particular activity is authorized by nationwide permit. The request may be a permit application, letter, or similar document that includes information about the proposed work and its anticipated environmental effects. Pre-construction notification may be required by the terms and conditions of a nationwide permit, or by regional conditions. A pre-construction notification may be voluntarily submitted in cases where pre-construction notification is not required and the project proponent wants confirmation that the activity is authorized by nationwide permit.

Preservation

The removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources. This term includes activities commonly associated with the protection and maintenance of aquatic resources through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation does not result in a gain of aquatic resource area or functions.

Re-establishment

The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former aquatic resource. Re-establishment results in rebuilding a former aquatic resource and results in a gain in aquatic resource area and functions.

Rehabilitation

The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/historic functions to a degraded aquatic resource. Rehabilitation results in a gain in aquatic resource function, but does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

Restoration

The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic resource. For the purpose of tracking net gains in aquatic resource area, restoration is divided into two categories: re-establishment and rehabilitation.

Riffle and pool complex

Riffle and pool complexes are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Riffle and pool complexes sometimes characterize steep gradient sections of streams. Such stream sections are recognizable by their hydraulic characteristics. The rapid movement of water over a course substrate in riffles results in a rough flow, a turbulent surface, and high dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Pools are deeper areas associated with riffles. A slower stream velocity, a streaming flow, a smooth surface, and a finer substrate characterize pools.

Riparian areas

Riparian areas are lands next to streams, lakes, and estuarine-marine shorelines. Riparian areas are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, through which surface and subsurface hydrology connects riverine, lacustrine, estuarine, and marine waters with their adjacent wetlands, non-wetland waters, or uplands. Riparian areas provide a variety of ecological functions and services and help improve or maintain local water quality. (See general condition 23.)

Shellfish seeding

The placement of shellfish seed and/or suitable substrate to increase shellfish production. Shellfish seed consists of immature individual shellfish or individual shellfish attached to shells or shell fragments (i.e., spat on shell). Suitable substrate may consist of shellfish shells, shell fragments, or other appropriate materials placed into waters for shellfish habitat.

Single and complete linear project

A linear project is a project constructed for the purpose of getting people, goods, or services from a point of origin to a terminal point, which often involves multiple crossings of one or more waterbodies at separate and distant locations. The term "single and complete project" is defined as that portion of the total linear project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers that includes all crossings of a single water of the United States (i.e., a single waterbody) at a specific location. For linear projects crossing a single or multiple waterbodies several times at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river, or individual arms of a large, irregularly shaped wetland or lake, etc., are not separate waterbodies, and crossings of such features cannot be considered separately.

Single and complete non-linear project

For non-linear projects, the term "single and complete project" is defined at 33 CFR 330.2(i) as the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers. A single and complete non-linear project must have independent utility (see definition of "independent utility"). Single and complete non-linear projects may not be "piecemealed" to avoid the limits in an NWP authorization.

Stormwater management

Stormwater management is the mechanism for controlling stormwater runoff for the purposes of reducing downstream erosion, water quality degradation, and flooding and mitigating the adverse effects of changes in land use on the aquatic environment.

Stormwater management facilities

Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, stormwater retention and detention ponds and best management practices, which retain water for a period of time to control runoff and/or improve the quality (i.e., by reducing the concentration of nutrients, sediments, hazardous substances and other pollutants) of stormwater runoff.

Stream bed

The substrate of the stream channel between the ordinary high water marks. The substrate may be bedrock or inorganic particles that range in size from clay to boulders. Wetlands contiguous to the stream bed, but outside of the ordinary high water marks, are not considered part of the stream bed.

Stream channelization

The manipulation of a stream's course, condition, capacity, or location that causes more than minimal interruption of normal stream processes. A channelized jurisdictional stream remains a water of the United States.

Structure

An object that is arranged in a definite pattern of organization. Examples of structures include, without limitation, any pier, boat dock, boat ramp, wharf, dolphin, weir, boom, breakwater, bulkhead, revetment, riprap, jetty, artificial island, artificial reef, permanent mooring structure, power transmission line, permanently moored floating vessel, piling, aid to navigation, or any other manmade obstacle or obstruction.

Tidal wetland

A tidal wetland is a jurisdictional wetland that is inundated by tidal waters. Tidal waters rise and fall in a predictable and measurable rhythm or cycle due to the gravitational pulls of the moon and sun. Tidal waters end where the rise and fall of the water surface can no longer be practically measured in a predictable rhythm due to masking by other waters, wind, or other effects. Tidal wetlands are located channelward of the high tide line.

Tribal lands

Any lands title to which is either: 1) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual; or 2) held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to restrictions by the United States against alienation.

Tribal rights

Those rights legally accruing to a tribe or tribes by virtue of inherent sovereign authority, unextinguished aboriginal title, treaty, statute, judicial decisions, executive order or agreement, and that give rise to legally enforceable remedies.

Vegetated shallows

Vegetated shallows are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. They are areas that are permanently inundated and under normal circumstances have rooted aquatic vegetation, such as seagrasses in marine and estuarine systems and a variety of vascular rooted plants in freshwater systems.

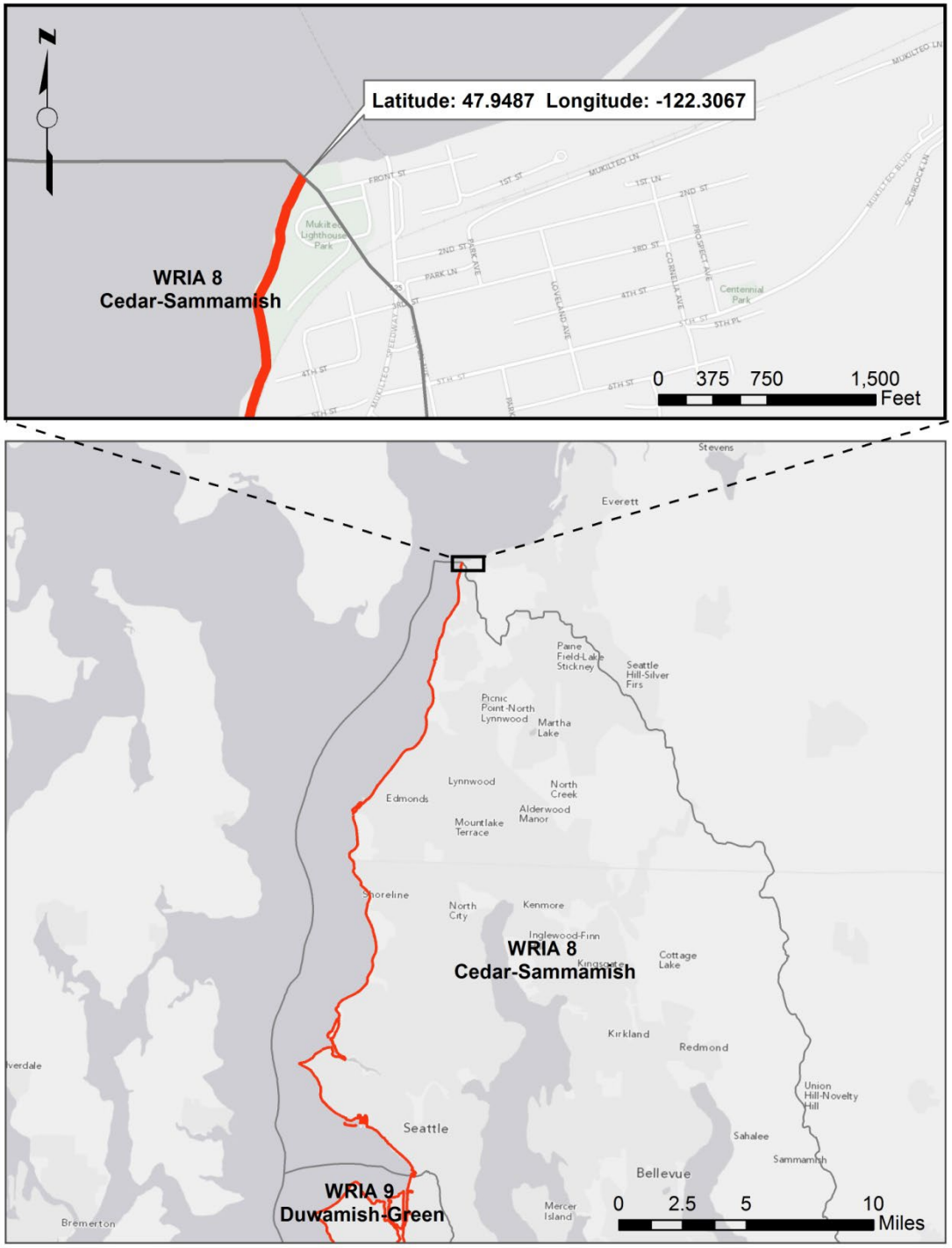
Waterbody

For purposes of the NWPs, a waterbody is a "water of the United States." If a wetland is adjacent to a waterbody determined to be a water of the United States, that waterbody and any adjacent wetlands are considered together as a single aquatic unit (see 33 CFR 328.4(c)(2)).

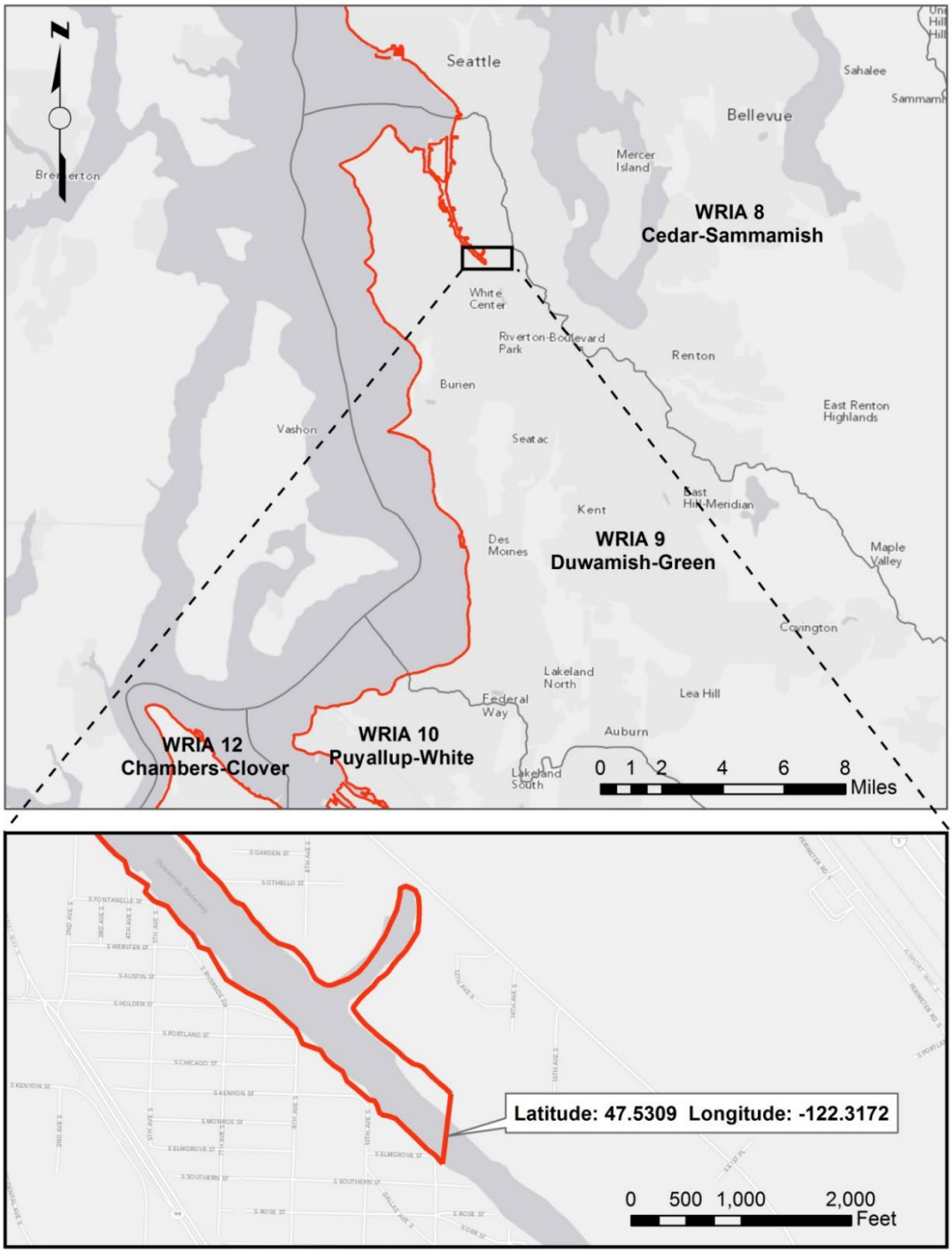
## Appendix B: Figures

Figure 1: RGC 3 – WRIAs 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12

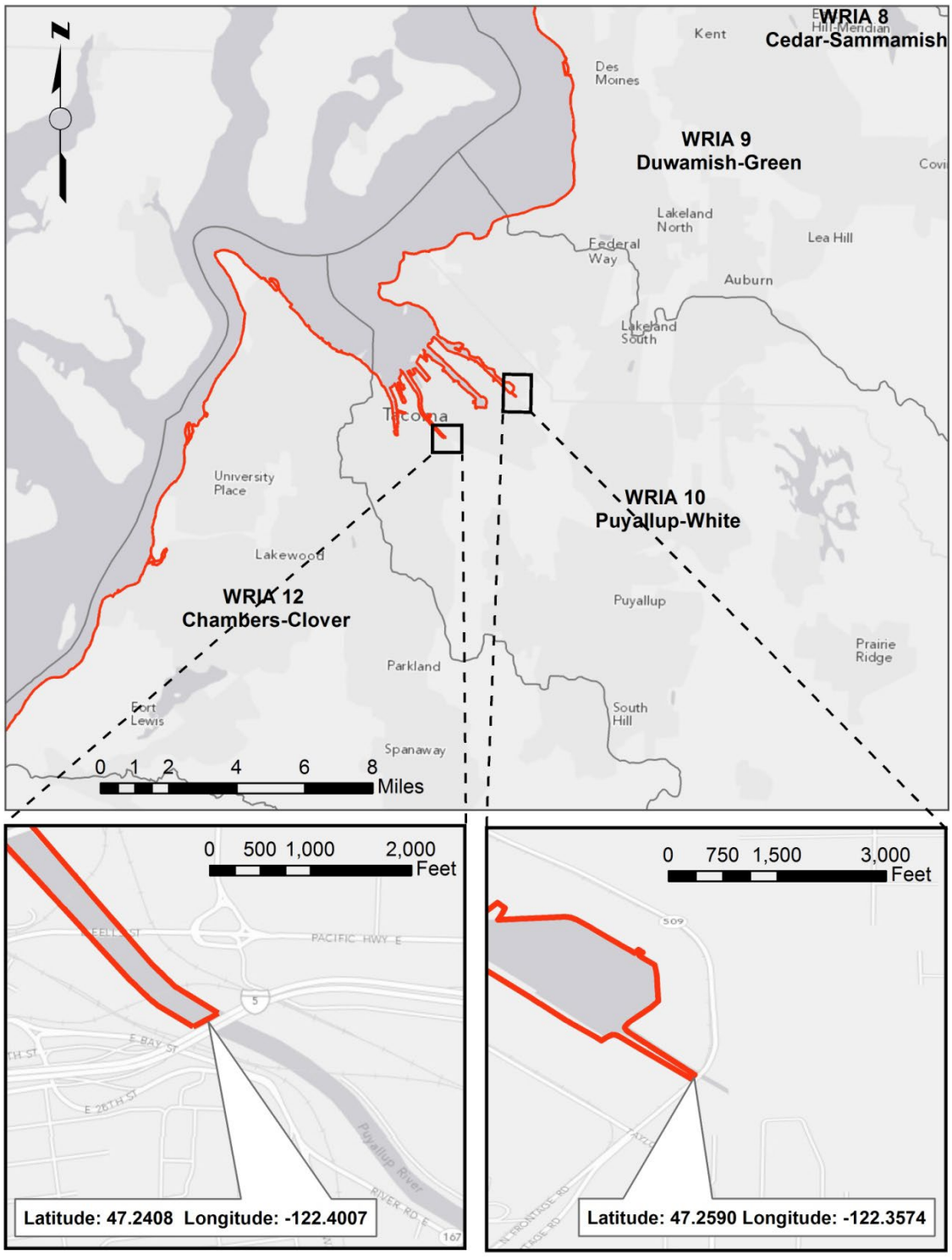
a. WRIA 8



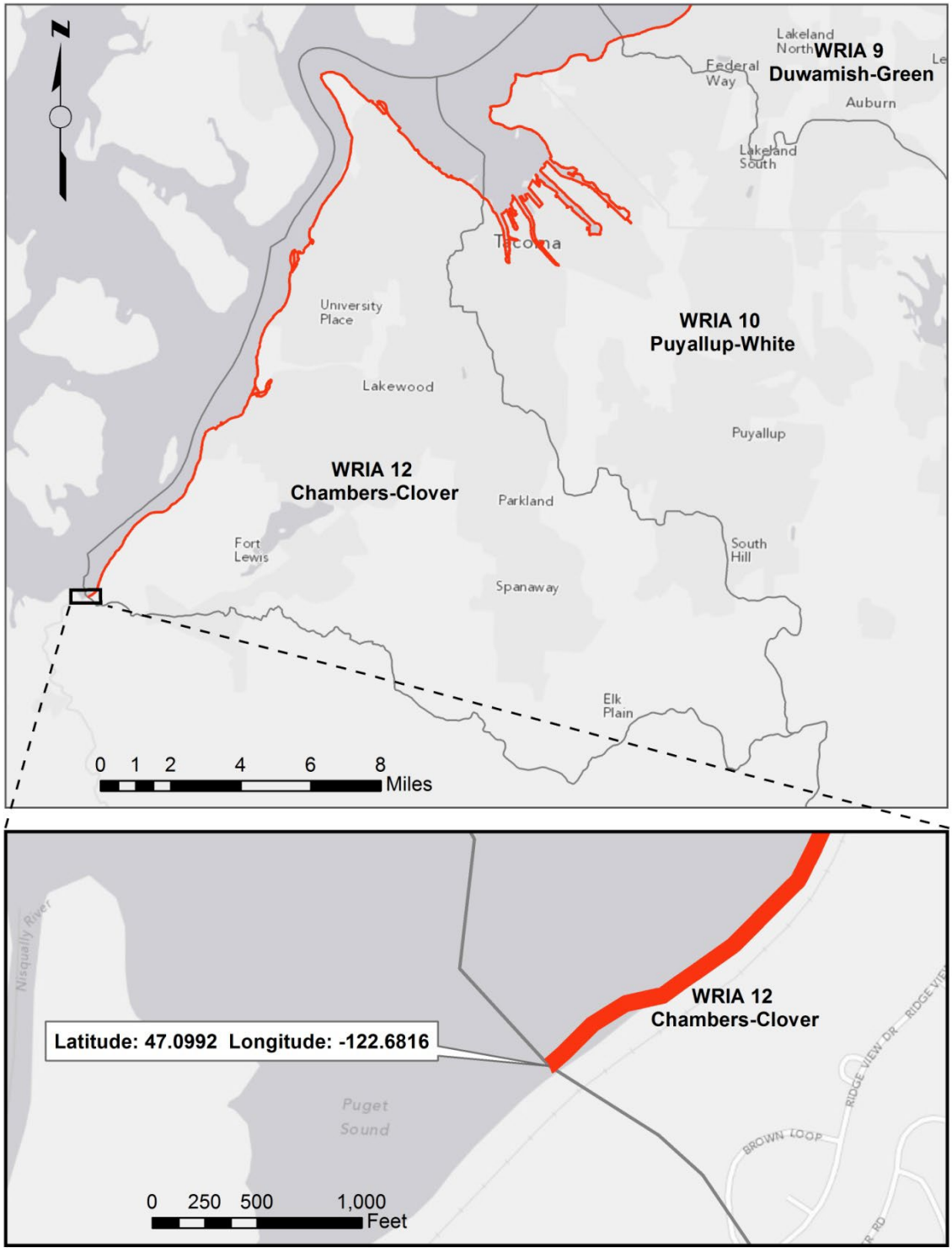
b. WRIA 9


N
Seattle
Bellevue
Sahalee
Mercer Island
Bremerton
WRIA 8
Cedar-Sammamish
White Center
Riverton-Boulevard Park
Renton
Burien
East Renton Highlands
Vashon
Seatac
Kent
East Hill-Meridian
Des Moines
WRIA 9
Duwamish-Green
Maple Valley
Covington
Lakeland North
Lea Hill
Federal Way
Auburn
WRIA 12
Chambers-Clover
WRIA 10
Puyallup-White
Lakeland South
0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles
Latitude: 47.5309 Longitude: -122.3172
0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

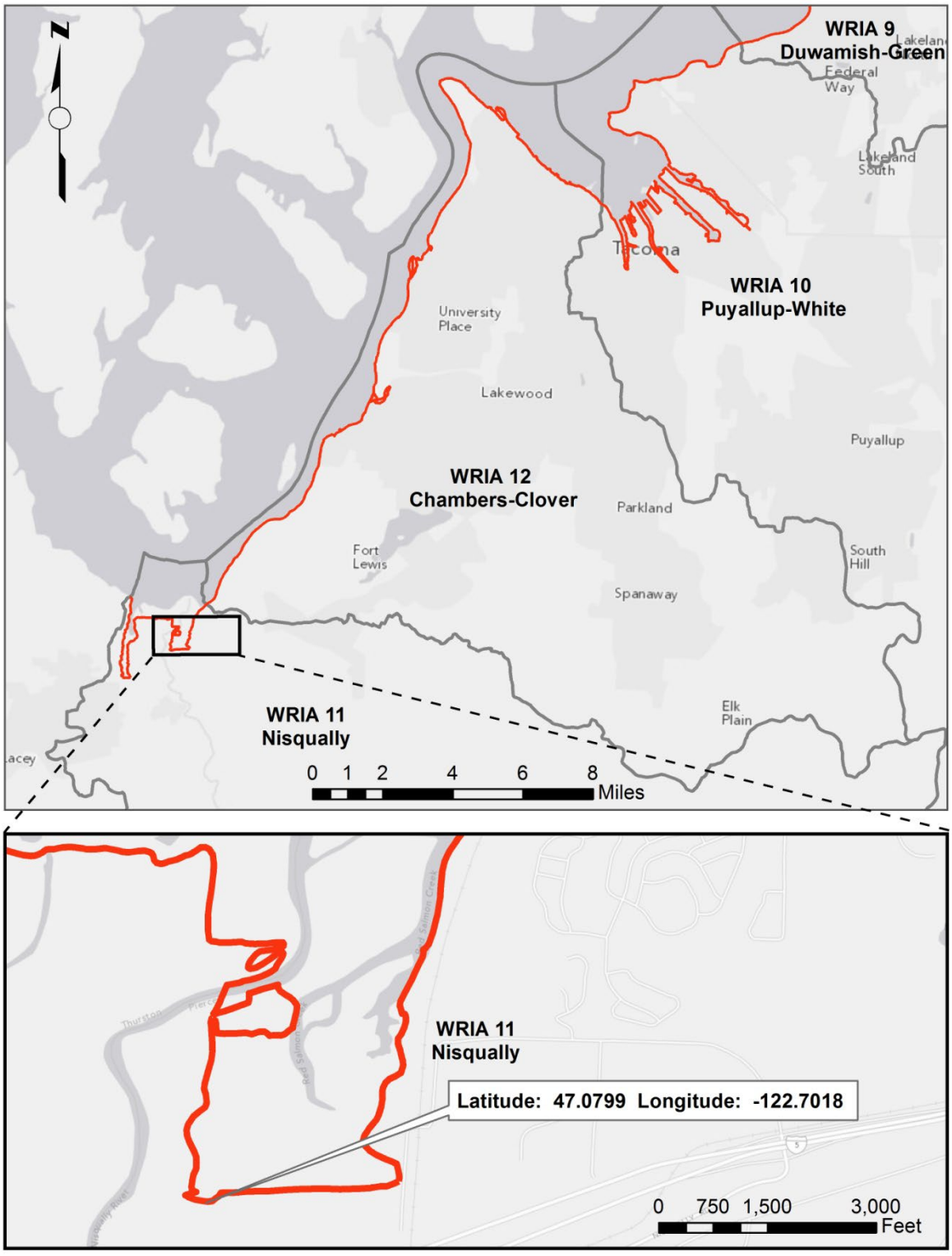
c. WRIA 10


N
WRIA 8
Cedar-Sammamish
Kent
Des Moines
WRIA 9
Duwamish-Green
Lakeland North
Federal Way
Lea Hill
Auburn
Lakeland South
Tacoma
University Place
WRIA 10
Puyallup-White
Lakewood
WRIA 12
Chambers-Clover
Puyallup
Prairie Ridge
Parkland
Fort Lewis
South Hill
Spanaway
0 1 2 4 6 8
Miles
0 500 1,000 2,000
Feet
PACIFIC HWY E
E BAY ST
E 26TH ST
Puyallup River
RIVER RD E
Latitude: 47.2408 Longitude: -122.4007
0 750 1,500 3,000
Feet
Latitude: 47.2590 Longitude: -122.3574

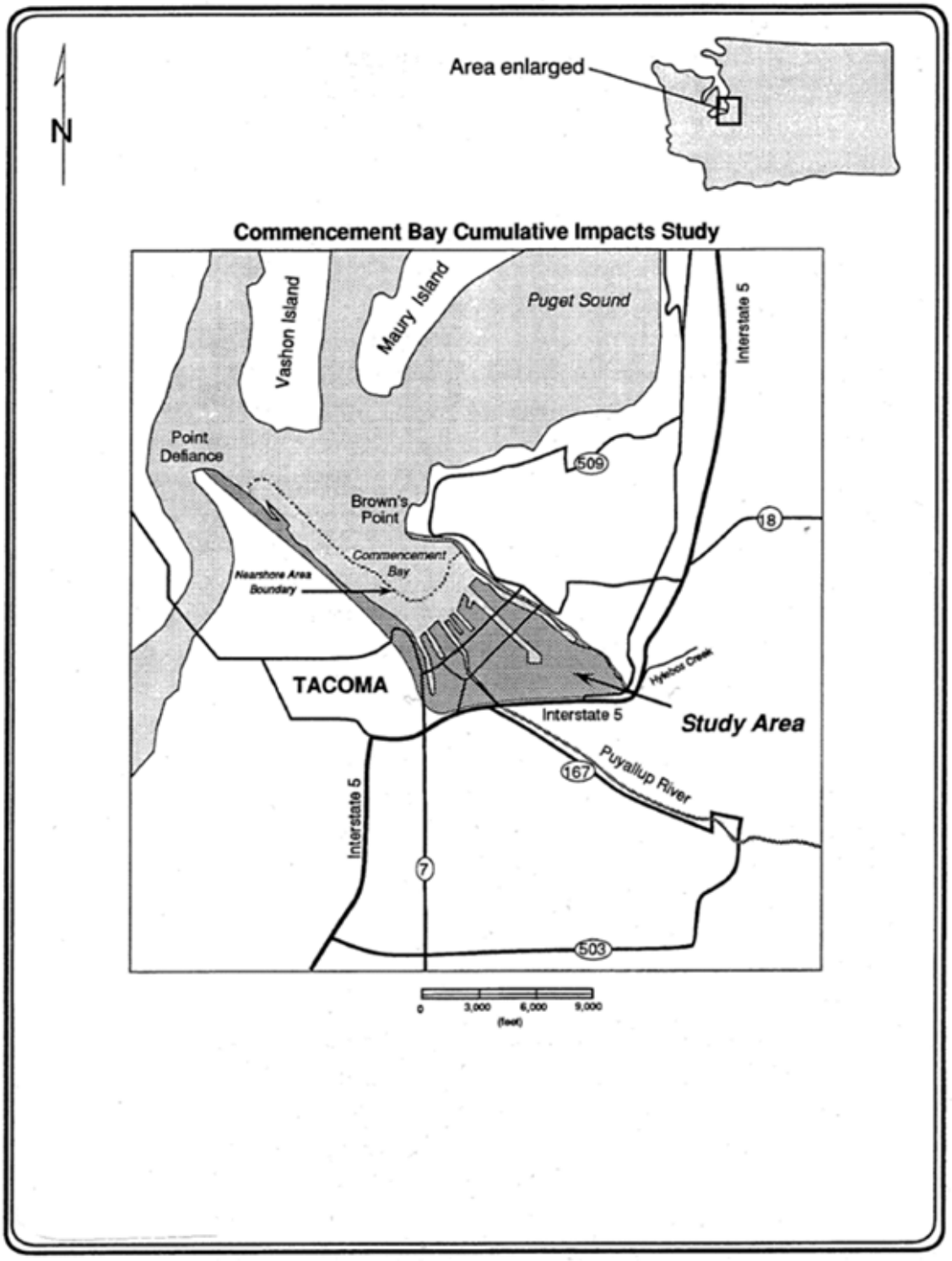
d. WRIA 12


N
Lakeland North
WRIA 9
Duwamish-Green
Federal Way
Auburn
Lakeland South
Tacoma
University Place
WRIA 10
Puyallup-White
Lakewood
Puyallup
WRIA 12
Chambers-Clover
Parkland
Fort Lewis
South Hill
Spanaway
Elk Plain
0 1 2 4 6 8
Miles
Nisqually River
WRIA 12
Chambers-Clover
Latitude: 47.0992 Longitude: -122.6816
Puget Sound
BROWN LOOP
RIDGE VIEW DR
0 250 500 1,000
Feet

e. WRIA 11


N
WRIA 9
Duwamish-Green
Federal Way
Lakeland South
Tacoma
WRIA 10
Puyallup-White
University Place
Lakewood
Puyallup
WRIA 12
Chambers-Clover
Parkland
Fort Lewis
South Hill
Spanaway
Elk Plain
WRIA 11
Nisqually
Lacey
0 1 2 4 6 8
Miles
WRIA 11
Nisqually
Latitude: 47.0799 Longitude: -122.7018
0 750 1,500 3,000
Feet

f. Figure 2. RGC 4 – Commencement Bay Study Area



## Appendix C: Abbreviations

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Corps | – | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| CZM | – | Coastal Zone Management |
| Ecology | – | Washington State Department of Ecology |
| EPA | – | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| ESA | – | Endangered Species Act |
| HPA | – | Hydraulic Project Approval |
| JARPA | – | Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application |
| MSA | – | Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act |
| NHPA | – | National Historic Preservation Act |
| NMFS | – | National Marine Fisheries Service |
| NPDES | – | National Pollution Discharge Elimination System |
| NRCS | – | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| NWP | – | Nationwide Permit |
| CENWS | – | Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division, Seattle District |
| PCN | – | Pre-Construction Notification |
| State | – | Washington State |
| TMDL | – | Total Maximum Daily Load |
| USFWS | – | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| WDFW | – | Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| WDNR | – | Washington Department of Natural Resources |
| WQC | – | Section 401 Water Quality Certification |

## Appendix D: Index