Final Regional Conditions 2012

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The web links (both internal to our District and any external links to collaborating agencies) in this document are valid at the time of publication. However, the Wilmington District Regulatory Program web page addresses, as with other agency web sites, may change over the timeframe of the five-year Nationwide Permit renewal cycle, in response to policy mandates or technology advances. While we will make every effort to check on the integrity of our web links and provide re-direct pages whenever possible, we ask that you report any broken links to us so we can keep the page information current and usable. We apologize in advanced for any broken links that you may encounter, and we ask that you navigate from the regulatory home page (wetlands and stream permits) of the Wilmington District Corps of Engineers, to the "Permits" section of our web site to find links for pages that cannot be found by clicking directly on the listed web link in this document.

Final 2012 Regional Conditions for Nationwide Permits (NWP) in the Wilmington District

1.0 Excluded Waters

The Corps has identified waters that will be excluded from the use of all NWP's during certain timeframes. These waters are:

1.1 Anadromous Fish Spawning Areas

Waters of the United States identified by either the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) or the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) as anadromous fish spawning areas are excluded during the period between February 15 and June 30, without prior written approval from NCDMF or NCWRC and the Corps.

1.2 Trout Waters Moratorium

Waters of the United States in the twenty-five designated trout counties of North Carolina are excluded during the period between October 15 and April 15 without prior written approval from the NCWRC. (See Section 2.7 for a list of the twenty-five trout counties).

1.3 Sturgeon Spawning Areas as Designated by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Waters of the United States designated as sturgeon spawning areas are excluded during the period between February 1 and June 30, without prior written approval from the NMFS.

2.0 Waters Requiring Additional Notification

The Corps has identified waters that will be subject to additional notification requirements for activities authorized by all NWP's. These waters are:

2.1 Western NC Counties that Drain to Designated Critical Habitat

For proposed activities within Waters of the U.S. that require a Pre-Construction Notification pursuant to General Condition 31 (PCN) and are located in the sixteen counties listed below, applicants must provide a copy of the PCN to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, 160 Zillicoa Street, Asheville, North Carolina 28801. This PCN must be sent concurrently to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Corps Asheville Regulatory Field Office. Please see General Condition 18 for specific notification requirements related to Federally Endangered Species and the following website for information on the location of designated critical habitat.

Counties with tributaries that drain to designated critical habitat that require notification to the Asheville US Fish and Wildlife Service: Avery, Cherokee, Forsyth, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Union and Yancey.

Website and office addresses for Endangered Species Act Information:

The Wilmington District has developed the following website for applicants which provides guidelines on how to review linked websites and maps in order to fulfill NWP general condition 18 requirements: http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands/ESA

Applicants who do not have internet access may contact the appropriate US Fish and Wildlife Service offices listed below or the US Army Corps of Engineers at (910) 251- 4633:

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Asheville Field Office
160 Zillicoa Street
Asheville, NC 28801
Telephone: (828) 258-3939

Asheville US Fish and Wildlife Service Office counties: All
counties west of and including Anson, Stanly, Davidson, Forsyth and Stokes Counties

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Raleigh Field Office
Post Office Box 33726
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726
Telephone: (919) 856-4520

Raleigh US Fish and Wildlife Service Office counties: all counties east of and including Richmond, Montgomery, Randolph, Guilford, and Rockingham Counties.

2.2 Special Designation Waters

Prior to the use of any NWP in any of the following identified waters and contiguous wetlands in North Carolina, applicants must comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 31 (PCN). The North Carolina waters and contiguous wetlands that require additional notification requirements are:

"Outstanding Resource Waters" (ORW) or "High Quality Waters" (HQW) as designated by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission; "Inland Primary Nursery Areas" (IPNA) as designated by the NCWRC; "Contiguous Wetlands" as defined by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission; or "Primary Nursery Areas" (PNA) as designated by the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission.

2.3 Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Areas of Environmental Concern

Non-federal applicants for any NWP in a designated "Area of Environmental Concern" (AEC) in the twenty (20) counties of Eastern North Carolina covered by the North Carolina Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) must also obtain the required CAMA permit. Development activities for non-federal projects may not commence until a copy of the approved CAMA permit is furnished to the appropriate Wilmington District Regulatory Field Office (Wilmington Field Office – 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, NC 28403 or Washington Field Office – 2407 West 5th Street, Washington, NC 27889).

2.4 Barrier Islands

Prior to the use of any NWP on a barrier island of North Carolina, applicants must comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 31 (PCN).

2.5 Mountain or Piedmont Bogs

Prior to the use of any NWP in a Bog classified by the North Carolina Wetland Assessment Methodology (NCWAM), applicants shall comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 31 (PCN). The latest version of NCWAM is located on the NC DWQ web site at: http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/swp/ws/pdu/ncwam .

2.6 Animal Waste Facilities

Prior to use of any NWP for construction of animal waste facilities in waters of the US, including wetlands, applicants shall comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 31 (PCN).

2.7 Trout Waters

Prior to any discharge of dredge or fill material into streams or waterbodies within the twenty-five (25) designated trout counties of North Carolina, the applicant shall comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 31 (PCN). The applicant shall also provide a copy of the notification to the appropriate NCWRC office to facilitate the determination of any potential

impacts to designated Trout Waters. Notification to the Corps of Engineers will include a statement with the name of the NCWRC biologist contacted, the date of the notification, the location of work, a delineation of wetlands, a discussion of alternatives to working in the mountain trout waters, why alternatives were not selected, and a plan to provide compensatory mitigation for all unavoidable adverse impacts to mountain trout waters.

NCWRC and NC Trout Counties

Western Piedmont Region Coordinator	Alleghany	Caldwell	Watauga
20830 Great Smoky Mtn. Expressway	Ashe	Mitchell	Wilkes
Waynesville, NC 28786	Avery	Stokes	
Telephone: (828) 452-2546	Burke	Surry	

Mountain Region Coordinator	Buncombe	Henderson	Polk
20830 Great Smoky Mtn. Expressway	Cherokee	Jackson	Rutherford
Waynesville, NC 28786	Clay	Macon	Swain
Telephone: (828) 452-2546	Graham	Madison	Transylvania
Fax: (828) 452-7772	Haywood	McDowell	Yancey

3.0 List of Corps Regional Conditions for All Nationwide Permits

The following conditions apply to all Nationwide Permits in the Wilmington District:

3.1 Limitation of Loss of Perennial Stream Bed

NWPs may not be used for activities that may result in the loss or degradation of greater than 300 total linear feet of perennial, intermittent or ephemeral stream, unless the District Commander has waived the 300 linear foot limit for ephemeral and intermittent streams on a case-by-case basis and he determines that the proposed activity will result in minimal individual and cumulative adverse impacts to the aquatic environment. Loss of stream includes the linear feet of stream bed that is filled, excavated, or flooded by the proposed activity. Waivers for the loss of ephemeral and intermittent streams must be in writing and documented by appropriate/accepted stream quality assessments*. This waiver only applies to the 300 linear feet threshold for NWPs.

*NOTE: Applicants should utilize the most current methodology prescribed by Wilmington District to assess stream function and quality. Information can be found at:

http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands/permits/nwp/nwp2012 (see “Quick Links”)

3.2 Mitigation for Loss of Stream Bed

For any NWP that results in a loss of more than 150 linear feet of perennial and/or ephemeral/intermittent stream, the applicant shall provide a mitigation proposal to compensate for more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse impacts to the aquatic environment. For stream losses less than 150 linear feet, that require a PCN, the District Commander may determine, on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in minimal adverse effect on the aquatic environment.

3.3 Pre-construction Notification for Loss of Streambed Exceeding 150 Feet.

Prior to use of any NWP for any activity which impacts more than 150 total linear feet of perennial stream or ephemeral/ intermittent stream, the applicant must comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 31 (PCN). This applies to NWPs that do not have specific notification requirements. If a NWP has specific notification requirements, the requirements of the NWP should be followed.

3.4 Restriction on Use of Live Concrete

For all NWPs which allow the use of concrete as a building material, live or fresh concrete, including bags of uncured concrete, may not come into contact with the water in or entering into waters of the US. Water inside coffer dams or casings that has been in contact with wet concrete shall only be returned to waters of the US when it is no longer poses a threat to aquatic organisms.

3.5 Requirements for Using Riprap for Bank Stabilization

For all NWPs that allow for the use of riprap material for bank stabilization, the following measures shall be applied:

3.5.1. Filter cloth must be placed underneath the riprap as an additional requirement of its use in North Carolina waters.

3.5.2. The placement of riprap shall be limited to the areas depicted on submitted work plan drawings.

3.5.3. The riprap material shall be clean and free from loose dirt or any pollutant except in trace quantities that would not have an adverse environmental effect.

3.5.4. It shall be of a size sufficient to prevent its movement from the authorized alignment by natural forces under normal conditions.

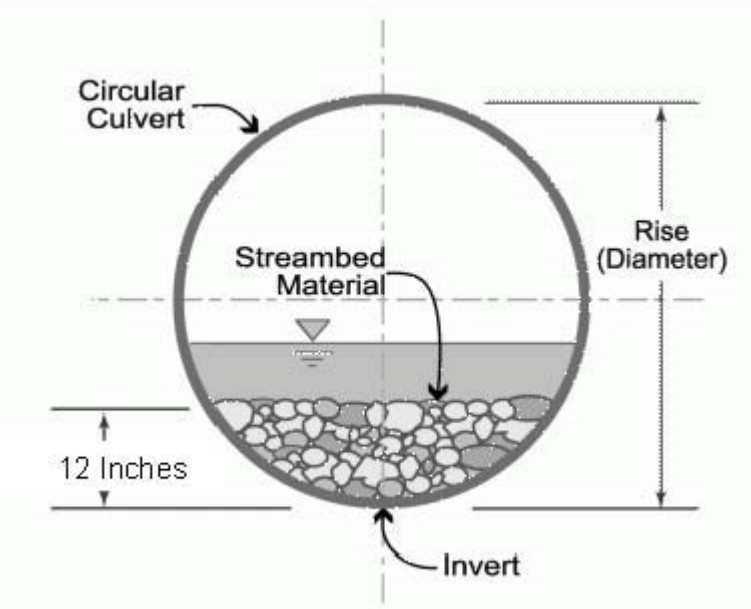
3.5.5. The riprap material shall consist of clean rock or masonry material such as, but not limited to, granite, marl, or broken concrete.

3.5.6. A waiver from the specifications in this Regional Condition may be requested in writing. The waiver will only be issued if it can be demonstrated that the impacts of complying with this Regional condition would result in greater adverse impacts to the aquatic environment.

3.6 Safe Passage Requirements for Culvert Placement

For all NWPs that involve the construction/installation of culverts, measures will be included in the construction/installation that will promote the safe passage of fish and other aquatic organisms. The dimension, pattern, and profile of the stream above and below a pipe or culvert should not be modified by widening the stream channel or by reducing the depth of the stream in connection with the construction activity. The width, height, and gradient of a proposed culvert should be such as to pass the average historical low flow and spring flow without adversely altering flow velocity. Spring flow should be determined from gage data, if available. In the absence of such data, bankfull flow can be used as a comparable level.

In the twenty (20) counties of North Carolina designated as coastal counties by the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA): All pipes/culverts must be sufficiently sized to allow for the burial of the bottom of the pipe/culvert at least one foot below normal bed elevation when they are placed within the Public Trust Area of Environmental Concern (AEC) and/or the Estuarine Waters AEC as designated by CAMA, and/or all streams appearing as blue lines on United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle maps.



In all other counties: Culverts greater than 48 inches in diameter will be buried at least one foot below the bed of the stream. Culverts 48 inches in diameter or less shall be buried or placed on the stream bed as practicable and appropriate to maintain aquatic passage, and every effort shall be made to maintain the existing channel slope. The bottom of the culvert must be placed at a

depth below the natural stream bottom to provide for passage during drought or low flow conditions.

Culverts are to be designed and constructed in a manner that minimizes destabilization and head cutting. Destabilizing the channel and head cutting upstream should be considered and appropriate actions incorporated in the design and placement of the culvert.

A waiver from the depth specifications in this condition may be requested in writing. The waiver will be issued if it can be demonstrated that the proposal would result in the least impacts to the aquatic environment.

All counties: Culverts placed within riparian and/or riverine wetlands must be installed in a manner that does not restrict the flow and circulation patterns of waters of the United States. Culverts placed across wetland fills purely for the purposes of equalizing surface water do not have to be buried.

3.7 Notification to NCDENR Shellfish Sanitation Section

Applicants shall notify the NCDENR Shellfish Sanitation Section prior to dredging in or removing sediment from an area closed to shell fishing where the effluent may be released to an area open for shell fishing or swimming in order to avoid contamination from the disposal area and cause a temporary shellfish closure to be made. Such notification shall also be provided to the appropriate Corps of Engineers Regulatory Field Office. Any disposal of sand to the ocean beach should occur between November 1 and April 30 when recreational usage is low. Only clean sand should be used and no dredged sand from closed shell fishing areas may be used. If beach disposal were to occur at times other than stated above or if sand from a closed shell fishing area is to be used, a swimming advisory shall be posted, and a press release shall be issued by the permittee.

3.8 Preservation of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

Adverse impacts to Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) are not authorized by any NWP within any of the twenty coastal counties defined by North Carolina's Coastal Area Management Act of 1974 (CAMA).

3.9 Sedimentation and Erosion Control Structures and Measures

3.9.1. All PCNs will identify and describe sedimentation and erosion control structures and measures proposed for placement in waters of the US. The structures and measures should be depicted on maps, surveys or drawings showing location and impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and streams.

4.0 Additional Regional Conditions for Specific Nationwide Permits

4.1 NWP #5 – Scientific Measurement Devices

4.1.1. All weirs and flumes authorized by this NWP must be removed immediately upon completion of their intended use.

4.1.2. Weirs and flumes are not authorized by this NWP in areas identified by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) or the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) as anadromous fish spawning areas, designated "Inland Primary Nursery Areas" or Public Trout Waters.

4.2 NWP #7 - Outfall Structures and Maintenance

4.2.1. The applicant must employ the best available means when using any associated intake structure, including determining its site, design, and technology (e.g., screening), in order to minimize entrainment or impingement of fish and other aquatic life.

4.2.2. This NWP cannot be used to authorize any ocean outfall structures unless the Corps receives written verification that the proposed project is consistent with the North Carolina Coastal Management Program or has received a CAMA permit.

4.3 NWP #12 - Utility Line Activities

4.3.1. Pipeline/utility line construction through jurisdictional waters and wetlands will be accomplished utilizing directional drilling/boring methods to the maximum extent practicable.

4.3.2. Temporary discharge of excavated or fill material into wetlands and waters of the United States will be for the absolute minimum period of time necessary to accomplish the work. Temporary discharges will be fully contained with appropriate erosion control or containment methods or otherwise such fills will consist of non-erodible materials.

4.3.3. The work area authorized by this permit, including temporary and/or permanent fills, will be minimized to the greatest extent practicable. Justification for work corridors exceeding forty (40) feet in width is required and will be based on pipeline diameter and length, size of equipment required to construct the utility line, and other construction information deemed necessary to support the request. The applicant is required to provide this information to the Corps with the initial notification package.

4.3.4. In areas where a sub-aqueous utility line is to cross a federally-maintained channel, (i.e., the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway [AIWW]), the line will be buried at least six (6) feet below the allowable overdepth of the authorized channel, including all side slopes. For areas outside federally-maintained channels, sub-aqueous lines must be installed at a minimum depth of two (2) feet below the substrate when such lines might interfere with navigation.

4.3.5. The minimum clearance*(see NOTE in 4.3.6.) for aerial communication lines, or any lines not transmitting electrical power, will be ten (10) feet above the clearance required for nearby stationary bridges as established by the U.S. Coast Guard. In the event the U.S. Coast Guard has not established a bridge clearance, minimum vertical clearances for power and aerial lines will not be less than required by Section 23, Rule 232, of the latest revision of the National Electrical Safety Code (ANSI C2). Clearances will not be less than shown in Table 232-1, Item 7, ANSI C2.

4.3.6. The minimum clearance* for an aerial line, transmitting electrical power, is based on the low point of the line under conditions that produce the greatest sag, taking into consideration temperature, load, wind, length or span and the type of supports. The minimum clearance for an aerial electrical power transmission line crossing navigable waters of the US shall be governed by the system voltage, as indicated below:

Nominal System Voltage, kilovolt	Minimum Clearance Above Bridge Clearance (As Established by the U.S. Coast Guard)
115 and below	20 feet
138	22
161	24
230	26
350	30
500	35
700	42
750 to 765	45

*NOTE: Minimum clearance is the distance measured between the lowest point of a stationary bridge, including *any* infrastructure attached to underside of the bridge, and the Mean High Water (MHW) of the navigable waters of the US beneath the bridge.

4.3.7. On navigable waters of the US, including all federal navigation projects, where there is no bridge for reference for minimum clearance, the proposed project will need to be reviewed by the US Army Corps of Engineers in order to determine the minimum clearance between the line and MHW necessary to protect navigational interests.

4.3.8. A plan to restore and re-vegetate wetland areas cleared for construction must be submitted with the required PCN. Cleared wetland areas shall be re-vegetated to the maximum extent practicable with native species of canopy, shrub, and herbaceous species. Fescue grass shall not be used.

4.3.9. For the purposes of this NWP, any permanently maintained corridor along the utility ROW within forested wetlands shall be considered a permanent impact and a compensatory mitigation plan will be required for all such impacts associated with the requested activity.

4.3.10. Use of rip-rap or any other engineered structures to stabilize a stream bed should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. If riprap stabilization is needed, it should be placed only on the stream banks, or, if it is necessary to be placed in the stream bed, the finished top elevation of the riprap should not exceed that of the original stream bed.

4.3.11. When directional boring or horizontal directional drilling (HDD) under waters of the U.S., including wetlands, permittees shall closely monitor the project for hydraulic fracturing or "fracking." Any discharge from hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, shall be reported to the appropriate Corps Regulatory Field Office within 48 hours. Restoration and/or mitigation may be required as a result from any unintended discharges.

4.4 NWP # 13 – Bank Stabilization

4.4.1. Unanchored trees, treetops, or debris may not be used as stream bank stabilization material.

4.4.2. Properly anchored and cabled structural stabilization techniques, such as timber crib structures, revetments, and root wads, are acceptable materials to stabilize stream banks.

4.4.3. If riprap stabilization is needed, it should be placed only on the stream banks, or, if it is necessary to be placed in the stream bed, the finished top elevation of the riprap should not exceed that of the original stream bed.

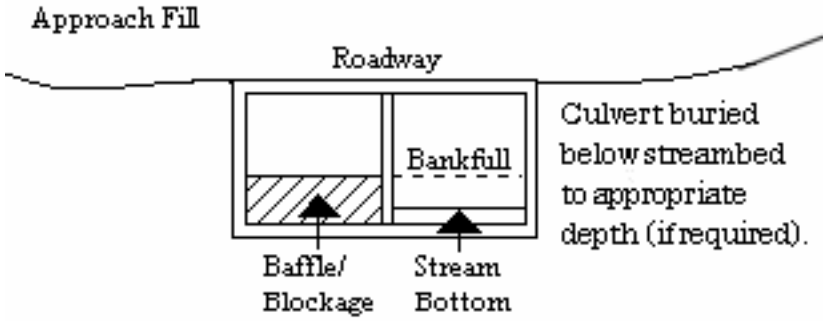
4.5 NWP #14 - Linear Transportation Crossings

4.5.1. If appropriate, applicants shall employ natural channel design (see definition below and NOTE below) to the maximum extent practicable for stream relocations. In the event it is not appropriate to employ natural channel design, any stream relocation shall be considered a permanent impact and the applicant shall provide a mitigation plan to compensate for the loss of aquatic function associated with the proposed activity.

Natural Channel Design: A geomorphologic approach to stream restoration based on an understanding of valley type, general watershed conditions, dimension, pattern, profile, hydrology and sediment transport of natural, stable channels (reference condition) and applying this understanding to the reconstruction of a stable channel.

NOTE: Applicants should reference the "Mitigation" section of the Wilmington District web site for more information regarding appropriate stream design. For projects located within the Coastal Plain ecoregion of North Carolina and within headwater areas across the state, use the specific guidance on coastal plain stream restoration.

4.5.2. Bank-full flows (or less) shall be accommodated through maintenance of the existing bank-full channel cross sectional area. Additional culverts at such crossings shall be allowed only to receive flows exceeding bank-full.



4.5.3. Where adjacent floodplain is available, flows exceeding bank-full should be accommodated by installing culverts at the floodplain elevation.

4.5.4. This NWP authorizes only upland to upland crossings and cannot be used in combination with Nationwide Permit 18 to create an upland within waters of the United States, including wetlands.

4.5.5. This NWP cannot be used for private projects located in tidal waters or tidal wetlands.

4.5.6. Excavation of existing stream channels shall be limited to the minimum necessary to construct or install the proposed culvert. The final width of the impacted streams at the culvert inlet and outlet should be no greater than the original stream width. A waiver from this condition may be requested in writing. The waiver will be issued if it can be demonstrated that it is not practicable to limit the final width of the culvert to that of the impacted stream at the culvert inlet and outlet and the proposed design would result in less impacts to the aquatic environment.

4.6 NWP #18 – Minor Discharges

This NWP may not be used in conjunction with NWP #14 to create upland.

4.7 NWP #23 – Approved Categorical Exclusions

No development activities authorized by this NWP may begin until the permittee obtains a consistency concurrence or a CAMA permit from the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management, if either is required.

4.8 NWP #27 – Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities.

If you are under contract to the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (NCEEP) and are supplying a PCN for impacts associated with a mitigation project that will be used to supply mitigation credits to NCEEP, the PCN must include a cover letter from the NCEEP stating that they have reviewed and approved your restoration plan.

4.9 NWP #29-Residential Developments.

4.9.1. Discharges in wetlands and in perennial streams for stormwater management facilities are prohibited under this NWP.

4.9.2. Single-family recreational facilities are not authorized by this NWP. Recreational facilities that are incorporated into serving an entire residential development can be authorized by this NWP.

4.9.3. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the floodway* resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

*NOTE: Floodway-The area designated and/or regulated by Federal, state, or local requirements to provide for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated height identified by the regulating entity within the 100-year floodplain.

4.9.4. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the mapped FEMA 100-year floodplain resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

4.9.5. This NWP may not be used to authorize the discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that have been identified or designated by the State of North Carolina as:
Outstanding Resource Waters
High Quality Waters
Coastal Wetlands as defined by North Carolina's Coastal Area Management Act
Wetlands adjacent to these waters

4.9.6. If riprap stabilization is needed, it should be placed only on the stream banks, or, if it is necessary to be placed in the stream bed, the finished top elevation of the riprap should not exceed that of the original stream bed.

4.10 NWP #33 – Temporary Construction, Access and Dewatering

The required restoration plan must include a timetable for restoration activities.

4.11 NWP #35 – Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins

No excavation of special aquatic sites, such as submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) areas and wetlands, is permitted.

4.12 NWP #36 – Boat Ramps

4.12.1. Boat ramps will not extend farther than twenty (20) feet waterward from the mean high water (MHW) elevation contour in tidal areas or from the normal water level elevation contour in nontidal areas.

4.12.2. Boat ramps will not be sited over areas of submerged aquatic vegetation, or sited in areas where boating activities may result in either direct or indirect disturbance or loss of SAV. Applicants are encouraged to contact the NCDCM, NCDMF or the NMFS for assistance in determining the presence of SAV.

4.13 NWP # 39 - Commercial, and Institutional Developments

4.13.1. Discharges in wetlands and in perennial streams for stormwater management facilities are prohibited under this NWP.

4.13.2. Recreational facilities, if they are incorporated into and serving an entire commercial or institutional development, can be authorized by this NWP.

4.13.3. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the floodway* resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

*NOTE: Floodway-The area designated and/or regulated by Federal, state, or local requirements to provide for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated height identified by the regulating entity within the 100-year floodplain.

4.13.4. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the mapped FEMA 100-year floodplain resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

4.13.5. This NWP may not be used to authorize the discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that have been identified or designated by the State of North Carolina as:
Outstanding Resource Waters
High Quality Waters
Coastal Wetlands as defined by North Carolina's Coastal Area Management Act
Wetlands adjacent to these waters

4.13.6. If riprap stabilization is needed, it should be placed only on the stream banks, or, if it is necessary to be placed in the stream bed, the finished top elevation of the riprap should not exceed that of the original stream bed.

4.14 NWP # 40 - Agricultural Activities

4.14.1. This NWP may not be used in channelized or natural streams.

4.14.2. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the floodway resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

*NOTE: Floodway-The area designated and/or regulated by Federal, state, or local requirements to provide for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated height identified by the regulating entity within the 100-year floodplain.

4.14.3. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the mapped FEMA 100-year floodplain resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

4.14.4. This nationwide permit may not be used to authorize the discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that have been identified or designated by the State of North Carolina as:

Outstanding Resource Waters
High Quality Waters
Coastal Wetlands as defined by North Carolina's Coastal Area Management Act
Wetlands adjacent to these waters

4.15 NWP # 41 - Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches

4.15.1. This NWP applies only to activities ordered by the State of North Carolina or a local government in response to noncompliance with the State's erosion and sedimentation control requirements, or as ordered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency or Corps of Engineers in response to noncompliance with any provision of the Clean Water Act.

4.15.2. Proponents must take all appropriate measures to avoid modifying the reach and circulation of waters within wetlands adjacent to the reshaped ditch.

4.15.3. This NWP does not apply to channelized streams or natural streams.

4.16 NWP # 42 – Recreational Facilities.

4.16.1. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the floodway* resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

*NOTE: Floodway-The area designated and/or regulated by Federal, state, or local requirements to provide for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated height identified by the regulating entity within the 100-year floodplain.

4.16.2. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the mapped FEMA 100-year floodplain, resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

4.16.3. This NWP may not be used to authorize the discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that have been identified or designated by the State of North Carolina as:
Outstanding Resource Waters
High Quality Waters
Coastal Wetlands as defined by North Carolina's Coastal Area Management Act
Wetlands adjacent to these waters

4.17 NWP # 43 - Stormwater Management Facilities

4.17. 1. Discharges into wetlands and in perennial streams for stormwater management facilities are prohibited under this NWP.

4.17.2. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the floodway* resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

*NOTE: Floodway-The area designated and/or regulated by Federal, state, or local requirements to provide for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated height identified by the regulating entity within the 100-year floodplain.

4.17.3. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the mapped FEMA 100-year floodplain, resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

4.18 NWP # 44 - Mining Activities

4.18.1. The PCN must include a delineation of the affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands, vegetated shallows (e.g., submerged aquatic vegetation, seagrass beds), and riffle and pool complexes.

4.18.2. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the floodway* resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

*NOTE: Floodway-The area designated and/or regulated by Federal, state, or local requirements to provide for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated height identified by the regulating entity within the 100-year floodplain.

4.18.3. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the mapped FEMA 100-year floodplain resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

4.18.4. This NWP may not be used to authorize the discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that have been identified or designated by the State of North Carolina as:
Outstanding Resource Waters
High Quality Waters
Coastal Wetlands as defined by North Carolina's Coastal Area Management Act
Wetlands adjacent to these waters

4.19 NWP # 46 - Discharges into Ditches and Canals

4.19. 1. The applicant must comply with NWP General Condition 31 (PCN) and receive authorization from the US Army Corps of Engineers before beginning work.

4.19.2. This NWP cannot be used to remove jurisdiction pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act upstream of the project site by severing the hydrologic connection.

4.21 NWP # 48 -Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Activities

4.21.1. No development activities authorized by this NWP may begin until the permittee obtains a consistency concurrence or a CAMA permit from the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management, if either required.

4.21.2. Prior to the use of this NWP the applicant must comply with NWP General Condition 31 (PCN).

4.21.3. This NWP does not authorize any activity which impacts Submerged Aquatic Vegetation.

4.21.4. This NWP does not authorize the discharge of any earthen fill material into any waters of the United States.

4.21.5. This NWP may not be used to authorize the discharges of dredged or fill material into wetlands, including Coastal Wetlands as defined by North Carolina's Coastal Area Management Act.

4.22 NWP # 51 - Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities.

4.22.1. The applicant must comply with NWP General Condition 31 (Pre-Construction Notification) and receive authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before beginning work.

4.22.2. The PCN must indicate the project life span and include a detailed maintenance, decommissioning and demolition plan for the life of the project.

4.22.3. The PCN must include a detailed remediation plan in the event that the activities authorized by this NWP are damaged by any natural or human-induced event.

4.22.4. For the purposes of this NWP, any permanently maintained corridor in forested wetlands along a utility ROW shall be considered a permanent impact and a compensatory mitigation plan will be required for all such impacts associated with the requested activity.

4.22.5. Discharges in wetlands and perennial streams for stormwater management facilities are prohibited under this NWP.

4.22.6. The minimum clearance* for an aerial electrical power transmission line crossing navigable waters of the US shall be governed by the system voltage, as indicated below:

Nominal System Voltage, kilovolt	Minimum Clearance Above Bridge Clearance (As Established by the U.S. Coast Guard)
115 and below	20 feet
138	22
161	24
230	26
350	30
500	35
700	42
750 to 765	45

*NOTE: Minimum clearance is the distance measured between the lowest point of a stationary bridge, including ***any*** infrastructure attached to underside of the bridge, and the Mean High Water (MHW) of the navigable waters of the US beneath the bridge.

4.22.7. The PCN must include a delineation of the affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands, vegetated shallows (e.g., submerged aquatic vegetation, seagrass beds), and riffle and pool complexes.

4.22.8. On navigable waters of the US, including all federal navigation projects, where there is no bridge for reference for minimum clearance, the proposed project will need to be reviewed by the US Army Corps of Engineers in order to determine the minimum clearance between the line and MHW necessary to protect navigational interests.

4.22.9. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the floodway* resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

*NOTE: Floodway-The area designated and/or regulated by Federal, state, or local requirements to provide for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated height identified by the regulating entity within the 100-year floodplain.

4.22.10. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the mapped FEMA 100-year floodplain resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

4.22.11. This NWP may not be used to authorize the discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that have been identified or designated by the State of North Carolina as:
Outstanding Resource Waters
High Quality Waters
Coastal Wetlands as defined by North Carolina's Coastal Area Management Act
Wetlands adjacent to these waters

4.23. NWP # 52 - Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects.

4.23.1. This permit does not authorize the interference with any existing or proposed Federal project, and the Permittee will not be entitled to compensation for damage or injury to the authorized structure or work which may be caused from existing or future operations undertaken by the United States in the public interest. This includes offshore borrow areas, navigation channels, disposal areas, easements, and rights-of-way.

4.23.2. No attempt will be made by the Permittee to prevent the full and free use by the public of all navigable waters of the US at or adjacent to the authorized work. The permitted activity must not interfere with the public's right to free navigation on all navigable waters of the United States.

4.23.3. The Permittee must install and maintain, at its expense, any signal lights and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, on all authorized facilities constructed within navigable waters of the United States.

4.23.4. It is possible that the authorized structure may be damaged by wave wash from passing vessels. The issuance of this permit does not relieve the Permittee from taking all proper steps to ensure the integrity of the permitted structure and the safety of moored boats and barges. The Permittee will not hold the United States liable for any such damage.

4.23.5. The applicant must comply with NWP General Condition 31 and receive authorization from the US Army Corps of Engineers before beginning work.

4.23.6. The PCN must indicate the project life span and include a detailed maintenance, decommissioning and demolition plan for the life of the project.

4.23.7. The PCN must include a detailed remediation plan in the event that the activities authorized by this NWP are damaged by any natural or human-induced event.

4.23.8. Adverse impacts to Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) are not authorized by this NWP within any of the twenty coastal counties defined by North Carolina's Coastal Area Management Act of 1974 (CAMA).

4.23.9. For the purposes of this NWP, any permanently maintained corridor in forested wetlands along the utility ROW shall be considered a permanent impact and a compensatory mitigation plan will be required for all such impacts associated with the requested activity.

4.23.10. Discharges in wetlands and perennial streams for stormwater management facilities are prohibited under this NWP.

4.23.11. In areas where a sub-aqueous utility line is to cross a Federally maintained channel, (i.e., the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway [AIWW]), the line will be buried at least six (6) feet below the allowable overdepth of the authorized channel, including all side slopes. For areas outside Federally-maintained channels, sub-aqueous lines must be installed at a minimum depth of two (2) feet below the substrate when such lines might interfere with navigation.

4.23.12. The minimum clearance* for an aerial electrical power transmission line crossing navigable waters of the US shall be governed by the system voltage, as indicated below:

Nominal System Voltage, kilovolt	Minimum Clearance Above Bridge Clearance (As Established by the U.S. Coast Guard)
115 and below	20 feet
138	22
161	24
230	26
350	30
500	35
700	42
750 to 765	45

*NOTE: Minimum clearance is the distance measured between the lowest point of a stationary bridge, including ***any*** infrastructure attached to underside of the bridge, and the Mean High Water (MHW) of the navigable waters of the US beneath the bridge.

4.23.13. On navigable waters of the US, including all federal navigation projects, where there is no bridge for reference for minimum clearance, the proposed project will need to be reviewed by the US Army Corps of Engineers in order to determine the minimum clearance between the line and MHW necessary to protect navigational interests.

4.23.14. The (PCN) must include a delineation of the affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands, vegetated shallows (e.g., submerged aquatic vegetation, seagrass beds), and riffle and pool complexes.

4.23.15. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the floodway* resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

*NOTE: Floodway-The area designated and/or regulated by Federal, state, or local requirements to provide for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated height identified by the regulating entity within the 100-year floodplain.

4.23.16. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, within the mapped FEMA 100-year floodplain resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

4.23.17. This NWP may not be used to authorize the discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that have been identified or designated by the State of North Carolina as:
Outstanding Resource Waters
High Quality Waters
Coastal Wetlands as defined by North Carolina's Coastal Area Management Act
Wetlands adjacent to these waters

4.23.18. Transmission lines necessary to transmit electricity from an offshore energy-producing facility will be designed, constructed and placed in a manner so as not to endanger the public or the public's use of the beach.