

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers  
69 Darlington Avenue  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1343  
<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/WETLANDS/index.html>

**General Permit No.** 197800080  
**Name of Permittee:** General Public  
**Effective Date:** January 1, 2011  
**Expiration Date:** December 31, 2016

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
GENERAL (REGIONAL) PERMIT**

A general permit to perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States and waters of the United States, upon recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), is hereby modified and renewed by authority of the Secretary of the Army by the

District Commander  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington  
Corps of Engineers  
69 Darlington Avenue  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1343

**TO MAINTAIN, REPAIR, CONSTRUCT AND BACKFILL BULKHEADS AND RIPRAP STRUCTURES ALONG ERODING HIGHGROUND SHORELINES AND CONSTRUCT RIPRAP STRUCTURES TO PROTECT ERODING WETLAND SHORELINES IN NAVIGABLE WATERS AND WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.**

The following definitions should be used for purposes of this regional general permit (RGP):

- a. Erosion: Land that is presently being worn away by the action of water or wind.
- b. Mean high water mark (MHW): The line on the shore, in tidal water, reached by the plane of the mean (average) high water. The precise determination of the actual location of the line can be established by survey with the reference to the available tidal datum, preferably averaged over a period of 18.6 years. A less precise method, such as observation of the apparent shoreline, which is determined by reference to physical markings, lines of vegetation, may be used for the purpose of this permit.
- c. Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM): The line on the shore, in non-tidal waters, established by the fluctuations of water indicated by physical characteristics such as clear,

natural line impressed on the bank; shelving changes in the soil; destruction of terrestrial vegetation; the presence of litter and debris; or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

### **Special Conditions**

- a. This general permit is applicable only for work along shorelines exhibiting erosion.
- b. Bulkhead structures authorized by this general permit may be constructed of treated wood, concrete slab, steel or aluminum sheet, broken concrete, brick or rock, with or without backfill material, conforming to the standards contained herein. Other construction activities are not authorized by this general permit.
- c. Riprap material must consist of clean rock or masonry materials such as marl granite or broken concrete free of exposed wire and/or rebar.
- d. All riprap material must be free from loose dirt or any pollutant and must be of a size sufficient to prevent its movement from the site by current or wave action.
- e. This general permit does not authorize the construction or placement of structures nor the discharge of fill material within Department of the Army (DA) jurisdictional wetlands, seagrass or submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).
- f. Bulkhead and riprap structure alignments authorized by this general permit may not exceed a linear distance of 500 feet along any shoreline.
- g. Bulkhead placement must not exceed an average of 2 feet and a maximum of 5 feet waterward of the MHW in tidal waters or the OHWM in non-tidal waters.
- h. Riprap must be positioned so as not to exceed a maximum of 10 feet waterward of the MHW in tidal waters or the OHWM in non-tidal waters at any point along its alignment. This location standard also applies to riprap proposed waterward of the existing bulkhead.
- i. Unless specifically approved by the Corps, all backfill materials will be obtained from a highground source and confined landward of the permitted bulkhead.
- j. All construction and fill material will be clean and free of any toxic pollutants except in trace quantities. Tires, car bodies, scrap metal, paper products, tree limbs and stumps, asphalt and other metal products, organic materials and unsightly debris will not be used as construction or fill material.
- k. Fill material will only be placed landward of bulkheads or riprap structures that are fully installed and that are impervious through structural tightness or the use of a suitable filter cloth.

l. No excavation is permitted by this general permit except for that required for installation of the bulkhead wall, deadmen and cables.

m. It is possible that an authorized structure may be damaged by wavewash 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. The permittee will not hold the United States liable for any such damage.

n. If the permitted work is on lands subject to an easement in favor of the United States for the operation, maintenance, improvement, and enlargement of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW), the permittee will remove such structures and improvements at his own expense in the event that, in the judgment of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) acting on behalf of the United States, the lands are needed at any time for any purpose within the scope of the easement. Permanent buildings will not be constructed within the easement.

o. This general permit is not applicable to any work on Atlantic Ocean beaches.

p. All work authorized by this general permit must comply with the terms and conditions of the applicable Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this general permit issued by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality.

q. Stabilization activities shall not be conducted in such a manner as to impede water flow into or out of any natural channel or stream.

r. Shoreline stabilization activity undertaken waterward of existing DA jurisdictional wetlands is limited to the placement of riprap and must comply with the following additional special conditions.

1. The height of the erosion escarpment must not exceed three feet.

2. The riprap must be placed immediately waterward of the erosion escarpment.

3. The riprap must be positioned so as not to exceed a maximum of five feet waterward of the erosion escarpment at any point along its alignment.

4. The riprap must be positioned so as not to exceed a maximum of six inches above the elevation of the adjacent wetland substrate.

5. Where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District Regulatory staff determine that insufficient wetlands or coastal marsh exists along the permittee's shoreline to provide adequate shoreline stabilization, the permittee shall be required to plant appropriate coastal marsh or wetland species landward of the riprap structure as directed by the Regulatory staff.

6. No construction or discharge of fill material shall take place within DA jurisdictional wetlands.

7. No excavation of the shallow water bottom or any wetlands is authorized for riprap structures protecting eroding wetland shorelines.

8. Temporary mats shall be used when crossing wetland areas with any type of construction equipment and all mats shall be removed immediately upon completing the construction activity.

s. Individuals seeking authorization under this RGP for projects, outside the 20 Coastal Counties subject to regulation under the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA), must receive written approval from the Corps prior to initiating any work. This approval may be obtained by submitting the following information to the appropriate Corps Regulatory Field Office:

1. Name, address and telephone number.
2. Location of work, including waterbody, nearest community and county.
3. Characteristics of the structure, i.e., width, distance from shoreline and type of material and photograph of area to be stabilized.

t. Individuals seeking to verify that their project, within the 20 Coastal Counties subject CAMA regulation, is authorized by this RGP may submit the above information to the appropriate Corps Regulatory Field Office.

u. Should all or part of a proposed development activity be located in an Area of Environmental Concern (AEC) as designated by the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission, a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) permit is required from the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management before the onset of the proposed activity. Should a Federal activity within any one of North Carolina's twenty coastal counties or which could affect a coastal use or resource in any one of North Carolina's twenty coastal counties be proposed by a Federal agency, a consistency determination pursuant to Subpart "C" of 15 CFR 930 must be prepared and submitted by that Federal agency to the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management before the onset of the proposed activity.

#### **General Conditions.**

a. Except as authorized by this general permit or any USACE approved modification to this general permit, no excavation, fill or mechanized land-clearing activities shall take place within waters or wetlands, at any time in the construction or maintenance of this project. This permit does not authorize temporary placement or double handling of excavated or fill material within waters or wetlands outside the permitted area. This prohibition applies to all borrow and fill activities connected with this project.

b. Authorization under this general permit does not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local authorizations.

c. All work authorized by this general permit must comply with the terms and conditions of the applicable Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this general permit issued by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality.

d. The permittee shall employ all sedimentation and erosion control measures necessary to prevent an increase in sedimentation or turbidity within waters and wetlands outside the permit area. This shall include, but is not limited to, the immediate installation of silt fencing or similar appropriate devices around all areas subject to soil disturbance or the movement of earthen fill, and the immediate stabilization of all disturbed areas. Additionally, the project must remain in full compliance with all aspects of the Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973 (North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 113A Article 4).

e. The activities authorized by this general permit must not interfere with the public's right to free navigation on all navigable waters of the United States. No attempt will be made by the permittee to prevent the full and free use by the public of all navigable waters at or adjacent to the authorized work for a reason other than safety.

f. 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 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.

g. The permittee, upon receipt of a notice of revocation of this permit or upon its expiration before completion of the work will, without expense to the United States and in such time and manner as the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative may direct, restore the affected water of the United States to its former conditions.

h. The permittee will allow the Wilmington District Engineer or his representative to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to assure that the activity is being performed or maintained in strict accordance with the Special and General Conditions of this permit.

i. This general permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.

j. This permit does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

k. This general permit does not authorize the interference with any existing or proposed federal project.

l. In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:

(1) Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.

(2) Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.

(3) Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.

(4) Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work

(5) Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.

m. Authorization provided by this general permit may be modified, suspended or revoked in whole or in part if the Wilmington District Engineer, acting for the Secretary of the Army, determines that such action would be in the best public interest. The term of this general permit shall be five (5) years unless subject to modification, suspension or revocation. Any modification, suspension or revocation of this authorization will not be the basis for any claim for damages against the United States Government.

n. This general permit does not authorize any activity which the District Engineer determines, after any necessary investigations, would adversely affect:

(1) Rivers named in Section 3 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (15 U.S.C. 1273), those proposed for inclusion as provided by Sections 4 and 5 of the Act and wild, scenic and recreational rivers established by state and local entities.

(2) Historic, cultural or archeological sites listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its codified regulations, the National Historic Preservation Amendment Acts of 1980 and 1992, the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

(3) Sites included in or determined eligible for listing in the National Registry of Natural Landmark

o. This general permit does not authorize any activity which will adversely affect any threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, or their designated critical habitat as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531). Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the Corps field offices or at the following internet address: <http://www.ncnhp.org/Pages/heritagedata.html>. or <http://nc-es.fws.gov/es/es.html>. Permittees should notify the Corps if any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected by the proposed project and may not begin work until notified by the Corps that the requirements of the Endangered Species Act have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized.

p. Permittees are advised that development activities in or near a floodway may be subject to the National Flood Insurance Program that prohibits any development, including fill, within a floodway that results in any increase in base flood elevations. This general permit does not authorize any activity prohibited by the National Flood Insurance Program.


q. The permittee must maintain any structure or work authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. The Permittee is not relieved of this requirement if the Permittee abandons the structure or work. Transfer in fee simple of the work authorized by this permit will automatically transfer this permit to the property's new owner, with all of the rights and responsibilities enumerated herein. The permittee must inform any subsequent owner of all activities undertaken under the authority of this permit and provide the subsequent owner with a copy of the terms and conditions of this permit.

r. At his sole discretion, any time during the processing cycle, the Wilmington District Engineer may determine that this general permit will not be applicable to a specific proposal. In such case, the procedures for processing an individual permit in accordance with 33 CFR 325 will be available.

s. Except as authorized by this general permit or any USACE approved modification to this general permit, all excavated material will be disposed of in approved upland disposal areas.

t. Activities which have commenced (i.e., are under construction) or are under contract to commence in reliance upon this general permit will remain authorized provided the activity is completed within twelve months of the date of the general permit's expiration, modification, or revocation. Activities completed under the authorization of this general permit which were in effect at the time the activity was completed continue to be authorized by the general permit.

**BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:**

  
Jefferson M. Byscavage  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Commander