

Wetlands & Their Importance

Wetlands are areas that are periodically or permanently inundated by surface or ground-water and support vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil. Wetlands include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas.

A significant resource, wetlands support food chain production; habitat, nesting, spawning, rearing and resting sites for aquatic and land species; protection of other areas from wave action and erosion; storage areas for storm and flood waters; natural recharge areas where ground and surface water are interconnected; and natural filtration and purification functions.



The Corps' enforcement program serves to ensure compliance with issued permits, restore jurisdictional sites affected by unauthorized work and deter any future unpermitted or non-compliant activities in Corps jurisdictional areas.



Information Guide

REGULATORY PROGRAM

Contact Us



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Jacksonville District

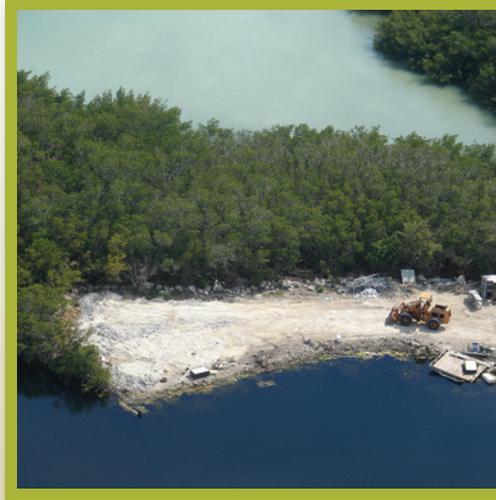
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019
PHONE: (904) 232-1177
www.saj.usace.army.mil

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

For a Map of Regulatory Field Offices visit:
www.saj.usace.army.mil/regulatory/contacts.htm

The Corps' Regulatory Role

The Corps' regulatory program covers a wide variety of aquatic resources, including wetlands, rivers, streams, tidal waters, coral reefs, shellfish beds and oceans. The thorough permit evaluation process is designed to result in permit decisions that balance the need for proposed development with protection of the nation's aquatic environment. The extent of the Corps' evaluation is commensurate with the extent of potential environmental impacts and aquatic functions and values involved. In accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Corps follows an evaluation process that requires avoiding, minimizing or compensating for unavoidable loss of aquatic functions and values.



When Do I Need a Permit?

There are generally two types of activities which require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Activities within navigable waters, such as dredging, construction of docks and bulkheads and placing navigation aides, require review under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Acts of 1899 to avoid obstructions to navigation. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 regulates activities in U.S. waters, such as determining which areas qualify for wetlands protection. In reaching these decisions, the Corps uses its 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual and appropriate regional supplements.

All permit decisions are subject to various other federal laws applicable to federal actions, such as compliance with the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act involving protection of Essential Fish Habitat.



Regulatory Mission Statement

The mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program is to protect the Nation's aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions.