

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published: June 18, 2025 Expires: August 4, 2025

Jacksonville District

Nationwide Permits Reissuance Request for Comments

On June 18, 2025, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published in the <u>Federal Register</u> its proposal to reissue 56 existing nationwide permits (NWPs) with some modifications and to issue one new NWP. One NWP is not proposed for reissuance.

NWPs are general permits issued on a nationwide basis to streamline the authorization of activities that result in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects. Many of the proposed NWPs require notification to the district engineer before commencing those activities, to ensure that the activities authorized by those NWPs cause no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.

National Issues Concerning the Proposed NWPs:

The <u>Federal Register</u> notice is the public's opportunity to comment on the proposed NWPs, general conditions, and definitions. Comments on national issues relating to these NWPs should be submitted to docket number COE-2025-0002 at **www.regulations.gov**, or by email to **2026nationwidepermits@usace.army.mil** or by mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CECW-CO-R, 441 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000. Instructions for submitting comments are provided in the June 18, 2025 <u>Federal Register</u> notice. Comments on the proposed NWPs are due by July 18, 2025.

Regional Issues Concerning the Proposed NWPs, Including Regional Conditioning:
Division engineers are authorized to add regional conditions specific to the needs and/or requirements of a particular region or state. Regional conditions are an important mechanism to help ensure that the adverse environmental effects of activities authorized by the NWPs are no more than minimal, both individually and cumulatively. Division engineers may also suspend or revoke specific NWPs in certain geographic areas (e.g., states or watersheds) or high-value aquatic systems where the adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by those NWPs may be more than minimal. An enclosure for this public notice (Enclosure 1) lists the proposed regional conditions currently under consideration by the Jacksonville District for the State of Florida. The Jacksonville District is seeking comments on the proposed regional conditions and seeking comments on the need for additional regional conditions to help ensure that the adverse environmental effects of activities authorized by the proposed NWPs are no more than minimal, individually and cumulatively. Unless otherwise noted,

all proposed regional conditions listed on this enclosure are applicable for activities in the State of Florida. After careful evaluation, the Jacksonville District is proposing to eliminate most of the 2021 NWP regional conditions. Many of the 2021 NWP regional conditions were only informative, were duplicative of the NWP general conditions, and/or described Jacksonville District internal or interagency process. Other 2021 NWP regional conditions were only applicable to the Antilles, which is now within the area of responsibility of the Caribbean District. Some 2021 NWP regional conditions required submittal of PCNs for specific NWPs. These regional conditions were eliminated because those specific NWPs already require submittal of PCNs or PCNs would be required by a NWP general condition. The Jacksonville District intends to provide helpful information to assist prospective permittees in fulfilling their obligations under the NWP general and regional conditions by posting an informational document to the Jacksonville District Regulatory web page after the final NWPs and regional conditions go into effect. The substance of many of the 2021 regional conditions which were informational only will be incorporated into this document. For example, it will explain how to determine when an activity may affect a listed species, triggering the requirement for PCN under General Condition 18. Similarly, it will note the Designated Critical Resource Waters within the State of Florida to which General Condition 22 applies. Comments on regional issues relating to the proposed NWPs and proposed regional conditions should be sent to Jacksonville District, 701 San Marco Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida, by phone at 813-233-6877, or by email to CESAJ-NWP-2026@usace.army.mil. Comments relating to regional conditions are due by August 4, 2025. Similar public notices proposing regional conditions in other regions or states are being published concurrently by other division or district offices. After the final NWPs are issued, the final regional conditions will be issued after they are approved by the Division Commander.

401 Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Act:
States, tribes, and other certifying authorities will make their Clean Water Act Section
401 water quality certification (WQC) decisions after reviewing the proposed NWPs.
States will make their Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency
determination decisions after reviewing the proposed NWPs.

Draft Decision Documents:

Draft decision documents for each of the proposed NWPs, which include environmental documentation prepared for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act, have been written by Corps Headquarters. The decision documents will address compliance of the NWPs with the requirements for issuance under the Corps' general permit authority. These draft decision documents, as well as the proposed NWPs, are available for viewing at **www.regulations.gov**, docket number COE-2025-0002. Final decision documents will be prepared for the NWPs that are issued.

Enclosed is an index of the proposed NWPs and conditions. Anyone wishing to provide comments may obtain a full text copy of the NWPs through the Corps Home Page at https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-

Permits/Nationwide-Permits/, at **www.regulations.gov** in docket number COE-2025-0002, or at the following <u>Federal Register</u> address:

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/06/18/2025-11190/proposal-to-reissue-and-modify-nationwide-permits.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT 701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

Enclosure 1

PROPOSED REGIONAL CONDITIONS FOR 2026 NATIONWIDE PERMITS IN JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT (SAJ)

A. BACKGROUND

- 1. The following Regional Conditions have been proposed by the Jacksonville District for the Nationwide Permits (NWP) published in the June 18, 2025, Federal Register. As specified, under NWP General Condition #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 Section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.
- 2. Note: The acronym "PCN" used throughout this document refers to *Pre-Construction Notification* as further defined in NWP General Condition #32.

B. EXCLUDED WATERS AND/OR AREAS

N/A

C. REGIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL NWPs

- Historic Properties: PCN is required for any activity within 50 meters of a historic property that is listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Prospective permittees may contact the Florida Master Site File, Seminole Tribe's Historic Preservation Compliance Office and applicable Tribes to conduct a historic properties search.
- 2. Florida Prehistoric or Historic Artifacts: In addition to General Condition 21 (Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts), in Florida, if prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the Permittee shall cease all activities involving subsurface or ground disturbance within a 100 meter diameter of the discovery. The Permittee shall contact the Corps within the same business day, or by the next business day if the remains are encountered during non-business hours. In addition, in the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work

shall stop immediately and the Permittee shall notify the medical examiner, in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes ("Unmarked human burials"), as well as the Corps and SHPO. On federal or tribal lands, or situations where the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 or Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 applies, the Permittee shall notify the Corps. Once activities have ceased as a result of any of the situations identified in this Regional Condition, they shall not resume without written authorization from the Corps.

D. REGIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO SPECIFIC NWPs

1. For NWP 2:

a. All dock or pier construction over submerged aquatic vegetation, marsh and/or mangroves shall comply with the joint U.S. Army Corps of Engineers'/National Marine Fisheries Service's Construction Guidelines in Florida for Minor Piling-Supported Structures Constructed in or over Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV), Marsh or Mangrove Habitat, dated November 2017, available in the USACE Digital Library at

https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16021coll11/id/1930/ or subsequent updates available at

https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Source-Book/.

b. Structures constructed on canals or channels shall not exceed 25% of the canal/channel width, excluding dense areas of shoreline vegetation, such as mangrove, as measured from the project location to the opposite shoreline (in order to maintain no less than 50% of the open-water portion of the waterbody for public use).

E. ACTIVITY SPECIFIC REGIONAL CONDITIONS

N/A

F. SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND/OR COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION CONDITIONS

TBD

G. DEFINITIONS

N/A

H. DISTRICT POINT OF CONTACT

Jessica Cordwell
USACE Jacksonville District Regulatory Division

2026 NATIONWIDE PERMIT REGIONAL CONDITIONS FOR JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT (SAJ)

701 San Marco Boulevard Jacksonville, Florida 32207 813-233-6877 CESAJ-NWP-2026@usace.army.mil

Enclosure 2

Index of Proposed Nationwide Permits, General Conditions, and Definitions

Nationwide Permits

- 1. Aids to Navigation
- 2. Structures in Artificial Canals
- 3. Maintenance
- 4. Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Devices and Activities
- 5. Scientific Measurement Devices
- 6. Survey Activities
- 7. Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures
- 8. Oil and Gas Structures on the Outer Continental Shelf
- 9. Structures in Fleeting and Anchorage Areas
- 10. Mooring Buoys
- 11. Temporary Recreational Structures
- 12. Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline Activities
- 13. Bank Stabilization
- 14. Linear Transportation Projects
- 15. U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges
- 16. Return Water From Upland Contained Disposal Areas
- 17. Hydropower Projects
- 18. Minor Discharges
- 19. Minor Dredging
- 20. Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances
- 21. Surface Coal Mining Activities
- 22. Removal of Vessels
- 23. Approved Categorical Exclusions
- 24. Indian Tribe or State Administered Section 404 Programs
- 25. Structural Discharges
- 26. [Reserved]
- 27. Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities
- 28. Modifications of Existing Marinas
- 29. Residential Developments
- 30. Moist Soil Management for Wildlife
- 31. Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities
- 32. Completed Enforcement Actions
- 33. Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering
- 34. Cranberry Production Activities
- 35. Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins
- 36. Boat Ramps
- 37. Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation
- 38. Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste
- 39. Commercial and Institutional Developments
- 40. Agricultural Activities
- 41. Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches

- 42. Recreational Facilities
- 43. Stormwater Management Facilities
- 44. Mining Activities
- 45. Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events
- 46. Discharges in Ditches
- 47. [Reserved]
- 48. Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities
- 49. Coal Remining Activities
- 50. Underground Coal Mining Activities
- 51. Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities
- 52. Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects
- 53. Removal of Low-Head Dams
- 54. Living Shorelines
- 55. Seaweed Mariculture Activities
- 56. [Reserved]
- 57. Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities
- 58. Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances
- 59. Water Reclamation and Reuse Facilities
- A. Activities to Improve Passage of Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms

Nationwide Permit General Conditions

- 1. Navigation
- 2. Aquatic Life Movements
- 3. Spawning Areas
- 4. Migratory Bird Breeding Areas
- 5. Shellfish Beds
- 6. Suitable Material
- 7. Water Supply Intakes
- 8. Adverse Effects from Impoundments
- 9. Management of Water Flows
- 10. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains
- 11. Equipment
- 12. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls
- 13. Removal of Temporary Fills
- 14. Proper Maintenance
- 15. Single and Complete Project
- 16. Wild and Scenic Rivers
- 17. Tribal Rights
- 18. Endangered Species
- 19. Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles
- 20. Historic Properties
- 21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts
- 22. Designated Critical Resource Waters
- 23. Mitigation
- 24. Safety of Impoundment Structures
- 25. Water Quality

- 26. Coastal Zone Management
- 27. Regional and Case-by-Case Conditions
- 28. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits
- 29. Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications
- 30. Compliance Certification
- 31. Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States
- 32. Pre-Construction Notification

District Engineer's Decision

Further Information

Nationwide Permit Definitions

Best management practices (BMPs)

Compensatory mitigation

Currently serviceable

Direct effects

Discharge

Ecological reference

Enhancement

Establishment (creation)

High Tide Line

Historic property

Independent utility

Indirect effects

Loss of waters of the United States

Nature-based solutions

Navigable waters

Non-tidal wetland

Open water

Ordinary high water mark

Perennial stream

Practicable

Pre-construction notification

Preservation

Re-establishment

Rehabilitation

Restoration

Riffle and pool complex

Riparian areas

Shellfish seeding

Single and complete linear project

Single and complete non-linear project

Stormwater management

Stormwater management facilities

Stream bed

Stream channelization Structure Tidal wetland Tribal lands Tribal rights Vegetated shallows Waterbody