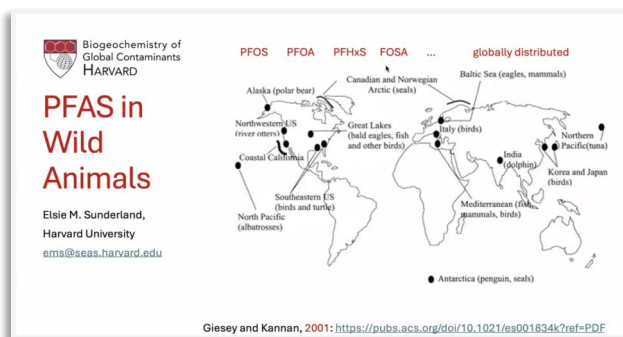




## Highlight of the Tribal PFAS Working Group's Summer Webinar "Model Predicts PFAS Buildup in Wild Animals"

On June 12, 2025, the Tribal PFAS Working Group hosted a webinar titled "Model Predicts PFAS Buildup in Wild Animals," by Dr. Elsie Sunderland, Fred Kavli Professor of Environmental Chemistry and Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Harvard University. Dr. Sunderland presented their research to develop a model that predicts how PFAS moves and builds up within food webs.



Dr. Elsie Sunderland

Dr. Sunderland started the webinar by providing an overview of PFAS and how it's measured using analytical methods. The model considers features of different animals, such as their size, feeding rate, metabolism, excretion, and the complex interactions between animals that make up different food webs. A few examples were provided, including examining the Canadian arctic marine food web and biosolids contamination on farms in Maine.

The recording of the webinar is available on NTWC's MediaSpace page at the following link:  
[https://mediaspace.nau.edu/media/Tribal+PFAS+Working+Group+2025+Summer+Webinar/1\\_lepqgcpp](https://mediaspace.nau.edu/media/Tribal+PFAS+Working+Group+2025+Summer+Webinar/1_lepqgcpp)

For more information about Dr. Sunderland's project, please visit: <https://sunderlandlab.org/>

The Tribal PFAS Working Group is comprised of members of the National Tribal Water Council, Tribal Science Council, National Tribal Toxics Council, Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee, and Tribal Pesticide Program Council. The working group conducts monthly virtual meetings, webinars, and outreach to tribes.



### CONTACT INFO:

Elaine H. Wilson  
NTWC Manager  
[Elaine.Wilson@nau.edu](mailto:Elaine.Wilson@nau.edu)

Elaina Doral  
NTWC Program Coordinator  
[Elaina.Doral@nau.edu](mailto:Elaina.Doral@nau.edu)

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<https://nau.edu/ntwc>

# UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## National Association of Wetland Managers Hot Topics Webinar: Strategies for States and Tribes Regarding Nationwide General Permits

The National Association of Wetland Managers held a webinar on “Strategies for States and Tribes Regarding Nationwide General Permits” on July 8, 2025. The webinar explored how states, Tribes, and the public can prepare for the new set of Nationwide General Permits (NGPs) that will take effect next year, March 2026. NTWC Chair Ken Norton participated as a panelist and discussed how NGPs impact Tribes. The recording of this webinar will be posted on the NAWM Website in a few weeks. Please visit <https://www.nawm.org/nawm/nawm-category/nawm-webinarscalls/past-nawm-hot-topics-webinar-series.html> to access the recording when it becomes available.



## Tribal PFAS Working Group's One-Day Workshop at the 2025 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum, August 18, 2025

The Tribal PFAS Working Group's co-leads Page Hingst, Santee Sioux Nation, and Dianne Barton, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, will be conducting a one-day workshop titled “The Emerging World of Contaminants” on August 18 at the upcoming 2025 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum. The forum will be held on August 18-21, 2025, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For more information, please visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/tlef2025/home>. If you are attending the TLEF, please consider learning more about the emerging world of contaminants by attending the workshop.

## National NPS Biennial Workshop, October 27-29, 2025

The National NPS Biennial Workshop will be held on October 27-29, 2025, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This event offers an opportunity for CWA Section 319 state, territorial, and Tribal grantees to convene on national programmatic and knowledge sharing and technical assistance. The national NPS program and planning committee are developing robust Tribal specific sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities. Outreach for Tribal speakers and session participants will be happening throughout the summer. If you are interested to be involved with planning, please reach out to Margot Buckelew ([Buckelew.margot@epa.gov](mailto:Buckelew.margot@epa.gov)). Additionally, if interested to attend, registration is open and you may [Register for the workshop here](#).

## EPA Pacific Northwest Tribal Clean Water Act Training, November 17-20, 2025

The training will address Clean Water Act (CWA) programs including Section 106, Section 319, Section 303(d), water quality standards, and wetlands and will be useful to Tribes who work on these programs or are interested in pursuing Treatment in a similar manner as a State (TAS) status for one or more programs. The training workshop is targeted to Tribes who conduct water quality monitoring, issue water quality certifications, and address water quality issues, nonpoint source pollution, and impaired waters/TMDLs. Tribal staff from across the country are invited, although there will be a focus on examples and applications for Tribes in the Pacific Northwest.

The training workshop is free to attend, and registration is open! For more information, please visit: <https://nawm.org/trainings/pacific-northwest-tribal-clean-water-act-training>

## Tribal Exchange Network Group - Monthly Tribal Data Drop-in Sessions

Held the third Thursday of every month from 10:00-11:30 AM (Pacific)  
<https://www.tribalexchangenetwork.org/trainings-events>

# CONSIDER JOINING OUR WATER COUNCIL



**SCAN HERE**  
for the application

## WHO WE ARE

The National Tribal Water Council is a technical and scientific body established to advocate for the best interests of federally-recognized Indian and Alaska Native Tribes in matters pertaining to water quality.

## WHAT WE DO

- **Policy Response:** Conducts analysis of water policies and initiatives that impact Tribes and responds by preparing comment letters, white papers, or briefs.
- **Information Exchange:** Engage and collaborate with national, regional, tribal organizations, or working groups.
- **Set Priorities:** Publish a biennial "Tribal Water Priorities" document that identifies Clean Water Act (CWA) and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) priorities.

## OPEN POSITIONS: AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE

The Council is accepting applications from tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization from Regions 1 to 10 to fill two (2) vacancies for the At-Large positions.

Tribal water professionals with knowledge in the CWA and SDWA are encouraged to apply. Also, an applicant with a background in water infrastructure, drinking water, wastewater, and operations and maintenance, is a plus but not required.

## WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

Member duties include, but not limited to:

- Participating in monthly virtual calls;
- Attending two in-person meetings annually; and
- Creating and participating in crafting response documents to policy and/or rulemaking actions.

To express your interest or obtain more information, please contact Elaine Wilson at [elaine.wilson@nau.edu](mailto:elaine.wilson@nau.edu).

<https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/>



# TRIBAL CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

## U.S. Army Corp of Engineer's Proposal to Renew and Revise Nationwide Permits

**Deadline: July 18, 2025**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is seeking comments on its proposal to renew and revise 56 existing nationwide permits and issue one new nationwide permit authorizing activities associated with improving fish passage. Nationwide permits authorize activities in wetlands and other waters that are regulated by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

Key highlights:

- Proposes phasing out the permit for finfish mariculture.
- Introduces one new nationwide permit aimed at improving fish passage infrastructure.
- Permits cover a range of activities—from utility installation and navigation aids to streambank stabilization and residential projects—designed to have minimal environmental impact individually and cumulatively.
- Current permits will expire March 14, 2026, so the Corps is targeting final approval of updates before then.

USACE division engineers may add, after public review and consultation, regional conditions to nationwide permits to protect local aquatic ecosystems, such as fens or bottomland hardwoods or to minimize adverse effects on fish or shellfish spawning, wildlife nesting or other ecologically critical areas. Additional information on the USACE regulatory program is available at this link below. <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramandPermits.aspx>.

A public notice soliciting comments on the proposed set of revised nationwide permits was published in the June 18, 2025, Federal Register at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/06/18/2025-11190/proposal-to-reissue-and-modify-nationwide-permits>. USACE will accept written comments through July 18, 2025. Comments may be submitted by e-mail to [2026nationwidepermits@usace.army.mil](mailto:2026nationwidepermits@usace.army.mil) or through the Federal eRulemaking portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) at docket number COE-2025-0002, or by mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CECW-CO-R, 441 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000.

## EPA's Draft Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment for PFOA and PFOS

**Extended Deadline: August 15, 2025**

The EPA released the Draft Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS) for public comment. The draft risk assessment reflects the agency's latest scientific understanding of the potential risks to human health and the environment posed by the presence of [PFOA and PFOS in sewage sludge](#) that is land applied as a soil conditioner or fertilizer (on agricultural, forested, and other lands), surface disposed (e.g., placed in a sewage sludge-only landfill called a monofill), or incinerated.

The EPA will accept written comments on the draft risk assessment through August 15, 2025, via Regulations.gov (Docket ID no. EPA-HQ-OW-2024-0504). For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/biosolids/draft-sewage-sludge-risk-assessment-perfluorooctanoic-acid-pfoa-and-perfluorooctane>

## EPA's Proposed renewal of the NPDES Stormwater Construction General Permit

**Deadline: September 5, 2025**

The EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian Tribes on the proposed renewal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Construction General Permit (CGP). Under Clean Water Act section 402(p)(2) and (p)(6) and 40 CFR 122.26(a)(1)(ii), (a)(9)(i)(B) (b)(14)(x), and (b)(15), stormwater discharges from certain construction activities into waters of the United States must be authorized by a state or EPA-issued NPDES permit.

The CGP regulates stormwater discharges from construction activities (including, but not limited to, clearing,

## Tribal Consultation Opportunities (*continued*)

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grading, excavating, and stockpiling) that disturb one or more acres, or smaller sites that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale that disturb one or more acres in areas where EPA is the permitting authority. EPA renews this permit every five years, and the current CGP is scheduled to expire on February 17, 2027. EPA is the NPDES permitting authority in most Indian Country lands. Additional information about the CGP can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-construction-activities>.

### Two identical Tribal informational webinars:

- July 22, 2025 (2:00-3:15 p.m. ET)  
To join the Webinar, use this [link](#).  
Phone: (202) 991-0477 and use 682 738 612#
- July 24, 2025 (12:00-1:15 p.m. ET)  
To join the Webinar, use this [link](#).  
Phone: (202) 991-0477 and use 573 220 046#

Tribes may submit written consultation comments and request one-on-one consultation meetings via email to Lauren Mosesso at [mosesso.lauren@epa.gov](mailto:mosesso.lauren@epa.gov).

## EPA's Upcoming Efforts to Address Implementation Challenges Associated with CWA Section 401

### Deadline: September 7, 2025

The EPA is initiating consultation with federally recognized Indian Tribes on regulatory uncertainty or implementation challenges associated with Clean Water Act Section 401 certification process as defined in the 2023 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule. The tribal consultation kick-off webinar is scheduled on July 23, 2025 (2-4 PM ET), to register: [Registration Link](#)

Tribes may submit written consultation comments at any time during the Tribal consultation and coordination process via email to [cwa401@epa.gov](mailto:cwa401@epa.gov). If you would like to request government-to-government consultation with the agency on this action, please have your staff contact the agency via email to [cwa401@epa.gov](mailto:cwa401@epa.gov) by September 7, 2025. For questions, please contact: Lauren Kasparek, [cwa401@epa.gov](mailto:cwa401@epa.gov), (202) 564-3351.

The notification letter and consultation plan can be found on the EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System: <https://tcots.epa.gov>. Additional information on CWA Section 401 and this notice can be found on the [EPA's CWA Section 401 webpage](#).

### Upcoming Listening Sessions and Written Recommendations Docket: Closes August 6, 2025

Separate from the Tribal consultation, on July 1, the agency announced a Federal Register Notice initiating a series of stakeholder listening sessions and a 30-day recommendations docket (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2025-0272) inviting written feedback on regulatory uncertainty or implementation challenges associated with the Clean Water Act section 401 certification process as defined in the 2023 Rule.

### Public listening sessions:

- July 16, 2025, 1:00 – 4:30 pm (virtual), [Register](#)
- July 30, 2025, 1:00 – 4:30 pm (virtual), [Register](#)

The [notice](#) was published on July 7, 2025. The public has 30 days to provide input on regulatory uncertainty and implementation challenges related to the 2023 Rule. The public comment period closes August 6, 2025.

**Memorandum on Clarification regarding the Application of Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification:** On May 21, 2025, [EPA issued a memorandum](#) that clarified the significant but limited role that states and Tribes play in the federal licensing and permitting processes under Clean Water Act Section 401. The direction provided in this memorandum reflects the [existing requirements](#) of the agency's CWA section 401 certification rule issued in 2023, without changes or updates.

# EVENTS & WEBINARS

## Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Professional Development Webinar Series

- July 10, 2025: Grant Writing

To register: <https://www.nafws.org/product/professional-development-webinar-series-grant-writing-4/>

## Water Quality Research Foundation

- July 23, 2025: What Happens to PFAS After Water Treatment?

To register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_qVl7TysoQwWKfrYg97eJPw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qVl7TysoQwWKfrYg97eJPw#/registration)

# NTWC MEMBERS

For more information on our members, visit [Meet the Council](#).

**Ken Norton**

*Hoopla Valley Tribe  
Region 9 (NTWC Chair)*  
[kenpnorton@gmail.com](mailto:kenpnorton@gmail.com)

**Brian Patterson**

*Oneida Nation  
Region 2*  
[bpatterson@oneida-nation.org](mailto:bpatterson@oneida-nation.org)

**Shaun Livermore**

*Poarch Band of Creek Indians  
Region 4 - At-Large*  
[slivermore@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:slivermore@pci-nsn.gov)

**Kayla Vondracek**

*Ponca Tribe of Nebraska  
Region 7*  
[kvondracek@poncatribes-ne.gov](mailto:kvondracek@poncatribes-ne.gov)

**Ann Wyatt**

*Klawock Cooperative Association/Tribe  
Region 10 – Alaska*  
[annwyatt@klawocktribe.org](mailto:annwyatt@klawocktribe.org)

**Chauncey Means**

*Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
Region 8 (NTWC Vice Chair)*  
[chauncey.means@cstkt.org](mailto:chauncey.means@cstkt.org)

**Andria Greene**

*Upper Mattaponi Tribe  
Region 3*  
[andria.greene@umitribe.gov](mailto:andria.greene@umitribe.gov)

**Nancy Schuldt**

*Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior  
Chippewa, Region 5*  
[nancyschuldt@fdlband.org](mailto:nancyschuldt@fdlband.org)

**Yolanda Barney**

*Navajo Nation  
Region 9*  
[ybarney@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:ybarney@navajo-nsn.gov)

**Scott Hauser**

*Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation  
Region 10 - At-Large*  
[scott.hauser@usrft.org](mailto:scott.hauser@usrft.org)

**Daniel Kusnierz**

*Penobscot Indian Nation  
Region 1*  
[dan.kusnierz@penobscotnation.org](mailto:dan.kusnierz@penobscotnation.org)

**Rainee Tetreault**

*Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Region 4*  
[raintetr@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:raintetr@ebci-nsn.gov)

**Deborah Dotson**

*Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma  
Region 6*  
[ddotson@estoo.net](mailto:ddotson@estoo.net)

**Eric Morrison**

*Salamatof Tribe  
Region 10 - Alaska*  
[emorrison@salamatoftribe.org](mailto:emorrison@salamatoftribe.org)

**Mary Verner**

*Snoqualmie Tribe  
Region 10*  
[mary.verner@snoqualmieltribe.us](mailto:mary.verner@snoqualmieltribe.us)

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email: [itep@nau.edu](mailto:itep@nau.edu)