

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published: June 18, 2025

Honolulu District

Nationwide Permits Reissuance Request for Comments

NATIONWIDE PERMIT REISSUANCE REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
Deadline July 18, 2025

HONOLULU DISTRICT REGIONAL CONDITIONS REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
Deadline August 2, 2025

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) and 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 Pacific Ocean Division, Honolulu District Area of Responsibility for the state of Hawaii, including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, the territories of American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the following U.S. Minor Outlying Islands: Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Atoll, Palmyra Atoll, and Wake Island.

The Honolulu 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 Honolulu District. Comments on regional issues relating to the proposed NWPs and proposed regional conditions should be sent to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District Regulatory Office, ATTN: Jen Martin, CEPOH-RO, 230 Otake Street, Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5540 or via email at CEPOH-RO@usace.army.mil. Comments relating to regional conditions are due by **August 2**, **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 Federal Register address:

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

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
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- 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
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- 41. Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches
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- 43. Stormwater Management Facilities
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- 45. Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events
- 46. Discharges in Ditches
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- 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
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- 55. Seaweed Mariculture Activities
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- 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
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- 16. Wild and Scenic Rivers
- 17. Tribal Rights
- 18. Endangered Species
- 19. Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles
- 20. Historic Properties
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- 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)

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Pre-construction notification

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Stormwater management facilities

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Tidal wetland
Tribal lands
Tribal rights
Vegetated shallows
Waterbody

ENCLOSURE 1

HONOLULU DISTRICT PROPOSED REGIONAL CONDITIONS for the PROPOSED 2026 NATIONWIDE PERMITS (NWP)

The Honolulu District Regulatory Office has issued the following Regional Conditions to ensure that activities authorized by NWPs in the Honolulu District cause no more than minimal adverse environmental effects, individually and cumulatively. Before the Honolulu District will verify an activity under one or more NWPs, the proposed activity must comply with the NWP terms and all applicable General and Regional Conditions.

APPLICABILITY: The Honolulu District's Area of Responsibility (AOR) consists of the state of Hawaii, including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, the territories of American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the following U.S. Minor Outlying Islands: Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Atoll, Palmyra Atoll, and Wake Island.

RESTRICTIONS:

REGIONAL CONDITION 1 – Revoked Permits

The following NWPs are revoked within the Honolulu District's AOR:

NWP 21 - Surface Coal Mining Activities

NWP 24 - Indian Tribe or State Administered Section 404 Programs

NWP 30 - Moist Soil Management for Wildlife

NWP 34 - Cranberry Production Activities

NWP 44 - Mining Activities

NWP 49 - Coal Remining Activities

NWP 50 - Underground Coal Mining Activities

NWP 52 - Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects

REGIONAL CONDITION 2 – Acreage Limit

The maximum acreage of permanent loss to special aquatic sites for a new project (excludes NWP 3 and NWP 27 activities) may not exceed 0.10-acre resulting from any discharge of dredged or fill material. Special aquatic sites include wetlands, coral reefs, riffle and pool complexes, vegetated shallows, mud flats, sanctuaries and refuges as defined in 40 CFR 230.3.

CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN ACTIVITIES:

REGIONAL CONDITION 3 - Revegetation

Native plants appropriate for current site conditions must be used for re-vegetation for the purposes of restoring areas temporarily disturbed by the authorized work.

REGIONAL CONDITION 4 – Bank and Shoreline Stabilization Activities

a. For new bank stabilization projects in streams with vegetated slopes and/or natural bed and bank, vegetative and environmentally sensitive stabilization practices must be used whenever practicable. Documentation of consideration of environmentally sensitive bank stabilization practices must be included in the Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) to demonstrate whether the use of environmentally sensitive stabilization techniques is practicable given site-specific circumstances. Environmentally sensitive stabilization techniques incorporate organic materials

to produce functional structure, provide wildlife habitat, and/or provide areas for re-vegetation. Examples of environmentally sensitive bank stabilization practices include, but are not limited to, the use of the following: adequately sized armoring keyed into the toe of the slope with native plantings, or other suitable vegetation, on the banks above; vegetated geogrids; coconut fiber coir logs; live woody vegetated cuttings; fascines or stumps; brush layering; soil lifts. In situations where the use of these stabilization techniques is not practicable (due to high stream flow velocities, for example) stream bank armoring should be designed to incorporate environmentally friendly natural features, if possible. Examples include vegetated gabions, vegetated gabion mattresses, live crib walls and joint plantings.

b. For new shoreline stabilization projects, environmentally sensitive designs that provide wave dissipation, interstitial spaces for fish, crustacean and invertebrate habitat, and other environmental benefits must be used whenever practicable. Documentation of consideration of environmentally sensitive shoreline stabilization practices must be included in the PCN to demonstrate whether the use of environmentally sensitive stabilization techniques is practicable.

REGIONAL CONDITION 5 – Stream Modifications

Stream channelization and/or streambed hardening are not authorized under any NWP.

CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL ACTIVITIES:

REGIONAL CONDITION 6 – NWP Verification and PCN Requirement

A written NWP verification must be obtained from the Corps prior to conducting any activity authorized by a NWP (excludes NWPs listed in Regional Condition 1). To obtain a NWP verification, all prospective permittees must submit a written PCN to the Corps that meets NWP General Condition (GC) #32, in addition to demonstrating compliance with GC #18, GC #20, and the Essential Fish Habitat provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act.