

### U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS REGULATORY DIVISION WILMINGTON DISTRICT

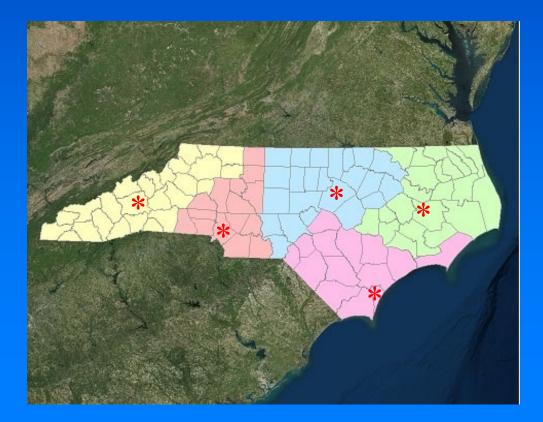
### February 18, 2025

Mickey Sugg, Chief of Wilmington Regulatory Field Office



# Organization

#### SAW Regulatory Division's has a main office located in Wilmington and field offices located Wilmington, Washington, Raleigh, Charlotte, and Asheville.







# **Authorities**

#### Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (1899)

**Protection of the Nations navigable waters** 

#### Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (1972)

To restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nations waters.



# Authorities – Section 10 (33 U.S.C. 401, et seq.)

#### Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

- Regulates activities that affect course, location, and navigable capacity
- Prohibits unauthorized obstruction or alteration of any navigable water of U.S.
- All work (dredging, docks, pilings, marinas, fill, etc)
- Authorizes the Secretary of the Army to issue permits in navigable waters

















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# **Authorities- Section 10**

 Geographic jurisdiction includes all navigable waters of the U.S. defined (33 CFR Part 329) as "those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and/or are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible to use to transport interstate or foreign commerce."



#### Geographical definition cont...

Jurisdiction extends shoreward to the high tide line in tidal waters or the ordinary high-water mark in non-tidal waters and waterward to 3 nautical miles.







#### Section 404, Clean Water Act

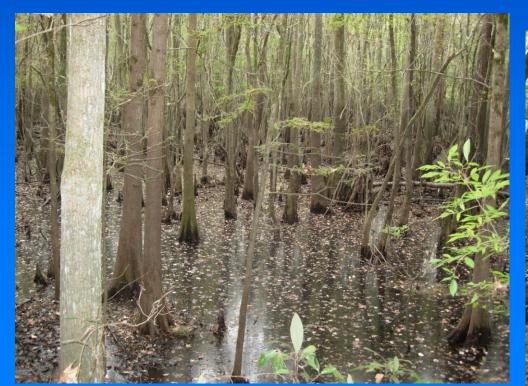
- Regulates all waters of the United States, including wetlands, for the discharge of dredged and/or fill material; including mechanized land clearing
- Authorizes the Secretary of the Army to issue permits for the discharge of dredged or fill material.























### DEFINITION OF WETLANDS 33 CFR 328.3(b)

"The term 'wetlands' means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that <u>under normal circumstances</u> do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas."



# Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

### WETLANDS

• Regional Supplements & 1987 COE Wetland Delineation Manual outlines three parameters for identifying wetlands.

wetland vegetation







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- wetland soils





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- wetland vegetation
- wetland soils
- wetland hydrology





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# Functions of Creeks, Streams, & Wetlands

- Water storage and flood control
- Sediment & pollutant removal
- Clean water for human consumption
- Wildlife habitat
- Food chain support
- Food production







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# Benefits of Creeks, Streams, & Wetlands (con't.)

- Storm surge protection
- Silviculture (Logging)
- Aesthetics
- Educational purposes
- Recreational Activitiescanoeing, fishing, hunting, bird watching...





# Permitting

The Corps, in making permit decisions, must consider a range of factors including environmental impacts, socioeconomic impacts and property ownership rights, and balance public benefits against public detriments.





# Permitting

#### **Types of Department of the Army Permits**

1. <u>Regional General</u>: restricted to activities authorized within a specific state; generally did not have a notification requirement.

2. <u>Nationwide General:</u> for commonly recurring activities across the entire United States; activities with minimal adverse impacts, most have notification requirements.

3. Individual (Standard: for activities not eligible for Regional or Nationwide General Permits.



## **PERMIT EVALUATION**

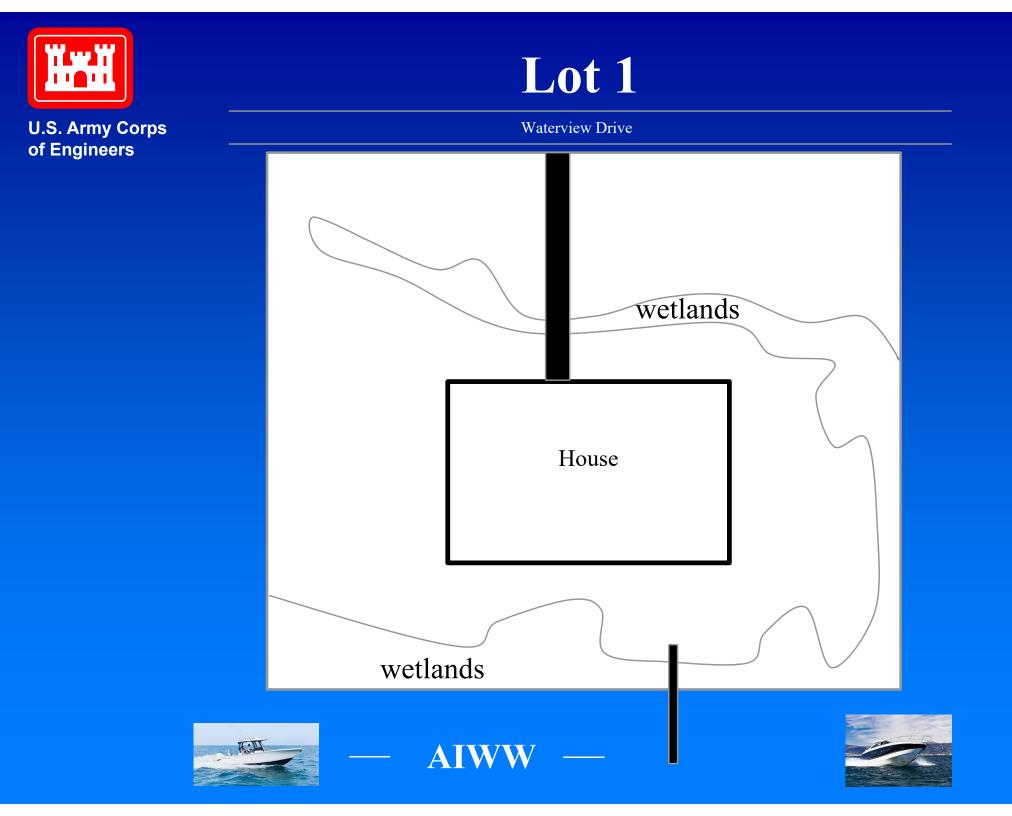
#### Section 404(b)(1) Guideline Sequencing

- Avoidance of wetlands
- Minimizing impacts on wetlands
- Compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts



## Related Laws Affecting Permit Procedures and Policy

- National Environmental Policy Act (1969)
- Endangered Species Act (USFWS and/or NMFS)
- Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Act (NMFS)
- Section 401, Clean Water Act (NC Division of Water Resources)
- Section 307, Coastal Zone Management Act (NC Division of Coastal Management)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (USFWS, NMFS, and NC Wildlife Resource Commission)
- National Historic Preservation Act (State Historic Preservation Office)





# Enforcement

When an individual discharges dredged or fill material in waters of the US (or does any work in navigable waters) without a permit, the Corps has authority to require remedial action, including restoration.







#### **Wilmington Regulatory Homepage**

#### https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/ Regulatory-Permit-Program/

#### **County POC List**

https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/ Regulatory-Permit-Program/Contact/

- Brunswick Co: David Moose, 910-251-4810
- New Hanover Co: Brad Shaver, 910-251-4611