

Do I Need a Permit for My Project?

The need for a permit is determined by two factors:

1. Are waters of U.S. present in the project area?

Waters of the U.S. include waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, rivers, streams, wetlands, bogs, swamps, marshes, ponds, and lakes.

Navigable waters of the U.S. include any tidally influenced waters and waters listed here: <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Recognizing-Wetlands/Navigable-Waters/>

2. Is the activity regulated by the USACE?

The USACE regulates the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into all Waters of the U.S. A discharge of fill material is the placement of material that raises the bottom elevation of a Water of the U.S. or causes it to become uplands.

The USACE also regulate any work and/or structures placed in, over, or under navigable waters.

**Still unsure? Contact us!
We're happy to help.**

Our mission is to serve the public interest in Alaska, providing responsive, quality service by balancing protection and reasonable use of aquatic resources through professional administration of the Regulatory Program.

Questions? Contact us!

Alaska District Offices

Alaska District Main Office

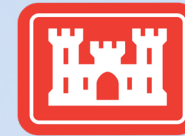
2204 3rd Street
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, Alaska 99506
907-753-2712
800-478-2712
Fax: 907-753-5567
Email: regpagemaster@usace.army.mil

Fairbanks Field Office

1046 Marks Road
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703
907-753-2712
800-478-2712
Fax: 907-753-5567
Email: regpagemaster@usace.army.mil

Kenai Field Office

907-753-2689
Email: CEPOA-RD-KENAI@usace.army.mil



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Alaska District

Regulatory Division



BUILDING STRONG®

Regulatory Program Overview

Our Mission

The Regulatory Program is committed to protecting the Nation's aquatic resources and navigation capacity, while allowing reasonable development through fair and balanced decisions. The Corps evaluates permit applications for essentially all construction activities that occur in the Nation's waters, including wetlands.

Regulatory Program Authorities

Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

Section 10: Navigable Waters

USACE is authorized to issue permits for structures and/or work in, over, under, or affecting, the navigable waters of the United States.

Primary Goal: Maintain navigation

Typical activities requiring authorization under Section 10 include:

- Construction of piers, wharves, breakwaters, jetties, ramps, floats, and cable crossings
- Work such as dredging or disposal of dredged material
- Excavation, filling, or other modifications to navigable waters of the U.S.

Clean Water Act (1972)

Section 404: All Waters of the U.S.

The USACE is authorized to issue permits for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S.

Primary Goal: Restore and maintain the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters.

Typical activities requiring authorization under Section 404 include:

- Discharging fill or dredged material in waters of the U.S., including wetlands
- Site development fill for residential, commercial, or recreational projects
- Construction of breakwaters, levees, dams, dikes, and weirs
- Placement of riprap and road fills

Types of Regulatory Permits

Nationwide General Permits

- Covers activities that are minor in scope and result in no more than minimal adverse impacts, individually and cumulatively
- Projects must meet applicable terms and conditions, including regional conditions specific to Alaska
- Shorter processing time than Individual Permits (45-60 day typical processing time)

Regional General Permits

- Some authorize activities statewide, while others are specific to certain regions in Alaska
- Covers activities that result in no more than minimal adverse impacts, individually, and cumulatively
- Shorter processing time than Individual Permits (45-60 day typical processing time)

Standard Individual Permits

- Public interest review required and alternative analysis
- Activities with potentially more than minimal impact (outside general permit thresholds)
- Typical processing time of 120 days

Other Permit Types

Letter of Permission: In Alaska, this type of expedited review is applicable to certain activities not involving fill in Section 10 waterways

Why Do Wetlands Matter?

Wetlands may provide one or more of the following benefits:

- They improve water quality by filtering sediments and removing contaminants.
- They serve as spawning sites and nursery areas for fish and other aquatic life.



- They support downstream aquatic systems, including commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries, by producing food and organic material that is flushed out of the wetlands and into streams during high flows.
- They reduce flood damage downstream by storing flood water and releasing it slowly, like a giant sponge.
- They protect shorelines from erosion due to waves and currents.
- They provide recreational opportunities, such as hunting, fishing, boating, and wildlife watching.

