



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Galveston District

Special Public Notice

5 August 2025

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR AQUATIC RESOURCE DELINEATION REPORTS

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE: To inform you that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District (Corps) has adopted the **July 2025 Recommended Minimum Standards for Aquatic Resource Delineation Reports** recommendations to enhance consistency and accuracy in documenting aquatic resource delineations.

DISCUSSION: The Corps, through its Regulatory Program, regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into “waters of the United States” pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and structures or work in or affecting “navigable waters of the United States” pursuant to Sections 9 and 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. In order to determine the amount and extent of aquatic resources at a site that may be subjected to Corps regulation, aquatic resources must be delineated in accordance with established regulatory standards, guidance, and protocol, such as the *1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual*, the appropriate Regional Supplement to the 1987 Manual for delineation of wetlands, and Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-05 for Ordinary High Water Mark delineation of non-tidal waters. Before making most permit decisions, the Corps is responsible for conducting or verifying the identification and delineation of aquatic resources at a permit evaluation site. In the context of the Corps regulatory review, an accurate aquatic resource delineation is fundamental to ensuring assessment of a proposed project’s impacts, determining the appropriate level of project review, and evaluating the need for and extent of any required compensatory mitigation.

ORGANIZATION: The guidance document has three attachments relevant to producing an aquatic resources delineation report (ARDR): 1) Recommended Elements of an ARDR; 2) Data Collection Quality Standards for ARDRs; and 3) Aquatic Resource Delineation Report Template.

CONCLUSION: The ARDR recommendations in this document are not mandatory; however, an ARDR that adheres to these recommendations can generally be expected to provide the suite of information that the Corps will need to efficiently verify the accuracy of an aquatic resource delineation. These recommendations do not constitute an exhaustive list and not all recommendations herein will be applicable to each aquatic resource delineation. It is recommended that practitioners coordinate with the Corps prior

to deviating substantially from one or more of the recommended minimum standards described in this document.

DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS