

Protect North Carolina's Wetlands – Speak Up Now!

The EPA is revising the definition of “waters of the United States.” This rule could strip protections from streams and wetlands, putting our communities, wildlife, and economy at risk.

Why Wetlands Matter

- **Flood Protection:** Wetlands absorb and slow floodwaters—one acre can hold up to 1 million gallons of water.
- **Clean Water:** Wetlands filter pollutants and help recharge groundwater aquifers.
- **Seafood & Economy:** Healthy wetlands support fisheries, 5,500 jobs, and nearly \$300 million for NC's economy.
- **Wildlife & Recreation:** Wetlands provide habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife, supporting hunting, fishing, and tourism.
- **Community & Safety:** Wetlands reduce damage from storms, protect property, and help control insurance costs.

What's at Risk with the Proposed Rule?

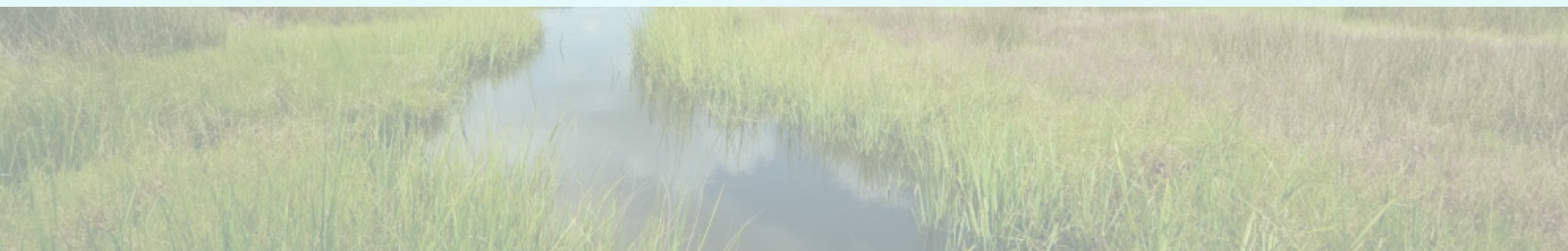
- Smaller streams and wetlands could lose federal protections.
- Unchecked development could increase flooding, pollution, and habitat loss.
- North Carolina could lose control over protections tailored to our unique resources.
- Once wetlands are developed, the damage cannot be reversed.



Submit your comment to the EPA by January 5, 2026

- **Online:** <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OW-2025-0322>
- **Email:** OW-Docket@epa.gov (include subject line “Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2025-0322”)
- **Mail:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Water Docket, Mail Code 2822IT, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460

Tip: cc your state legislators to make your voice heard locally!



Sample Comment Ideas

- **Flooding:** "Weakening wetlands protections endangers my community and worsens flooding."
- **Drinking Water:** "Wetlands protect my water supply; losing protections could increase pollution."
- **Seafood & Wildlife:** "This rule could harm fisheries and wildlife that support my livelihood and recreation."
- **Development:** "We need responsible development—wetlands protections prevent damage that cannot be undone."



➔ Read about how this will impact NC fishers: [WOTUS Rollback: 'No Wetlands, No Seafood' | Coastal Review](#)



Every voice counts! Protect clean water, wildlife and the future of our coast – submit your comment today.

Learn more: www.ncccoast.org/coastal-management

Questions? Contact Kerri Allen, Coastal Advocate & Program Director
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**The proposed rule cuts protections
for 80% of wetlands and 5 million
miles of streams**

