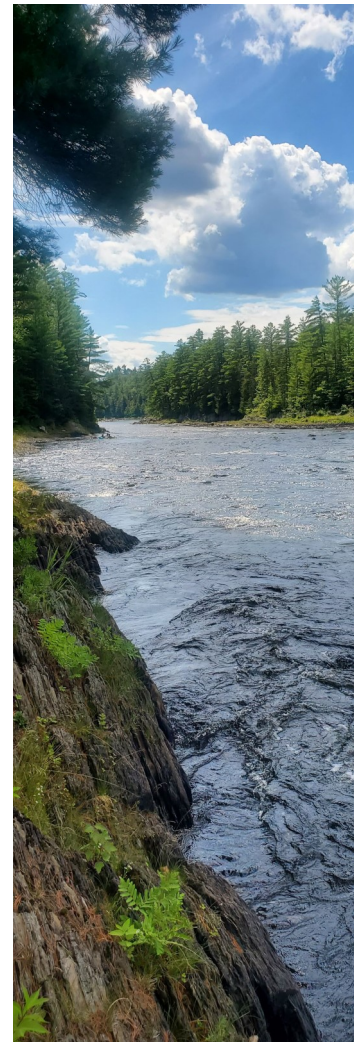


## 2020 A Year in Review: National Tribal Water Council Highlights

Below are a few highlights of the Council's accomplishments in 2020.

- The Council recruited and welcomed two new members this past year. Daniel Mosley, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, was selected to serve as the At-Large Member, and Stephen Wolfe, Seneca-Cayuga Nation, was selected to serve as the Region 6 Representative.
- The Council partnered with the National Tribal Toxics Council, Tribal Science Council, and Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee to form a Tribal PFAS Work Group. The objectives of the work group are to evaluate the successes in addressing PFAS across tribal nations, advocate for tribal nations, develop communication methods about PFAS, and develop guidance documents.
- The Council crafted and submitted three comment letters on proposed rules, regulations or policies, including: (1) Council on Environmental Quality's proposed Update to the Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act; (2) EPA's Draft Guiding Principles for Consulting with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations; (3); and the US Army Corp of Engineers' Proposal to Reissue and Modify Nationwide Permits. Additionally, the NTWC completed and distributed an analysis document on the Navigable Waters Protection Rule and a memorandum on the Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Final Rule. The comment letters are available on the NTWC's website at <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/PolicyResponseKits/Index>



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## 2020 NTWC Highlights *(continued)*

- Council members participated and presented in tribal meetings and conferences, including: (1) Region 6 Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC); (2) Tribal Lands and Environment Forum – Virtual; and (3) National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference - Virtual. Also, the Council was featured in the *EPA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Celebrating Partnerships*. Additionally, the Council jointly held a virtual fall meeting with the EPA Office of Water.

## Updates and Announcements

### EPA's Vessel Incidental Discharge Act Proposed Rule

EPA's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking - Vessel Incidental Discharge National Standards of Performance – published in the Federal Register for public comment on October 26<sup>th</sup> (docket ID EPA-HQ-OW-2019-0482). Comments on the proposed rule must be received by November 25, 2020. The proposed rule would establish national standards of performance for incidental discharges from primarily commercial vessels under VIDA. The proposed rule details specific discharge standards that would apply to 20 different types of vessel equipment and systems, as well as general discharge standards that would apply more broadly to all types of vessel incidental discharges.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/vessels-marinas-and-ports/commercial-vessel-discharge-standards>

### How's My Waterway - Informational Webinar

The EPA's *How's My Waterway* is a tool that assembles publicly available water quality data into a user-friendly package that provides information on water quality in our nation's waters. Map-centric and mobile-friendly, *How's My Waterway* works on all different screen sizes—from desktop computers and tablets to mobile phones. The Agency's goal is that EPA, partners and the public will use *How's My Waterway* to learn about water, explore data and find out what is happening to improve the health of our waters. The tool provides the public with an easily accessible and understandable summary of water quality at the community-, state- and national-level.

The EPA is hosting an informational webinar on the *How's My Waterway* tool on **December 15, 2020**. This webcast will include a live demonstration of the recently enhanced application. To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/watershedacademy/how-my-waterway-december-webcast>

Enter your zip code on How's My Waterway (<https://mywaterway.epa.gov>) and explore the waters near you.

### National Water Quality Monitoring Council Call for Award Nominations

The National Water Quality Monitoring Council is seeking nominations for three awards recognizing excellence, leadership, and collaboration in water quality monitoring to protect public health and the environment. The deadline for nominations is **Friday, January 8, 2021**. Award recipients will be recognized at the virtual National Monitoring Conference during the week of April 19, 2021.

For more information on the award categories or to submit a nomination, please visit: [https://www.nalms.org/2021nmc/call-for-award-nominations/?utm\\_source=Master+List&utm\\_campaign=6eeef21d7-NMC\\_Call\\_for\\_abstracts\\_20200908&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_caef9c94-6eeef21d7-182734841](https://www.nalms.org/2021nmc/call-for-award-nominations/?utm_source=Master+List&utm_campaign=6eeef21d7-NMC_Call_for_abstracts_20200908&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_caef9c94-6eeef21d7-182734841)

# Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities

## **Tribal Consultation Opportunity: Proposed Rulemaking for Market-Based Approaches under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program**

**Ends: January 7, 2021**

The EPA is proposing a rulemaking to address Market-Based Approaches under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program. The proposed regulation will provide clarity to NPDES permitting authorities, regulated entities, and stakeholders interested in participating in market-based compliance approaches, including water quality trading. The action may be of interest to tribes interested in participating in water quality trading to meet permit effluent limitations for tribally owned facilities or to generate pollutant reduction credits from tribally owned point source or nonpoint source facilities. The action may interest tribal governments that provide certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for permits that include conditions allowing for the use of market-based approaches.

The consultation period will end on January 7, 2021. The EPA will be holding an informational webinar on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM (EST). To register, please visit: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5921972236716908556>

For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/water-quality-trading>. Information on this consultation opportunity can be found at <https://tcots.epa.gov/>.

## Funding Opportunities

### **Northwest and Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Centers Tribal Climate Adaptation Research Projects**

**Deadline: December 17, 2020**

The Northwest and Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Centers invite federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations to submit a Statement of Interest for tribal climate adaptation research projects for fiscal year 2021. Projects will focus on the Center's priorities, which include: (1) management of aquatic species; (2) management of at-risk species and habitats; (3) management of invasive species and diseases; (4) management of forest ecosystems; and (5) human dimensions of climate adaptation.

Statement of interest submitted to the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center should have geographic footprints within Idaho, Oregon, Washington, or Northern California. Statement of interest for the Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center should have geographic footprints within Central/Southern California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, or New Mexico. Interested applicants must submit a Statement of Interest by December 17, 2020 (5:00 PM EST).

For more information, please visit: <https://nwcasc.uw.edu/2020/10/10/nw-casc-funding-opportunity-for-tribal-climate-adaptation-research-projects/>

## Funding Opportunities *(continued)*

### **FY2021 Tribal CWA 319 Competitive Grant Request for Applications**

**Deadline: January 14, 2021**

The EPA's FY2021 Tribal Clean Water Act Section 319 Competitive Grant is targeted to support implementation of nonpoint source (NPS) best management practices to control sources of NPS pollution. Applicants may include other eligible activities that support implementation work, but an application should primarily focus on implementing best management practices that will directly protect or restore water quality.

The EPA will be hosting two informational webinars about the competitive grant.

- December 2, 2020 (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST)
- December 8, 2020 (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST)

To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/epa-information-session-webinar-fy2021-tribal-319-competitive-grant-rfa-tickets-128948726111>

The deadline to submit an application is January 14, 2021 through [grants.gov](https://grants.gov). Questions about the grant may be submitted to [tribal319grants@epa.gov](mailto:tribal319grants@epa.gov) by January 5, 2021. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/nps/tribal-nonpoint-source-program>

### **Tribal Wetland Program Development Grant**

**Deadline: January 15, 2021**

The EPA FY20 and FY21 Tribal Wetland Program Development Grants assist state, tribal, local government agencies and interstate/intertribal entities in developing or refining programs that protect, manage, and restore wetlands. The focus of this grant is to develop and refine tribal wetland programs.

The deadline to submit an application is January 15, 2021. Questions about the grant may be submitted to Myra Price ([price.myra@epa.gov](mailto:price.myra@epa.gov)). For more information about the grant, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/tribal-wetland-program-development-grant-request-applications>

## Upcoming Events

### **Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. - National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Training & Certification Program**

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. National Tribal Water and Wastewater Operator Training and Certification Program is providing live online training courses. Each course consists of sequential lessons that are provided in a series of live online classes that are 3-hours in length.

Upcoming courses include, but are not limited to:

- Safe Drinking Water Act 101: January 19 to February 25, 2021
- Level 1 Water Treatment: February 1 to March 10, 2021
- Level 1 Wastewater Collection: February 22 to March 10, 2021

For more information, training schedule, and to register, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>

# Upcoming Webinars

## EPA Water Research Webinar Series

- January 21, 2021: Disinfection Byproducts Formation Tools for Drinking Water Utilities
- March 31, 2021: Fit-for-Purpose Water Updates and Life Cycle Comparisons of Non-potable Reuse Scenarios

For more information, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/water-research-webinar-series>

## News of Interest:

Largest dam demolition along the Oregon-California border will reopen miles of waterway and salmon restoration. To read more, please visit:

<https://apnews.com/article/dams-fish-salmon-oregon-environment-71045373e7063bfff75fc43d15885639>

## NTWC Members – For more information, visit [Meet the Council](#).

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