

# NEPA 202: Best Management Practices

PA Sea Grant

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# NEPA Webinars

- Today is the second of two webinars
- First webinar and webinar materials are on Inside Sea Grant
- You will have time for questions at the end and the webinar will be recorded
- Today is the NEPA 202 - we will go over best practices and review an example of the abbreviated environmental questionnaires





# Webinar #2 Objectives

What documents do I need to send to NSGO so they can fulfill NEPA?

What is the Abbreviated NOAA Environmental Compliance Questionnaire?

How do I complete the Questionnaire?

What are common mistakes when completing the Questionnaire?



LC Sea Grant



SC Sea Grant



OR Sea Grant



DE Sea Grant

# From last time... NEPA Documentation

## Abbreviated NOAA Environmental Compliance Questionnaire

~ AND ~

Permits (or information regarding the status of forthcoming permits)

(OMB Approval Number: 0648-0538; ~~exp.~~ 11/30/21)

**ABBREVIATED NOAA ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRE**  
Instructions: Answer EVERY question in the yellow square below it.

Questions are selected from the full 62-question NOAA Environmental Compliance Questionnaire (available at [www.nepa.noaa.gov](http://www.nepa.noaa.gov)), as such questions are not in numerical order.

Grant number and/or Project ID (if available)
Project Title
Name and contact information for the person completing this form
State Sea Grant Program
<b>PROPOSED ACTIVITY</b>
Describe the proposed activity, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The purpose, objectives, and goals</li></ul>
Is the proposed activity a continuation or part of an ongoing activity? If yes, then: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe any changes to the proposed activity since it was initiated, including progress toward achieving its objectives/goals; and</li><li>• Provide any additional information, previous environmental review documents, and/or reports from previous years.</li></ul>
Describe sampling, collecting, or observation protocols and operational procedures
Will the proposed activity require the cataloging and compiling of sources of socioeconomic data? If yes, then please explain.
Does the proposed activity consist solely of software research and manipulation? If yes, please explain.
Does the proposed activity utilize a new or untested scientific technology or method? If yes, then describe briefly the technological process or methodology and potential environmental effects of the proposed activity.

# NEPA Environmental Compliance Questionnaire

- Questionnaire is required for ALL research projects (including PD projects)
- PI or subaward applicant will complete the questionnaire
- NEPA POC will review the answers to ensure an appropriate level of detail
- If the applicant states that a permit is needed, ensure a copy of that permit is submitted with the questionnaire

(OMB Approval Number: 0648-0538; exp. 11/30/21)

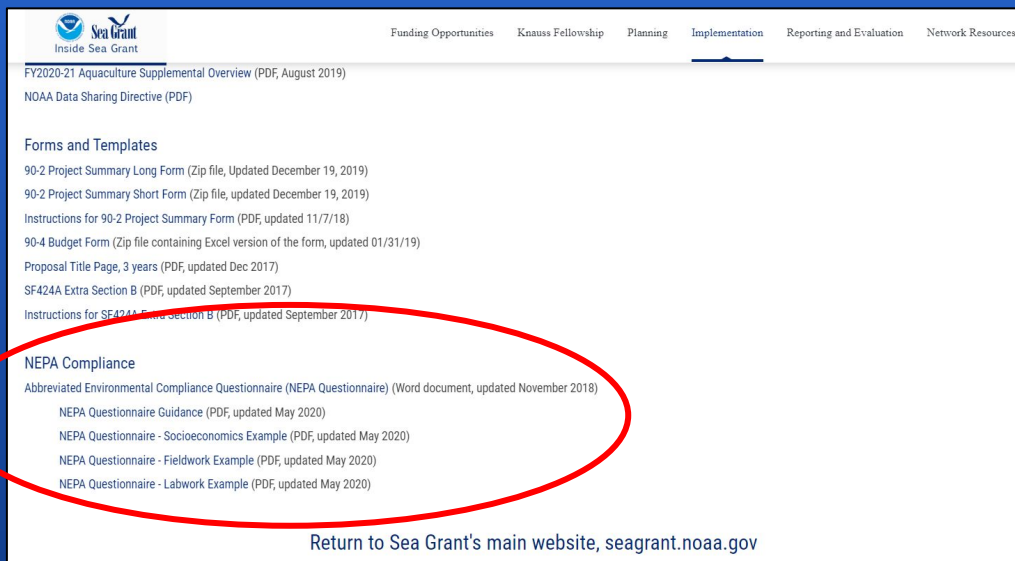
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# NEPA Environmental Compliance Questionnaire

- Find the empty form on the Inside Sea Grant webpage
  - Inside Sea Grant → Implementation → NEPA Compliance
- NSGO provides step-by-step guidance for how to complete this form (see [link](#))
- NSGO also provides example questionnaires
  - Fieldwork (see [link](#))
  - Labwork (see [link](#))
  - Socioeconomics (see [link](#))



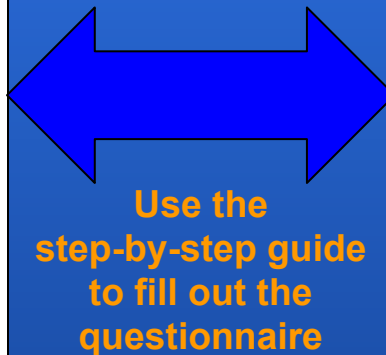
# NEPA Environmental Compliance Questionnaire

## Step-by-step guide to the Abbreviated NOAA Environmental Compliance Questionnaire

Please note: The Sea Grant program is responsible for ensuring that the information in the abbreviated NOAA Environmental Compliance Questionnaire is filled out correctly. It is the responsibility of the program to review materials submitted by subaward applicants and ensure that the questionnaire provides an adequate level of detail. Please use this guide below to determine if an adequate level of detail has been provided for each question. If an applicant states that a permit is needed, ensure a copy of the full permit is submitted with the questionnaire (as required per the permit question).

### ---Proposed Activity---

1. Describe the proposed activity including: the purpose, objectives, and goals.
  - o Short paragraph (5-6 sentences) on the overarching purpose and goal of the research activities. DO NOT copy and paste the entire project narrative. This is more akin to an abstract and should be focused on the 'activities' funded under this award.
  - o Ensure that the description of the activities includes a brief overview of the methodology and research areas.
2. Is the proposed activity a continuation or part of an ongoing activity?
  - o If no, state "No."
  - o If yes, describe any changes to the research. Provide all appropriate materials from previous years as an attachment.
3. Describe sampling, collecting, or observation protocols and operational procedures.
  - o Succinctly describe field and/or lab methodology. DO NOT just copy the information from the proposal.
  - o If the research is solely lab-based, state this explicitly.
  - o If the research is being conducted on previously collected samples (not part of this award/application) please state this explicitly.
  - o If this is socioeconomic research, please describe the protocols/methods used to collect the socioeconomic data.
  - o If fieldwork is taking place, briefly describe:
    - i. The location of the fieldwork.
    - ii. The timeline of work.
    - iii. The activities being performed.
    - iv. The materials being used (i.e. cages, trawls, nets, etc).
    - v. The species and number of organisms being handled.
4. Will the proposed activity require the cataloging and compiling of sources of socioeconomic data?
  - o If no, state "No."
  - o If yes, briefly explain how socio economic data will be collected and compiled.
5. Does the proposed activity consist solely of software research and manipulation?
  - o If no, state "No."
  - o If yes, briefly describe the modeling/statistical work in 1-2 sentences.
6. Does the proposed activity utilize a new or untested scientific technology or method?
  - o If no, state "No."
  - o If yes, briefly describe the new method.
7. What amount (total numbers and/or weight) of fish or invertebrates are proposed to be caught?
  - o If you do not plan to collect fish/invertebrates, state this explicitly.
  - o If you plan to collect fish/invertebrates:



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Grant number and/or Project ID (if available)

Project Title

Name and contact information for the person completing this form

State Sea Grant Program

### PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Describe the proposed activity, including:

- The purpose, objectives, and goals

Is the proposed activity a continuation or part of an ongoing activity? If yes, then:

- Describe any changes to the proposed activity since it was initiated, including progress toward achieving its objectives/goals; and
- Provide any additional information, previous environmental review documents, and/or reports from previous years.

Describe sampling, collecting, or observation protocols and operational procedures

Will the proposed activity require the cataloging and compiling of sources of socioeconomic data? If yes, then please explain.

Does the proposed activity consist solely of software research and manipulation? If yes, please explain.

Does the proposed activity utilize a new or untested scientific technology or method? If yes, then describe briefly the technological process or methodology and potential environmental effects of the proposed activity.



# Example Questionnaires

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Grant number and/or Project ID (if available)

Project Title

NEPA Worksheet Fieldwork Example

Name and contact information for the person completing this form

Rebecca Certner (rebecca.certner@noaa.gov)

State Sea Grant Program

National Sea Grant Office

### PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Describe the proposed activity, including:

- The purpose, objectives, and goals

Microplastic marine debris (MPMD) is a pollutant of growing concern both globally and regionally. This project integrates land and ocean observations and models with expertise from the natural and social sciences to comprehensively assess the issue of MPMD in the Delaware Estuary. The objectives of this project are:

1. Estimate riverine sources of MPMD in the Delaware Estuary based on human activity.
2. Determine the importance of the Delaware River and lower bay tributaries as MPMD sources based on field sampling.
3. Identify transport and accumulation patterns of MPMD in the Delaware Estuary.
4. Assess MPMD abundance in the food web at accumulation zones.
5. Integrate the GIS, field sampling, and model analyses to link land-use and environmental conditions with MPMD abundance in the Delaware Estuary ecosystem.

Our approach combines GIS analysis of land surface and socio-economic data, MPMD abundance and material transport observations, numerical transport modeling, and biological effects data. The team will integrate geography, marine biology and physical oceanography to link human behavior, MPMD sources, and physical transport to biological impact. Results will be communicated to our partners at DNREC and DRBC and other regional stakeholders through regular updates, face-to-face meetings, and presentations at regional meetings. Outreach on MPMD in the Delaware Estuary will also be conducted. Thus, this project will empower regional resource managers to understand the scope of plastic pollution as an environmental threat in the Delaware Estuary, and prioritize sub-watersheds for local and regional mitigation/management efforts.

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Grant number and/or Project ID (if available)

Project Title

NEPA Worksheet Labwork Example

Name and contact information for the person completing this form

Rebecca Certner (rebecca.certner@noaa.gov)

State Sea Grant Program

National Sea Grant Office

### PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Describe the proposed activity, including:

- The purpose, objectives, and goals

Wild and hatchery salmon stocks contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to the Alaska economy annually. However, there is minimal understanding of how well hatchery production protocols mimic natural mating strategies or how these protocols impact the maintenance of genetic variation and individual fish size in hatchery broodstock. We will examine reproductive success of alternative mating strategies (jacks versus full-size males) and the mating structure of a wild coho salmon population. We will examine the effects of the alternative mating strategies on female salmon size and compare these results to practices used in Southeast Alaska coho hatcheries. We will explore how the incorporation (wild) or exclusion (hatchery) of jack males affects the maintenance of population level genetic variation and the size of female offspring in hatchery broodstock.

This projects seeks to use existing demographic and new genetic data from existing samples of Auke Creek coho salmon spanning a decade to:

1. Quantify the relative fitness (survival and reproductive success) of jacks and large males in wild populations of coho salmon.
2. Determine whether jacks are more likely to sire jacks and larger female offspring than are full-size males.
3. Assess the contribution of jacks to the maintenance of genetic diversity in wild and hatchery populations of coho salmon.

Is the proposed activity a continuation or part of an ongoing activity? If yes, then:

- Describe any changes to the proposed activity since it was initiated, including progress toward achieving its objectives/goals; and
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Grant number and/or Project ID (if available)

Project Title

NEPA Worksheet Socioeconomics Example

Name and contact information for the person completing this form

Rebecca Certner (rebecca.certner@noaa.gov)

State Sea Grant Program

National Sea Grant Office

### PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Describe the proposed activity, including:

- The purpose, objectives, and goals

This project addresses attitudes about beach litter on the Delaware seashore. We aim to determine differences in perception of beach cleanliness based on a number of factors including time of year, resident status (resident or tourist), age, gender, and socioeconomic status. We will distribute surveys to people on the boardwalks of three popular Delaware beaches from May through October of 2021. The following Summer, survey results will be presented to the public at three community centers upon completion of the study.

Is the proposed activity a continuation or part of an ongoing activity? If yes, then:

- Describe any changes to the proposed activity since it was initiated, including progress toward achieving its objectives/goals; and
- Provide any additional information, previous environmental review documents, and/or reports from previous years.

No.

Describe sampling, collecting, or observation protocols and operational procedures

From May through October 2021, two teams of two researchers will travel to three Delaware beaches (Bethany Beach, Dewey Beach, and Rehoboth Beach) three days a month (including weekends) to perform voluntary intercept surveys with visitors about beach litter. The survey will contain demographic questions (i.e. resident status, age, gender, socioeconomic status, etc) but no PII. Researchers will ask participants a series of no more than 15 questions about their perceptions of beach litter and beach cleanliness. Data collected from these surveys will be input into qualitative data analysis software, such as NVivo, to be coded and analyzed for recurrent patterns and themes in support of the research objectives. Survey results will be processed and analyzed at the University of Southern Delaware. In the Summer of 2022, researchers will present the survey results to the public at



# Guide to the NEPA Environmental Compliance Questionnaire

## Four Sections in the Questionnaire

1. Proposed Activity - 10 questions
  - Discuss methodology and techniques
  - List the species and number of organisms being handled/collected
2. Location - 5 questions
  - Define the research location
  - Discuss the state of the location and if it is protected by any regulations
3. Project Partners, Permits, and Consultations - 2 questions
  - List the project partners
  - List the required permits and their status
4. Safety - 2 questions
  - Discuss potential health risks associated with the research

# Fieldwork Questionnaire Step-By-Step

- Following slides will walk through the questions and good example answers
- Questions highlighted in black are important points for NEPA POCs to review
- These questions are where mistakes are most often made

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# Section #1

## Proposed Activity

1. Describe the proposed activity including: the purpose, objectives, and goals.
2. Is the proposed activity a continuation or part of an ongoing activity?
3. Describe sampling, collecting, or observation protocols and operational procedures.
4. Will the proposed activity require the cataloging and compiling of sources of socioeconomic data?
5. Does the proposed activity consist solely of software research and manipulation?
6. Does the proposed activity utilize a new or untested scientific technology or method?
7. What amount (total numbers and/or weight) of fish or invertebrates are proposed to be caught?
8. List non-target species that may occur in the proposed sampling area and specify how many of each non-targeted species are expected to be caught.
9. Will the proposed activity introduce genetically modified organisms, species bred for specific traits (e.g. disease resistant stocks), or non-indigenous species into an area?
10. Describe the processing methods to be used to conduct the research.



# Fieldwork Example - Proposed Activity

- BRIEF description of the project
- Overview of major activities
- Includes objectives in bullet form

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# Fieldwork Example - Proposed Activity

- Succinctly describes activities taking place in the environment - no extraneous information
- Clearly states fieldwork location, timeline, and materials
- Overview of species and number of organisms being collected - clearly states that further elaboration is provided in a later question

Is the proposed activity a continuation or part of an ongoing activity? If yes, then:

- Describe any changes to the proposed activity since it was initiated, including progress toward achieving its objectives/goals; and
- Provide any additional information, previous environmental review documents, and/or reports from previous years.

No.

Describe sampling, collecting, or observation protocols and operational procedures

This project will take place over two years (ten days total, five days per year) and has a large fieldwork component within the Delaware Estuary and Bay. Sampling days will be scheduled to capture a range of seasonal and weather conditions. Sampling areas will be concentrated within three locations: the C&D Canal, the Bower's Beach area, and the Cape May area. These locations were chosen based on elevated MPMD concentrations in prior studies. At each of the three locations, we will establish a grid of at least four sampling stations based on physical dynamics.

At each sampling station, we will measure MPMD in the water column. First, we will take a CTD profile using a Sea Bird SBE19. Next, to get the MPMD concentrations, we will conduct depth-stratified net sampling (surface, mid-depth, bottom) using a 3-net Tucker Trawl (100 um mesh, 0.25 m<sup>2</sup> mouth).

Dispersion properties and transport patterns of MPMD will also be investigated using Lagrangian driftcards and drifters. At each of the three sampling locations, a group of four drifters will be deployed and recovered after 48 hours (drifters will be re-used). 50-100 30-cm bamboo plates will also be released within each of the three locations. Their dispersion will be monitored by a drone with mounted cameras. Plates will not be recovered as they are biodegradable.

At each of the three sampling locations, we will sample MPMD abundance in a range of organisms including zooplankton, finfish, crabs, and oysters within the identified accumulation zones. Approximately 15 zooplankton tows will take place within each of the three locations. Approximately 15 of each species (outlined below) will be taken at each of the three locations. Zooplankton will be collected by plankton net, finfish will be collected by trawl, crabs will be collected by epibenthic sled, and oysters will be collected by bottom dredge.

All activity will occur on a single 46' research vessel. Individual trawl/dredge soak times will be limited to five minutes, resulting in approximately 150-450 square meters of trawled area per set, and repeated no more than three times per location.

Will the proposed activity require the cataloging and compiling of sources of socioeconomic data? If yes, then please explain.

We will use existing socio-economic data as a layer in our GIS analysis (Census Bureau population, income level, education, etc.) but we will not be cataloging or compiling sources.

Does the proposed activity consist solely of software research and manipulation? If yes, please explain.

No.

# Fieldwork Example - Proposed Activity

- Lists all species being collected including information about number and size
- Also lists potential bycatch and invasive species
- Includes information about ESA-protected species and the researchers' plan to avoid them\*

\*If the research triggers ESA, pay special attention to location details, permits, and methodology.

Does the proposed activity utilize a new or untested scientific technology or method? If yes, then describe briefly the technological process or methodology and potential environmental effects of the proposed activity.

No.

What amount (total numbers and/or weight) of fish or invertebrates are proposed to be caught? What is the size (weight, length, and age class) of each species targeted for capture?

We plan to measure MPMD in the tissues of a broad suite of pelagic and benthic organisms.

- Zooplankton: Numbers and weight are undefined, but we will conduct ~50 plankton tows total at various depths, times, and locations.
- Finfish: We will target Menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*), Atlantic croaker (*Micropogonias undulatus*), Spot (*Leiostomus xanthurus*), and Northern Kingfish (*Menticirrhus saxatilis*). These are species we routinely collect in Delaware Bay using the previously outlined methods. We are aiming to collect ~25 individuals from each species and lengths will be < 15 cm.
- Crabs: We will target blue crabs (*Callinectes sapidus*) and mud crabs (e.g., *Rhithropanopeus*, *Hexapanopeus*, etc.). We are aiming to collect ~25 individuals from each species. Juvenile blue crabs and adult mud crabs will be targeted.
- Oyster: We will target eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*). We are aiming to collect ~25 individuals and lengths will be < 10 cm.

List non-target species that may occur in the proposed sampling area and specify how many of each non-targeted species are expected to be caught.

Non-target species in trawls may include: horseshoe crabs, smooth hound dogfish, and clearnose skate. We expect < 5 individuals of each to be caught in the study. Endangered Atlantic sturgeon migrate through the sample area. To avoid them, we will check a local sturgeon forecast prior to trawling and will only trawl if probability in our trawl area is low.

Will the proposed activity introduce genetically modified organisms, species bred for specific traits (e.g. disease resistant stocks), or non-indigenous species into an area?

No.

Describe the processing methods to be used to conduct the research.

Zooplankton will be fixed in 4% formaldehyde and other organisms will be wrapped and frozen. Back in the lab, water samples will be processed by wet peroxide oxidation for microplastics. Tissue samples will be digested by enzymes or potassium hydroxide. FTIR and or Raman spectroscopy will be used to identify plastic composition.



## Section #2

### Location

1. Describe the proposed activity location, including, if available and appropriate, geographic coordinates (latitude, longitude in DD MM.MMM), river mile markers, etc. for all distinct phases of the proposed activity.
2. Is the location of the proposed activity in a previously undisturbed area?
3. Are there pre-existing or ongoing uses at the location of the proposed activity?
4. Describe the characteristics of the location of the proposed activity.
5. Are minority or low-income communities located in the area of the proposed activity?

# Fieldwork Example - Location

- Specific location information including coordinates
- Lets us pinpoint whether or not research is taking place in Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)\*

\*This question should provide enough information to determine if the research is occurring in critical habitat or protected locations. If anything is triggered, pay special attention to the permits and methodology.

## LOCATION

Describe the proposed activity location, including, if available and appropriate, geographic coordinates (latitude, longitude in DD MM.MMM), river mile markers, etc. for all distinct phases of the proposed activity.

All sampling will occur within the Delaware Bay. We will sample microplastics presence and transport, along with biota, at three locations:

1. The estuarine turbidity maximum near the C&D canal [39.452706°, -75.559274°]
2. The Bower's Beach area [39.067250°, -75.326133°]
3. The Cape May area [38.970450°, -75.029350°]

# Fieldwork Example - Location

- Briefly describes the research area
- Includes an overview of activities that occur in research area
- If the area was protected by any Federal regulations, this information would go here\*

\*If the research area is protected, pay special attention to permits.

Is the location of the proposed activity in a previously undisturbed area? If yes, then explain if the proposed activity would degrade or disturb the previously undisturbed area.
No.
Are there pre-existing or ongoing uses at the location of the proposed activity? If yes, then describe and explain the pre-existing or ongoing uses at the location of the proposed activity or, if not known, describe how pre-existing/ongoing uses will be determined.
We have sampled previously in all proposed locations and are familiar with other activities. These include recreational boating, commercial fishing, commercial shipping, and a passenger ferry. Our exact sampling locations in the general study regions are selected to minimize interactions with these activities. We assess the ongoing activities prior to beginning any sampling, and adjust our boat position to avoid interaction.
Describe the characteristics of the location of the proposed activity by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● indicating whether it includes unique geographic areas of notable recreational, ecological, scientific, cultural, historical, scenic, economic, or aesthetic importance;</li> <li>● describing any anticipated changes over time to the natural landscape and/or viewshed that would result from the proposed activity;</li> <li>● listing any ecologically significant or critical areas in the location of the proposed activity, including areas that are normally inundated by water or areas within the 100- year flood plain;</li> <li>● essential fish habitat and habitat areas of particular concern designated under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act;</li> <li>● listing any critical habitat areas for Endangered Species Act-listed species;</li> <li>● listing any marine protected areas or national marine sanctuaries in the location of the proposed activity;</li> <li>● listing any part of refuge lands, wild or scenic rivers, wetlands, or prime/unique farmland in the location of the proposed activity;</li> <li>● listing any properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmarks, or National Monuments; and</li> <li>● listing any religious or cultural sites of any Federally recognized Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in the proposed activity area.</li> </ul>
Delaware Bay is a highly trafficked area lacking in protected lands. However, federally-endangered Atlantic sturgeon are known to migrate through the sample area. In order to avoid them, we will check a local sturgeon forecast prior to trawling and will only trawl if the probability of sturgeon presence is low.
Are minority or low-income communities located in the area of the proposed activity? If yes, then describe how the minority or low-income communities may be impacted by the proposed activity.
The project will not impact minority or low-income communities. We will be studying economic factors among other indicators of plastic pollution. Positive effects on the local environment in low-income areas could result from management efforts in response to this study.



## Section #3

# Project Partners, Permits, and Consultations

1. List all other interested or affected Federal, state, and local agencies, Native American tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations, non-governmental organizations, and private individuals which may potentially be interested and/or affected by the action.
2. Are Federal, state, or local permits, authorizations, waivers, determinations, or consultations required for the proposed activity to comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations?

# Fieldwork Example - Project Partners, Permits, and Consultations

- Clearly lists partners
- Uses full names instead of acronyms

## **PROJECT PARTNERS, PERMITS AND CONSULTATIONS**

List all other interested or affected Federal, state, and local agencies, Native American tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations, non-governmental organizations, and private individuals which may potentially be interested and/or affected by the action.

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control; Delaware River and Basin Commission

# Fieldwork Example - Project Partners, Permits, and Consultations

- Clearly lists the permits required for the research
- Includes issuing authority, permit number, and permit status

Are Federal, state, or local permits, authorizations, waivers, determinations, or consultations required for the proposed activity to comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations? If yes, then:

- list and provide the status of all required Federal, state, or local permits, authorizations, waivers, determinations, conditions, and consultations, as applicable; and
- provide copies of all required Federal, state, or local permits, authorizations, waivers, or determinations that you have secured.

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control collection permit #12345 (see attached).

# Section #4

## Safety

1. Describe potential unique or unknown risks to human health or the environment from the proposed activity.
2. Describe the potential to generate, use, store, transport, or dispose of hazardous or toxic substances.



# Fieldwork Example - Safety

- Lists all chemicals being used to conduct research
- Describes researchers' plan for safe chemical disposal\*

<u><b>SAFETY</b></u>
Describe potential unique or unknown risks to human health or the environment from the proposed activity.
None.
Describe the potential to generate, use, store, transport, or dispose of hazardous or toxic substances. Please include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a list of any hazardous substances (as defined by 29 C.F.R. 1910.120(a)(3)) that will be involved in this project and any hazardous wastes (as defined by 40 C.F.R. 261.3) that may be generated during the proposed activity;</li><li>• any hazardous contaminants that may be uncovered and/or disturbed by the proposed activity; and</li><li>• a list of the procedures/protocols that will be followed to ensure safe handling of hazardous substances and proper disposal of all hazardous wastes.</li></ul>
Researchers will use formaldehyde for plankton fixation and hydrogen peroxide, iron sulfate, and sulfuric acid for wet peroxide oxidation during microplastics processing. All use, storage, handling, and disposal of these chemicals will be done in accordance with the University of Delaware's Environmental Health and Safety office ( <a href="http://www1.udel.edu/ehs/">http://www1.udel.edu/ehs/</a> ). This includes use of personal protective equipment, laboratory fume hoods, etc.

\*Researchers often answer this question wrong or not at all

# Common Mistakes

Answer ALL questions. Even if the answer is just “No” or “None”.

Complete this questionnaire for research-based projects including PD projects and extension projects that contain research activities.

NO NOT paste the entire project narrative into the Proposed Activity section.

Be as specific as possible about the species and number of organisms being collected.  
Mention any endangered species affected by the research.

Be as specific as possible about the research locations. Mention Essential Fish Habitat affected by the research.

Provide copies of all permits referenced in the questionnaire. If the permit is pending, state this clearly in the questionnaire.

# Tips for Successfully Reviewing Questionnaires

- Look through materials for red flags
- Work with PI to obtain missing information or gather more details prior to submitting to NGSO
- Begin collecting permit information as soon as possible
- Work with your PO to gain necessary information to complete the review process as quickly as possible

**Often it is easiest to have a quick call between the PO, program, and PI/subawardee to address issues/concerns and clarify research activities.**

**We are always happy to do this!**

# Questions?

**All NEPA-related inquiries should be sent to  
[oar.sg.nepa@noaa.gov](mailto:oar.sg.nepa@noaa.gov)**