

Mr. Thomas Smith, P.E.
Chief, Operations & Regulatory Division
USACE Headquarters

National Waterways Conference
Legislative Summit
Washington DC
13 March 2024



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

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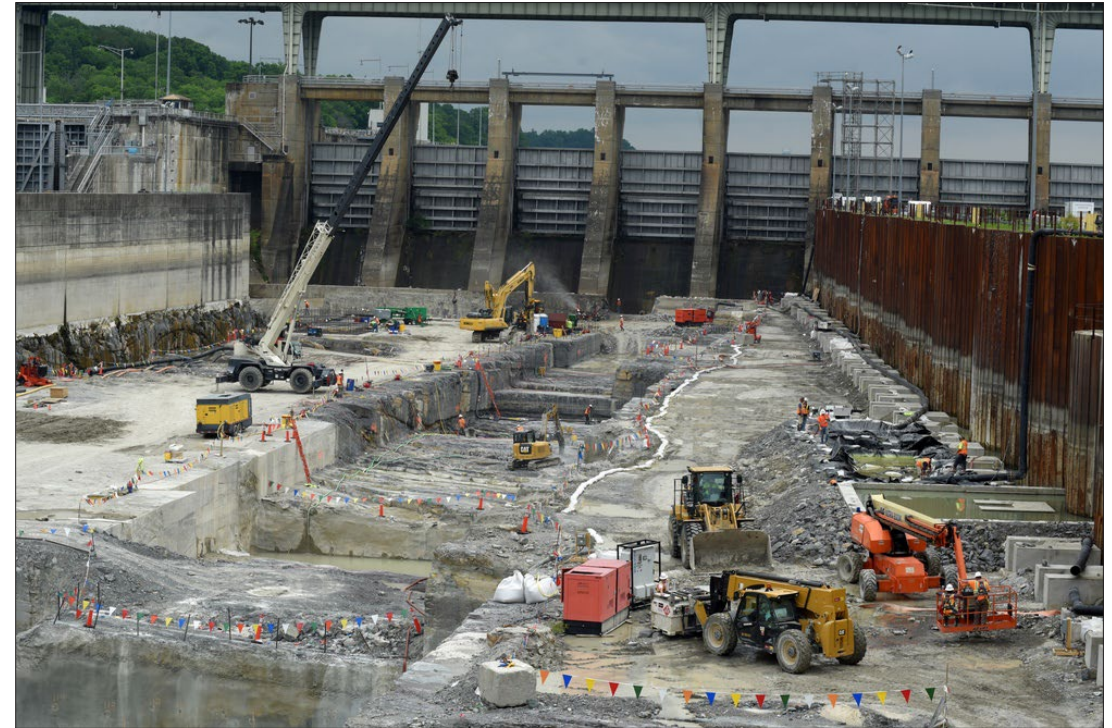
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS LINES OF EFFORT

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- **Upgrade Waterways and Ports to Strengthen Supply Chains and Economic Growth**
- **Build innovative, climate Resilient infrastructure to protect Communities and Ecosystems**
- **Modernize Civil Works Programs to better serve the needs of disadvantaged communities**
- **Invest in Science, Research and Development to deliver enduring water-resource solutions**
- **Strengthen communications and relationships to solve water resource challenges**

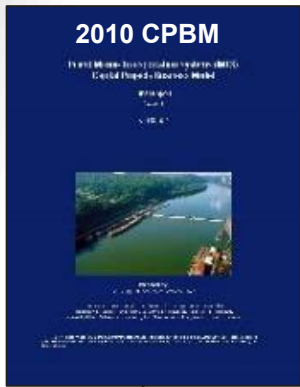


Chickamauga Lock



U.S. ARMY 2010 Capital Project Business Model

Report was in response *cost escalation & funding challenges*. Goals were to “identify ways to improve the Corps business model” & “developing an investment strategy”.



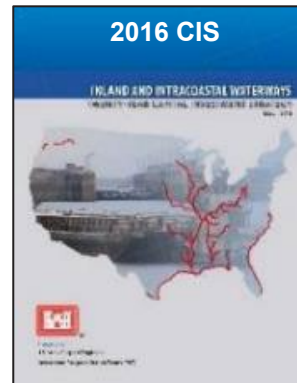
CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY



2016 CIS

1st Capital Investment Strategy

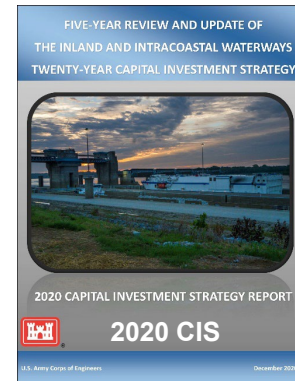
Report was drafted in May 2015 & cleared by OMB in March 2016



2020 CIS

2nd Capital Investment Strategy

5-yr Review & Update of 2016 Report. Report transmitted the report to Congress in January 2021.



2025 CIS

3rd Capital Investment Strategy

5-yr Review & Update of 2020 Report. Target completion in spring 2025.



2014 WRRDA Section 2002, “in coordination with the Users Board, to develop and submit to Congress a report describing a **20-year strategy** for making **capital investments** on the inland and intracoastal waterways based on the application of objective, national project selection prioritization criteria”

2020 WRDA Section 2002, changed cost share to 65% General Treasury / 35% IWTF.

IJA / BIL allocated \$2.5B for inland navigation construction.





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BLACK WARRIOR/TOMBIGBEE RIVER: DEMOPOLIS LOCK – UPPER MITER SILL FAILURE



16 January 2024 Incident:

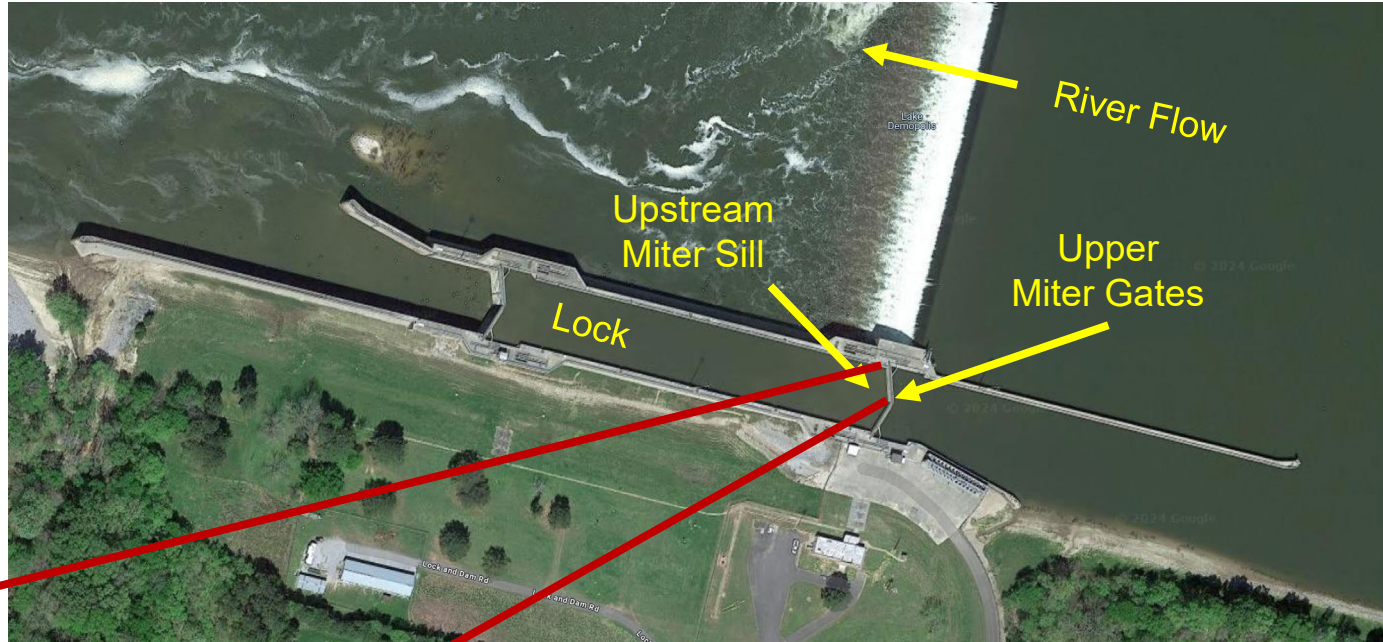
The concrete that comprises the upper miter sill fractured, allowing water to pass under the gate. The lower lock gates were open at time of the incident.

19 January 2024 Condition Update:

With assistance from industry using multiple barges and towboats, the lower miter gates were successfully mitered at 1145. Flow through the breach continued until chamber reached upper pool

20 January 2024 Condition Update:

TVA vessel FREEDOM successfully placed the upper stoplogs to dam off the lock chamber.





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DELIVERING THE SUPPLY CHAIN DURING EXTREME DROUGHT 2022/2023



MISSISSIPPI RIVER

LOW WATER 2022 & 2023

When our nation's busiest commercial waterway is impacted by low water levels, USACE works with Federal, State, Local and Industry partners to keep commerce moving.

51 SHALLOW DRAFT HARBORS*

7 DEEP DRAFT HARBORS*

* Overall for Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) (AS OF 15 FEB 2024)

VALUE TO THE NATION

MISSISSIPPI RIVER ANNUAL TONNAGE VALUE: **~\$187 BILLION**

MISSISSIPPI RIVER ANNUAL TONNAGE: **~660 MILLION SHORT TONNES OF CARGO**

TOP FIVE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMODITIES

- PETROLEUM & PETRO-CHEM PRODUCTS
- CHEMICALS & RELATED PRODUCTS
- COAL
- FOOD & FARM PRODUCTS (Corn & Soybean Primarily)
- CRUDE MATERIALS

CONSTANT ACTION

2022/2023 NUMBER OF LOW WATER DAYS: **553 DAYS**

TOTAL AMOUNT OF MATERIAL DREDGED FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER: **119.3 MILLION CY**

CUBIC YARDS (CY) OF DREDGED MATERIAL BY DUSTPANS: **64.2 MILLION CY**

EQUIVALENT TO **5,956,000 TRACTOR TRAILERS** THAT MANY TRUCKS LAID END TO END WOULD WRAP AROUND THE EARTH NEARLY FOUR TIMES

CONSISTENT INVESTMENT IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

\$\$ INVESTED IN THE MR&T: **\$20.6 BILLION**

INCLUDES DREDGING, CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT, TRIBUTARIES, & MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEVEES (MRL)*

RETURN ON INVESTMENT EQUATES TO \$2.7 TRILLION IN DISASTER SAVINGS

\$\$ INVESTED IN REGULATED WORKS PROGRAMS: **\$902 MILLION**

REVENUES, DIKES, AND RIVER TRAINING STRUCTURES CONCENTRATE RIVER FLOW AND FORCE IT TO SCOUR OUT A DEEPER NAVIGATION CHANNEL WHILE REDUCING BANKLINE EROSION.



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US INVESTMENT IN DREDGING



ORDER BOOK: JONES ACT DREDGING COMMERCIAL FLEET \$2.5B AND GROWING

Company	Dredge Name	Dredge Type	Capacity	Shipyard	Status
Manson Construction	Frederick Paup	Hopper	15,000 cy	Keppel AmFELS (TX)	Expected delivery (Q1 2024)
Cashman Dredging	Mighty Quinn	Hopper (T&B)	4,000 cy	Feeney's Shipyard (NY)	In service April 2023
Great Lakes Dredge & Dock	Amelia Island	Hopper	6,500 cy	Conrad (LA)	Expected delivery (Q2 2025)
Great Lakes Dredge & Dock	Galveston Island	Hopper	6,500 cy	Conrad (LA)	Expected delivery (Q2 2024)
Weeks Marine	RB Weeks	Hopper	8,550 cy	Eastern (FL)	In service May 2023
Callan Marine	General Bradley	Cutter Suction	28-inch	Halimar (LA)	In service April 2022
Callan Marine	General Arnold	Cutter Suction	32-inch	C&C (LA)	Expected delivery (Q4 2023)
Callan Marine	General Marshall	Cutter Suction	18-inch	DSC (LA)	In service April 2023
The Dutra Group	ES-15	Split Hull Dump Scow	6,000 cy	Corn Island (IN)	In service (2019)
The Dutra Group	MS-16	Split Hull Dump Scow	6,000 cy	Portland (OR)	In service (2022)
The Dutra Group	CB Harry S	Liebherr 8300.2 Clamshell	35CY Cable Arm	Conrad Amelia (LA)	In service (2022)
The Dutra Group	TBD	Hopper	10,464	TBD (USA)	In Final Development
Callan Marine	Admiral Nimitz	Hopper	16,000	TBD (Construction Tender released June 2021)	
Mike Hooks	Lorraine Hooks	Cutter Suction	27-inch	Mobile Pulley Works (AL)	In service June 2023
Curtin Maritime	DB Avalon	Clamshell	HL 242,000 lbs.	Curtin	In service (2022)
Curtin Maritime	Crown Point	Dump Scow	6,000 cy	Gunderson (Portland, Oregon)	In service (2022)
Curtin Maritime	Inspiration Point	Dump Scow	6,000 cy	Gunderson (Portland, Oregon)	In service (2022)
Curtin Maritime	Sand Point	Dump Scow	6,000 cy	Gunderson (Portland Oregon)	In service (2022)
Marinex Construction	Wadmalaw	Cutter Suction	30-inch	Detyens Ship Yard, (SC)	In service 2021
Cashman Dredging	TBD	Hopper	6,500	TBD	Shipyard Selection Phase
Callan Marine	Gen. MacArthur	Cutter Suction	32-inch	C&C (LA)	In service (2020)
Weeks Marine	JS Chatry	Cutter Suction	30-inch	C&C (LA)	In service (2019)
Great Lakes Dredge & Dock	Ellis Island	Hopper	14,800 cy	Eastern (FL)	In service (2018)
Weeks Marine	Magdalen	Hopper	8,550 cy	Eastern (FL)	In service (2018)
Manson Construction	Robert M. White	Cutter Suction	30-inch	Halimar (LA)	In service (2018)

*C&C Shipyard is currently building two 28" Cutter Suction Dredges (CSD) on spec for sale or lease
 ** Industry has made additional capital investments in cranes, tugs, barges, scows, tender boats, survey vessels, boosters, pipeline, pontoons, etc.

25 Major Private Industry Investments since 2018

DREDGE MCFARLAND REPLACEMENT



NEW MEDIUM CLASS HOPPER DREDGE IN SERVICE FY 2028

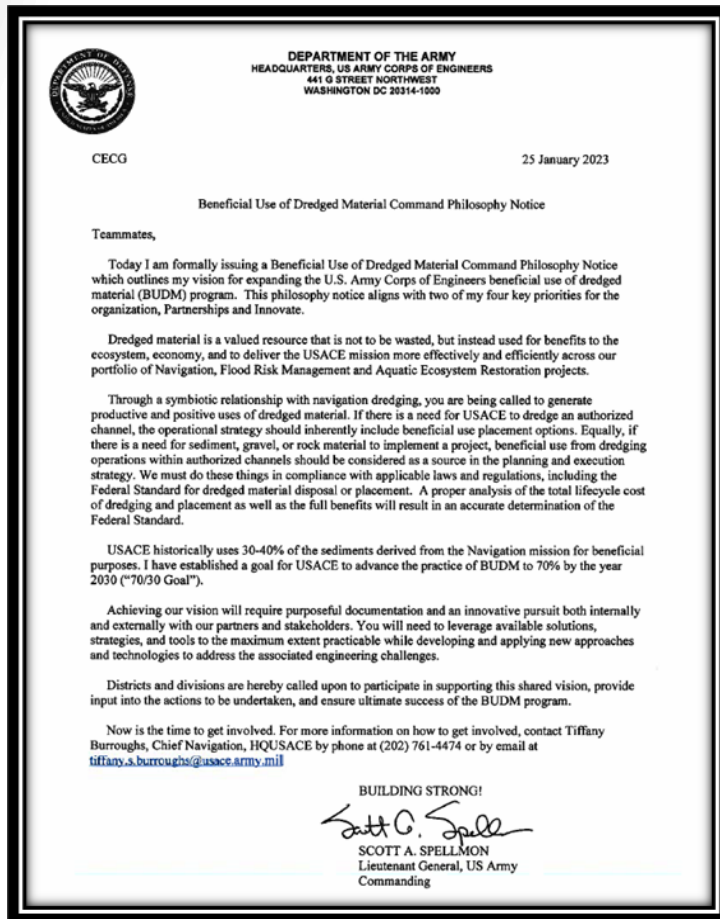


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BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL



Beneficial uses are defined as “productive and positive uses of dredged material, which cover broad use categories ranging from fish and wildlife habitat development, to human recreation, to industrial/commercial uses” (Engineer Manual 1110-2-5025, 2015).



- The Corps dredges ~ 270 million cubic yards regulated under the Clean Water Act annually.
- Goal of 70% material placed beneficially by 2030

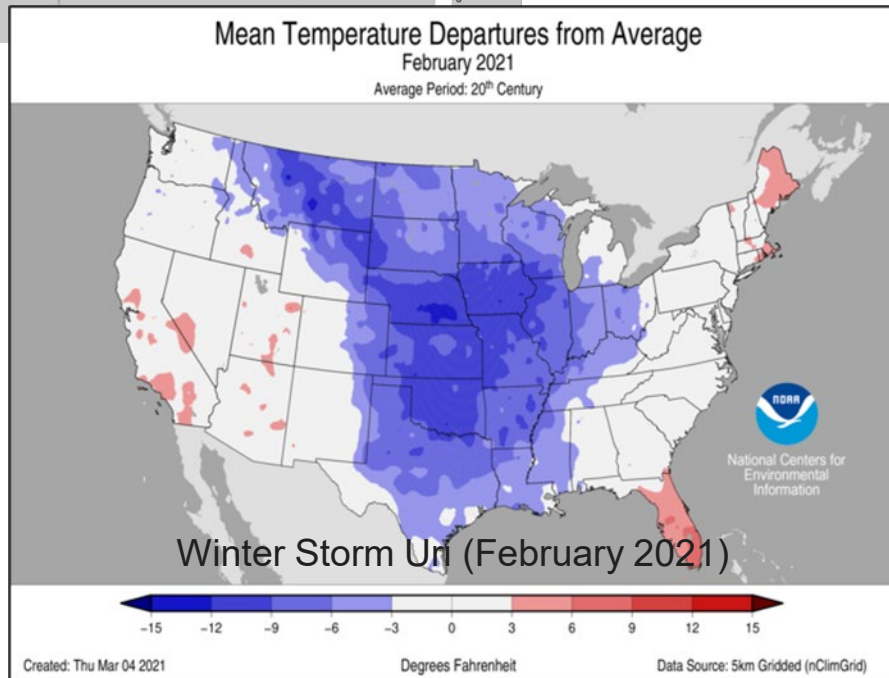
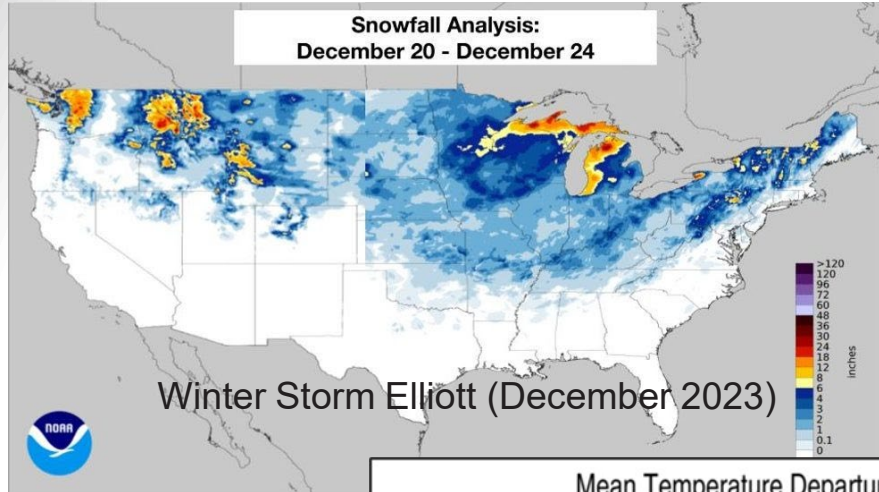


Maurice River Beneficial Use Project; New Jersey



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HYDROPOWER AND GRID RESILIENCE



HYDROPOWER DURING EXTREME WEATHER

- Hydropower continues to support grid stability and customer loads during extreme weather events:
- USACE projects responded quickly to increased demand to help stabilize grid
- Operated under extreme conditions with nearly no outages

OTHER USACE ACTIVITIES

- Continue to focus on hydropower costs and project delivery
- Issued memo to memorialize Joint Cost share percentages across all hydropower projects



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NATURAL RESOURCES CHALLENGES & INITIATIVES



CHALLENGES

- USACE hosted 1.4 billion visits at more than 4,800 recreation areas over the past 5 years
- Public access infrastructure requiring increased maintenance
- Severe storm damages have increased challenges
- Over 200 invasive species documented on USACE projects

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Support to underserved communities.**
 - Over 80% of USACE recreation areas are within 30 miles of disadvantaged communities.
 - Recreation program contributes \$14B in visitor spending to local communities and supports 217K jobs
- **Administration Initiatives:**
 - BIL/DRSAA - \$101M repairs (FY22-23)
 - Electric Vehicle Support Equipment – \$28M (FY22-23)
 - FICOR – Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation
 - America the Beautiful – Protect 30% of America’s lands by 2030

USACE VISITATION

2023	268,762,359
2022	266,044,439
2021	268,332,451
2020	255,896,508
2019	262,248,952

- FY 22-23: BIL/DRSAA: \$101 million in repairs
- FY 24 BIL: \$44.9M Recreation/ \$6.3M Environmental Stewardship





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REGULATORY REQUEST SYSTEM (RRS)

Regulatory Priority: Innovation

WHO: Regulatory Program

WHAT: Regulatory Request System (RRS)

WHEN: Spring 2024

WHERE: Nationwide

WHY: The goal of RRS is to create a modern public interface for the permitting process to keep up with existing technology and meet user expectations.

WHAT'S NEXT: Additional capabilities, including joint applications, are scheduled for completion in late 2024.

SUMMARY

The Regulatory Program has rolled out an exciting new national online application portal and management platform called the Regulatory Request System (RRS,) rrs.usace.army.mil

This innovative system is designed to make the review of permit requests a transparent and efficient process. By providing relevant information about the Regulatory Program and using simple questions to guide users, RRS helps determine if a permit is needed. Users can now easily submit project information online and receive automatic project numbers and status updates. What's more, RRS eliminates redundant data entry by directly transferring information to the Operations and Management Business Information Link (OMBIL) Regulatory Module (ORM), the official database for the Regulatory Program. These technological advancements are aimed at enhancing public awareness of the Regulatory Program, increasing transparency, and improving the speed of permitting.



Regulatory Program Information
Learn the basics about the Regulatory Program, including recent announcements.



Jurisdiction
Does the property in question contain wetlands/waters? If so does the Corps have jurisdiction?



Permitting
Do you need a permit? Need to schedule a pre-application meeting?



Mitigation
Discover how we help avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic resources.



Report Violations
Submit a report of unauthorized activity or permit non-compliance.



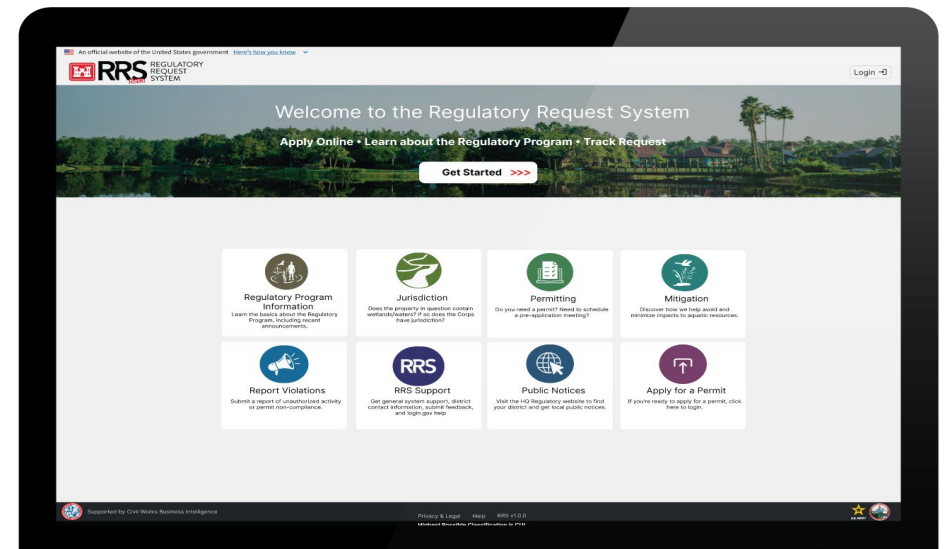
RRS Support
Get general system support, district contact information, submit feedback, and login.gov help



Public Notices
Visit the HQ Regulatory website to find your district and get local public notices.



Apply for a Permit
If you're ready to apply for a permit, click here to login.





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CURRENT WOTUS IMPLEMENTATION

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- On 8 September 2023, the effective date of the Conforming Rule, the Corps resumed issuing all types of approved jurisdictional determinations (AJDs).

- On 15 November 2023, the EPA and Army hosted a Tribal and state webinar to provide updates on the definition of "waters of the United States." The webinar covers implementation of the 2023 Rule (as amended) and the pre-2015 regime consistent with *Sackett*.
 - A recording of the webinar is publicly available at:
 - <https://www.epa.gov/wotus/public-outreach-and-stakeholder-engagement-activities> .

- On 27 September 2023, the agencies provided two new joint EPA-Army coordination memos, which require coordination of certain draft AJDs evaluated under the Amended 2023 Rule and under the pre-2015 regime consistent with *Sackett*.
 - The joint policy memos are posted on the USACE webpage at:
https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/juris_info/

<https://www.epa.gov/wotus>



PUBLIC WATER SAFETY FOCUS



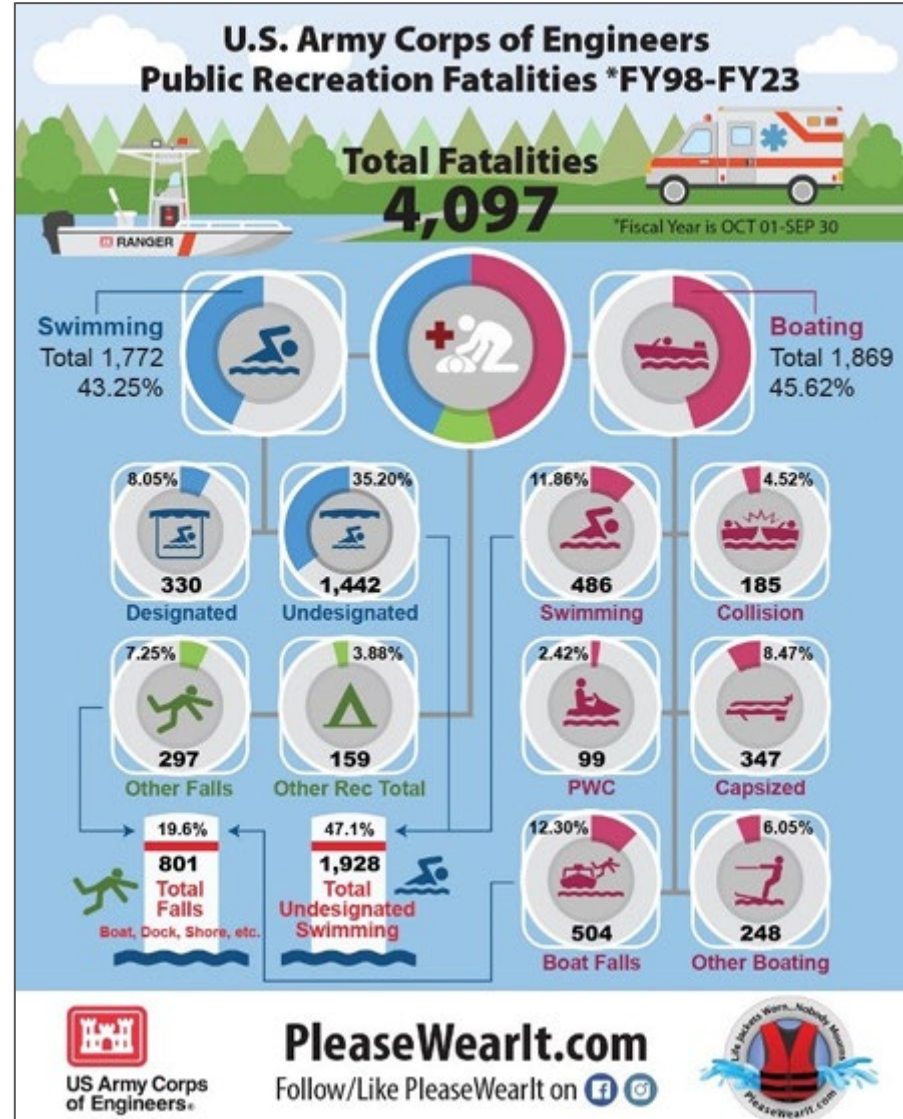
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Water Safety

- 161 Total Recreation Fatalities in 2023 Of the 161, 95% (153) were water-based
- **12% decrease from 2022** in which there were 184 public recreation fatalities of which 178 were water-based

Efforts

- USACE together with outgranted facilities provided **685 life jacket loaner stations** across USACE projects.
- USACE staff and volunteers recorded **over 1.4 million water safety contacts** (on-site and off-site).



More Information:

- National Water Safety Program Webpage
https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Recreation/National-Water-Safety_Program/

Questions?

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