

DEC made updates to the way wetlands are regulated on January 1, 2025. DEC's regulatory protections of freshwater wetlands is no longer limited to wetlands depicted on the NYS Freshwater Wetlands Maps. All wetlands 12.4 acres or larger are now regulated, as are smaller wetlands of "unusual importance" if they meet one of 11 newly established criteria listed in the new legislation. For more details please see the [Freshwater Wetland Program](#). Municipalities are not legally required to advise their constituents to contact DEC before starting any groundbreaking projects. They have the discretion to determine their level of collaboration with DEC in the State's freshwater wetland program.

We urge municipalities to attend upcoming webinars to learn more about how these changes will affect you:

Webinar Topic: *Navigation the New Freshwater Wetlands Regulations*

Hosted By: NY Planning Federation

Register: Email nypf@nypf.org

Date & Time: Thursday, Feb. 27, 12-1 pm

This webinar will cover:

- *Expanded Jurisdictional Protections* An overview of how jurisdictional protections for previously mapped freshwater wetlands will continue, along with an expansion of DEC's authority to include additional wetlands that meet the established definitions and state criteria for protection.
- *Remote Assessments:* Insight into how jurisdictional determinations and wetland classifications will now be conducted remotely,
- *Information Maps Transition:* Discussion on the transition from regulatory maps to informational maps, explaining the necessity for this change and its impact on planning and development.
- *Implementation Details:* A look at other provisions of the new regulations, how DEC plans to implement these changes, and guidance on navigating the updated jurisdictional determination process

Webinar Topic: Navigating New Waters: Understanding DEC's Freshwater Wetland Regulations for NY Municipalities

Hosted By: DEC – DFW & DCEE

Register Link

- Webinar password: welcome1 (93526631 when dialing from a phone or video system)
- Join by video system: Dial [28249412238@meetny-gov.webex.com](tel:28249412238)
- You can also dial 207.182.190.20 and enter your webinar number.
- Join by phone: +1-415-527-5035 United States Toll
- Access code: 2824 941 2238

Date & Time: Wednesday, March 5, 10 -11am

This webinar will cover:

A webinar designed specifically for municipalities and code enforcement officers across New York State. This session will delve into the latest freshwater wetland regulations, providing attendees with essential insights into the new procedures and processes. Participants will learn

how to effectively interpret and implement these regulations within their communities, ensuring compliance while promoting environmental stewardship. Equip yourself with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the complexities of freshwater wetland management and enhance your municipality's regulatory practices.

Note - To address the most questions in an efficient manner, you will be asked when you register to submit your questions.

We would also value your comments on [draft general permits](#) for various activities in state-regulated freshwater wetlands and wetland adjacent areas, protected waterbodies, and navigable waters. **Comments on the proposed GPs are being accepted by DEC through March 14, 2025.**

Comments must be sent in writing to:

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