

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE RULE AND HOW TO TAKE ACTION



Gillian Davies

The differences between the 2015 Clean Water Rule and pre-2015 regulations and guidance and the proposed WOTUS rule revision.



Dr. Mažeika Sullivan

The proposed rule is inconsistent with current science and fails to align with the original intent of the Clean Water Act to “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.”



Dr. Susan Colvin

Headwater Streams and Wetlands are Critical for Sustaining Fish, Fisheries and Ecosystems details how the loss of Clean Water Act protections for headwaters would result in a loss of ecosystem services, increase the threat to imperiled species, affect commercial and recreational fisheries, and impact fishes of cultural value to Native Americans and the recreating public.



Dr. Patrick Shirey

Submitting an effective regulatory comment on the proposed rule and how to broadly communicate the need to protect waters with a physical, chemical, and biological connection to navigable waters rule through a variety of channels.





HOW TO TAKE ACTION

Who Should Comment: AFS Chapters and Individuals

Comment Period: 60 day comment period ends April 15

Where to Comment: <http://www.regulations.gov>

Docket Number: EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0149





SUBSTANCE OF A COMMENT LETTER

Include the Docket Number: EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0149

Introduction

State your expertise if commenting individually

Include information about your organization if commenting on behalf of a group

Indicate position on the proposed rule

Body of the Letter

Explain what the proposal will mean for fish and ecosystem services in your state or region.

Give details and specific examples

Explain why the proposed rule is not using science properly

You do not have to comment on every issue in a proposal.

Avoid name-calling, personal attacks, and inflammatory rhetoric

Conclusion

Wrap up by re-stating your position and urging the agencies to amend the rule accordingly





SPREAD THE WORD

- **Encourage Others to Comment**
- **Use Modern Communications Channels**
- **Seek Coverage from Traditional Media**



Rule changes will result in loss of federal protections for wetlands outside of floodplains and ephemeral streams



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QUESTIONS?

