

# REGULATORY EFFORTS IN THE NORTHWEST



Since 2000, PNWA has been working with Congress and the federal agencies to identify and overcome regulatory obstacles. Our efforts include improving interagency communication, consistency, and the processing of permits in a fair and timely fashion.

## Key Accomplishments

- PNWA led a national effort to authorize Section 214 of WRDA 2000, allowing ports and other non-federal entities to provide funding to the Corps to hire additional permit review staff. The program was made permanent in WRRDA 2014.
- Work with the Northwestern Division of the Corps to request peer review of District permitting processes, resulting in numerous improvements.
- Successful advocacy at Corps Headquarters, to increase the budget and assign additional staff to the Seattle District for regulatory activities.
- Work with the Corps Division Commander to develop the Executives Task Force (Corps, NMFS, USFWS, EPA, Coast Guard) to improve coordination among the agencies.
- Develop an agreement with the federal agencies to streamline regulatory procedures including resolution of agency disputes, quicker decision processing, and regular meetings with stakeholders. The agreement was reaffirmed in 2009.
- Successful advocacy at Corps Headquarters, to set a nationwide objective of reducing permit-processing time.
- Working to improve best practices around the region, including efforts with the Corps' Portland District and the resource agencies who adopted and continue to refine SLOPES (Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species).

## These efforts are demonstrating results!

- The backlog of permit applications has been reduced.
- The agencies have established procedures to improve internal and external coordination.
- Communication between the agencies and applicants has improved significantly.
- Partnerships between the Corps and stakeholders continue to strengthen.

## PNWA continues to work to improve the permitting process by:

- Working with the Corps, as well as federal and state resource agencies, to continue refining the Sediment Evaluation Framework (SEF), which establishes procedures for testing dredge sites and handling dredge material.
- Creating a PNWA regulatory committee to bring together PNWA members to identify areas where regulations can be streamlined.
- Facilitating communications between applicants, the Corps and the resource agencies to address individual permitting issues.

## Join us!

PNWA looks forward to continuing to work with our members, Congress and the Corps to foster a fair and timely permit processing system that meets the environmental and economic needs of the region. If you would like to participate in our Regulatory Committee to improve these efforts, please contact Kristin Meira at [kristin.meira@pnwa.net](mailto:kristin.meira@pnwa.net).

