

# **Pacific Northwest Tribal Clean Water Act Training Workshop**

## **November 17-20, 2025 | Tulalip, WA**

### **Draft Agenda**

*Last revised 9/30/25*

#### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

##### **DAY 1: CLEAN WATER ACT (CWA) PRIMER AND FIELD TRIPS**

To start off the training workshop, we will provide a Clean Water Act (CWA) primer session and will identify the linkages among CWA programs and how they work in concert with one another. Prior to the training, attendees should watch the CWA Overview video, which is available on the workshop webpage. (*Meeting room: Orca 1*)

**9:30am – 10:00am: Welcome/Opening Invocation**, Tulalip Tribes representative

**10:00am – 10:15am: Introductions and Overview of the Training**, NAWM and SMUM staff

**10:15am – 10:45am: Clean Water Program Basics**, Presenter TBD

*10:45am – 11:00am: Morning break*

**11:00am – 11:30am: A Basic Introduction to Water Quality Standards (WQS)**, Rachael Renkens, EPAR10

**11:30am – 12:30pm: A Basic Introduction to Monitoring, Data, & Assessment**, Lisa Kusnierz, EPA R10; Emi Fergus, EPA HQ; Jill Fullagar, EPA R10; Angie Reed, Penobscot Nation

*12:30pm – 1:30pm: Group lunch (provided)*

**AFTERNOON FIELD TRIPS (1:30pm – 5:00pm)** – Attendees will participate in field trips to area sites. This will be an opportunity to view examples of the water quality approaches that will be discussed during the training sessions, as well as an informal setting to get to know other workshop attendees.

Field trip details will be provided soon and attendees will be asked to register for their preferred field trip in advance. Details regarding transportation and meeting location will be provided.

#### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

##### **DAY 2: IN-DEPTH TRAINING SESSIONS**

First of two full days of sessions providing focused training sessions and Tribe-to-Tribe sharing of lessons learned and lived experiences. Day 2 will cover monitoring and assessment and data management.

**8:30am – 10:00am: In-depth Training on Monitoring and Assessment** (*Orca 1*)

- Monitoring introduction, Lisa Kusnierz, EPA R10
- Assessment introduction, Jill Fullagar, EPA R10
- Tribal presentations on monitoring and assessment

*10:00am – 10:30am: Morning break*

**10:30am – 12:00pm: In-depth Training on Monitoring and Assessment *continued*** *(Concurrent sessions providing additional overview information and a watershed-specific case study. Participants will self-select which session to attend based on knowledge and level of interest.)*

Monitoring and Assessment Overview Session (Orca 1)

- Developing QAPPs, Cindy Fields, EPA R10
- ATTAINS Rollout Presentation and Demonstration, Jesse Boorman Padgett, EPA HQ
- Tribal presentation on monitoring and assessment

Monitoring and Assessment Case Study (Chinook 1)

- Case Study of the Salish Sea Model: This long-term data set is used by Tribes in the Puget Sound basin in their water quality assessments and serves as an example of coordinating with the state and the role of Tribes as co-managers. Session will include presentation and group discussion. Erica Marbet, Squaxin Island; Cristiana Figueroa-Kaminski and Anise Ahmed, WA Dept of Ecology; Mindy Roberts, Washington Conservation Action

*12:00pm – 1:30pm: Group lunch (provided)*

**1:30pm – 3:00pm: In-depth Training on Data Management** *(Concurrent sessions at introductory and advanced levels. Participants will self-select which session to attend based on knowledge and level of experience.)*

Introductory Session (Orca 1)

- Introduction to WQX, WQP demo, Emi Fergus, EPA HQ
- Use of GIS for Water Quality Programs, Kathy Allen, SMUM Geospatial Services
- Using R for data management, Angie Reed, Penobscot Nation

Advanced Session (Chinook 1)

- Using EPA TADA R package to retrieve, clean, and analyze data in WQP, Kenny Wong, ORISE EPA HQ
- Survey 123/GIS for WQ management, Alena Reynolds, Skokomish Tribe

*3:00pm – 3:30pm: Afternoon break*

**3:30pm – 5:00pm: Breakout Group Discussions**

Group discussions on a variety of topics relevant to Tribal water quality programs. Participants will select one discussion group to attend. Potential discussion topics include:

- Funding your water quality program
- Outreach, communications, and stakeholder engagement
- Education and engagement with tribal youth
- How to manage people and strategically grow your program
- Recent regulatory changes and how Tribes are responding

## **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025**

### **DAY 3: IN-DEPTH TRAINING SESSIONS**

Second of two full days of sessions providing focused training sessions and Tribe-to-Tribe sharing of lessons learned and lived experiences. Day 3 will cover water quality standards and regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to program building.

#### **8:30am – 10:00am: In-depth Training on Non-Regulatory Approaches to Program Building (Orca 1)**

- Brief EPA introduction to potential non-regulatory and regulatory pathways, Jill Fullagar, R10
- EPA introduction to 319 Program, Margot Buckelew, EPA HQ and/or Tyler Dix, EPA R10
- Tribal presentations on non-regulatory approaches to program building
- Working with Tribes to implement 319, TBD WA Department of Ecology

*10:00am – 10:30am: Morning break*

#### **10:30am – 12:00pm: In-depth Training on Regulatory Approaches to Program Building (Orca 1)**

- EPA introduction of regulatory programs and TAS, Presenter TBD
- Tribal presentations on regulatory approaches to program building
- Wetland Functional Assessment incorporating Tribal cultural and spiritual history, Andy Robertson, SMUM Geospatial Services

*12:00pm – 1:30pm: Group lunch (provided)*

#### **1:30pm – 3:00pm: In-depth Training on Water Quality Standards and Water Quality Certifications (Orca 1)**

- EPA introduction of water quality standards and water quality certifications, Rachael Renkens, EPA R10
- Tribal presentations on water quality standards and water quality certifications

*3:00pm – 3:30pm: Afternoon break*

#### **3:30pm – 5:00pm: Bringing It All Together: Advancing Water Quality Goals Across Programs (Orca 1)**

- Tribal presentations on implementation of Clean Water Act programs and cross-program efforts to advance water quality goals
- Recap, Group Q&A, and Closing, NAWM and SMUM staff

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

### DAY 4: HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

Day 4 will feature hands-on workshops in smaller groups for attendees to apply the knowledge they've gained during the training and learn more in-depth skills in a particular area of focus. Attendees should sign up ahead of time for their preferred workshop. Additional details regarding the workshop content and length of each workshop will be provided soon.

**Office Hours on EPA Data Systems:** Throughout Day 4, attendees will be able to attend small group sessions focused on EPA data systems: WQX & TADA (in-person) and ATTAINS (virtually) – EPA trainers (Emi Fergus, Kenny Wong, and Jesse Boorman-Padgett). Participants will sign up ahead of time to receive a time slot and may be grouped together based on similar topic areas of interest.

#### Hands-on workshops:

- **Intro to R:** Participants will learn basic coding skills in R and RStudio to perform exploratory data analyses and how to plot results graphically using the programming language and sample data sets from ecological and environmental science applications. Led by TXG Trainers.
  - There are no prerequisites for this workshop, however, participants may be required to download free open-source software and example datasets to complete the lessons. Participants are also encouraged to bring some of their own data to practice with as time allows; instructions and FAQs will be provided with confirmation of acceptance.
  - Topics include:
    - Overview of R, RStudio, terminology, basic coding, and best practices
    - Cleaning, manipulating, and analyzing data
    - Making charts, plots, maps, and tables
    - Exploratory data analysis
- **Advanced R:** This workshop builds on the lessons from the Introduction to Data Visualization & Analysis with R workshop and will provide attendees with a deeper dive into the fundamentals of R by exploring the tools and features that help with task automation, manipulation, and visualization. Participants will be required to download free open-source software, R and RStudio, and example datasets to complete the lessons. Led by TXG Trainers.
  - Topics include:
    - R Markdown/Quarto
    - For-loops, for repeated tasks such as reading in and combining data from multiple sites
    - Advanced plots, including maps
    - Case studies in connecting R to Survey123 (ArcGIS data forms)
- **Hands-on Training on Field Monitoring Techniques:** This session will be a chance to walk through data collection, introduce field equipment, and demonstrate field data collection techniques. The session will include both classroom and field components. Led by Edyth Hermosillo, EPA R10.