



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT

FINAL VERSION, REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT

to the

1987 CORPS OF ENGINEERS WETLAND DELINEATION MANUAL:

ATLANTIC AND GULF COASTAL PLAIN REGION

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, announces the availability of the Final Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Regional Supplement to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual. This supplement was developed by regional expert delineators with input from state and Federal agencies, academia and other local experts. It was peer reviewed by a panel of independent scientists and field tested by interagency teams of state and Federal agencies to determine the clarity and ease of use of the document and whether its use will result in any spatial changes in wetland jurisdiction for Clean Water Act Section 404 purposes. The final version of the supplement may be found at: [http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/Pages/reg\\_supp.aspx](http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/Pages/reg_supp.aspx). The following changes were incorporated into Version 2.0 of the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain regional supplement:

1. Minor wording and organizational changes have been made throughout the document in an attempt to improve its clarity and consistency with other regional supplements. Several web links have been updated.
2. At the request of the regional working group, definitions are now given in Chapter 2 (page 20) for the four vegetation strata that can be used as an optional alternative to the 5-stratum sampling design. An optional set of data forms incorporating four vegetation strata has been added as Appendix D.
3. In Chapter 2 (pages 21-23), a new indicator (Indicator 1 – Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation) has been added. It is designed as a quick confirmation of hydrophytic vegetation in areas where all dominant species are OBL and/or FACW, reducing the need for additional sampling in these obvious cases. This indicator has been reviewed and tested in other regions, and is being incorporated into the supplements for all regions at the recommendation of the National Advisory Team.
4. In Chapter 3, some new photos of hydric soil indicators have been added. In addition, the wording of several hydric soil indicators has been updated to conform with Version 7.0 of the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS) field indicators. In particular, see hydric soil indicators A5, A11, A12, S6, S7, S8, and S9.

5. The NTCHS has approved indicator TF12 (Very Shallow Dark Surface) for testing nationwide (page 76). Therefore, TF12 can be used with the problem soil procedures in Chapter 5 of the supplement throughout the region and is no longer restricted to LRRs T and U.
6. "...on an extensive flat" has been added to the Geomorphic Position (D2) secondary wetland hydrology indicator (page 107) at the request of the regional working group.
7. A new secondary wetland hydrology indicator has been added to Chapter 4 (pages 109-111). Indicator D8 (Sphagnum Moss) was approved by the regional working group and the National Advisory Team for applications in LRRs T and U.
8. The section on "Mycorrhizal Mantles on Tree Root Tips As Indicators of Drainage Effectiveness" has been dropped from Chapter 5. The working group concluded that the procedure required more study over a broader geographic area before being accepted for routine use by wetland delineators.
9. By consensus of the working group, the Vegetation sections of the data forms (Appendices C and D) now contain spaces to record "50% of total cover" and "20% of total cover" for each stratum, as an aid in applying the 50/20 rule to select dominant species.

The Corps will continue to accept comments/suggestions and new data on this supplement. Comments may be submitted to Ms. Karen Mulligan (CECW-CO), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G. Street, NW, Washington DC 20314-1000 or by e-mail to [87Manual@usace.army.mil](mailto:87Manual@usace.army.mil)

Please contact Tad M. Zebryk, District Coordinator, at (251) 694-3779 or by email at [tad.m.zebryk@usace.army.mil](mailto:tad.m.zebryk@usace.army.mil), if you have any questions. For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our website at [www.sam.usace.army.mil/RD/reg](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/RD/reg) .

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