

Tribal Water Quality News

The National Tribal Water Council (NTWC)



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(www.nationaltribalwatercouncil.org) is a technical and scientific body created to assist the Environmental Protection Agency, federally recognized Indian Tribes, including Alaska Native Tribes, and their associated tribal communities and tribal organizations, with research and information for decision-making regarding water issues and water-related concerns that impact Indian and Alaska Native tribal members, as well as other residents of Alaska Native Villages and Indian Country in the United States. The NTWC represents Tribes on the National Water Quality Monitoring Council and Dave Fuller, with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (<http://www.pgst.nsn.us/>), currently serves in this capacity. Staff from the Yukon Inter-Tribal watershed Council and the Coordinated Tribal Water Quality Program of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (<http://www.nwifc.org/about-us/habitat/coordinated-tribal-water-quality-program/>) will be making presentations at the 7th National Monitoring Conference.

For more information, contact: Dave Fuller, dfuller@pgst.nsn.us or mailto:tribal_water_council@hotmail.com, (541) 783-3590.

Spotlight on the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) (<http://yritwc.org/AboutUs/AboutUs/tabid/56/Default.aspx>) is an Indigenous grassroots organization, consisting of 70 First Nations and Tribes, dedicated to the protection and preservation of the Yukon River Watershed. The YRITWC accomplishes this by providing Yukon First Nations and Alaska Tribes in the Yukon Watershed with technical assistance, such as facilitating the development and exchange of information, coordinating efforts between First Nations and Tribes, undertaking research, and providing training, education, and awareness programs to promote the health of the Watershed and its Indigenous peoples. YRITWC is now sharing their newsletter "Currents" in electronic form. (<http://www.yritwc.org/Media/Newsletter/tabid/76/Default.aspx>)

For more information, contact: Jon Waterhouse, jwaterhouse@yritwc.org, (907) 451-2530.

Spotlight on the Coordinated Tribal Water Quality Program of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission



Skokomish Tribe environmental program assistant, Jen Green, takes a water sample from Hood Canal. The tribe has sampled the canal for fecal coliform and other bacteria as well as excessive nutrients, such as nitrogen from fertilizers (*Photo courtesy of the Coordinated Tribal Water Quality Program of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission*)

The Coordinated Tribal Water Quality Program (CTWQP) of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (<http://www.nwifc.org/about-us/habitat/coordinated-tribal-water-quality-program/>) was developed in 1990 by the 27 federally recognized tribes in the State of Washington. Tribes have worked with the EPA to implement the CTWQP for the past 20 years. EPA funds are enabling the tribes to conduct water quality programs critical to the management of their treaty protected resources, and to provide for the health of their members and the environment. The CTWQP is designed to further the ability of tribes to organize and begin addressing the water quality concerns that are threatening their reservations and treaty protected resources. Water pollution in Washington threatens the health of tribal members and their treaty resources without respect to political boundaries. Tribal jurisdictions interlock with many other jurisdictions, including some of the most densely populated and industrial areas in the state.

For more information, contact: Billy Frank, mbfrank@nwifc.org, (360) 528-4320 or Fran Wilshusen, fran@nwifc.org, (360) 528-4351.

Goals of the National Tribal Water Council:

- Raise awareness of a wide range of water related issues pertaining to the health of tribal communities and the quality of tribal aquatic resources and watersheds.
- Promote information exchange.
- Facilitate the exposure of tribal water program managers and staff to best management practices for addressing water quality concerns.
- Encourage the enhancement of tribal water protection program development and implementation.
- Provide a platform to inform tribes on a wide variety of issues related to ground, surface, and drinking water.
- Promote community water protection education and awareness.
- Assist in the development, establishment, and sustaining of comprehensive tribal water protection programs.