



Wetland Research Advisory Committee (WRAC)

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What is the WRAC?

- Wetland Research Advisory Committee (WRAC):
Group of Georgia Coastal Management Program Staff who evaluate research projects occurring within the State's marsh and shore jurisdiction.

An aerial photograph of a vast marshland with a complex network of winding waterways and channels. The water is a light blue-grey color, and the surrounding land is a mix of green and brownish-green, indicating different types of vegetation and soil. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Purpose of the WRAC

To evaluate and provide appropriate approval for research projects conducted in the State's jurisdictional areas for the public's interest.

If you are conducting research within the State's jurisdiction on the marsh and shore, a project proposal must be submitted and approved prior to the start of the project.

WRAC Research Requirements

A written proposal is required for all research projects within the State's jurisdiction. This proposal should include the following:

- Applicant and contact information
- Principal Investigator, student (if applicable)
- Academic sponsor
- Objectives of the project
- Methods including sampling design
- Brief synopsis
- Map of project area
- Literature cited section
- Funding sources
- Time frame of the project

WRAC Research Requirements cont'd

- Structural components that will be placed in jurisdiction (i.e. what equipment will be left in the field during the course of the project)
- Coordinates of structures
- Number and frequency of people accessing the site
- Likely impacts of the project to the site
- Listing of all local, state, and/or federal authorizations received or being sought, if applicable
- Qualifications of the PI or project advisors to conduct the research. This should be a resume or CV with summary or similar work

Please note, additional information may be required depending on project type and/or location. Any changes to the scope of the proposal after authorization will need to be re-evaluated by CRD.

WRAC

You might ask yourself...

Do I need approval from CRD for my research project?

Are you working here?



Or here?



WRAC

If you are working in tidal marsh or on the beach, then the answer is probably yes!

You should contact CRD to make sure you are covered.

The WRAC seeks to approve all projects occurring on state lands and/or within state jurisdiction of the marsh and shore areas, especially projects that include structures.

If in doubt, please don't hesitate to ask.



WRAC

- The goal of the WRAC is to streamline the approval process for research projects occurring on the marsh and shore.
- If you are planning to conduct research in these areas please reach out to CRD, and we can assist you in obtaining the proper approvals, if necessary.
- Depending on the scale of the project the approval can be as a simple Letter of Acknowledgement or something more substantial such as a Letter of Permission, Letter of Authorization, or CMPA Permit.



WRAC

Need to submit a research proposal to CRD?

Please contact me at Sheldon.leiker@dnr.ga.gov

A copy of CRD's Research Requirements can be found on our website at <https://coastalgadnr.org/AuthorizationAndPermitsCRD> under the **Academic Research** Heading

This is a picture of Florence...Italy

