

NATIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCE SURVEYS

Plan and facilitate aquatic resource monitoring training workshops for states, tribes and other stakeholders.



HISTORY OF NATIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCE SURVEYS

The National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS) program is an EPA, state and tribal effort to survey the condition of the nation's waters. Initiated in 2005, these statistically-based surveys began providing U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), states, tribes and other partners with nationally consistent reports on the condition of the nation's waters, to identify national and regional water quality priorities, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the nation's investment in water quality protection and restoration. These assessments report on core indicators of aquatic life and public health using standardized field and laboratory methods and a national quality control program. The NARS reports provide unbiased estimates of the condition of the broader population of a water resource type, based on a representative sample of individual waters selected using a randomized approach.

PROJECT SUMMARY

In 2010, EPA granted funds to CTIC for five years to plan and facilitate aquatic resource monitoring training workshops for states, tribes and other stakeholders. Since then, CTIC has been awarded a grant to conduct these workshops until 2020. CTIC will continue to enhance collaboration, communication, coordination and technology transfer among the more than 800 professionals attending the workshops.

THE OBJECTIVE

To improve collaboration and technology transfer among states, tribes, federal agencies and others for more effective monitoring of the nation's waters. The information and technology shared at these workshops will better equip EPA, states, tribes and others to accomplish top-priority tasks such as:

- maintain long-term cooperative surveys of all water body types
- implement water-monitoring strategies on established schedules
- improve water quality databases

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