

Fishable & Swimmable



In 1972, a Federal law was passed which would dramatically change the way we look at water ... the **Clean Water Act**. The goals of the Clean Water Act were simply water should be clean enough for fishing, swimming and other recreational uses. Discharges of pollutants were to be eventually eliminated. Industrial facilities and waste treatment plants were no longer free to discharge their wastes into the nation's waters; they had to get NPDES permits, limiting the pollution they could release. They also had to monitor and test their waste discharges and report on their efforts to reduce pollution. The Clean Water Act allocated funds for cities and towns to help them upgrade their sanitation wastewater treatment plants. Later revisions to the Clean Water Act included regulating storm water discharges

from industrial facilities, construction sites, and municipalities. In fact, the reason you receive this newsletter is largely due to the Clean Water Act!

So, after 38 years, can we see the results of this law today? Are waters more fishable and swimmable?

Well, it probably depends upon where you live and how much that area has developed over the past years. But, if you remember back to earlier days, or talk to the older generation, you may be surprised to find out streams, rivers, and beaches seem to be a little bit cleaner than they were years ago. Although Southern California beaches have struggled in recent years with high bacteria counts, in my personal recollection, the beaches do seem to be cleaner. Remember coming home with "tar" on your feet? What about rivers, streams, and water bodies in your area? Try this! Find someone who used to fish or swim in these waters 40 plus years ago. Ask them if they think the water quality has improved. I would love to hear from you on this! Please send me an email (jteravskis@wgr-sw.com) and relate to me a firsthand account for a specific water body.



Clean Water Act Timeline:

October 18, 1972 – Birthday of the Clean Water Act

1977 - NPDES Permit regulations established

1990 – Phase I Storm Water Regulations Established for Industrial Facilities, Construction >5 acres, and Large and Medium Municipalities

1999 – Phase II Storm Water Regulations kicked in for Small Municipalities

2003 – NPDES permits required for Construction >1 acre

July's "To Do List"

- File your completed monitoring forms for 2009/2010 and place new clean forms in your storm water data binder for 2010/2011 monitoring.
- Do the 1st Quarter Non-Storm Water Observations (Forms 2 & 3 by July 31st.)



We Have a Winner !!!

Larry Eshelman submitted the winning answer!

What are the pH benchmark values?

Larry submitted a correct answer $>6.0 - <9.0$. He will receive a **\$25** eGiftCard to **Cabela's** to buy some equipment to test how fishable are his local water bodies.

Need a BMP?

Check out a new line of BMPs you can order on-line. Install them yourself or call WGR for installation and a maintenance plan. For more information or to order online, go to our new retail website:



www.bmpoutlet.com



Have you missed a Rain Events newsletter?

You can download past copies from www.wgr-sw.com.





SUMMER SCHOOL

Would you like to learn more about the Clean Water Act? The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has developed a course called “*The Watershed Academy*”. It is a great way to obtain a better understanding of the law behind the regulations that we deal with on a daily basis.

The screenshot shows the EPA Watershed Academy Web page. The header includes the EPA logo and the text "U.S. Environmental Protection Agency". The main content area features a blue box with the title "Introduction to the Clean Water Act" and a graphic of water ripples. Below this is a dark blue box with the text: "To access the academy, go to: www.epa.gov/watertrain/cwa/index.htm". To the right, there is a text box titled "Introduction to the Clean Water Act" containing introductory text about the CWA, its goals, and its implementation over time.

After you go through this 66-slide presentation, test your Clean Water Act knowledge using the EPA’s fun and interactive quiz.

To take the quiz, go to:
www.epa.gov/watertrain/cwa/cwaquiz/index.htm

The image shows a "Fact or Fiction?" quiz slide. The title "FACT or Fiction?" is at the top in a stylized font. The main text in the center reads: "Technology-based" controls do not specify which treatment equipment regulated entities must use. At the bottom, there are two buttons labeled "Fact" and "Fiction".



July's Storm Water Contest

By July 31, submit a response for the following:

What does the acronym "NPDES" stand for?

All persons submitting correct answers will be placed in a drawing. The winner will receive a **\$25** eGiftCard to *Cabela's*.

Please submit your entries to jteravskis@wgr-sw.com .



Please contact us if you have any questions ...

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