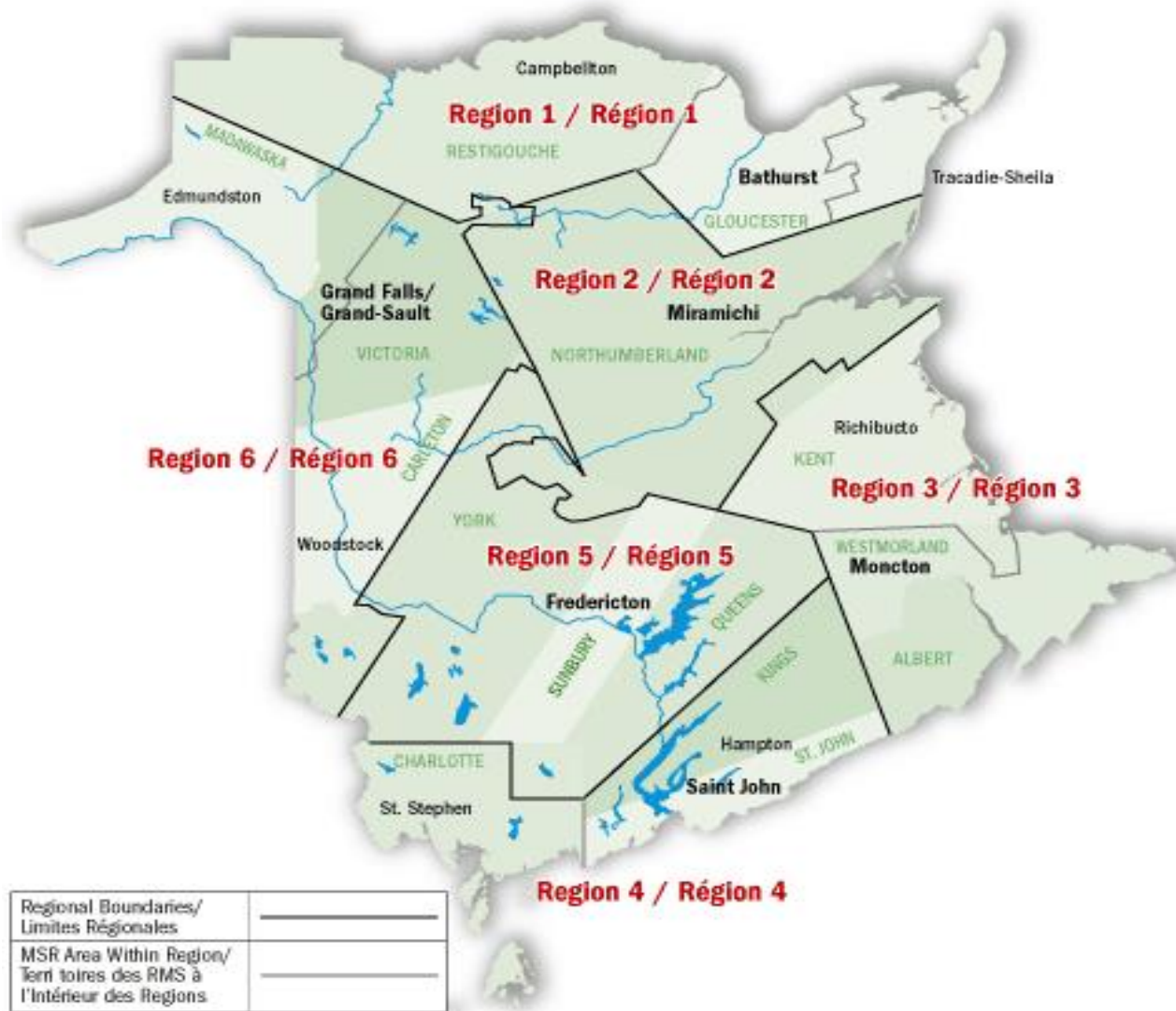


Department of Environment and Local Government

WAWA Reference Map

Joanie Bertin – Wetland Biologist

Joanie.Bertin@gnb.ca



FLOOD 2018/19



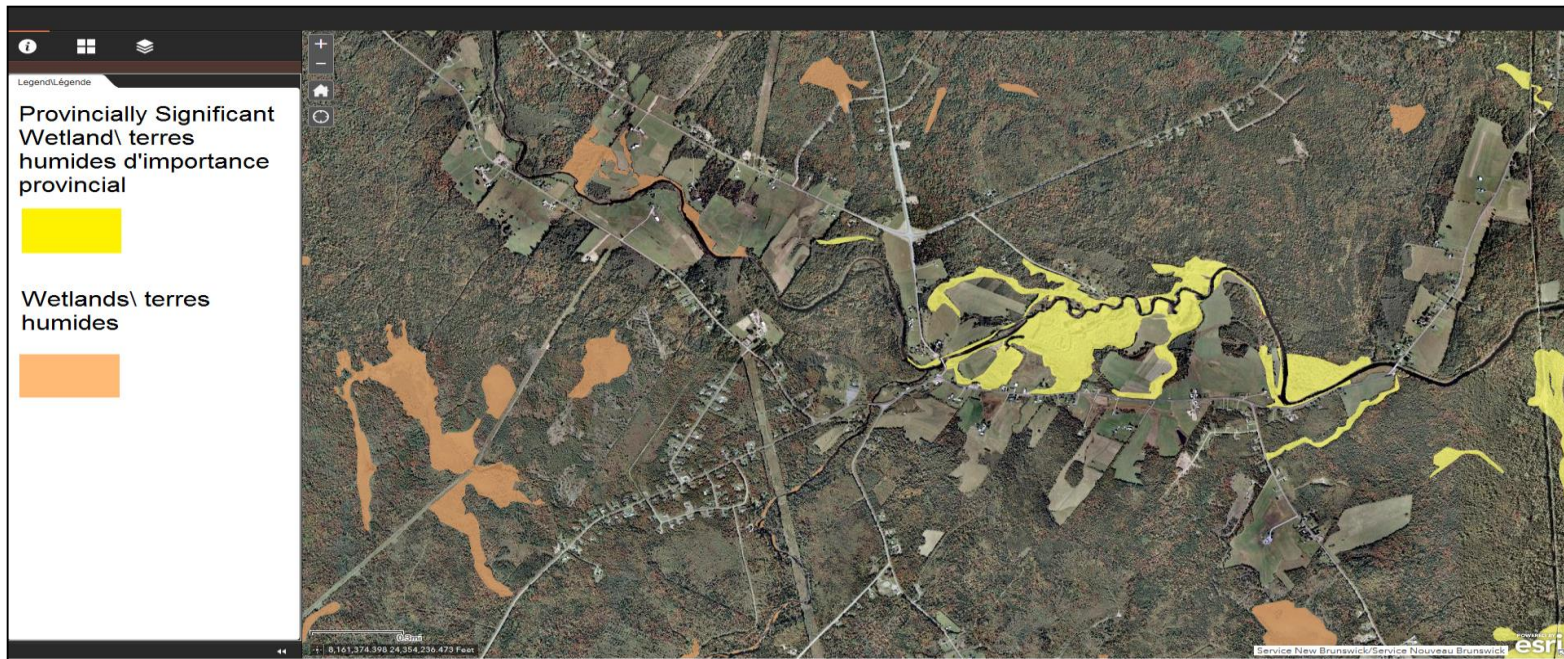
WAWA Reference Map



On January 1st, 2020 an updated online Watercourse and Wetland Alteration (WAWA) Reference Map was released.

WAWA Reference Map

The map will be updated on an annual basis and be comprised of the most recent GIS information available. The new map replaces the previous wetland map on GeoNB and is to be used as a **reference tool only**.



WAWA Reference Map

The wetland mapping is made of most recent layers of wetlands, peatlands, wet/poorly drained forests. The data is interpreted by aerial photo using LiDAR-based indicators to identify potential wetlands. The map also includes delineations and field verification.



Watercourse and Wetland Identification

1. Check the Map

Search your address or PID number on GeoNB Map Viewer (<https://geonb.snb.ca/geonb/>) to see if any mapped watercourses or wetlands appear on your property.



Watercourse and Wetland Identification

2. Check the Definitions

Watercourse

Bed, banks and sides of any incised channel greater than **0.5 metres** in width that displays a **rock or soil bed**; water/flow does **not** have to be continuous and may be absent during any time of year; or a **natural or man-made basin**.

Wetland

Water table at, near, or above the land's surface, or which is saturated, for a long enough period to promote wetland or aquatic processes as indicated, **by hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation**

Watercourse and Wetland Identification

3. Walk the Property to Check for Unmapped Wetland Features

- Areas where water is likely to collect: low spots or depressions, near a stream or river that floods, in heavy/clay soils, highly organic soils, smells like rotten eggs.
- Signs of flooding near the surface: the water table is close to the surface water seeps when a hole is dug, no shrubs or trees are present.
- Common wetland plants: peat moss, sedges, cattails, ferns, black spruce, cedar, or alders.



Non-Forested Wetlands in New Brunswick



Bog



Fen



Freshwater Marsh



Coastal Marsh



Aquatic Bed

Forested and Shrub Wetlands in New Brunswick



**Forested Wetland
Floodplain**



Forested Bog



Shrub Swamp



Alder Thicket

Watercourse and Wetland Identification

4. Wetland presence/absence and/or delineation

Residential subdivision development, a commercial property or an industrial site - Contact a wetland professional/consultant to assess their property.

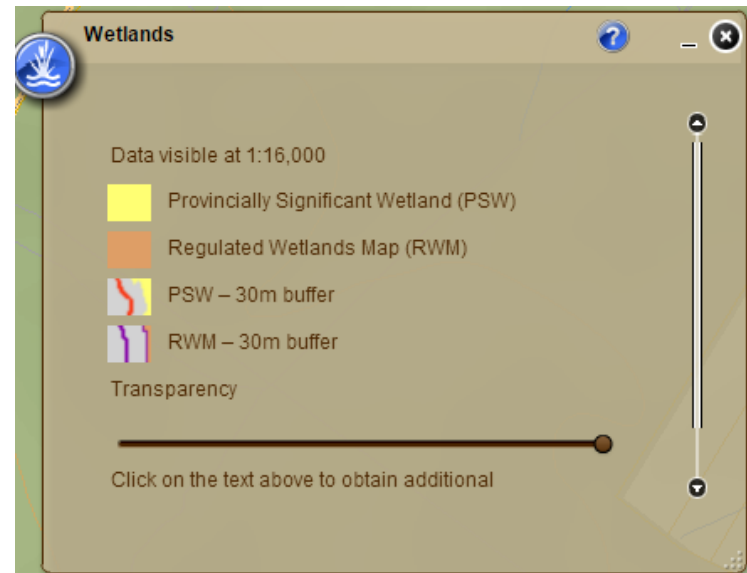
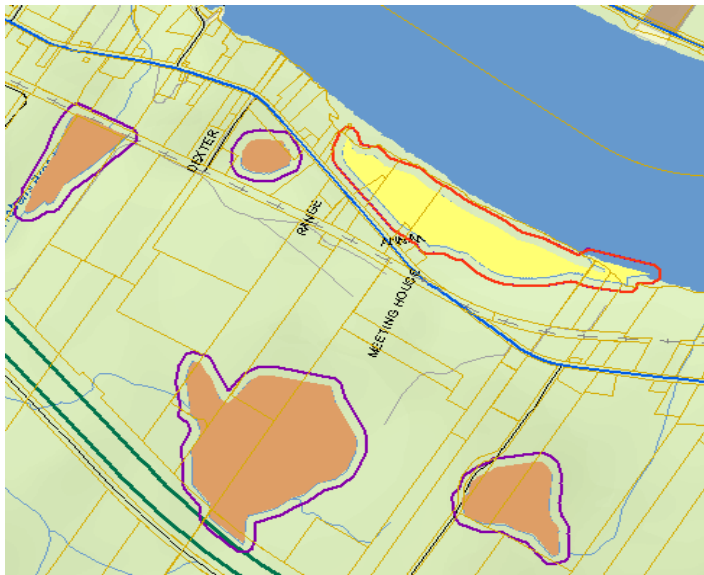
Residential property - Contact the regional office, and a Wetland Biologist will provide guidance on next steps and if required will identify wetland boundary onsite during growing season.

Under certain circumstances a presence/absence survey or desktop identification of wetland boundaries may suffice.

GeoNB Map Viewer

Two types of wetlands:

- Provincially Significant Wetlands (yellow), and
- Wetlands (orange)



Provincially Significant Wetlands

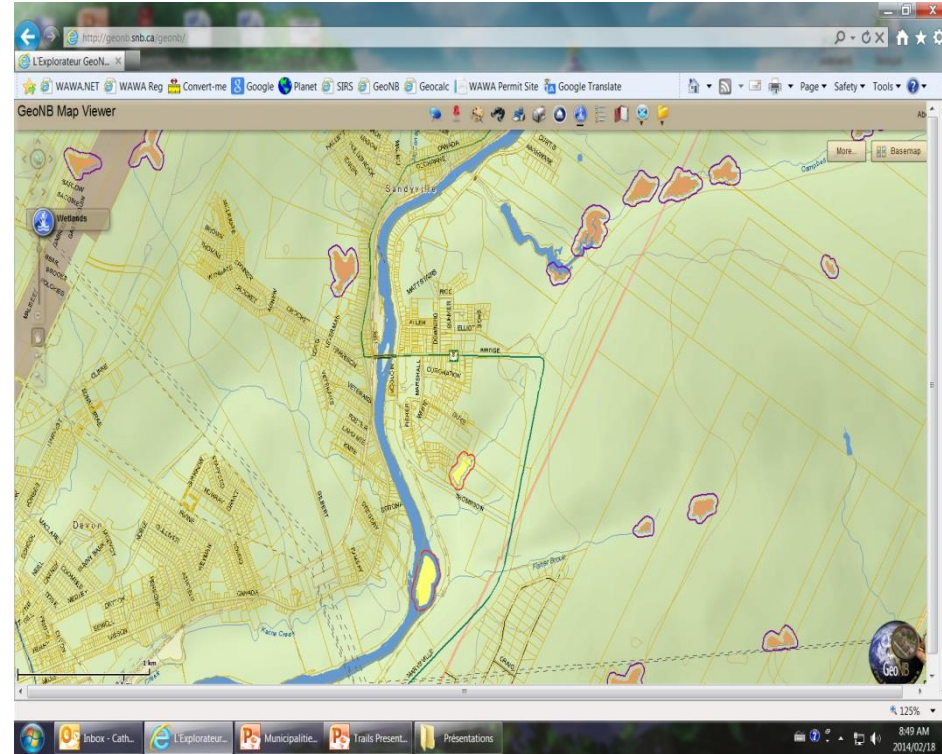
Wetlands of provincial, national or international significance for one or more of the following reasons:

- Coastal marshes
- Home to one or more endangered species
- Social or cultural value
- Significant hydrological value, especially for flood control
- National wildlife reserve or protected natural areas

Alterations are very limited in or within 30 meters of a provincially significant wetland.

Wetlands: permitting

- All wetlands ≥ 1 ha in size
- Any wetland < 1 ha in size and **not contiguous** to a watercourse is not a regulated feature and does not require a WAWA permit.
- Alterations in or within 30 metres of wetlands ≥ 2 ha in size or having the potential to affect these wetlands **may** trigger an EIA.



Wetlands

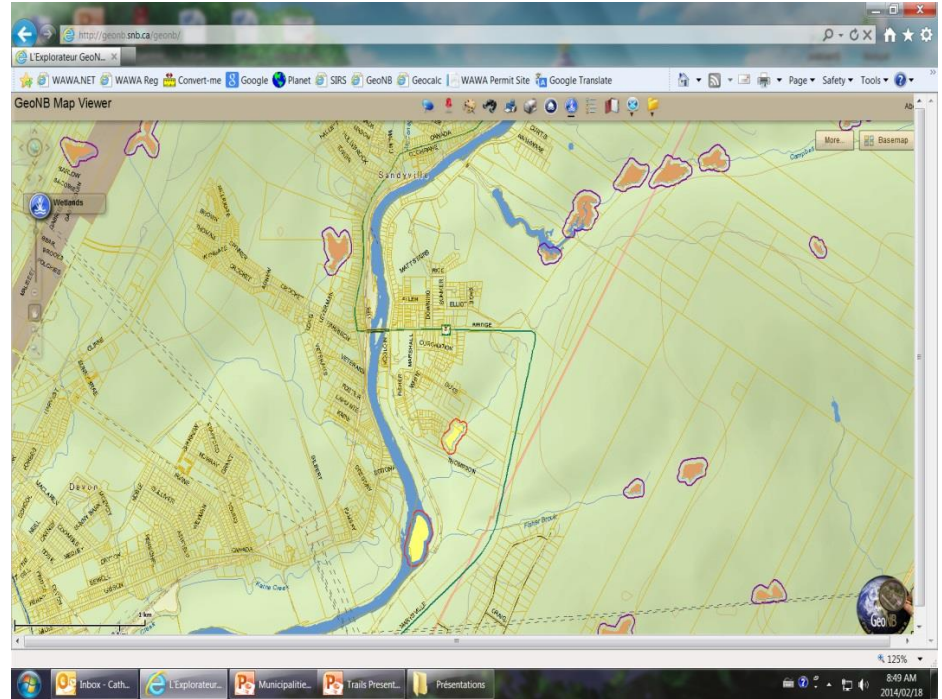
The review of a project is based on a three-step approach aimed at reducing the impacts of the project :

- 1) **avoidance** during the planning phase
- 2) **mitigation** techniques during the construction phase
- 3) **compensation** for permanent residual impacts

Any alteration that results in permanent loss of wetland habitat requires compensation at a 2: 1 ratio.

Watercourse: when is a permit required?

- All mapped watercourses depicted on Service New Brunswick's GeoNB Map Viewer require a permit.
- All unmapped watercourses that meet the working definition of a watercourse requires a permit (defined channel; >0.5 metres; rock or soil bed).



Permitting

- All WAWA permit applications are processed through an online application program.
- Permitting is done through a “single window” approach.
- Project considered high risk (*i.e.* have the potential of resulting in serious harm to fish) are also reviewed by our advisory agents (DFO and DNR).

Permit Application Requirements

- Full, comprehensive description of the proposed project, with dimensions and distances in relation to the project and the regulated feature(s).
- Drawings/plans may be required depending on the type of project.
- A consent letter is required if the applicant is not the legal owner of the property.
- Photographs of the site.

Provisional Permits

- For alterations that are considered low risk/ low impact to the environment
- Turnaround time: 10 working days
- Cost: \$10 per application
- Does not apply in:
 - Wellfield Protected Areas
 - Watershed Protected Areas
 - Provincially Significant Wetland Areas

Standard Permits

- For more complex projects (alterations not covered under a Provisional Permit).
- Application fee:
 - \$25 (single alteration)
 - \$20 per alteration to a maximum of \$200 (multiple permit)
- Turnaround time is typically between 3-4 weeks. May be longer for projects requiring advisory input.

Source and Surface Water Management Branch

Telephone: (506) 457-4850

Email: wawa@gnb.ca

[Online application](#)

