

Directions on reviewing NC Decisions in WATERS

L Helmuth, April 13, 2017

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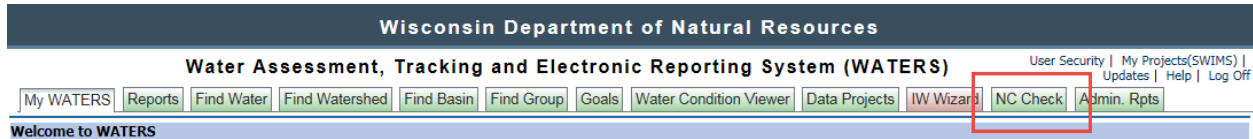
NC Decision Review Process – Database Entries 2017

Location of NC Decisions

NC decisions are stored in WATERS where the Fish IBI Assessment Package pulls these data to run weekly assessment updates, selecting the appropriate IBI tool based on the natural community decision stored in WATERS.

How does the NC Decision get into WATERS?

NC Tool output data is loaded into WATERS under the tab “NC Check” area.



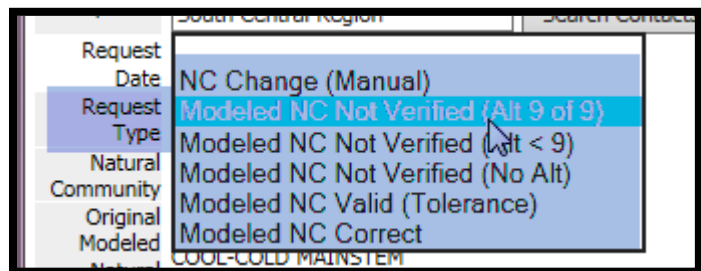
To access the data, click on the “NC Check” tab and search for your data by wbic, station or other variable.

If the modeled natural community was “validated” based on stream temperature and size, the modeled natural community is set as “confirmed. If it is confirmed but there is also a ‘tolerance issue’ the status is set to M-NC Validated – Tolerance.

If the Modeled Natural community data is not “valid” based on the fish species found in that survey – the status code will show the following categories:

Steps for NC Review

1. Go to the folder where your information is stored (planning = NC Validation folder).
2. In each folder is a copy of the “Stations on your TWQ Project”
3. Make sure all your stations are on this spreadsheet or that you have the NC spreadsheets in your folder from work you have done in the past *
*Note the 2017 spreadsheet version is now available
4. Log onto WATERS and click “NC Check” tab at top.
5. Search for records by station, wbic or location to update decisions on natural communities in WATERS.
6. If there is more than one survey on a station, review the most recent survey in the system.
7. Look at which category the station falls into:



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Modeled Natural Community “valid”

If a survey “validates” the natural community, the code Modeled NC Correct will be listed. If there is a tolerance issue, the term will be “Modeled NC Valid (Tolerance)”. You may wish to note the tolerance issue for future assessment work.

1. In these cases, scroll to the bottom and make sure the status code is updated to M-NC Confirmed (with your name or a pre-set reviewer (this is the automated name you may fine)).
2. Add date and notes if you update the record.
3. Click “save”.

Request Status	M-NC Confirmed
Reviewer	Fish DB NC Review
Review Date	01/14/2017
Reviewer Comment	Modeled natural community confirmed by fish community tests and fish database tool. However fish species tolerance issues may indicate degradation.

The text you see above is entered **automatically** when the data gets into WATERS, but it should be checked.

Running and attaching a manual review of confirmed NC’s

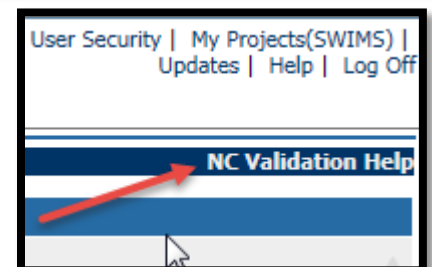
You “CAN” but do not have to do the following for confirmed natural communities.

1. Download and confirm the decision using the “CPE Download” button and enter that data into the 2017 spreadsheet (see below for directions).
2. Attach the spreadsheet to the record in waters (see below for directions).



Or, you can simply close the record and know that the Fish IBI package will use the following Natural Community (whatever is in this box).

Date	01/14/2017
Request Type	Modeled NC Valid (Tolerance)
Natural Community	COOL-WARM MAINSTEM
Original Modeled Natural Community	COOL-WARM MAINSTEM



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Modeled Natural Community NOT Valid

If the modeled natural community is not considered “valid” based on that survey data, you will see the following request codes – the “status” for these request codes is always set to “NC Needs Review”.



A screenshot of a web form element. It consists of a label 'Request Status' on the left and a dropdown menu on the right. The dropdown menu is currently open, showing the selected option 'NC Change Needs Review' in blue text. A small downward-pointing arrow is visible to the right of the text in the dropdown.

- NC Change Best Alt (9 of 9)
- NC Change Best Alt (less than 9)
- NC Change – No Alt

NC Change Best Alt (9 of 9)

In this situation, the Modeled natural community was not a perfect fit for temperature and stream size, and the best alternative is probably a good answer. However, this is only 1 survey – you may have multiple surveys that show the natural community is a “coldwater” for example, and the survey you are reviewing deviates from that answer. If that is the case, refer to the natural community guidance which is found on this page: [Wisconsin Natural Community Methodology Project](#)

To review and either confirm or change the NC where the best alternative meets 9 of 9 categories, you can either:

- a. Scroll down the page reviewing the information from the fish database, reading what the output from the NC validation tool provided, then make your decision.
- b. Download the CPE data for that station, enter into the 2017 spreadsheet found here at the [Wisconsin Natural Community Methodology Project](#) page, then attach that survey to the record.
- c. Once you have made your decision and attached the spreadsheet or other documentation, you select a status code, put your name and the date on the decision, and some text supporting your decision (you can even just write (see attached spreadsheet)), click “save” and you are done.

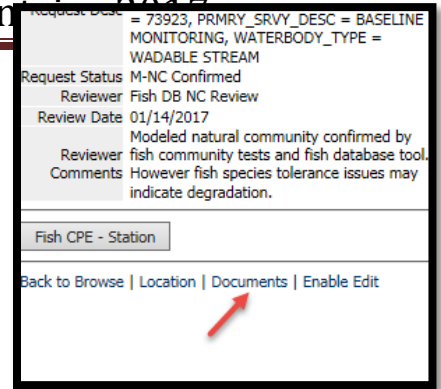
NC Change Best Alt (less than 9), NC Change – No Alt

In this situation, the Modeled natural community did not fit for temperature and stream size. You need to run through the spreadsheet to find a better fit. However, you should also look at past surveys and surveys on the same water nearby to help inform your decision. Please see the methodology application guidance on: [Wisconsin Natural Community Methodology Project](#).

- a. Scroll down the page reviewing the information from the fish database, reading what the output from the NC validation tool provided.
- b. Download the CPE data for that station, enter into the 2017 spreadsheet found here at the [Wisconsin Natural Community Methodology Project](#) page, then attach that survey to the record.
- c. Once you have made your decision and attached the spreadsheet or other documentation, you select a status code, put your name and the date on the decision, and some text supporting your decision (you can even just write (see attached spreadsheet)), click “save” and you are done. Change the status code from NC Needs Review to “**M-NC Confirmed**” OR “**NC Change Approved**”.

Adding a document:

- a. Click “documents”
- b. Search and backfill existing documents (if the spreadsheet is already entered)
- c. If not, enter new document if needed.



Rules for Entering a Document for NC Validation:

1. Title = *Station name, date, with “NC Validation Spreadsheet”*
Little Pine Creek at HWY 50 2015 NC Validation Spreadsheet
2. Date = *Date of upload*
3. Name = Biologist who did the review
4. Upload: navigate to fileshare and click on spreadsheet
5. Description (copy title and paste into box)
Little Pine Creek at HWY 50 2015 NC Validation Spreadsheet
6. Keywords
 - a. Little Pine Creek at HWY 50 2015 NC Validation Spreadsheet
 - b. Natural Community Validation or NC Validation
7. WBIC = Wbic of station
8. Person = Person who did validation
9. Project = Search and return **“NC Spreadsheet” project.**

NC Spreadsheet Update

	IF THE MODELED NC APPEARS TO BE INCORRECT AFTER CONSIDERING TOLERANCE AND WEATHER, TEST ALTERNATIVE NCs USING THE THREE TESTING AREAS IN THIS SECTION.																																																																																																																								
<p>MODELED NATURAL COMMUNITY (do not change): Cool-Warm Mainstem</p> <p>1. COMPARE OBSERVED VERSUS EXPECTED SPECIES GUIDES <i>The following tables will autocalculate based on the modeled NC and data provided in the data-entry tab.</i></p> <p>Total number of individuals observed in each Guild (this will autocalculate)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Thermal</th> <th>Stream Size</th> <th>Tolerance</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Coldwater</td> <td>105 Small Stream</td> <td>222 Intolerant</td> <td>105</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transitional</td> <td>766 Medium Stream</td> <td>665 Intermediate</td> <td>102</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Warmwater</td> <td>68 Large River</td> <td>52 Tolerant</td> <td>732</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Observed & Expected Guild Percentages (these will autocalculate)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Guild</th> <th rowspan="2">Observed</th> <th colspan="2">Expected Range</th> <th rowspan="2">Within Range?</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Low End</th> <th>High End</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Coldwater</td> <td>11%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>5%</td> <td>N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transitional</td> <td>82%</td> <td>25%</td> <td>100%</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Warmwater</td> <td>7%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>75%</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Guild</th> <th rowspan="2">Observed</th> <th colspan="2">Expected Range</th> <th rowspan="2">Within Range?</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Low End</th> <th>High End</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Small Stream</td> <td>24%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medium Stream</td> <td>71%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>100%</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Large River</td> <td>6%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><small>Based on the "Within Range" assessments above (Y/N), is the modeled Natural Community verified as correct?</small></p>	Thermal	Stream Size	Tolerance		Coldwater	105 Small Stream	222 Intolerant	105	Transitional	766 Medium Stream	665 Intermediate	102	Warmwater	68 Large River	52 Tolerant	732	Guild	Observed	Expected Range		Within Range?	Low End	High End	Coldwater	11%	0%	5%	N	Transitional	82%	25%	100%	Y	Warmwater	7%	0%	75%	Y	Guild	Observed	Expected Range		Within Range?	Low End	High End	Small Stream	24%	0%	50%	Y	Medium Stream	71%	50%	100%	Y	Large River	6%	0%	50%	Y	<p>FIRST TEST NATURAL COMMUNITY (use picklist): Cool-Cold Mainstem</p> <p>1. COMPARE OBSERVED VERSUS EXPECTED SPECIES GUIDES <i>The following tables will autocalculate based on the test NC entered above.</i></p> <p>Total number of individuals observed in each Guild (this will autocalculate)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Thermal</th> <th>Stream Size</th> <th>Tolerance</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Coldwater</td> <td>105 Small Stream</td> <td>222 Intolerant</td> <td>105</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transitional</td> <td>766 Medium Stream</td> <td>665 Intermediate</td> <td>102</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Warmwater</td> <td>68 Large River</td> <td>52 Tolerant</td> <td>732</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Observed & Expected Guild Percentages (these will autocalculate)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Guild</th> <th rowspan="2">Observed</th> <th colspan="2">Expected Range</th> <th rowspan="2">Within Range?</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Low End</th> <th>High End</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Coldwater</td> <td>11%</td> <td>5%</td> <td>75%</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transitional</td> <td>82%</td> <td>25%</td> <td>100%</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Warmwater</td> <td>7%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>25%</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Guild</th> <th rowspan="2">Observed</th> <th colspan="2">Expected Range</th> <th rowspan="2">Within Range?</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Low End</th> <th>High End</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Small Stream</td> <td>24%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medium Stream</td> <td>71%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>100%</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Large River</td> <td>6%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><small>Based on the "Within Range" assessments above (Y/N), is this test NC proposed as the correct one?</small></p>	Thermal	Stream Size	Tolerance		Coldwater	105 Small Stream	222 Intolerant	105	Transitional	766 Medium Stream	665 Intermediate	102	Warmwater	68 Large River	52 Tolerant	732	Guild	Observed	Expected Range		Within Range?	Low End	High End	Coldwater	11%	5%	75%	Y	Transitional	82%	25%	100%	Y	Warmwater	7%	0%	25%	Y	Guild	Observed	Expected Range		Within Range?	Low End	High End	Small Stream	24%	0%	50%	Y	Medium Stream	71%	50%	100%	Y	Large River	6%	0%	50%	Y
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NC Decision Review Process – Database Entries 2017

Natural Community Spreadsheet Document Upload Screen:

Document Title (*) YAHARA RIVER AT CTH V-DEFOREST 2015 NC Validation Spreadsheet

Author Name Helmut, Lisa

Published Date Precision: Day Date 04/13/2017

Upload File W:\WQWT_PROJECTS\ Browse...

URL

Description 133036_2015_NC Verification V6_3-23-2017

Document Descriptors

DOCUMENT_TYPE	Data or Dataset
WBIC	798300
KEYWORD	133036_2015_NC Verification V6_3-23-2017
KEYWORD	Natural Community Validation

Interested Parties

SORGE, MICHAEL J Find Person Author

Projects

NC Spreadsheets Find Project

Save and Return Cancel

Wisconsin Natural Community Methodology Project

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Natural Community Validations [Return to Search](#)

Purpose
Wisconsin's natural community validations project - links to tools, spreadsheets and guidance. See manually entered validation [spreadsheets](#) on this project. Use the 2017 updated spreadsheet template here on (see links below) this project. or search for decisions in the: [Water Condition Viewer Link](#)

Project Type	Statewide Inventory
Project Sub Type	Comprehensive List of Items
Project ID	NC_VALIDATION
Year Started	2016
Status	Active

Reports and Documents

- [Water Condition Viewer](#)
- [NC Verification V6_3-23-2017 Current Template 2017](#) (Updated Spreadsheet Template 2017)
- [Identifying the correct natural community Thermal Regime](#)
- [Natural Community Validation Steps December 2016](#)
- [Methodology for Using Field Data to Identify and Correct Wisconsin Stream Natural Community Misclassifications](#)
- [US EPA Memorandum: Establishing Site Specific Aquatic Life Criteria Equal to Natural Background](#)

decision procedures

open viewer to see decisions on a map

Updated Spreadsheet Template 2017