



Connecticut DOT
Bureau of Policy and Planning

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POLICY & PLANNING BULLETIN

Bureau Chief

Standard Operating Procedure for Determining Ordinary High Water

This bulletin notifies project development teams of the Standard Operating Procedure for Determining Ordinary High Water guidance document. This guidance document outlines the procedures with delineating ordinary high water (OHW) for CTDOT projects that is performed by the Office of Environmental Planning or qualified consultant staff.

For CTDOT projects, field investigation and identification of OHW followed by the review of the survey ground file is necessary prior to finalizing the surveyed OHW limits. This information will be utilized by the design engineer in part to size the width of the structure and to determine environmental permit impacts. In addition, OHW limits shown on the permit plans will be used by the regulatory agencies (CTDEEP & USACE) as part of their permit application review and approval. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide consistent guidance to CTDOT personnel and Consultants to ensure that the OHW is determined as accurately as possible, earlier in the design process, and most importantly depicted properly on the project plans.