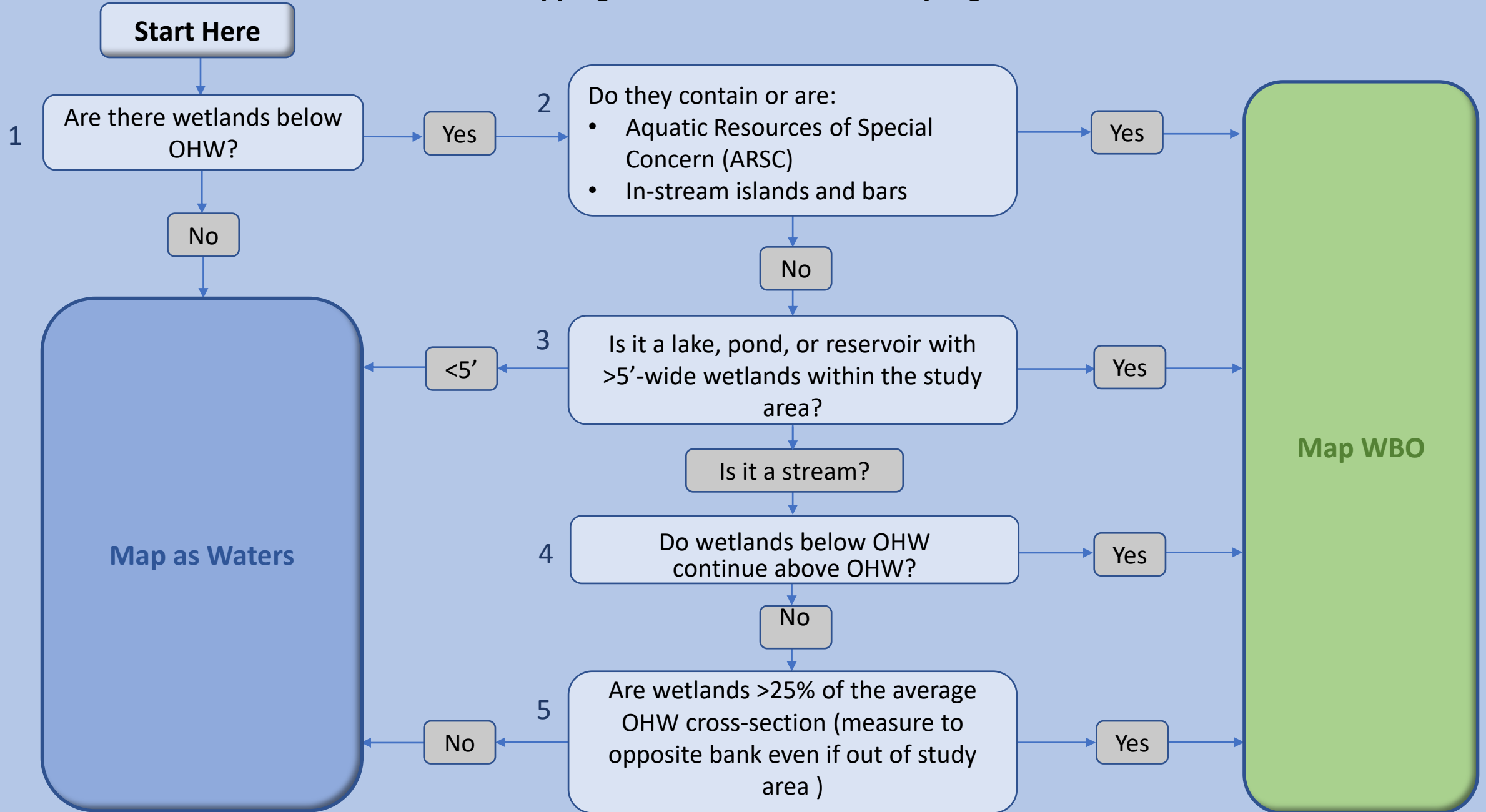


Mapping Wetlands Below Ordinary High Water



Guidance for When to Map Wetlands Below Ordinary High Water

1. If it is determined in the field that wetlands, of any size, are present per the '87 Manual and corresponding Regional Supplements, and that these wetlands are wholly or partially below the OHWL, then proceed with the **Mapping Wetlands Below Ordinary High Water** (WBO) decision tree. Additional considerations include:
 - Bankfull stage, the two-year recurrence interval flood elevation, can be used instead of OHWL indicators.
 - Wetland areas with non-persistent vegetation may be underwater or not yet emerged at the time of the field work.
 - WBO's may be digitized using data taken from a variety of sources such as recent aerial photographs and LiDAR.
 - If digitization is used, indicate the mapping method and +/- mapping precision estimate for these resources separately on the wetland delineation map and in the report.
2. If a wetland is identified as an Aquatic Resource of Special Concern (ARSC), then map the WBO. ARSC's include off-channel habitats (alcoves and side channels), cold water habitats, wooded tidal wetlands, mature forested wetlands, interdunal wetlands, wet prairies (includes wet rock outcrops), alkali wetlands, bogs, fens, hot springs, ultramafic soil wetlands, vernal pools, kelp beds, native eelgrass beds, and others as determined by the Department.
3. In lake, pond, or reservoir settings, map WBO's where the wetland fringe, perpendicular to the shore, is >5' wide within the study area.
4. In stream settings, if WBO's continue as wetlands above the OHWL, then continue the wetland mapping on both sides of the waters line. This setting may include estuarine and freshwater tidal creeks, estuarine marsh habitat, alluvial fans and wetland deltas, and low gradient streams with low gradient banks. This situation may not be typical in incised channels.
5. In stream settings identify the stream segment within the study area. Determine the average OHW cross-section width between banks, including the opposing bank, even if outside of the study area. Map all WBO's if any are >25% of the average OHW width, from bank to bank. If WBO's are outside the study area on an opposite bank, estimate that width and include in the calculation. If differences exist between distinct stream reaches in the study area, best professional judgment may be needed to determine if each reach should be evaluated separately.