



Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

EXCHANGE NETWORK SUCCESS STORY

Water Quality Exchange: "Build Once, Use by Many"

Environmental Information



Need for the Exchange Network

"Place is an important part of treaty tribal fishing rights. Our rights are place-based. That means we 20 treaty Indian tribes in western Washington can only fish in the places we have always fished.... Good fishing or bad, we have our places. If the fishing is poor, it's poor. We can't pack up like sport fishermen and travel to where the fishing's better. We have to work to make it better from right where we're at."
Billy Frank Jr., Chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC)

Place is at the core of NWIFC's mission to support its 20 member tribes, their fisheries and their other natural resources responsibilities.

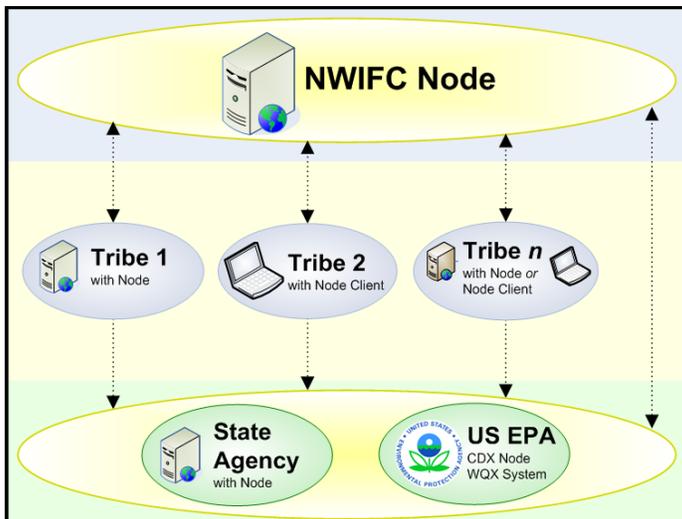
Member tribes collect water quality data to help them carry out these responsibilities. They store, manage, and analyze this data and share it with NWIFC, other tribes and partners for analysis on a regional scale. Federal grants require them to submit the data to EPA's Water Quality Exchange (WQX).

The Exchange Network Solution

Because the tribes have similar data management and data exchange needs, it made sense to develop common data management tools. A "build once, use by many" approach allowed each tribe to efficiently share data using Exchange Network technologies. It also created supporting data management systems to meet each tribe's needs.

Specifically, This project's outcomes included:

- NWIFC's development of the Tribal Water Quality Database that member tribes can use to store and manage data locally and to send data to the NWIFC node, EPA, or other partners
- Exchange Network Clients that member tribes use to submit and receive data from the NWIFC node



- NWIFC's installation of an Exchange Network Node using OpenNode 2 technology
- NWIFC's development of training and mentoring material for member tribes

Member tribes are now able to store and manage water quality data and to share it with EPA, NWIFC, and other partners. Tribes can also request and receive data from NWIFC and NWIFC can request and receive data from EPA.

SUMMARY

Need

- Water quality data management and analysis
- Regional analysis using data from many partners
- Means to submit of data to EPA

Solution

- A single node that communicates with twenty clients
- A water quality database for use by any member tribe
- Data management and exchange training and mentoring

Benefits

- Efficient data exchange technology
- Low cost
- Flexible implementation

"Our five senses combine in another sense that is important to all of us as human beings: a sense of place. It is a powerful sense, it takes time to develop and can be lost when folks move around a lot from place to place and job to job. I have been blessed with a strong sense of place for my home, the Nisqually River. I know my place, my home. It's where I feel the best."

Billy Frank Jr.

