

GOMAS Public Glossary

Glossary Terms	Definition
Advanced Search	Allows the user to define the data to be exported by the following criteria: Monitoring Location, Parameter, Date, and Project Name.
Analytical Method	Standardized laboratory analysis methodology for a specific parameter, which describes equipment, testing procedure, and calculation process.
Aquifer	Underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock or other substrate from which groundwater can be extracted.
Biological Assemblage	A grouping of similar organisms (e.g., aquatic macroinvertebrates, plants, amphibians, etc.).
CAS Number	Chemical Abstracts Service number. Unique value assigned by the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) to every chemical substance described in the open scientific literature.
County	Political subdivision of the state with defined boundaries. Georgia has 159 counties.
Date	The date when a sample or measurement was collected.
Depth of Measurement	Depth below the water surface at which a sample or measurement was collected.
Depth of Measurement Units	The unit of measurement used to determine the depth at which a sample or measurement was collected, typically in feet or meters.
Detection Condition	Narrative description provided when the laboratory cannot provide a numeric result for various reasons (e.g., the result is below detection limits or other reasons).
Detection Limit	Numeric value that defines the laboratory analytical method's numeric threshold of detection (i.e. the minimum concentration a lab can accurately measure).
Detection Limit Type	Type of detection limit being documented (e.g., method detection limit, practical quantitation limit, etc.).
Detection Limit Unit	The unit of measurement used for the detection limit.
Ecoregion	Geographical areas where ecosystems, including the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources, are generally similar. Georgia is divided into six Level III ecoregions and twenty-eight Level IV ecoregions. Please refer to a PDF of the ecoregions available via the Georgia EPD website .
Facility Organization	Owner of wastewater treatment facility.
Facility Type	Category of wastewater treatment facility (e.g., NPDES Major Municipal, NPDES Industrial, etc.).
General Comments	Comments referring to sample collection, field conditions, or other observations.

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Horizontal Reference Datum	A reference frame used to measure positions on the Earth. The datum used when collecting latitude and longitude coordinates.
Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC)	Code representing the hierarchical system of hydrologic units developed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Each hydrologic unit is identified by a unique code consisting of two to eight digits based on the four levels of classification: regions, sub-regions, accounting units, and cataloging units. Each watershed (drainage area) in Georgia has its own unique HUC assigned by the USGS. Maps of USGS HUC boundaries can be found at https://water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html .
Industrial Pretreatment	A type of wastewater facility that includes some industries and other nondomestic wastewater sources. These facilities are required to provide preliminary wastewater treatment prior to discharging to a municipal sewer collection system.
Keyword Search	Search for a monitoring location using keywords in the monitoring location name or monitoring location identifier.
Latitude/Longitude	Geographic coordinates representing any location. Latitude represents north/south location and ranges in Georgia between 30.3 and 35. Longitude represents east/west location and ranges in Georgia between -80.8 and -85.6. In GOMAS, Latitude and Longitude are provided as decimal degrees.
Life Stage	The observed stage in an organism's life cycle when a biological sample is collected (e.g., larva, pupa, adult, etc.).
Location Search	Will find monitoring sites near a street address or a location defined by latitude and longitude using decimal degrees on the map screen.
Location/Sample Number	Identifier for sample events with multiple subsamples or a composite collection method (e.g., multiple transects or plots sampled at the same monitoring location and on the same day).
Media	Environmental medium from which a sample or measurement was taken (e.g., water, habitat, biological, tissue, soil, etc.).
Monitoring Location	Name of the site at which sampling or other data collection activities are conducted.
Monitoring Location ID	Unique identifier used to describe each monitoring location. The leading pair of letters represents the waterbody type (i.e. CB- Coastal Waters, FB-Freshwater Beaches, GW-Groundwater Well and Springs, IP-Industrial Pretreatment, LK-Lake/Reservoir, PO-Permitted Outfall, RV-River/Stream, SH-Sound/Harbor/Bay/Estuary, and WT-Wetland). The pair of numbers following the first underscore represents the River Basin (i.e. 01 – Savannah, 02-Ogeechee, 03- Oconee, 04-Upper Ocmulgee, 05-Lower Ocmulgee, 06-Altamaha, 07-Satilla, 08-St Marys, 09-Suwannee, 10-Ochlockonee, 11-Flint, 12-Chattahoochee, 13-Tallapoosa, 14-Coosa, and 15-Tennessee). The set of numbers following the second underscore represents a unique identifier for the monitoring locations.
Monitoring Location Type	U.S. EPA waterbody types that provide more a detailed description of the waterbody type of a monitoring location.
Multi-select	Multiple criteria can be selected.

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Non-Regulatory	Class of data stored in GOMAS that will not be transmitted to US EPA for Clean Water Act purposes.
Parameter (on Results Tab)	The name of analyte or indicator measured or observed (e.g., copper, dissolved oxygen, pH, etc.).
Parameter Group	Grouping of similar parameters based on related data types (i.e. Discharge data, Fish Tissue Data, Habitat Data, Macroinvertebrate Data, Periphyton and Zooplankton Data, Physical Characteristics, Wastewater Inspection Results, Water Quality Data (Chemical & Bacteriological), Watershed Assessment Data (Chemical & Bacteriological), and Wetland Data).
Permit Number	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit number.
Permitted Outfall	A facility authorized to discharge treated wastewater under the Georgia Water Quality Control Act and the Clean Water Act. Facilities may have one or more pipes that discharge to waters of the State. Each pipe has its own outfall number.
Project Name	Entity responsible for the conducting the monitoring, which may be a GA EPD Unit or an external cooperating agency or government (i.e. the City or County).
Query Search	Allows the user to search for monitoring sites by County, River Basin, Waterbody Type, Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC 8), Ecoregion Level 4, and NPDES Permit Number where Compliance Sampling Inspections have been conducted.
Regulatory	Broad classification of results that defines that the data that will be submitted to US EPA's Water Quality Exchange (WQX).
Result (Pick List)	Result selected from a pre-populated list of choices that often conform to US EPA approved values or answers.
Result (Value)	Numerical result value obtained through observation, measurement, or laboratory analysis.
Result Type	Descriptive name for a type of result (e.g., actual, calculated, estimated, etc.).
Results Comments	Comments referring to result analysis, calculation, or other observation.
River Basin	The portion of land drained by a river and its tributaries. Georgia has 14 River Basins (i.e. 01 – Savannah, 02-Ogeechee, 03- Oconee, 04- Upper Ocmulgee, 05-Lower Ocmulgee, 06-Altamaha, 07-Satilla, 08- St Marys, 09-Suwannee, 10-Ochlockonee, 11-Flint, 12- Chattahoochee, 13-Tallapoosa, 14-Coosa, and 15-Tennessee). More info on Georgia's river basins can be found at https://garivers.org/georgia-rivers/
Sample Fraction	Descriptive term noting what portion of the original sample was utilized in the lab analysis (e.g., dissolved, total recoverable, etc.).
Sample Speciation	Defines the chemical species of the sample (e.g., Alkalinity can be reported as CaCO3).

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Sample Type	Type of collection activity that yielded the result. Most sample types are either "Field Msr/Obs" (field measurement or observations) or "Sample-Routine" (samples routinely collected in the field and analyzed by a laboratory).
Sampling Intent	The reason and/or approach used for the sample or result collection.
Search Results Table	Table that displays the following information on the most recent two years of data that have been collected: Monitoring Location ID, Monitoring Location, County, River Basin, Date, Parameters, and Ecoregion Level 4. The range of all available data will be provided, and the data that was excluded from the display by the two year default can be gotten by refining the search by adding a date criterion within the date range of available data.
Single Select	Only one criterion can be selected.
Site Information Table	Found by clicking the red up arrow at the bottom of the map screen. It provides site information (i.e. Monitoring Location ID, Monitoring Location, County, Waterbody Type, River Basin, Ecoregion Level 4) on monitoring sites. Sites can be selected where you proceed to the Advanced Search screen to export data.
Status	Identifier describing the status of results stored in the database (e.g. final, preliminary, rejected, etc.). Only results with Final or Complete status should be considered accurate data.
Submedia	Subdivision of the environmental medium from which the sample or measurement was taken (e.g. surface water, groundwater, etc.).
Taxon Name	Scientific name given to an organism.
Time	Sample or measurement collection time in military time.
Units	Unit of measurement a given result is recorded in.
Water Planning Council	Regional water planning council the monitoring location falls within.
Waterbody Type	Type of hydrologic feature that was sampled or measured at a monitoring location (i.e. CB- Coastal Waters, FB-Freshwater Beaches, GW-Groundwater Well and Springs, IP-Industrial Pretreatment, LK-Lake/Reservoir, PO-Permitted Outfall, RV-River/Stream, SH-Sound/Harbor/Bay/Estuary, and WT-Wetland).
Wet Weather/Dry Weather Sample	Provides information as to whether samples were taken during wet or dry weather conditions. This field is typically only utilized for data collected under a watershed assessment or watershed protection plan.
Watershed Assessment Sample Organization	Name of particular local government, water authority, or other entity that provides water quality data, as required by their National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
Watershed Assessment Site ID	Monitoring location identifier used by local governments or other entities who submit Watershed Assessment of Watershed Protection Plan data.
Weight Basis (Dry/Wet)	Defines whether a sample was dried before it was weighed.