

# Data Retrieval

If you want to retrieve bioassessment data from the system...

you can use ['Retrieve Data'](#) from the quick links to the left...

OR

click [here](#)

## Quick Links

[Data Retrieval Overview](#)

[Using Filter Criteria](#)

[Select Data Set\(s\)](#)

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[Data Dictionary](#)

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The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) BioData Retrieval system provides public access to aquatic bioassessment data (biological community and physical habitat data) collected by USGS scientists from stream ecosystems across the nation. USGS scientists collect fish-, aquatic macroinvertebrate-, and algae-community samples and conduct stream physical habitat surveys as part of its fundamental mission to describe and understand the Earth. The publicly available BioData Retrieval system disseminates data from over 15,000 fish, aquatic macroinvertebrate, and algae community samples. Additionally, the system serves data from over 5000 physical data sets (samples), such as reach habitat and light availability, that were collected to support the community sample analyses. The system contains sample data that were collected and processed since 1991 using the protocols of the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA). As of 2010, the system has added data collected by USGS scientists using the procedures and protocols of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Rivers and Streams Assessment program (NRSA).

Scientists, resource managers, teachers, and the public can retrieve data using intuitive online queries.

## Features of the Retrieval System

- Users can select data using variety of criteria, including: sample type, geography, site characteristics and lists, sampling dates, and project or program, or taxonomy
- Users can see how many samples you will retrieve in real time as you modify selection criteria
- Users can save data selection criteria for re-use and even send them to colleagues for their use
- Users can preview data tables before downloading them
- Users can download data in comma-delimited, tab-delimited, XML, Excel 1997 /2003, or Excel 2007 formats
- Users can download multiple related data tables in one operation - packaged together in one zip file
- All taxonomy is reported using a standardized and harmonized taxonomic system - synonymy is resolved for you
- Users have access to online data table and column definitions