

## Search Help

### Basic Function

The Search function performs a “tabular search” of Water-CAT’s relational database. It allows you to identify those monitoring stations that satisfy a specified set of conditions, to download a list of those stations, and to inspect the detailed metadata for each station in the result list.

The Search function differs from the [Map function](#) in that (1) geography is a secondary focus of search, and (2) it allows you to choose more than one possible value for many of the data fields, without having to construct a query string. If you are primarily interested in locating monitoring stations in a particular geographic area, you may find that it is more effective to use the [Map function](#) to perform a geospatial search.

### General instructions:

1. To find stations, specify values for any fields that are of interest and then click the Submit button at the bottom of the form. Tips for making selections:
  - All search fields are optional. If no value is specified for a field, “Any” is assumed.
  - Many search fields allow multiple selections. Use the Ctrl or Cmd key while clicking to select/deselect an item in a list. Use the Shift key while clicking to select a range of items in a list. A field will match if ANY of the specified values are present.
  - Fields that perform partial-text matching allow the use of [wild card](#) characters. An underscore (“\_”) may be used as a wild card for single characters, and a percent sign (“%”) for multiple characters.
  - The bounding box selection tool is provided for convenience, but it is somewhat crude. If geography is the primary focus of your search, you may find that searching with the [Map function](#) is preferable.
  - As a rule, specifying value(s) in more fields will yield a list with fewer stations; conversely, specifying value(s) for fewer fields will produce a list with more stations. If a field is of scant interest, it is best to leave it blank to maximize the number of search results returned.
  - Click the Reset button to clear all selections for all fields. Click the links provided to clear selections for individual fields.
  - Explanations of individual metadata fields are given in the next section.
2. Once you Submit your search selections, you will be presented with a list of search results; these are the stations that satisfy ALL the conditions you specified.
3. Click on the Station Name or Station ID in the search results to inspect the full metadata for a particular station.
4. Click the Download button to save the metadata for all stations in the list into a file on your computer, in one of these formats: Tab-delimited (text file), Spreadsheet (comma-separated values), or Google Earth ([Keyhole Markup Language](#)).

5. Once you have reviewed your initial search results, you may find it necessary to adjust your search selections in order to zero in on the stations of particular interest to you. Use the “Modify Search Criteria” button to go back and make changes. Your previous selections will be preserved for you.
6. Be aware that the database records of some monitoring stations may be incomplete, with blanks in one or more metadata fields. Unless stated otherwise, a blank in a particular field will preclude a station from being included in the results list when a search value has been specified for that field.

## Field Descriptions

For each searchable metadata field, information about the meaning and format of the field is given, followed by tips on specifying value(s) for the field.

### Organization Name

1. Name of the organizations associated with the project(s) that established a monitoring station.
2. Click to select one organization. Ctrl-click (or Cmd-click) to select multiple organizations.

### Station ID

1. An alphanumeric character string used by a project to identify a station.
2. Alphanumeric text. NOT case sensitive. Partial text match, anywhere in the name. [Wild card](#) characters are supported.

### Station Name

1. The “friendly name” of a station, often indicating its location, project, or purpose. While most stations have a Station ID, many do not have a Station Name.
2. Alphanumeric text. NOT case sensitive. Partial text match, anywhere in the name. [Wild card](#) characters are supported.

### Date Range

1. Dates during which there was monitoring activity at a station. Stations will be returned in the results list if their “period of record” overlaps the selected date range. Note that the Date Range field is sparsely populated in the Water-CAT database due to unavailability of data. Metadata for Stations where there is ongoing activity may a Start Date recorded, but no End Date. For this reason, a checkbox is provided to force stations that have a missing or incomplete period of record specified to be included in the results.
2. Format MM/DD/YYYY. Date range from and until (inclusive), or after (specify start date only), or before (specify end date only).

### County

1. The Florida county in which a monitoring station is located.
2. Use the checkboxes to indicate the County(ies) of interest. If no boxes are checked, “Any County” is assumed.

### Station Type

1. Indicates the type of water resource that is being monitored (bay, lake, well, wetland, etc.)
2. Use the checkboxes to indicate the Station Type(s) of interest. If no boxes are checked, “Any Station Type” is assumed.

### Drainage Basin

1. One of 52 watershed subbasins in the state of Florida, defined by an 8-digit [Hydrologic Unit Code \(HUC-8\)](#).
2. Use the checkboxes to indicate the Drainage Basin(s) of interest. If no boxes are checked, “Any Drainage Basin” is assumed.

### Water Resource

1. The name of the water body (lake, river, stream, bay, canal, etc.) that a station is intended to monitor, as it is recorded in the [National Hydrography Dataset](#). Metadata for Groundwater stations may not specify a Water Resource, or may specify the name of an [aquifer](#).
2. Autocomplete field which allows multiple selections: begin typing the name and then choose the appropriate name from the drop-down menu to add it to the search list. Only Water Resources that are present in the database will be presented as options.

### Sampling Frequency

1. Indicates the time interval between sampling events at the station. (Currently this database field is very sparsely populated; making any selection in this field may eliminate many possible matches.)
2. Click to choose a time interval. Ctrl-click (or Cmd-click) to choose multiple intervals.

### Parameters

1. Indicates what information is being measured at a station (nitrogen, seagrass, nutrients, e.g.).
2. Use the checkboxes to indicate the Parameter(s) of interest. Filters may be used to narrow the selections presented. If no boxes are checked, “Any Parameter” is assumed.

### Bounding Box

1. The latitude and longitude of each station is recorded in the database. The Bounding Box may be used to roughly delineate an area of geographic interest. Stations that fall within the specified area will be included in the results list.
2. Use the + and – tool and the hand tool to adjust the extent of the map (i.e., zoom in/out and pan). Click on the rectangle drawing tool to draw a box around the area of interest. Use the handles on the rectangle to adjust its size/position. You may edit the latitude/longitude of the box boundaries manually; click the Update Map button to redraw the map with modified boundaries reflected. *Be aware that the Bounding Box is a crude geographic tool. If the geographic location of stations is of primary interest, you may be better served by the [Map Function](#).*