#### WQX User Call April 25, 2019 12:00 – 1:00 PM EST 202-991-0477 ID: 4189172

Webinar: <a href="http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/wqp/">http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/wqp/</a>

There were approximately 27 participants.

Next WQX User Meeting: Thursday, May 23, 2019

#### Agenda:

- 1) Freshwater Explorer Demo Susan Cormier, OST
- Domain Value Change Notification Alert FTP Site ftp://newftp.epa.gov/storet/wgx/domain alerts/
  - Characteristic and Taxonomic names
  - deprecated, retired, and duplicate value resolution
- 1) Freshwater Explorer Demo Susan Cormier, OST PowerPoint Presentation is available at: <a href="mailto:ttp://newftp.epa.gov/storet/xfer/How/2019-04-25/">ttp://newftp.epa.gov/storet/xfer/How/2019-04-25/</a> WQX presentation Freshwater Explorer 20190422.pptx

The Freshwater Explorer is an interactive web-based tool that provides the status of salt and mineral content in freshwater resources for streams in the lower 48 states. The data is comprised of both WQX and NWIS data from WQP.

The tool was developed to make salt and mineral content information more accessible to users by providing information on the status of water resources for a network of steams and predicting and measuring freshness. Susan explained how the model was created and discussed the issues found with the data reported in WQP. When ORD started they tossed 50% of the data. Then they decided to flag data with issues.

Erroneous data such as salt contents with negative counts, data reported as  $\mu$ S/cm but likely measured as mS/cm need to be addressed. Susan asked data stewards to review their data by reviewing the spreadsheet she referenced. Data is broken down by state and each organization is listed. The spreadsheet contains a worksheet to select the link to and query the questionable data in WQP.

The spreadsheet is located at: <a href="ftp://newftp.epa.gov/storet/xfer/How/2019-04-25/">ftp://newftp.epa.gov/storet/xfer/How/2019-04-25/</a> WQP\_Data\_Summarization.xlsx

The plan is for ORD to release the application. ORD would like feedback on the application and data stewards to help cleaning up the data flagged for issues. ORD would like pull the data

from the WQP again before publishing the Storybook. ORD also plans to make an explorer tools for other parameters such as nitrogen.

Susan opened the floor to questions:

- Dwane Young reminded data stewards that WQX business rule require the entire sample to be uploaded. Correction submissions for Individual results require the uploading the entire sample. If the entire sample is updated, it will overwrite all the information for that sample.
- Dwane confirmed that the µS/cm to mS/cm units are input into WQX that way and are not translated by WQP. If it goes into WQX that way, then it comes out in WQP that way.

#### 2) Domain Value Change Notification Alert – Kevin Christian

ftp://newftp.epa.gov/storet/wqx/domain\_alerts/

- a. Characteristic and Taxonomic names are impacted by our reference systems SRS Characteristics, Taxon ITIS and Bio Data
- b. deprecated, retired, and duplicate value resolution

One of the challenges in stewarding WQX domain values is communicating domain changes to the user community.

Characteristics and Taxonomic names are updated on a daily basis. They are impacted by reference systems, SRS for Characteristics and ITIS and Biodata for Taxonomic names.

The WQX will leverage the ftp site to keep the user community informed on updates to Characteristics and Taxonomic domains. An update for Characteristic changes was recently sent out. Kevin is hoping to release an update for Taxonomic name changes and the impacts to organizations.

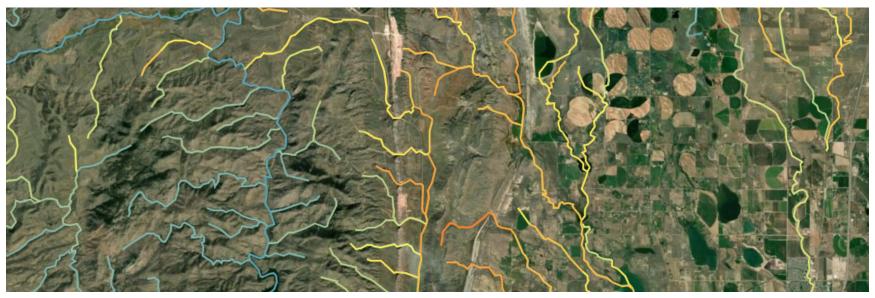
ITIS system is fully vetted. Diatoms are always changing and ITIS tracks this information. Kevin references ITIS for retired diatoms. He retires Latin names that are synonyms of valid taxon names. Kevin explained he has had to unretired names as they have been made valid after they were flagged to be retired.

Kevin asked users to provide feedback on the Domain Value Change Notification process.

Enclosed is the PowerPoint presentation for Freshwater Explorer Demo - Susan Cormier, OST

## Freshwater Explorer

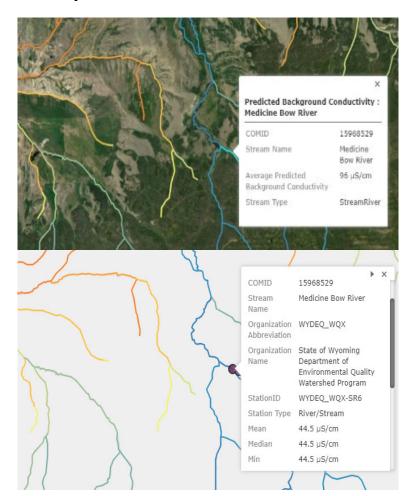
a database story map



Susan Cormier, NCEA
Chris Wharton and Isabelle Bertani, TetraTech, Inc.
John Olson, CSU Monterrey Bay

### What is the Freshwater Explorer?

- The Freshwater Explorer is an interactive-web based platform that provides the status of the salt and mineral content (i.e., freshness) for freshwater resources across a network of streams in the contiguous 48 states.
- Freshness, defined as conductivity, are presented as color-coded predicted stream reach values and point (site-specific) measured values.
- Juxtaposing background and measured conductivity over satellite imagery lets users see patterns and potential factors associated with fresh water conditions.



#### Why was the Freshwater Explorer developed?

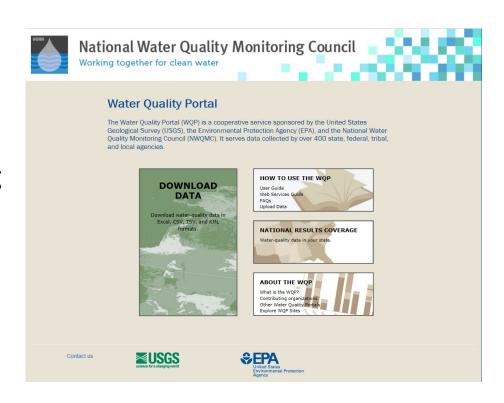
• Currently, this type of data is stored in EPA's Water Quality Portal, but is not very accessible or intuitive in a spatial context.

### How was it developed?

- To enable self-sufficiency and greater access, scientists at ORD developed national datasets that let users independently compare background and measured water freshness (i.e., conductivity).
- Methods and approaches were published in peer-reviewed journals.
- The national datasets were derived from conductivity data in OWOW's signature Water Quality Portal. Presently, more than 400 monitoring groups contribute data to the (WQP) resulting in a spatially and temporally robust dataset.
- The national datasets are presented as an interactive StoryMap.
- OST, OWOW, Regions 3, 5, 6, 9, and 10 were consulted during development or reviewed the Freshwater Explorer

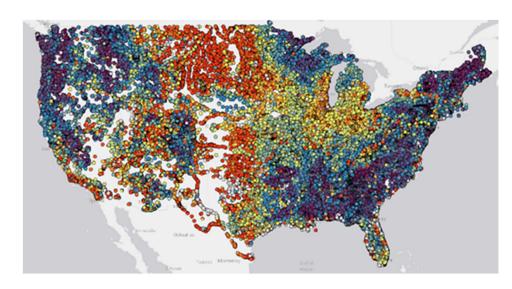
### Who are the primary audiences?

- The 400+ entities that contribute to the WQP
- Federal, state, local agencies, monitoring groups, NGO's, and industry with a need to access local water quality data.
- Audience requires some degree of technical knowledge.



# What are the anticipated uses and benefits of the Freshwater Explorer?

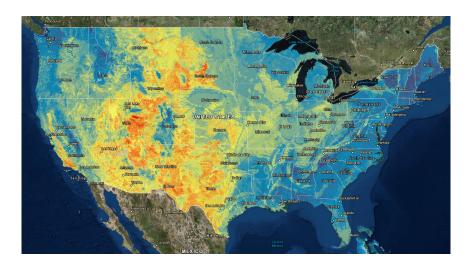
• It provides information on the status of water resources for a network of streams in the contiguous 48 states color-coded for predicted and measured freshness, i.e., low salt and mineral content.

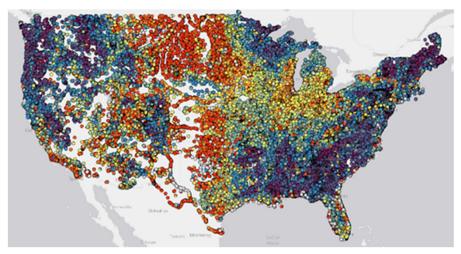


- Currently, only measured conductivity data is provided, a measurement of fresh water and water quality that is stored in EPA's Water Quality Portal.
- The web-based story map allows users to quickly access information about estimated background and measured conductivity.

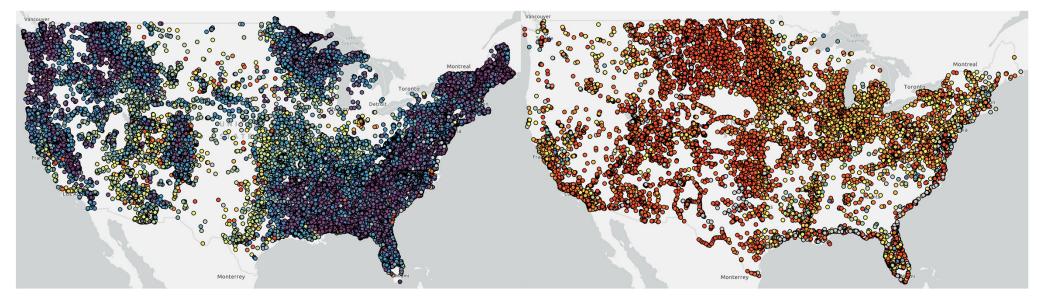
#### **Observations**

- Nationally, wetter and higher elevation portions of the country have naturally fresher water, particularly in the Northwest, East and Southeast.
  - Measured conductivity in these areas are often near predicted background conductivity.
- In the arid West and agricultural Mid-West, predicted conductivity is greater.
  - Measured conductivity often is greater than predicted natural conditions owing to various sources of mineral loadings
- Locally, there are a variety of apparent causes of increased conductivity including road deicing, marine intrusion, agricultural, urban and industrial releases and run-off





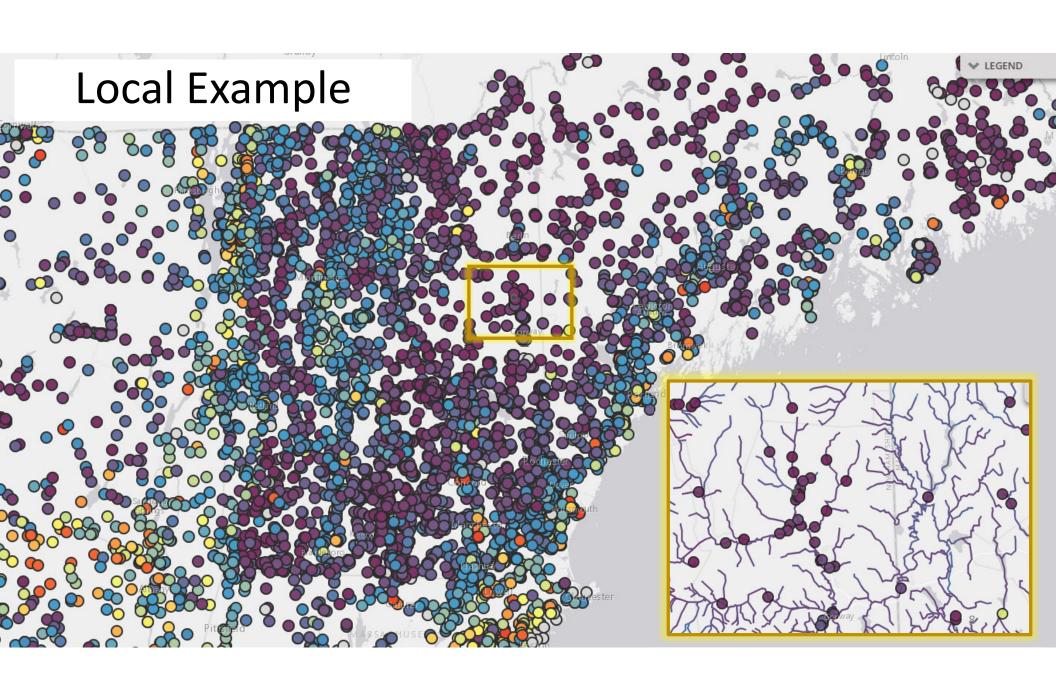
## Changes in Freshness compared to Background



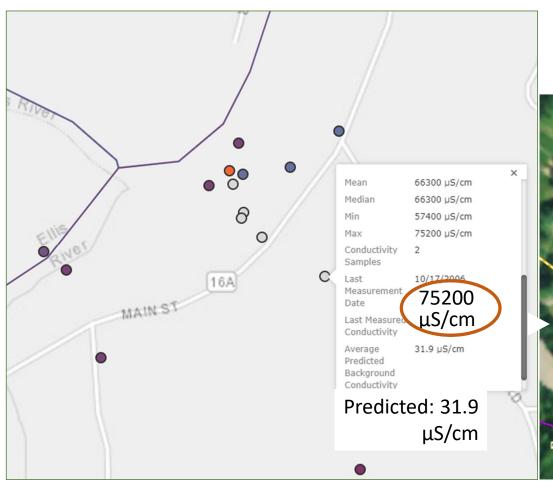
Measured less than or no more than 100 microS/cm > predicted Background

Measured 500 microS/cm greater than predicted Background

Causes may include: sea water intrusion, drought, loadings, etc.



## Freshwater Explorer Example

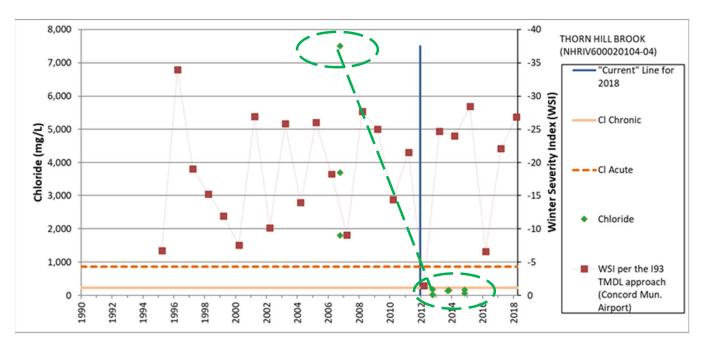


Courtesy of: Matt Wood, Assessment Coordinator
NH Department of Environmental Services

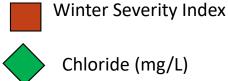




# Plans are to delist from 303d after a bit more monitoring



Chloride level decreased dramatically after moving pile away from stream and covering some of it



Courtesy of: Matt Wood, Assessment Coordinator
NH Department of Environmental Services

### Freshwater Explorer has 3 Data sets

- 1. Results of a model that predicts natural background conductivity from empirical data (Natural Background Stream Conductivity (NBSC) Model).
- 2. Measured data (National Conductivity Dataset) from the EPA Water Quality Portal (WQP), the nation's largest source for water quality monitoring data.
- 3. Measured data (Measured Conductivity NWIS) from the National Water Information System (NWIS) collected by USGS.

# Brief Explanation of the Empirical Background Conductivity Model

estimated based on geology, climate, soil, vegetation, topography, and other factors

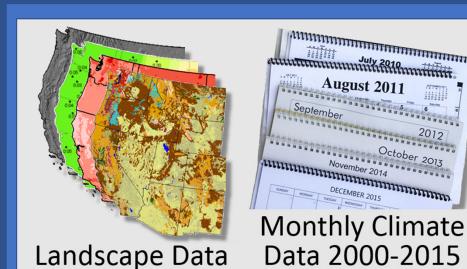




pubs.acs.org/est

Modeling Spatial and Temporal Variation in Natural Background Specific Conductivity

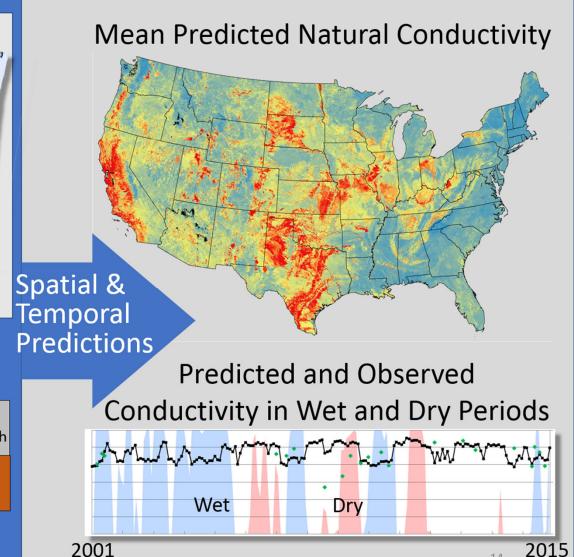
John R. Olson\*, on Susan M. Cormier



**Regression Tree Analysis** 

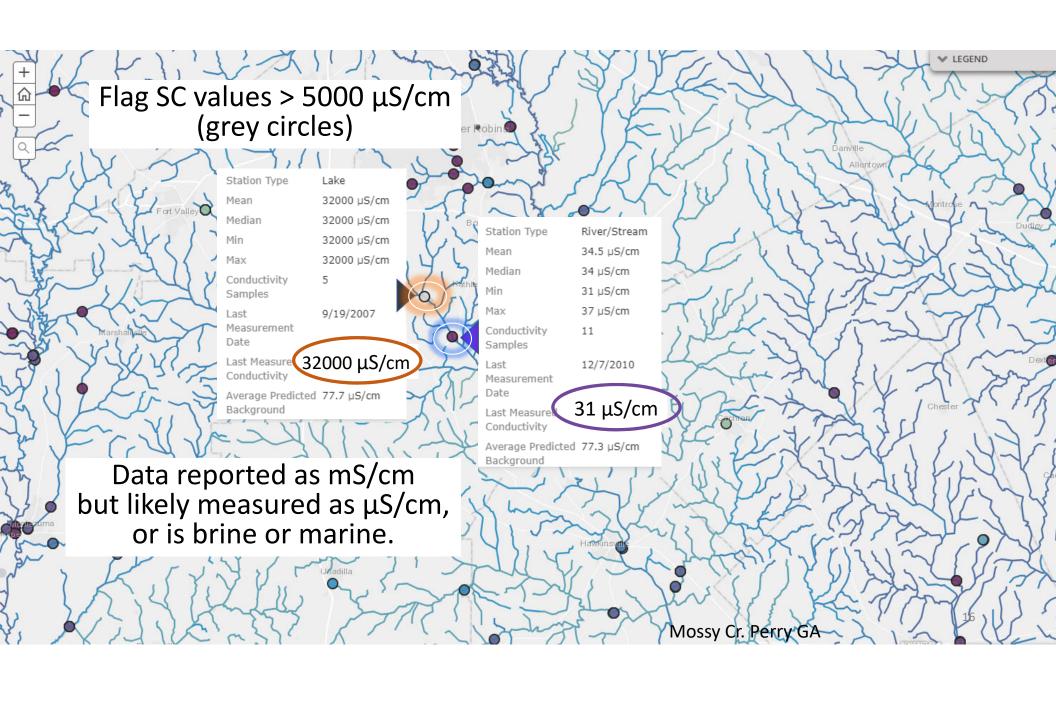
#### 19 Selected Model Predictors

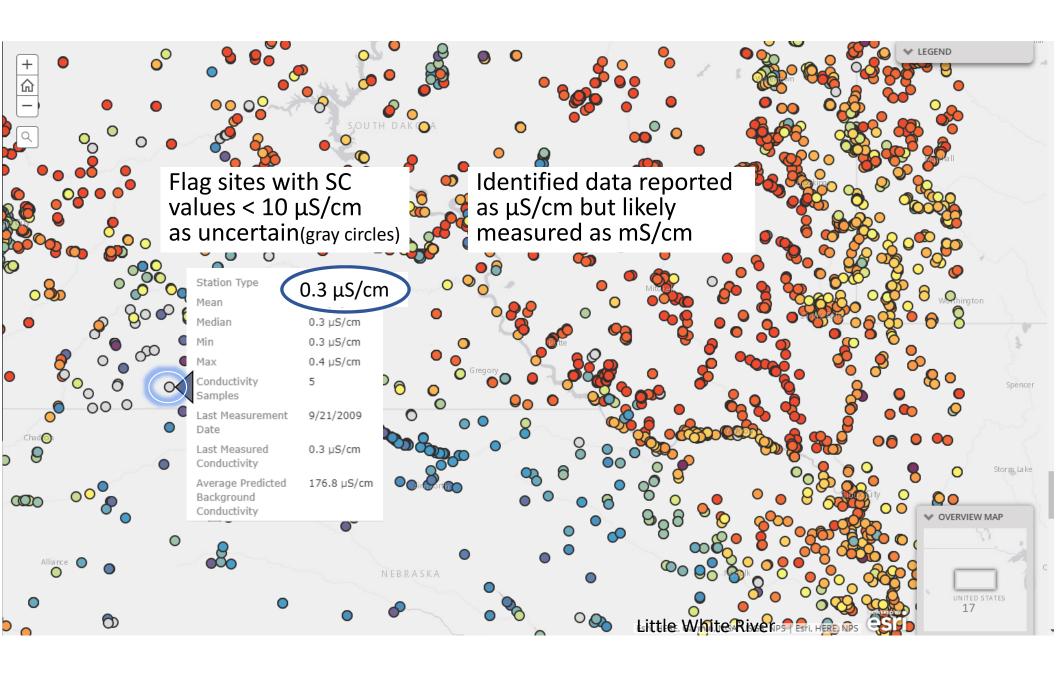
Rock %CaO	Rock %S	Atm Ca Dep	lahlo		Soil K Factor	Rock Strength	
% Clay	% Shrub	% Conifer	% Mixed Forest	Soil Perme- ability	6 Mo Avg Precip	2 Mo Prior Max T	
	12 Mo Avg ET	Max T	% Herb Wetland	3 Mo Avg Precip	1 Mo Prior Precip		

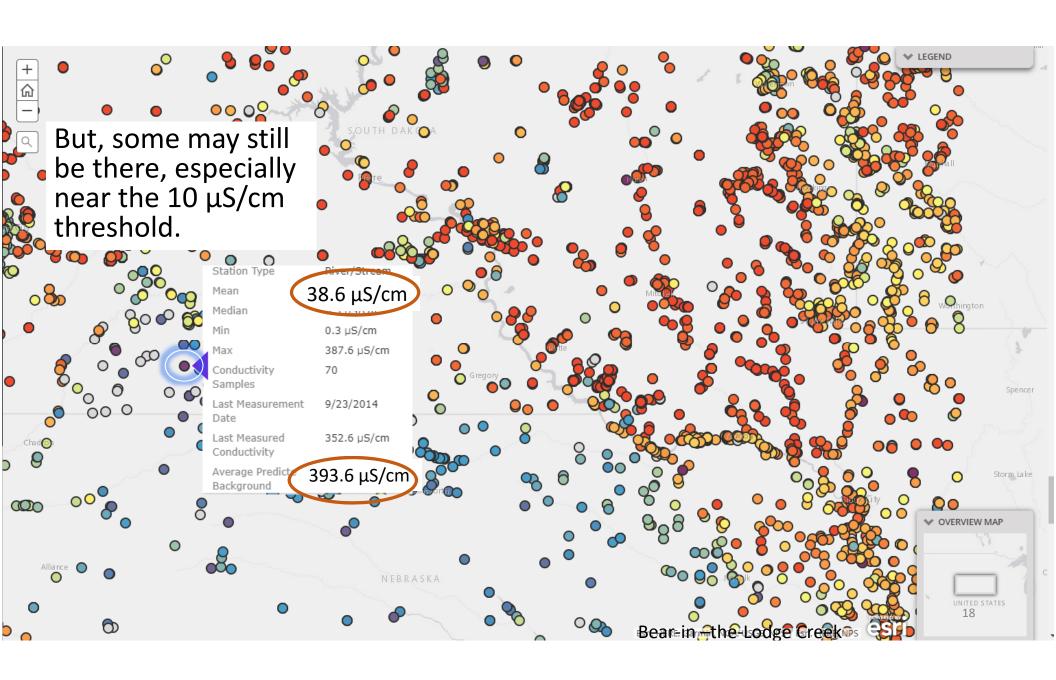


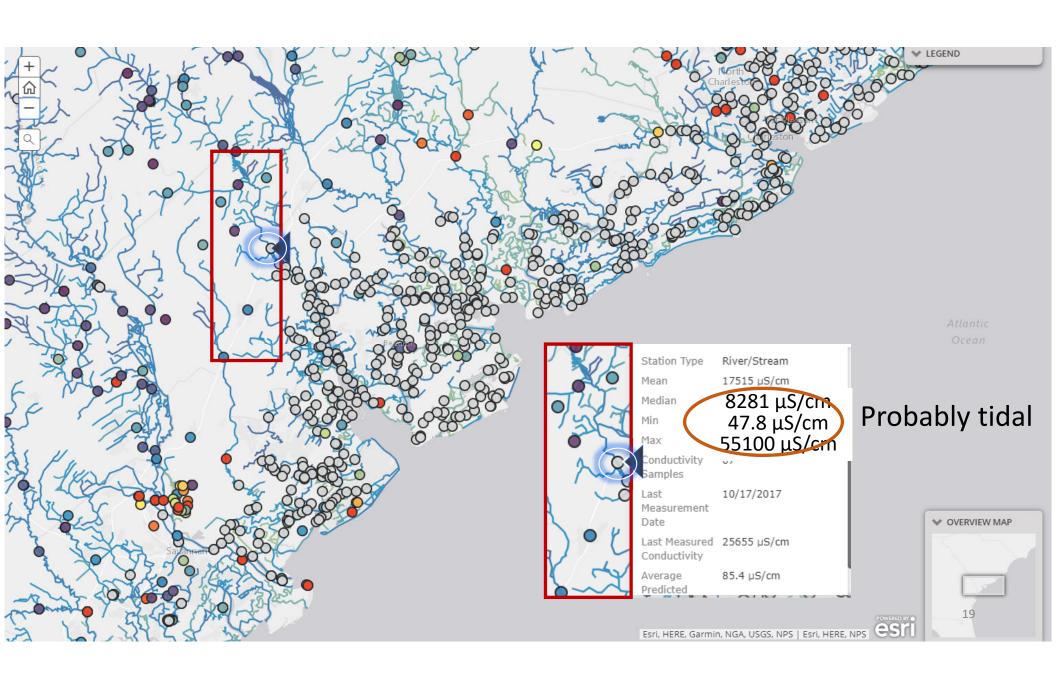
## Clean-up process for Measured Data

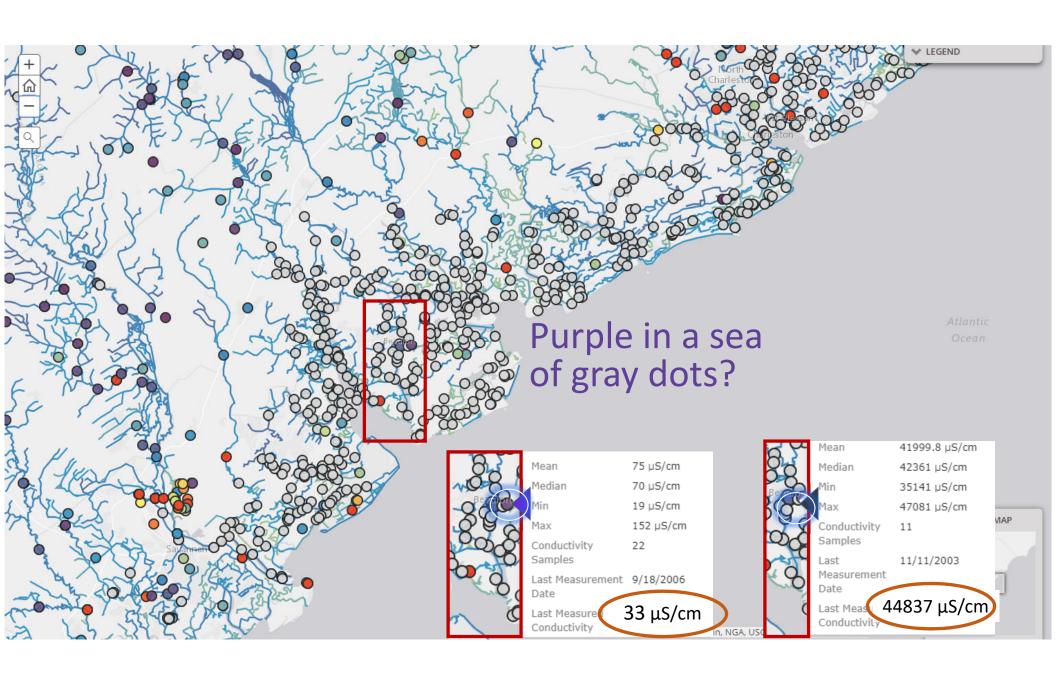
Remove SC values ≤ 0.	SC values are positive and cannot be				
	negative				
Remove SC values reported with units different	Considered ambiguous.				
from Siemens or mho	E.g., SC reported as NTU, or °C				
Convert remaining SC values to µS/cm	Allowed direct comparison among				
(e.g., values as mS/cm were multiplied by 1000).	samples				
Flag sites with SC values < 10 μS/cm as uncertain	Identified data reported as µS/cm but				
(gray circles)	likely measured as mS/cm				
Flag SC values > 5000 μS/cm (grey circles).	Data reported as mS/cm but likely				
	measured as μS/cm, brine, or marine.				



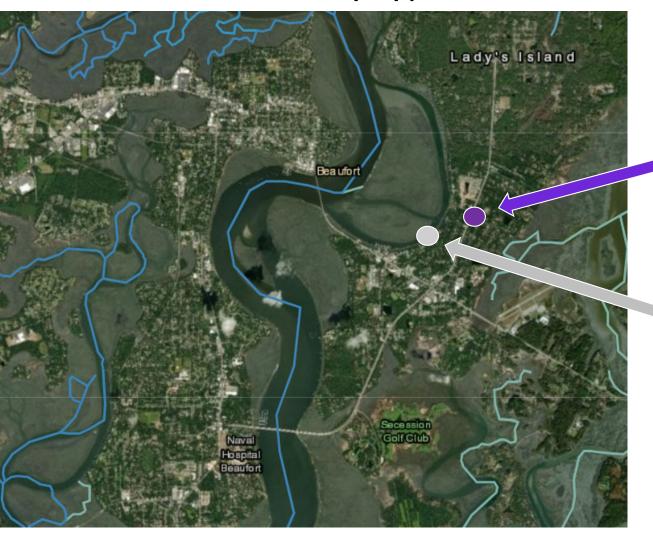








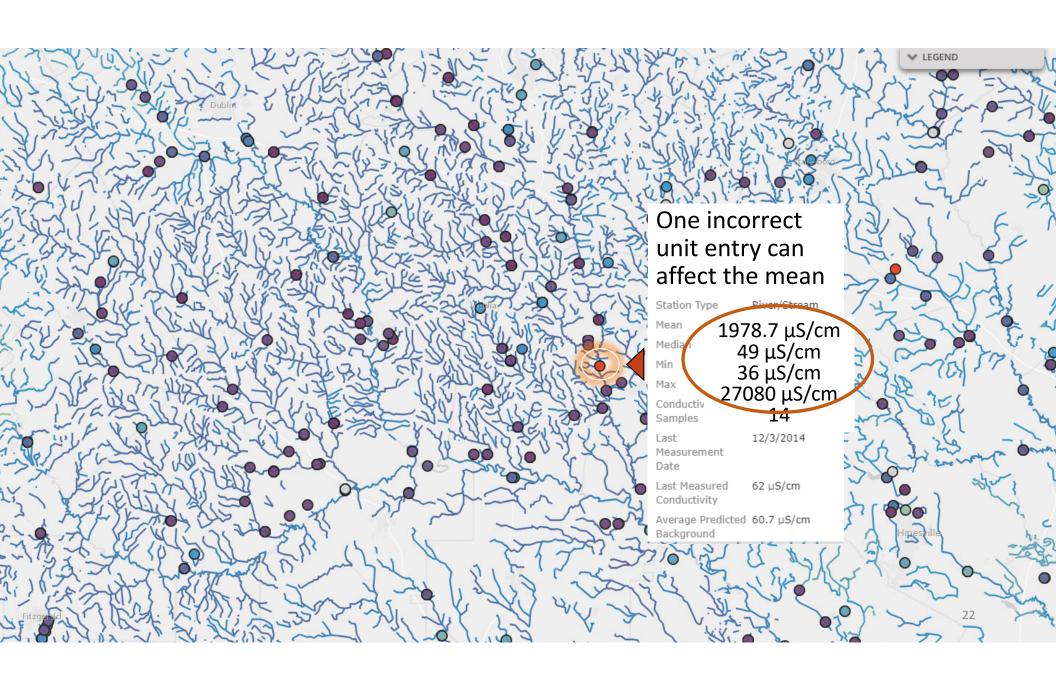
#### Check water body type





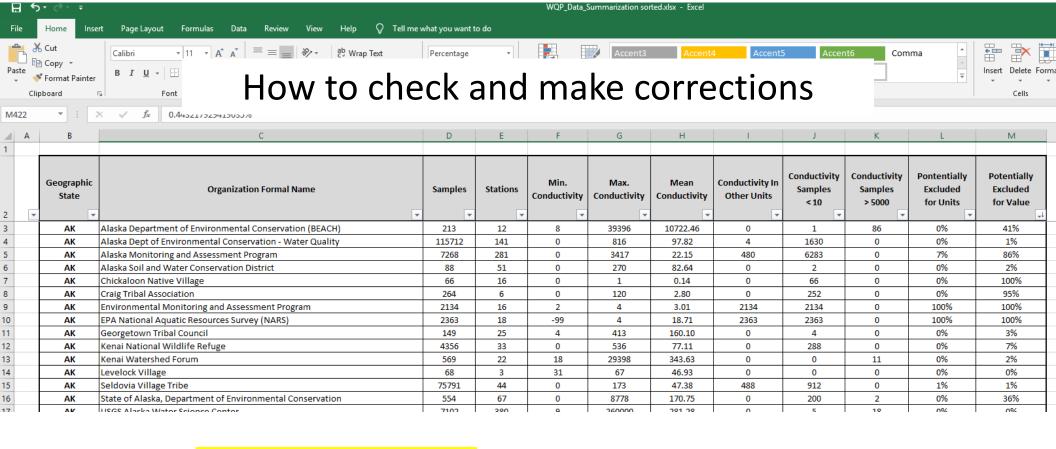
Stream
75 μS/cm
70 μS/cm
19 μS/cm
152 μS/cm
22
9/18/2006
33 μS/cm

8	Station Type	Estuary
	Mean	53557.6 μS/cm
92	Median	51112 μS/cm
22	Min	45426 μS/cm
10	Max	69255 μS/cm
8	Conductivity Samples	13
d	Last	12/4/2007



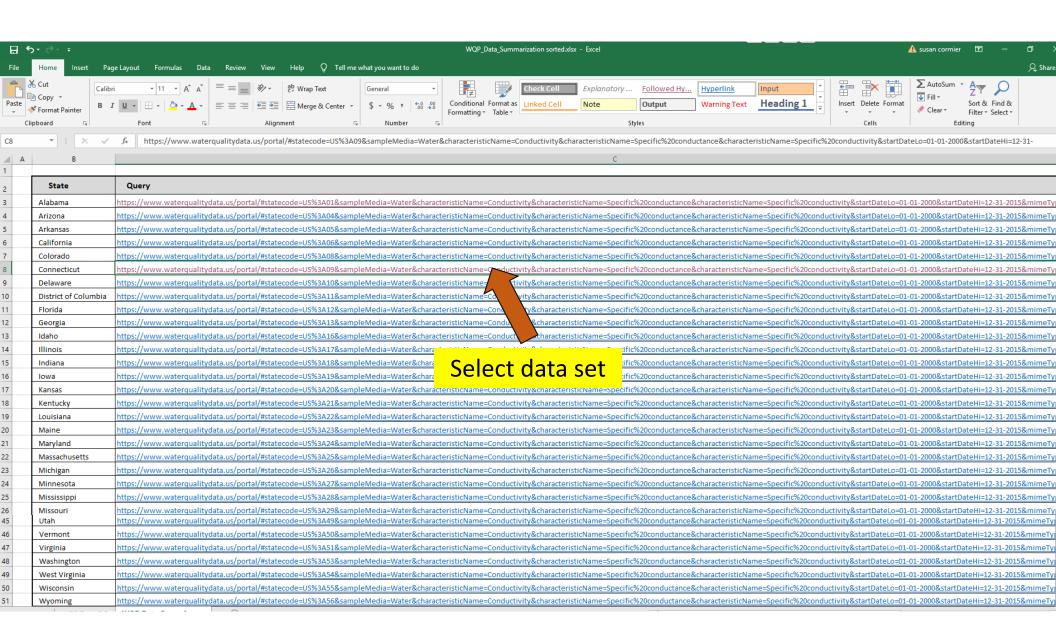
#### QUESTIONS ABOUT DATA ENTRY

	Organization Formal Name	Samples	Sta.	Min. Cond.	Max. Cond.	Mean Cond.	Cond. In Other Units	Cond. Samples < 10	Cond. Samples > 5000	Potentia Ily Exclude d for Units	Potentially Excluded for Value		
FL	Biological Research Associates (Florida)	6	1	0	0	0.00	0	6	0	0%	100%	No data or zero conductivity?	
FL	Broward Co Dept of Natural Resource Protection (Florida)	1848	49	271	58600	16481	0	0	858	0%	46%	Mix of fresh and estuarine?	
FL	Broward County Environmental Protection Department	1347	52	235	58800	16425	0	0	618	0%	46%	Duplicate entry?	
FL	Charlotte Harbor National Estuaries Program (Florida)	4068	1719	5	59590	31612	0	5	3475	0%	86%	Min of 5 entered as μS but is mS?	
FL	City of Cape Coral	18819	40	0	56	9.21	0	12439	0	0%	66%	Measured as mS recorded as μS?	
FL	City of Deltona	86	3	1	568	335	1	3	0	1%	3%	Incorrect units	
FL	City of Lakeland, Lakeland Florida	489	21	45	273	172	0	0	0	0%	0%	Fresh, looks correct	
FL	CITY OF MARCO ISLAND	44	6	48356	53220	51453	0	0	44	0%	100%	marine	



#### **WQP Data Query Access**

803	wv	USGS West Virginia Water Science Center	2838	684	22	5380	409.40	0	0	2	0%	0%
804	wv	West Virginia Department of Environmental Downson Watershed Impl	rovemen 1332	13	2	2630	339.80	0	3	0	0%	0%
805	wv	WV Div of Environmental Protection, Office ater Resource	4079	2171	2	9138	402.45	0	14	5	0%	0%
806	WY	Colorado Dept. of Public Health & E	21	2	27	330	85.29	0	0	0	0%	0%
4 →	WQP [	Data QC WQP Data Query Access (+)			-			: 1				

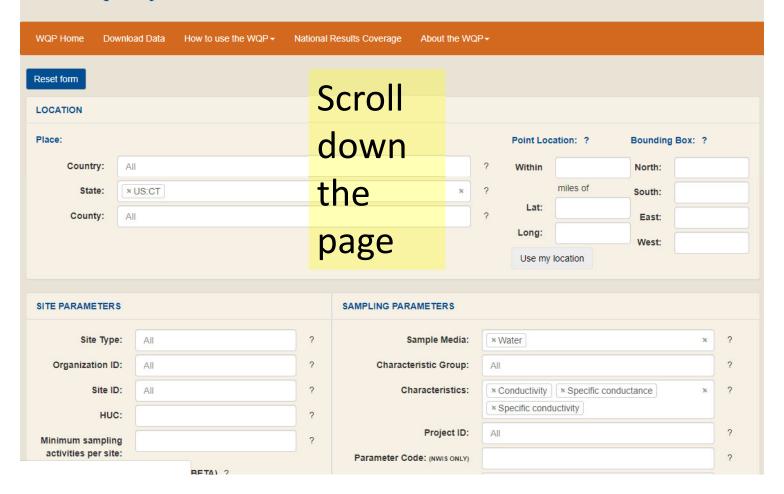


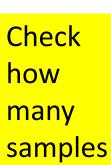


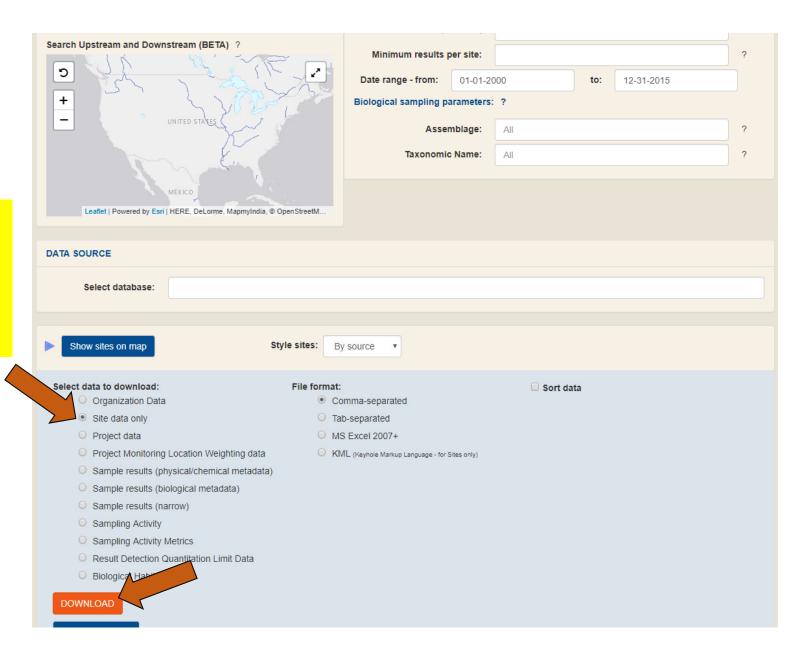
#### National Water Quality Monitoring Council

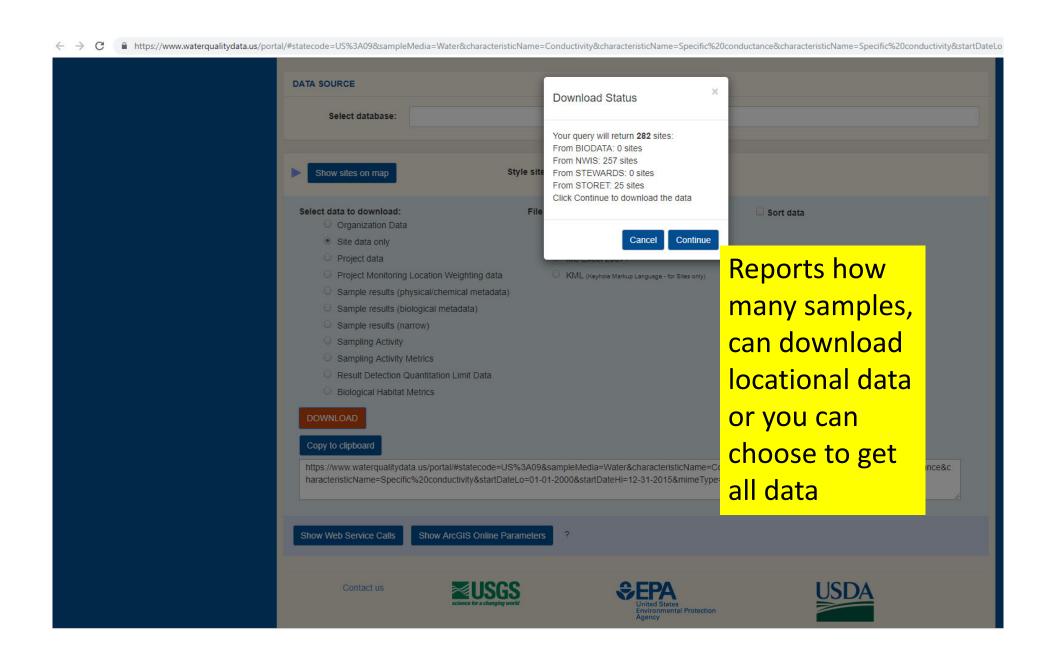
Working together for clean water

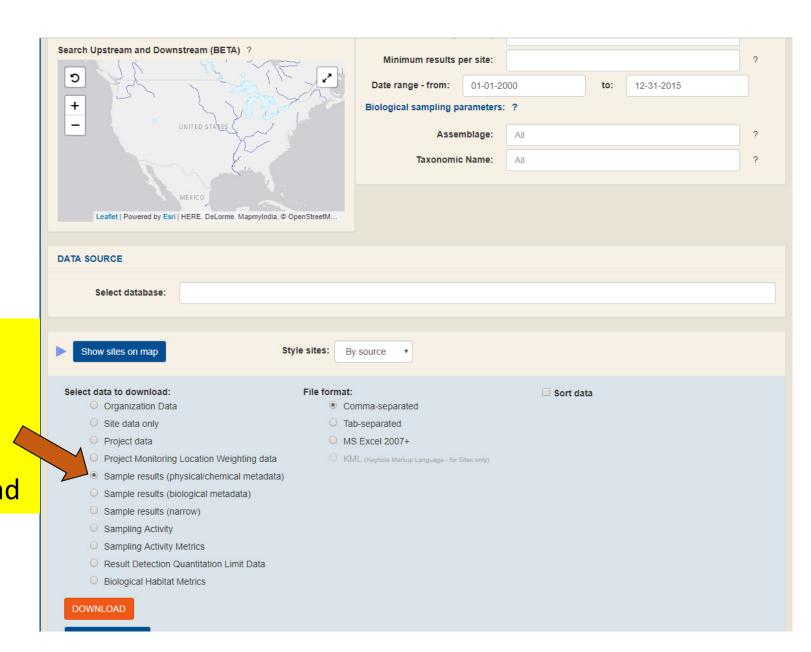
#### **Water Quality Data**



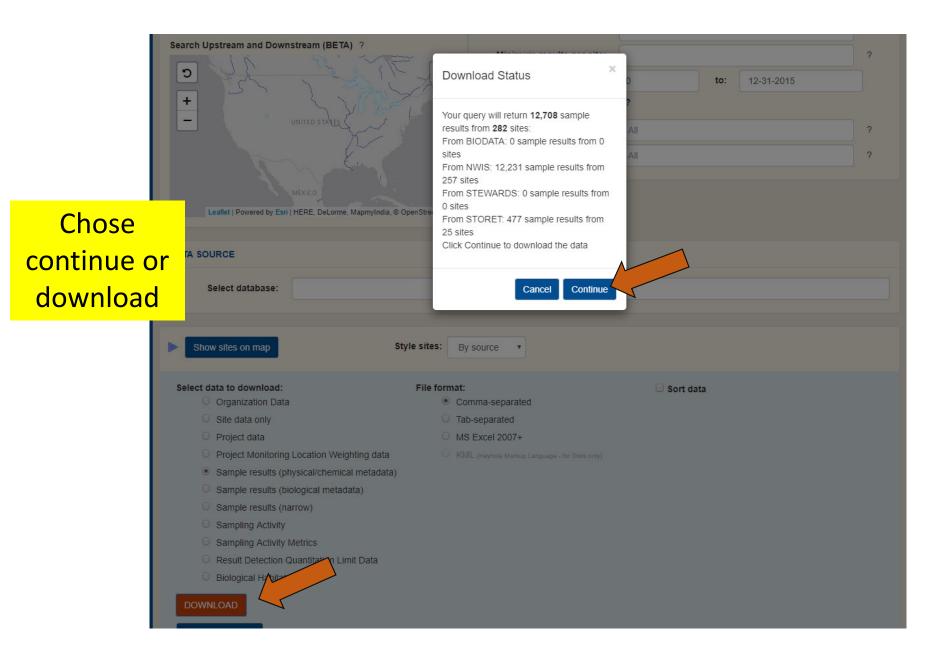




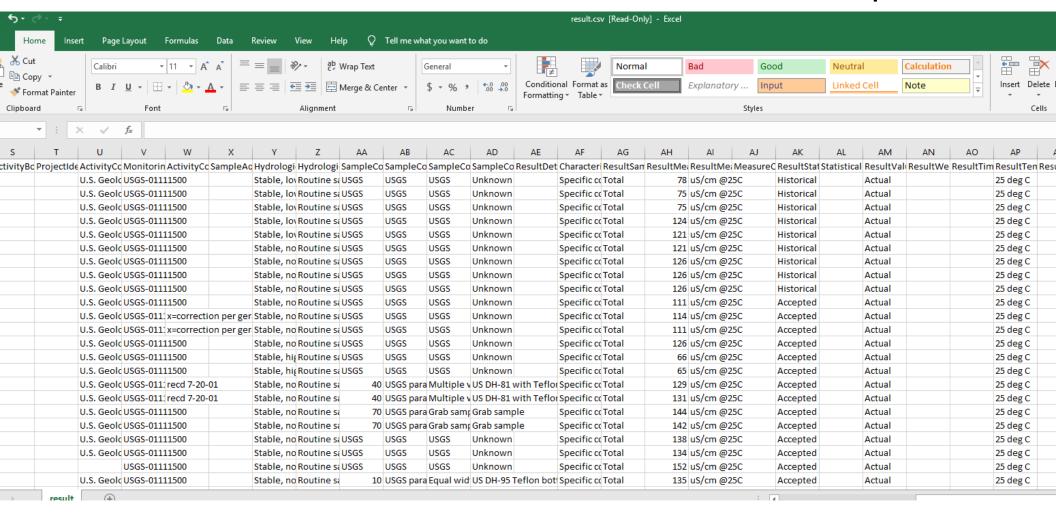




Choose sample results and download



# An Example Output: Geophysical data download which we then screened for use in Freshwater Explorer



## Comments or Questions?