

2008 - 2009 NRSA Mercury Fish Tissue Data Dictionary
March 2013

Field	Description
State	USPS 2-letter abbreviation for the state in which the sample was collected
Site ID	9-character ID assigned by EPA. The first two characters are “FW,” for “flowing waters”, the next two are the site selection year (08), followed by two characters for the state abbreviation, and a three-digit identifier for sites within the state.
River Name	The name of the river from which the sample was collected
Stream Order	A measure of stream position within a drainage network system. Streams that have no tributaries flowing into them are called first-order streams. Streams in this study range from fifth-order (5) to greater than eight-order (8+).
Lat	Latitude, in decimal format
Long	Longitude, in decimal format
Year	The year in which the sample was collected, in YYYY format
Sampling Date	Actual sampling date, in MM/DD/YYYY format
Site Type	Urban, Non-urban designation (based on Census Bureau GIS data)
Sample ID	Unique 6-digit number assigned by EPA
Sample Type	Only Primary samples are reported here.
Composite Classification	Routine vs. Non-routine composite, based on the sampling design document
Species Name	Latin name (Genus and species) based on Nelson <i>et al.</i> (2004) Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico, Sixth Edition
Common Name	Generally accepted common name based on Nelson <i>et al.</i> (2004)
Analyte	Mercury
CAS Number	Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number assigned by CAS to the analyte.
Amount	Concentration, if detected. If this field is blank, the analyte was not detected in the sample. For the purpose of this report, all amounts are reported to two decimal places. However, the results have at most three significant figures, regardless of the number of digits displayed (e.g., 353.53 vs. 354).
MDL	Method detection limit for the analyte, based on the procedure in 40 CFR part 136. The MDL was determined twice over the course of this study, so one of two values will appear in this column, depending on when the sample was analyzed.
Unit 1	The weight/weight units (e.g., ng/g) and the wet-weight designation
Unit 2	The “parts per billion” notation ppb, which is equivalent to ng/g
Lab Qualifiers	Qualifiers applied by the laboratory. The five individual qualifiers applied to the mercury results were: B5 = Mercury was detected in the method blank above the MDL, but below the reporting limit. M1 = Matrix spike recovery was high; the associated lab fortified blank spike recovery was acceptable M2 = Matrix spike recovery was low; the associated lab fortified blank spike recovery was acceptable M3 = Matrix spike recovery was high. M5 = The spike recovery is unusable since the analyte concentration in the sample is disproportionate to the spike level. The associated lab fortified blank was acceptable.
Validator Flags	Qualifiers applied by the Sample Control Center staff at CSC during data validation. The four individual qualifiers applied to the mercury results were: B, RNAF = Blank result above the MDL, but sample result not affected HMSR = High matrix spike recovery LMSR = Low matrix spike recovery INSL = Insufficient spike level
% Moisture	The percent moisture determined on a separate aliquot of each sample