

Description of the Datasets

The databases available on the H-GAC Clean Rivers Program website are Access 2007 databases compiled from data downloaded from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Surface Water Quality Monitoring Information System (SWQMIS) database. Only data that have met the quality assurance requirements of an applicable Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) are included.

Structure of the Databases

The data table in each database contains the following fields/variables:

1. Basin_ID : A number typically indicating the river basin. Data for the following basins are available on this site:
 - a. Basin 9 – Trinity-San Jacinto Coastal Basin
 - b. Basin 10 – San Jacinto River Basin
 - c. Basin 11 – San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal Basin
 - d. Basin 13 – Brazos–Colorado Coastal Basin
 - e. Basin 24 – Bays and Estuaries
 - f. Basin 25 – Gulf of Mexico
2. Segment_ID : a number indicating the specific waterbody (segment) within the basin. In most cases, a segment can be considered a distinct watershed.
3. Station_ID: a number indicating an established water quality monitoring station
4. Station_Description_Short_Description : a verbal description of the location of the monitoring station
5. End_Date: The date the sample was collected
6. End_Time: The time the sample was collected
7. End_Depth: The depth at which the sample was collected. In most cases this is approximately 0.3 meters (one foot).
8. Collecting_Entity: A code indicating the agency, organization, or other entity that collected the sample.

9. Monitoring Type: a code indicating whether the data was collected during routine monitoring (RT) or performed in response to unusual conditions, as part of a research project, or other reasons.
10. Parameter_code: A five digit code (formerly known as a STORET code) identifying the parameter and analytical method.
11. Parameter description : A brief description of the parameter
12. Greater_Than_Less_Than: A field used for entering the “<” or “>” signs where appropriate
13. Value: The numeric value of the parameter

The Access 2003 version of the “All H-GAC Region Data” includes several queries that allow the user to search the database on specific values of the variables, such as segment ID, station ID, parameter, and date range.