

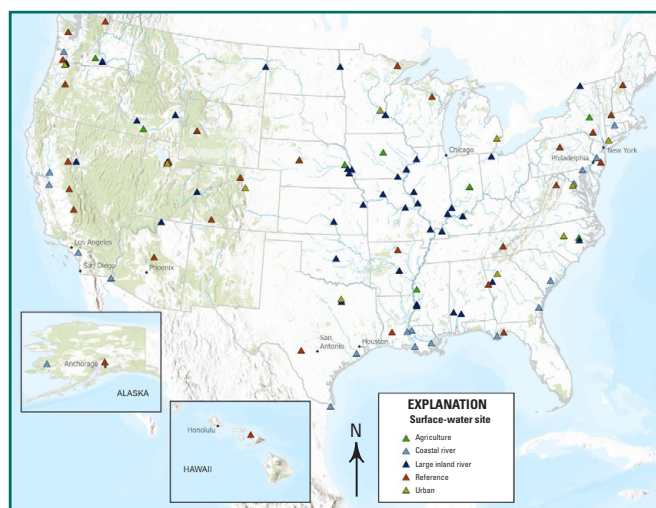
The U.S. Geological Survey National Water Quality Network—Surface Water, 2024

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Water Quality Network for surface water (NWQN-SW) was established in 2013 to develop long-term, comparable assessments of surface-water quality in support of national, regional, State, and local needs related to water-quality management and policy. Water-quality samples are collected at each site and measured for a variety of constituents. In 2024, the NWQN-SW consisted of 105 sites, each of them paired with a streamgage, operated by the USGS or other agencies that provide continuous information on streamflow conditions. The water-quality data and the streamflow information from the NWQN-SW are then used to assess the status and trends of water-quality conditions and potential impacts on human and aquatic health.



USGS field team sampling the Colorado River at Lees Ferry, AZ (USGS station 09380000). Photograph by Charles Mogan, USGS.

Surface water-quality sites within the NWQN-SW are sampled between 12 and 22 times per year, depending on site type. All the samples are analyzed for physical properties, major ions, and selected trace elements and nutrients. At selected sites, samples are also analyzed for suspended sediment, pesticides, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).



Maps showing surface-water sites belonging to the USGS NWQN-SW in 2024. Sampling-site types in the NWQN-SW represent the predominant land use in the watershed for agricultural, urban, and reference indicator sites and mixed land use in the watershed at coastal and large inland river sites. The diagram below lists the surface-water sites in descending order by the number of sites in each category.

39

Large inland river sites

29

Reference sites

19

Coastal river sites

10

Urban indicator sites

8

Agricultural indicator sites

For more information about the U.S. Geological Survey Water Monitoring Networks:

Visit <https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/national-water-monitoring-network>

Contact the National Water Quality Network Coordinator at waternetworks@usgs.gov

[This product updates data within the same text from General Information Product 245]