Quick WebRIT Tips for BEACHES Users

Why should I use WebRIT?

WebRIT can assist states in meeting their BEACH (Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health) Act requirement to collect locational data for beaches. WebRIT is designed to facilitate data entry and storage of spatial information for EPA. This interactive web application allows you to locate beach areas of interest and delineate them using the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), the national standard for storing surface water location information. Advantages of using WebRIT include:

- WebRIT contains all the data needed to locate your beach areas—you do not need to download NHD or any other data.

- WebRIT enables you to store precise delineations for your beaches by allowing you to identify portions of NHD reaches. The WebRIT provides a point and click interface to enter and edit beach extent information.

- Data created using the WebRIT is compatible with EPA's WATERS initiative, which brings together multiple surface water programs using NHD. Information stored in WATERS is available to water quality managers and the public through EPA's Enviromapper application. For more information on WATERS visit http://www.epa.gov/waters.

- When you use WebRIT and participate in EPA's WATERS initiative, the versions of NHD and the current reach codes are managed for you. When reach codes are stored in a standalone system, they may not provide accurate location information when referenced to the current version of NHD because EPA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are continually working to improve the NHD; as a result reach codes may be changed or removed from the system.

How do I access WebRIT?

You can access WebRIT at http://www.epa.gov/waters/webrit or, if you have a CDX user name and password, you can use the CDX portal to access WebRIT. To access the CDX portal, navigate on the internet to http://cdx.epa.gov and after reading the *Warning* and *Privacy Notice* statements, click the **Click here to continue** link. On the **CDX Home** page, click on the link for users who already have CDX user names and passwords, and enter that information on the **Login** screen that follows. Then, select the **Beaches: Locational** section of CDX. You also need a user name and password to log in to the WebRIT. If you do not know your username and password for CDX or WebRIT, e-mail Charles Kovatch at Kovatch.charles@epa.gov. Once logged in to WebRIT, you will automatically be zoomed in to your state.

How do I identify beaches using WebRIT?

When you enter spatial information into WebRIT, you will be prompted for an ID (Figure 1). The IDs are available in the **ID:** dropdown box. However, since you may not know which ID to pick, you can select the name of the beach from the **Name:** dropdown.

Figure 1. ID Information Box

A table will appear below the ID information box that lists the beach name as well as its ID, State, and County (Figure 2).

SELECT	BEACH_NAME	BEACH_ID	STATE	COUNTY
⊙	REHOBOTH BEACH - REHOBOTH AVE BEACH	DE133781	DE	SUSSEX

Figure 2. Entering the beach name in WebRIT

If the information in the table represents the beach you wish to enter, click **Accept**. Your beach will be entered into WebRIT.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if my beach name is not listed in WebRIT? You can e-mail Charles Kovatch (kovatch.charles@epa.gov) to add your beach name to the WebRIT. Once your beach name has been added, you can resume identifying the extents of your beaches.

How can I view Latitude/Longitude Coordinates? You can view latitude/longitude data using WebRIT two ways: (1) place your cursor over the map and the latitude/longitude values will be shown at the bottom of your browser window; or (2) use the **Identify Lat/Lon** tool (Figure 3) to get the coordinates for a specific point of interest. The latitude/longitude values are based on Geographic NAD83 data.


Identify Lat/Lon tool

Figure 3. Identify Lat/Lon tool.

What metadata values should I use? Metadata stores information about how you obtained your beach locational information. You need to enter this information only once per session. Some suggested values are shown below.

Note that you only need to enter one source. Two examples are given that can guide you when you are entering your source metadata.

General Information

Metadata Title: "Beaches Locational Data"

Originator: Enter the Agency collecting the data (e.g. the State or County)

Time Period: Year data was collected

Progress: "In Work"

Update Cycle: Choose the value that applies to your collection process.

Abstract: "Beach locational data for BEACH Act"

Locational Keywords: Keep the default, which is your state.

Keywords: Keep the default, which is BEACHES.

User Information

Some user information will be pre-populated based on your user ID. You can update this information if it is out of date by using the *User Management* feature of WebRIT. In addition to the pre-populated information, please enter any other user information about yourself that you wish to enter.

Source Information: **Example 1**

Citation: "GPS"

Originator: Enter the Agency collecting the data. For example, FL Department of Health.

Title/Description: 1-2 sentence description of your collection methods.

Currentness: Year of GPS data collected.

Scale: If you know your original scale, enter that. Otherwise, enter "1:100,000".

Media: "Digital"

Created: Date data collection began.

Finished: Date data collection completed.

% Contribution: "100"

Source Information: **Example 2**

Citation: "USGS Topo Map"

Originator: "USGS"

Title/Description: 1-2 sentence description of your collection methods.

Currentness: Year of topo map

Scale: Scale of the topo map

Media: Choose the appropriate value. ("Digital" or "Paper")

Created: Date the creation of the topo map began.

Finished: Date the topo map was finished.

% Contribution: "100"

How can I get support for WebRIT?

WebRIT has an extensive online help feature, which can be accessed by clicking on the **Help** button. You may also contact the EPA's Tech Support hotline at 1-800-844-0638 or owsupport@rti.org with any questions concerning the WebRIT application.