VARIABLE DESCRIPTIONS FOR DATABASE BY CATEGORY OF DATA	
	Notes: * definitions or information are not provided for all variables, as some are self-explanatory. * water quality and sediment grab data were taken at the same time as fish sampling for any particular lake visit. * some variables are repeated between categories to facilitate cross-referencing data
Lake Information Worksheet Variable Descriptions	
Variable Name	**Variable information**
Data_Source	
Lake_ID	This unique lake identification number is the PALIS ID# (Pond and Lake Identification System) assigned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to a lake or pond. The original listing of ID numbers and lake names was provided by Ackerman et al.1984. (Compilation of lakes, ponds, reservoirs and impoundments relative to the Massachusetts lake classification program. Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution Control #13786-216-30-8-84-CR, Westborough, MA., 204 pp.) Contact MassDEP's Watershed Management Division for a current listing of lake PALIS numbers.
Lake_Name	
Country	
State	
Latitude	
Longitude	
Town	Some lakes are bordered by more than one town. Each town has the lake listed.
County	
Watershed_Area	The area of land from which all water drains into a particular lake. Determined by topography, the boundaries can be drawn on a map by connecting the tops of the tallest hills surrounding a body of water.
Watershed_Units	
Lake_Area	The area covered by water, surrounded by shoreline.
Lake_Area_Units	
Max_Depth	Depth measured at the estimated deep hole of the lake.
Max_Depth_Units	
Lake_Elevation	The distance above sea level of the lake.
Elevation_Units	
Region	The subecoregion of the state that the lake is found in. Ecoregions were defined by Griffith et al.(1994. Massachusetts ecological regions project. EPA 600/A-94/111. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Corvallis, OR). There are 2 ecoregions and 13 ecological subregions in the state.

Lake Visit Information Worksheet Variables Descriptions	
Variable Name	**Variable Information**
Lake_ID	See "Lake Information" category.
Sampling_Year	
Season	Seasons are defined as "spring, summer, fall, winter".
Visit_Number	The sequential repeat visit to the lake, starting with the first visit.

Fish Tissue Hg Worksheet Variables Descriptions

Variable Name	Variable Information
Lake_id	See "Lake Information" category.
Lake_name	
Sampling_year	
Sample_number	The unique sample identification number assigned by the analytical laboratory.
Common_name	The common name of the fish.
Scientific_name	The Latin genus and species names of the fish.
Species_abbreviation	An abbreviation of the common name of the fish.
Analyte_code	The abbreviation or symbol of the chemical name of the analyte.
Analyte_name	The common name of the chemical analyzed.
Analyte_Conc_in_Tissue	The concentration of the chemical analyzed in the fish tissue reported on a wet weight basis.
Concentration_units	
Sample_Type	Organism name.
Tissue_type	Description of type of sample, e.g., "fillet with skin off", " "whole fish".
Length	Total length of fish from tip of snout to end of tail fin.
Length_units	
Age	Ages as determined from scale or otolith annuli. Ages have not been determined in all years.
Age_units	Years.
Weight	Total wet weight of intact fish.
Weight_units	
Gonad_Weight	The weight of the male or female gonads after resection from the fish.
Gonad_Weight_Units	
Sex	Sex as determined from gross appearance of gonads.
Condition	Visual characterization of state of development of gonads. Codes are: I - immature; D - developing; R - ripe; S - spent.
Season	Spring, summer, fall or winter.
Visit number	The sequential repeat visit to the lake, starting with the first visit.

Sediment Sampling Worksheet Variables Descriptions

Variable Name	Variable Information
Lake_id	See "Lake Information" category.
Lake_name	
Sampling_year	
Analyte_code	The abbreviation or symbol of the chemical name of the analyte.
Analyte_name	The common name of the chemical analyzed.
Analyte_conc.	The concentration of the chemical in the sediment.
Concentration_units	
Type_Sample	Descriptive information on type of sample, e.g., surficial grab, vertical core section.
Visit_number	The sequential repeat visit to the lake, starting with the first visit.

Water Quality Worksheet Variables Descriptors

Variable Name	Variable Information
Lake_id	See "Lake Information" category.
Lake_name	
Sampling_year	Exact sampling dates not stored in database. Contact MassDEP ORS if needed.
Water_measurement_name	Name of water quality parameter reported.
Water_measurement_value	
Water_measurement_units	Units appropriate to the measurement
Collection_property	Description of type of sample taken, e.g., composite of samples taken at several depths.
Method_used	Description of type of sampler used to obtain sample.
Measurement_Depth	Depth at which sample taken for single discrete depth samples.
Depth_Units	
Depth_type_code	Notation of whether sample represents a "depth composite sample" or a "discrete depth sample".
Visit_number	The sequential repeat visit to the lake, starting with the first visit.