



WATER RESOURCES OF THE BAHAMAS

GROUND WATER RESOURCES

FRESH WATER GENERALLY PLENTIFUL
Moderate to enormous quantities of fresh water from shallow, fresh water lenses within poorly-stratified Pleistocene limestone aquifers. The water table is within 0 to 6 m (0 to 20 ft) of the surface.

FRESH WATER LOCALLY PLENTIFUL
Unsuitable to large quantities of fresh water from shallow, fresh water lenses within poorly-stratified Pleistocene limestone aquifers. The water table is within 0 to 6 m (0 to 20 ft) of the surface.

FRESH WATER LOCALLY PLENTIFUL
Unsuitable to small quantities of fresh water from shallow, fine-grained, well-sorted Holocene sandy aquifers. The water table is within 0 to 6 m (0 to 20 ft) of the surface.

FRESH WATER SCARCE OR LACKING
Unsuitable quantities of fresh water from shallow, poorly-stratified Pleistocene limestone aquifers.

SURFACE WATER RESOURCES

5
Surface water features including ponds, lakes, creeks and blue holes. Unsuitable to meager quantities of brackish to hypersaline water available. Features on some islands, such as Andros, Eleuthera, and Grand Bahama may contain seasonally fresh water.

6
Areas dominated by wetlands. Unsuitable quantities of saline surface water available.

Map Unit

1
2
3
4
5
6

CONVERSION CHART

To Convert	Multiply By	To Obtain
meters	3.281	feet
liters per second	15.84	gallons per minute
liters per second	60	liters per minute
liters per second	950	gallons per hour
liters per minute	380	gallons per day
gallons per minute	0.063	liters per second
gallons per minute	3.78	liters per minute

HARDNESS TERMS

Soft	≥ 0 to 60 mg/L Calcium Carbonate
Moderately Hard	≥ 61 to 120 mg/L Calcium Carbonate
Hard	≥ 121 to 180 mg/L Calcium Carbonate
Very Hard	≥ 181 mg/L Calcium Carbonate

QUANTITATIVE TERMS

Enormous	≥ 6 liters per second (L/s) (100 gallons per minute (gal/min))
Very Large	3 to 6 L/s (50 to 100 gal/min)
Large	1.5 to 3 L/s (25 to 50 gal/min)
Moderate	0.6 to 1.5 L/s (10 to 25 gal/min)
Small	0.25 to 0.6 L/s (4 to 10 gal/min)
Very Small	0.06 to 0.25 L/s (1 to 4 gal/min)
Meager	0.015 to 0.06 L/s (0.25 to 1 gal/min)
Unsuitable	< 0.015 L/s (0.25 gal/min)

QUALITATIVE TERMS

Fresh water	= maximum Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) <1,000 milligrams per liter (mg/L); maximum chlorides ≤600 mg/L; maximum sulfates (SO ₄) ≤300 mg/L
Brackish water	= maximum TDS ≥1,000 mg/L, but ≤15,000 mg/L
Saline water	= TDS >15,000 mg/L

Legend:
 National Capital
 Largest City
 Populated Place

Note: Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative. Features are from various sources of differing scales. Alignment and locational accuracy are approximate.

Figure C-3. Water Resources
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