

determine if exposure to PFAS in drinking water needs to be addressed.

There is no legal requirement to conduct this drinking water testing. Sampling is a voluntary protective measure, as water quality for our off-base neighbors is a priority for the Navy. The Navy conducted this drinking water sampling in coordination with partners, including the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Region 1.

OFF-BASE DRINKING WATER RESULTS SUMMARY

As previously noted, Table 1 (found on Figure 2) summarizes the results of the sampling conducted near NSA Cutler Fire Station from September through October 2020. The residents of properties that had drinking water samples with PFOA and/or PFOS levels above the EPA health advisory were provided bottled water for drinking and cooking within 24 hours of notification of the result. The analytical results for all drinking water samples are presented in Table 2. The Navy will ensure individual property results are kept confidential to the extent permitted by law.

PATH FORWARD

The Navy will continue the on-base environmental investigation for PFAS. Throughout this process, the Navy will continue to communicate with local residents and partner with Federal, State, and local agencies. The Navy is in the process of evaluating remedial treatment options and working to expedite the remedy selection and implementation to provide a long-term solution for residents with wells identified with exceedances of the EPA's health advisory level.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND COVID-19 CONCERNS

Ordinarily, the Navy would host an Open House public meeting to present information on the initial results of this drinking water investigation and to interact with the community to address questions and concerns. Due to COVID-19, the Navy and our partnering agencies have conducted focused outreach to residents in the sampling area, and agree that the primary method for sharing this information with the broader community is through a virtual open house, which remains available at <https://go.usa.gov/xfGMx>.

Throughout this drinking water investigation and treatment study, COVID-19 safety protocols will be implemented to protect members of the community and our investigation team.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
<https://go.usa.gov/xwfdW>  
If you have specific questions, please contact the Navy Public Affairs office at:  
1-800-915-4705 or [NAVFAC\\_ML\\_PAO@navy.mil](mailto:NAVFAC_ML_PAO@navy.mil)

Table 2: Private Drinking Water Results near NSA Cutler Fire Station

Sample Count	PFOA ppt	PFOS ppt	PFOA + PFOS ppt
1	772.12	491.15	1263.27
2	59.19	544.83	604.02
3	476.06	112.16	588.22
4	26.90	438.35	465.25
5	45.60	382.96	428.56
6	19.77	188.57	208.34
7	21.15	186.85	208.00
8	18.32	174.89	193.21
9	11.46	150.83	162.29
10	14.66	142.37	157.03
11	13.53	80.93	94.46
12	11.40	64.90	76.30
13	25.71	49.33	75.04
14	12.93	60.38	73.31
15	6.22	48.61	54.83
16	12.14	37.86	50.00
17	8.81	40.96	49.77
18	23.11	25.01	48.12
19	9.63	38.34	47.97
20	11.24	33.98	45.22
21	9.60	34.13	43.73
22	8.43	32.98	41.41
23	32.75	7.92	40.67
24	4.77	30.48	35.25
25	7.06	24.54	31.60
26	6.83	20.18	27.01
27	10.53	15.61	26.14
28	9.57	14.33	23.90
29	14.37	7.51	21.88
30	8.82	11.48	20.30
31	7.04	12.56	19.60
32	4.88	13.94	18.82
33	4.88	4.16	9.04
34	2.12	4.53	6.65
35	1.51	1.04	2.55
36	1.06	0.99	2.05
37	1.52	0.35	1.87
38	0.62	0.65	1.27
39	0.65	0.23	0.88
40	0.67	0.2	0.87
41	0.24	0.24	0.48
42	ND	ND	ND
43	ND	ND	ND
44	ND	ND	ND
45	ND	ND	ND
46	ND	ND	ND
47	ND	ND	ND
48	ND	ND	ND
49	ND	ND	ND
50	ND	ND	ND
51	ND	ND	ND
52	ND	ND	ND
53	ND	ND	ND
54	ND	ND	ND

Note: Results in parts per trillion (ppt).  
J = Laboratory identified the compound; concentration is estimated.  
ND = not detected

From September through October 2020, the Navy conducted sampling of drinking water from private wells near the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Cutler Fire Station for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The Navy is still requesting permission to sample drinking water from wells within designated areas near the NSA Cutler Fire Station. This private drinking water sampling is being conducted because of the Navy's protective policy to address past releases of PFAS at installations nationwide, as several PFAS are now of emerging public health concern. These substances may be present in the soil and/or groundwater at Navy sites as a result of historical activities using firefighting foam (specifically certain types of aqueous film forming foam, or AFFF) for testing, training, firefighting, and other life-saving emergency responses.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a drinking water lifetime health advisory for two commonly used and studied PFAS, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). In July 2020, PFAS was detected at concentrations above the EPA's drinking water health advisory in the drinking water at the NSA Cutler Fire Station, which is approximately 3.5 miles north of the main installation (Figure 1). This result, and recent detections near the fire station in the shallow groundwater, warranted the off-base private drinking water well investigation. Initial results from the off-base sampling indicate that PFAS likely migrated from the fire station to off-base areas. The majority of the wells sampled (40 of 54) did not contain PFOA and PFOS above the EPA health advisory. However, 14 wells were identified with exceedances of the EPA's health advisory, and this resulted in the Navy providing bottled water for drinking and cooking to those residents. Figure 2 shows the designated sampling area and contains Table 1, which is a summary of the off-base drinking water results available to date.

BACKGROUND

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used since the 1950s in many household and industrial products because of their stain- and water-repellent properties. The term PFAS refers to a large group of thousands of chemicals. PFAS are now present virtually everywhere in the world because of the large amounts that have been manufactured and used. PFAS have been found in non-stick cookware, food wrappers, and stain resistant fabrics. Once these compounds are released to the environment, they break down very slowly.

PFAS are chemicals of emerging concern, which have no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements. The EPA is currently studying certain PFAS to determine if regulation is needed. In May 2016,

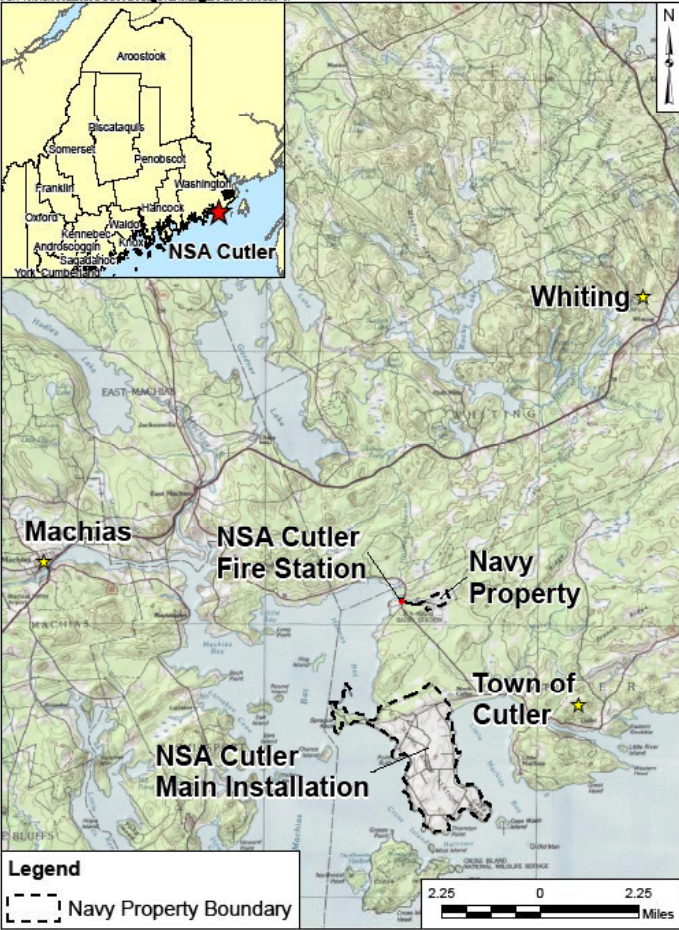


Figure 1- NSA Cutler

the EPA released lifetime health advisory levels for two PFAS, specifically PFOA and PFOS. Health advisory levels are not regulatory standards. They are health-based concentrations that, EPA states, offer a margin of protection for all Americans including the most sensitive populations from a lifetime exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.

The EPA health advisory level for lifetime exposure is 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 70 ppt for PFOS. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the combined concentrations should not exceed 70 ppt. The Navy uses the EPA lifetime advisories to evaluate the drinking water results to

The Navy will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking to any residents of properties in the sampling area whose private drinking water well contains PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA drinking water health advisory levels. The Navy will provide bottled water until a long-term solution is implemented.

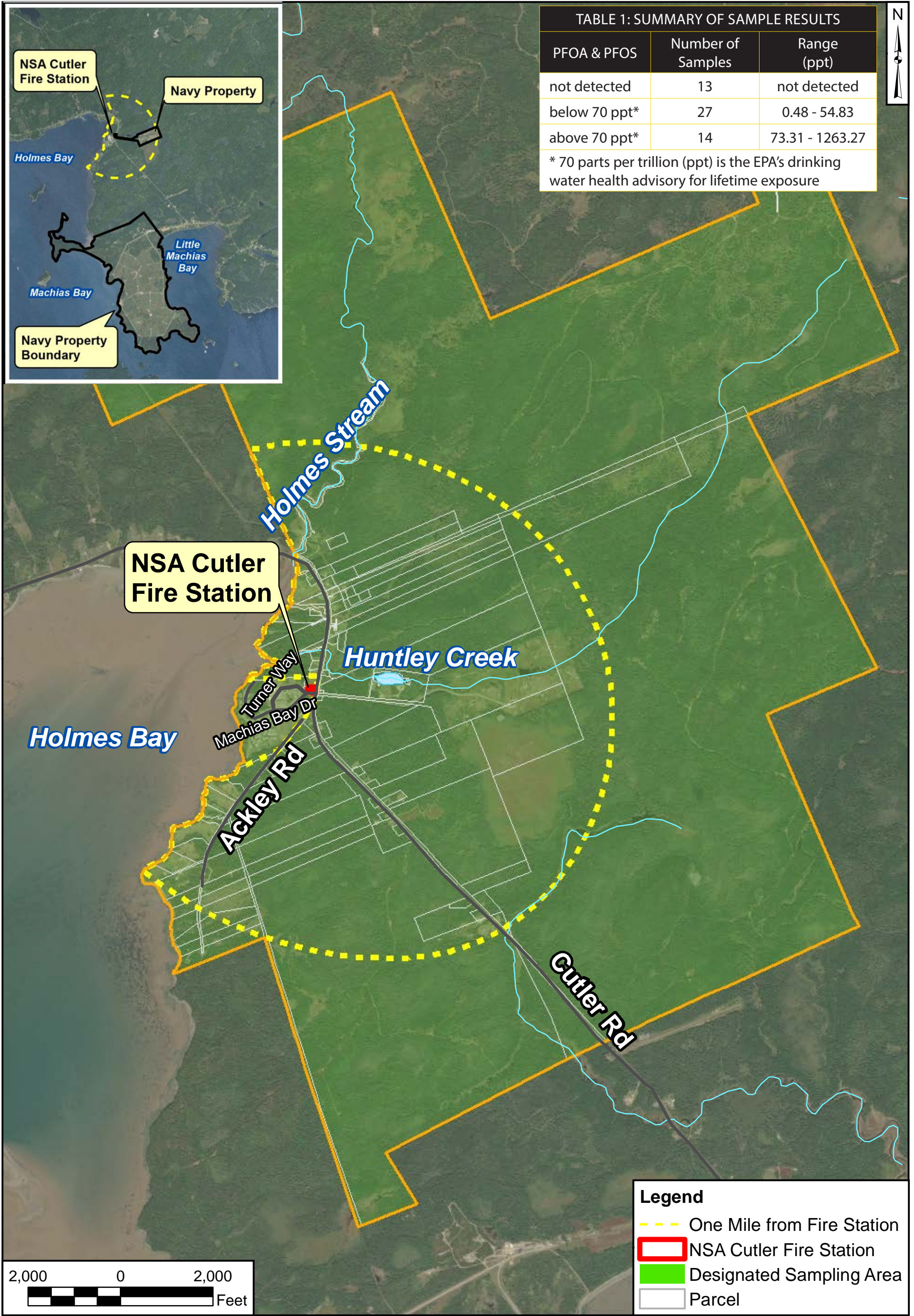


Figure 2- Designated Sampling Area