

CANADA-NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR WATER QUALITY MONITORING AGREEMENT

Progress Report 2024-2025



Water Resources Management Division
Department of Environment and Climate Change
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Atlantic Water Quality Monitoring - Surveillance de
la qualité de l'eau de l'Atlantique
Environment and Climate Change Canada -
Environnement et Changement climatique Canada
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Introduction

The following progress report was prepared by NL ECC staff to document progress made on all activities under the *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Water Quality Monitoring Agreement* during 2024-2025. This document is formatted to reflect the same layout as the 2024-2025 Annual Work Schedule. Additionally, a table has been added to include activities completed solely by WRMD staff.

Work Shared Activities for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Activity	Responsible Agency	Remarks
Cost Shared and Work-Shared Ambient Water Quality Monitoring and Data Management Activities	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change <u>and</u> Environment and Climate Change Canada	Refer to Table 1 for sampling details in Newfoundland Refer to Table 2 for sampling details in Labrador Refer to Table 3 for laboratory analysis details Refer to Table 4 for Shared Activities
Additional Cost-Shared Core Activities	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change <u>and</u> Environment and Climate Change Canada	Refer to Table 5 for additional shared activities
Work-Shared Special Projects	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change <u>and</u> Environment and Climate Change Canada	Refer to Table 4 for shared activities related to ambient water quality monitoring and data management Special projects Refer to Table 5 for cost shared core activities Refer to Table 6 for work-shared special projects
WRMD Activities	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change	Refer to Appendix A for WRMD tasks/projects

Ambient Water Quality Sampling

During 2024-2025, the ambient water quality grab sampling proceeded as outlined in the corresponding Annual Work Schedule. A comparison of the number of samples scheduled vs. the number of samples collected can be seen in **Table 1** and **Table 2**. In the majority of cases, the number of samples actually collected reflected the number of samples scheduled. In some instances, helicopter issues and adverse weather or ice conditions some samples were missed. Helicopter access due to wildfires in Labrador was limited throughout the summer months.

Table 1: Provincial Samples Collected in 2024-2025 Fiscal Year in Newfoundland (Island Portion of the Province)

Station #	Description	Number of Samples Scheduled in 24-25	Number of Samples Collected in 24-25
EASTERN REGION			
NF02ZK0005	Northeast River near Placentia	5	5
NF02ZL0029	Goulds Brook near Makinsons	5	5
NF02ZM0004	Waterford River at Commonwealth Avenue	4	4
NF02ZM0009	Waterford River at Kilbride	4	4
NF02ZM0014	Virginia River at the Boulevard	4	4
NF02ZM0015	Quidi Vidi Lake at Outlet	4	4
NF02ZM0016	Rennie's River at Carnell Drive	4	4
NF02ZM0020	Broad Cove Brook near St. Phillips	4	4
NF02ZM0098	Virginia River at Headwaters	4	4
NF02ZM0109	Mundy Pond at Outlet	4	4
NF02ZM0175	Waterford River at Brookfield Road	4	4
NF02ZM0176	South Brook at Mouth	4	4
NF02ZM0177	Rennie's River at Portugal Cove Road	4	4
NF02ZM0178	Learys Brook at Prince Phillip Drive	5	5
NF02ZM0179	Tributary to Virginia River at Guzzwell Drive	4	4
NF02ZM0180	Virginia River at Newfoundland Drive	4	4
NF02ZM0181	Waterford River at Blackhead Road	5	5

Station #	Description	Number of Samples Scheduled in 24-25	Number of Samples Collected in 24-25
NF02ZM0182	Waterford River at Bremigans Pond Dam	4	4
NF02ZM0183	Kelligrews River at Kelliview Crescent	4	4
NF02ZM0185	South Brook at Headwaters	4	4
NF02ZM0294	Manuals River above Manuels Access Road	4	4
NF02ZM0359	Paddy's Pond at Outlet	4	4
NF02ZN0004	Salmonier River at St. Catherines	4	4
<u>CENTRAL REGION</u>			
NF02YO0001	Exploits River at Grand Falls	4	4
NF02YO0020	Exploits River at Aspen Brook	4	3
NF02YO0107	Exploits River near Millertown	4	4
NF02YO0128	Exploits River below Grand Falls	4	4
NF02YO0142	Corduroy Brook near Centennial Park	4	4
NF02YO0143	Exploits River at Bond Bridge	4	4
NF02YQ0030	Gander River at Appleton	4	4
NF02YQ0072	Careless Brook at Resource Road Steel Bridge	4	4
NF02YS0001	Terra Nova River at Terra Nova	4	4
NF02YS0011	Terra Nova River at Spencer Bridge	4	4
NF02YS0083	Northwest River at Terra Nova National Park	4	4
<u>WESTERN REGION</u>			
NF02YE0004	Portland Creek at Route 430	4	4
NF02YE0005	Western Brook at Route 430	5	5
NF02YG0001	Main River at Route 420	5	4
NF02YL0106	South Brook below TCH	4	4
NF02YG0020	Eagle Mountain Brook below Eagle Mountain Pond	4	3

Station #	Description	Number of Samples Scheduled in 24-25	Number of Samples Collected in 24-25
NF02YH0018	Lomond River at Route 431	4	4
NF02YJ0004	Pinchgut Brook at TCH	5	5
NF02YK0022	Humber Canal at Main Dam Road	4	4
NF02YL0011	Humber River at Little Falls Bridge	4	4
NF02YL0012	Humber River at Humber Village Bridge	5	5
NF02YL0013	Corner Brook at Margaret Bowater Park	4	4
NF02YL0029	Wild Cove Brook at Route 440	4	4
NF02YN0001	Lloyds River at Route 480	5	5
NF02YN0043	Peter Stride's Lake at Route 780	4	3
NF02ZA0006	Grand Codroy River below Overfall Brook	4	4
NF02ZC0020	Buck Lake on Route 480	4	4

Notes:

1. Total number of samples collected in 2024-25 does include duplicate samples. The total does not include bottle blanks.
2. Total number of samples planned for 2024-25 for Eastern region was 96; 96 were sampled, plus 10 duplicates and 4 trip blanks.
3. Total number of samples planned for 2024-25 for Central region was 44; 43 were sampled, plus 4 duplicates and 3 trip blanks.
4. Total number of samples planned for 2024-25 for Western region was 69; 67 were sampled, plus 8 duplicates and 4 trip blanks.

Table 2: Northern Samples Collected in 2024-2025 Fiscal Year in Labrador

Station #	Description	Number of Samples Scheduled in 24-25	Number of Samples Collected in 24-25
NF02XA0001	Little Mecatina River above Lac Fourmont	4	4
NF03NF0013	Ugioktok River below Harp Lake	4	3
NF03OA0020	Ashuanipi River at Ferguson Bay	4	4
NF03OC0012	Atikonak River above Panchia Lake	4	4
NF03OD0011	East Metchin River at TLH	4	4
NF03OD0012	Wilson River East Branch	4	4
NF03OE0050	Churchill River 6.15kms below Lower Muskrat Falls	4	4
NF03OE0057	Muskrat Falls Reservoir at Lower Brook	4	4
NF03OE0029	Churchill River above Grizzle Rapids	4	4
NF03OE0030	Minipi River below Minipi Lake	4	3
NF03OE0032	Pinus River above TLH	4	3
NF03OE0033	Big Pond Brook below Big Pond	4	0
NF03OE0035	Dominion Lake Outflow	4	3
NF03OE0037	Cache River at TLH	4	4
NF03PB0025	Naskaupi River below Naskaupi Lake	4	3
NF03PB0028	Cape Caribou River at Grand Lake	4	3
NF03PB0029	Grand Lake Outflow at North West River	4	4
NF03PB0030	Seal Lake at Narrows	4	3
NF03PB0032	Susan River North of Beaver River	4	3
NF03PB0037	Wuchusk Lake at Naskaupi River Inflow	4	3
NF03QA0044	Carter Basin Outflow	4	4
NF03QA0045	Kenamu River near Mouth	4	4
NF03QC0001	Eagle River above Falls	4	3
NF03QC0002	Alexis River near Port Hope Simpson	4	2
NF03XB0018	Tributary to St. Augustin River	4	3

Notes:

1. Total number of samples collected in 2024-25 does include duplicate samples. The total does not include bottle blanks.
2. Total number of samples planned for 2024-25 for Labrador region was 100; 83 were sampled, plus 6 duplicates and 3 trip blanks.

Ambient Water Quality Analysis

During 2024-2025 analytical service for major ions, physico-chemical, and major ions analyses were conducted at ALET and metals analyses at NLET. All shipping/analysis were carried out as agreed upon in the Annual Work Schedule 2024-2025 as seen in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Analytical Parameters, Holding Times and Schemas for 2024-2025

Schema Name	Parameter	Holding Times (recommended by private laboratory)
MAJOR IONS		
M_Alkalinity	Alkalinity	14 days
M_Anions	Chloride	28 days
	Sulphate	28 days
	Bromide	28 days
	Fluoride	28 days
M_Cations	Calcium	180 days
	Magnesium	180 days
	Sodium	180 days
	Potassium	180 days
PHYSICAL		
M_pH auto	pH	48 hours
M_Conductivity	Conductivity	28 days
M_Colour	Colour - apparent	2 days
M_Turbidity	Turbidity	2 days
NUTRIENTS		
M-Anions	Nitrate & Nitrite	48 hours
M_TN	Total Nitrogen	28 days
M_TP	Total Phosphorus	28 days
M_TOC	TOC	28 days
METALS		
B_Metals_TR_ICP-MS	Total Metals-28 elements*	6 months (analyzed at NLET)

*28 Metals include:

aluminum	bismuth	iron	nickel	uranium
antimony	cadmium	lanthanum	rubidium	vanadium
arsenic	cobalt	lead	selenium	zinc
barium	copper	lithium	silver	zirconium
beryllium	chromium	manganese	strontium	
boron	gallium	molybdenum	thallium	

Ambient Water Quality Monitoring and Data Management/Reporting

During 2024-2025, significant effort from both ECCC and NL ECC was put into ensuring the Agreement data was accessible in a timely manner to any potential end-users of this water quality information. Numerous products were developed to help make the water quality information more user-friendly. Status of each task can be seen in **Table 4 & 5**.

Table 4: Ambient Water Quality Monitoring and Data Management Activities (Cost-Shared and Work-Shared)

	Management Activities	Lead Agency	Progress Evaluation
Water Quality Sampling and Analysis	Collection of water samples under WQMA program	NL ECC	See Table 1 and 2 for list of samples scheduled and collected.
	Entering field data onto field sheets and subsequent submission to laboratory	NL ECC	This has been completed and up to date for 2024-2025.
	Laboratory Analysis and Quality Control Processes	ECCC	All procedures remained the same in 2024-2025.
Data Management	Processing and Loading of WQ analytical data	ECCC	This has been completed and up to date for 2024-2025.
	Accessibility/Availability of NL WQMA Dataset	ECCC	ECCC provided complete data to NL ECC as required (fall and spring)
Data Management Special Projects	Data Verification and Validation of Sample/Measurement Data	ECCC NL ECC	Data validation completed in 2024-2025. Automated data verification protocols worked on by WRMD in 2024-2025.
	Data extraction tools development and updates	ECCC NL ECC	No advances or updates made due to upcoming new Data Management Solution.

Table 5: Additional Core Activities 2024-2025 (Cost-Shared)

Project	Activity	Responsible Agency	Progress Evaluation
Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN)	Monitoring of benthic invertebrates at selected water bodies (reference sites, core CESI sites and annual sites) for maintenance of the long-term reference network in support of the Atlantic Reference Approach Model	NL ECC	Three annual Newfoundland CABIN sites were sampled in 2024. One annual Labrador CABIN site was sampled in 2024. Two additional Newfoundland CABIN sites were sampled to cover the Avalon Forest, a deficient area identified in the baseline study.
	Share spatial data with ECCC, for use in the reference model	NL ECC	This task is ongoing as new data becomes available each year.
	Field certification and training (as needed)	ECCC	No training delivered by NL ECC or ECCC in 2024-2025.
		NL ECC	
Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators (CESI)	Develop CABIN reference model and associated tools	ECCC	ECCC's Watershed Hydrology and Ecology Research Division – Updated Atlantic Reference Model and DNA model being reviewed. Will be available in 2025-2026. ECCC working on the publication of the Atlantic Benthic Metrics Normal Ranges on the CABIN website.
	Compile, analyse and interpret water quality data at core CESI stations according to CESI protocols	NL ECC	This has been completed and up to date for 2024-2025.
	Update CANAL metadata website for current year's CESI data	NL ECC	Drivers of WQI scores and rankings updated every year to CANAL WQI Comments section.
	Final report validating/contributing to CESI core stations review for	NL ECC	This was completed for 2024-2025.

	longer term WQI national reporting		
	QA/QC of submitted data/results and report to the public on the web page	ECCC	This has been completed and up to date for 2024-2025.
Modifications/ Improvements to CESI WQI Calculator	Troubleshooting support and corresponding update in CESI Calculator coding.	NL ECC	Updates to CESI WQI calculator were documented in the ongoing Excel spreadsheet maintained and updated by WRMD.
	Investigate how Trends Analysis can be incorporated into the CESI calculator.	ECCC	This activity is suspended for ECCC but will be incorporated in the future.
	Inclusion of French version of CESI Help Manual.	ECCC	This activity will be completed in 2025-2026.
Chemical Management Plan	Special water sampling at a select station on the Waterford River	NL ECC	CMP water samples were collected four times for PFAS, cyanides, PAHs, Aryl organophosphates and Triclosan from Waterford River from Oct 1, 2024 to Jan 14, 2025.
PMRA Monitoring	Water sampling for pesticides at two select station	NL ECC	Pesticide water samples were collected throughout the year, 32 times from Cochrane Pond Brook and 20 times from Rocky Brook East Branch. from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.
Labrador Remote Station Sampling	Labrador water samples are collected by both federal and provincial staff in support of CESI reporting (for more remote core sites).	ECCC NL ECC	Northern sampling and analysis proceeded as outlined in the Annual Work Schedule 2024-2025. Helicopter access was limited June – July 2024 due to wildfire in Labrador West. See Table 2.

Table 6: Special Projects (Work Shared)

Project	Activity	Responsible Agency	Progress Evaluation
Monitoring Network Evaluation and Optimization	This on-going project focuses on evaluating the network on a regular basis to ensure that the partner's monitoring objectives are being met and that the network will be sustainable in the long-term.	ECCC NL ECC	<u>Environment and Climate Change Canada</u> - ECCC continued to provide guidance and advice as required and work with NL ECC to optimize approach for NL waters. - Sampling frequencies were evaluated on an on-going basis. <u>NL Department of Environment and Climate Change</u> - Initial programming work of the Phase 3 of the trend report for WQMA stations with 2006-2020 data was conducted in 2024-2025.
Real-time instrumentation special projects	In-situ water quality/quantity/climate monitoring using a mobile environmental monitoring platform (MEMP) on a need-basis across the province.	ECCC NL ECC	The MEMP was deployed in Kelligrews River in the Town of Conception Bay South, July 27 – November 21, 2024. Report completed and available on the Department's webpage.
Extrapolation of non-measured data at select real-time stations	Development of regression models to extrapolate water quality parameters from real-time measurements of related parameters	ECCC NL ECC	<u>NL Department of Environment and Climate Change</u> - On hold until final data is processed for 2025-2026 for validation of the model. <u>Environment and Climate Change Canada</u> - ECCC will continue to provide technical advice and review on the approach considering its national applicability.

In fiscal year 2024-2025, select WRMD staff attended training initiatives and presented at conferences. They are as follow:

- CABIN Refresher – April 2024
- Fall Protection – June 2024
- Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) Data Products for Water Resources Research and Management – June 2024
- Swiftwater Rescue – September/October 2024
- EXO Storing for Season Webinar – October 2024
- FTS Datalogger Training – November 2024
- Working Mind Course – November 2024
- Track, Predict and Identify Cyanobacteria – February 2025
- CSHS Workshop: Simulating Streamflow Using Deep Learning Models: Introduction to Local and Regional Models – February 2025
- Basic Ice Rescue Training – March 2025
- SP100 & Trimble Access Training – March 2025
- Standard First Aid CPR C/AED

Table 7: Industry Deployment and Annual Real-Time Water Quality Reports Completed for 2024-2025

Partners	Monthly Deployment Reports	Annual Deployment Reports
Canada Fluorspar Inc	May 2024 – Jul 2024 Jul 2024 – Aug 2024 Aug 2024 Aug 2024 – Oct 2024 Oct 2024 – Dec 2024 *Removed Winter Months	May 2024 – Dec 2024
Duck Pond Operations (TECK)	Oct 2023 - May 2024 May 2024 – Jul 2024 Jul 2024 – Sep 2024 Sep 2024 – Oct 2024 Oct 2024 – Nov 2024 *Removed Winter Months	Apr 2024 – Dec 2024
Nalcor	May 2024 – Jul 2024 Jul 2024 – Aug 2024 Aug 2024 – Sep 2024 Sep 2024 – Oct 2024 *Removed Winter Months	May 2024 – Oct 2024
Northern Harvest Smolt Ltd	Mar 2024 – Jul 2024 Jul 2024 – Dec 2024 Dec 2024 – Apr 2025	Jan 2024 – Dec 2024
Grieg NL Nurseries	Apr 2024 – Jul 2024 Jul 2024 – Aug 2024 Aug 2024 – Dec 2024 Dec 2024 – Mar 2025	Jan 2024 – Dec 2024
IOC	Jun 2024 – Jul 2024 Jul 2024 – Sep 2024 Sep 2024 – Oct 2024 *Removed Winter Months	Jun 2024 – October 2024
Rambler Metals and Mining Inc	Aug 2024 – Nov 2024 *Removed Winter Months	Aug 2024 – Nov 2024
Tacora Resources (formally Wabush Mines)	Jul 2024 – Sept 2024 Sep 2024 – Oct 2024 *Removed Winter Months	Jul 2024 – Oct 2024
Tata Steel Minerals Canada Limited (TSMC)	Jun 2024 – Aug 2024 *Two stations removed Aug due to lack of water	Jun 2024 – Oct 2024
Vale (Long Harbour)	Apr 2024 – May 2024 May 2024 – Jul 2024 Jul 2024 Jul 2024 – Sep 2024 Sep 2024 – Oct 2024 Oct 2024 – Nov 2024 Nov 2024 – Dec 2024 Dec 2024 – Jan 2025 Jan 2025 – Mar 2025	Jan 2024 – Dec 2024

Vale (Voisey's Bay)	Jul 2024 – Aug 2024 Aug 2024 – Oct 2024 *Removed Winter Months	Jul 2024 – Oct 2024
Marathon Gold Corp.	Jun 2024 – Jul 2024 Jul 2024 – Sep 2024 Sep 2024 – Oct 2024 Oct 2024 – Nov 2024 *Removed Winter Months	Jun 2024 – Nov 2024

Table 8: WRMD Real-Time Water Quality Reports Completed for 2024-2025

WRMD Network	Monthly Deployment Reports
Leary's Brook at Prince Philip Drive	Feb 2024 – Apr 2024 May 2024 – Jul 2024 Jul 2024 – Aug 2024 Aug 2024 – Oct 2024 Oct 2024 – Dec 2024 Dec 2024 – Jan 2025 Jan 2025 – Feb 2025 Feb 2025 – Apr 2025
Humber River at Humber Village Bridge	Mar 2024 – May 2024 May 2024 – Aug 2024 Aug 2024 – Oct 2024 Oct 2024 – Mar 2025
Paddys Pond	Apr 2024 – Jun 2024 Jun 2024 – Jul 2024 Aug 2024 – Nov 2024 Nov 2024 – Jan 2025
Waterford River at Kilbride	Apr 2024 – May 2024 May 2024 – Jul 2024 Jul 2024 – Aug 2024 Aug 2024 – Oct 2024 Nov 2024 – Jan 2024 Jan 2025 – Mar 2025

Conclusion

A significant amount of work took place under the *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Water Quality Monitoring Agreement* for fiscal year 2024-2025. The number of available products from this program continues to grow annually.

NL ECC would like to take this opportunity to thank our federal counterparts (ECCC Atlantic Region) for their on-going support and commitment in ensuring the delivery of the outcomes/products under the *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Water Quality Monitoring Agreement*.



Appendix A
Additional WRMD Activities 2024-2025

Project	Activity	Responsible Agency	Progress Evaluation
CANAL/Site Documentation Database	Updating of the Site Documentation Database	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change	Updates to the Site Documentation Database are completed as needed.
Ambient Monitoring Activities	Blue-Green Algae Monitoring	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change	Data is collected each summer on a “needs basis”, in response to public requests. Ten BGA samples were collected from four sites, two in Newfoundland and two in Labrador from April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025. Additionally, 6 toxins samples were collected. A BGA report was prepared for 2024. The report is on the NL ECC webpage.
	Pesticide Monitoring with PMRA	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change with Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA)	Pesticide water samples were collected throughout the year and sent to PMRA for analysis, 32 times from Cochrane Pond Brook and 20 times from Rocky Brook East Branch from April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025.
Technical Documents (WQMA)	Updating of Water Quality Monitoring Sampling Manual	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change	Updated as required.
	Water Index (Quality/Quantity) Calculator	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change	Confidence Interval have been completed and preliminary internal demonstration of the calculator provided. Inclusion of Water

			Quantity measure in progress.
Real-Time Related Projects	Buoy System Deployment	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change	A data collection buoy with cyanobacteria sensors was deployed from May until December 2024 in Forest Pond, Victoria.
	Real-time Instrumentation in-house Testing and Servicing	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change	This is an on-going task. Testing and evaluation takes place from Jan to April/May. This involves a complete review of water quality instruments and the component of the instruments. For the 2024-2025 repair season approximately 60 instruments completed the repair and evaluation process.
	Data Grooming Tool	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change	Tool was completed in 2024-2025. Performed regular updates on the tool based on user feedback where changes in the R script was made.
	Programming Applications	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change	Compiled the WQMA data in spreadsheet and run the R script to obtain the flagged results (WITHIN RANGE and OUTOFRANGE). Continue to update the ECCC hourly, daily and monthly data into provincial databases using R script.
Education/Outreach	Outreach	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Environment and Climate Change	One educational presentation for Marine Institute in 2024-2025.