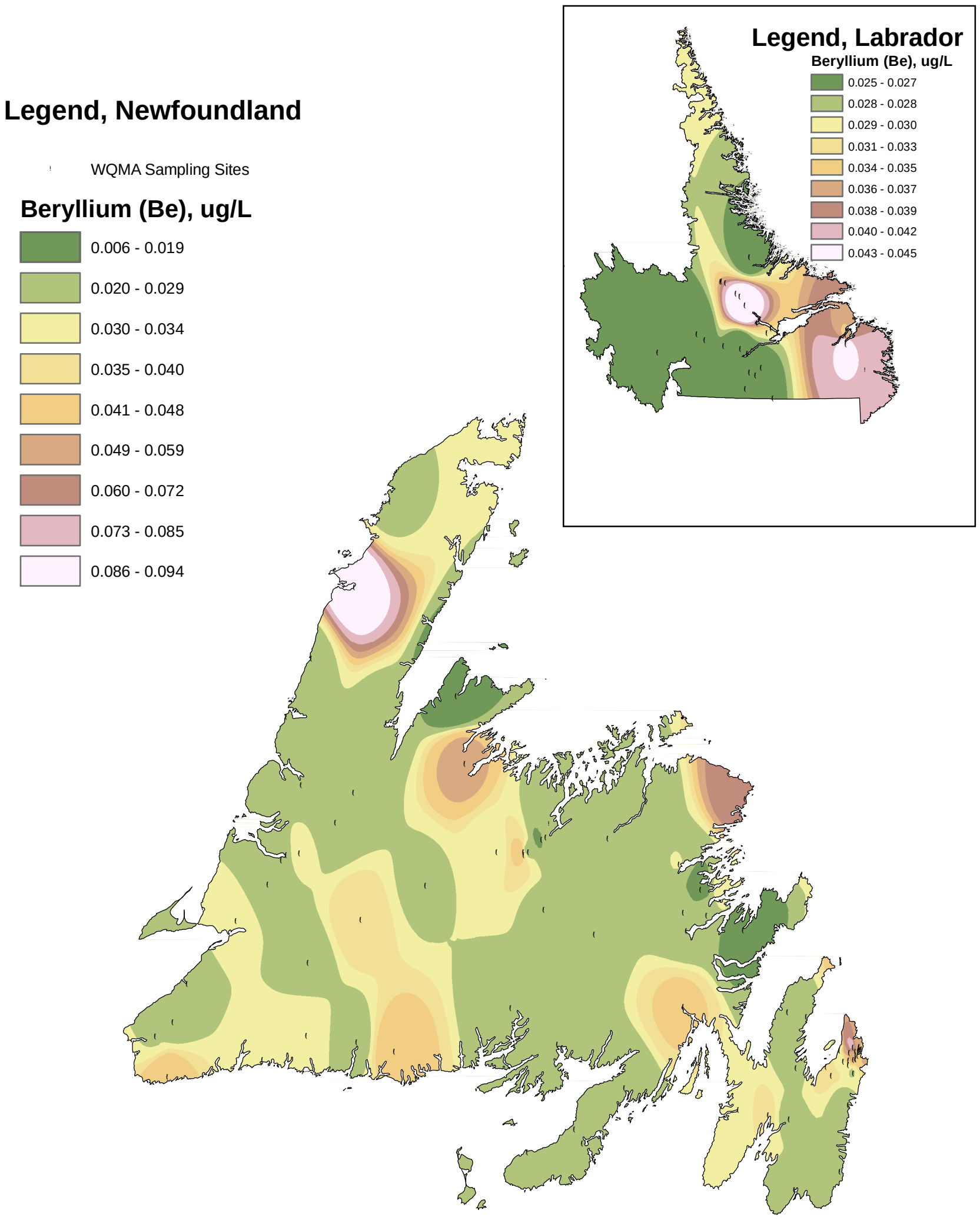
Beryllium Contours Based on Canada-Newfoundland Water Quality Monitoring Agreement Data



A contour map displays regions, each of which represents a constant value for a particular parameter. These regions are approximations based on average recorded values at WQMA sites for all data collected between 1985-2000. The contour regions were estimated using a geostatistical approach known as Inverse Distance Weight (IDW), with a power of 5. The maps will be updated for every five years of new water quality data collected. Values are compared against the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life.

Beryllium does occur as a chemical component of certain rocks, coal and oil, soil, and volcanic dust. Levels in waterbodies are influenced by the weathering of rocks and soil. Most of the man-made beryllium that enters waterways is a result of industry dumping waste water and when beryllium dust in the air from industrial activities settles over water. There is no beryllium guideline for the Protection of Aquatic Life.

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Environment and Conservation
Water Resources Management Division

Environment Canada

Environnement Canada