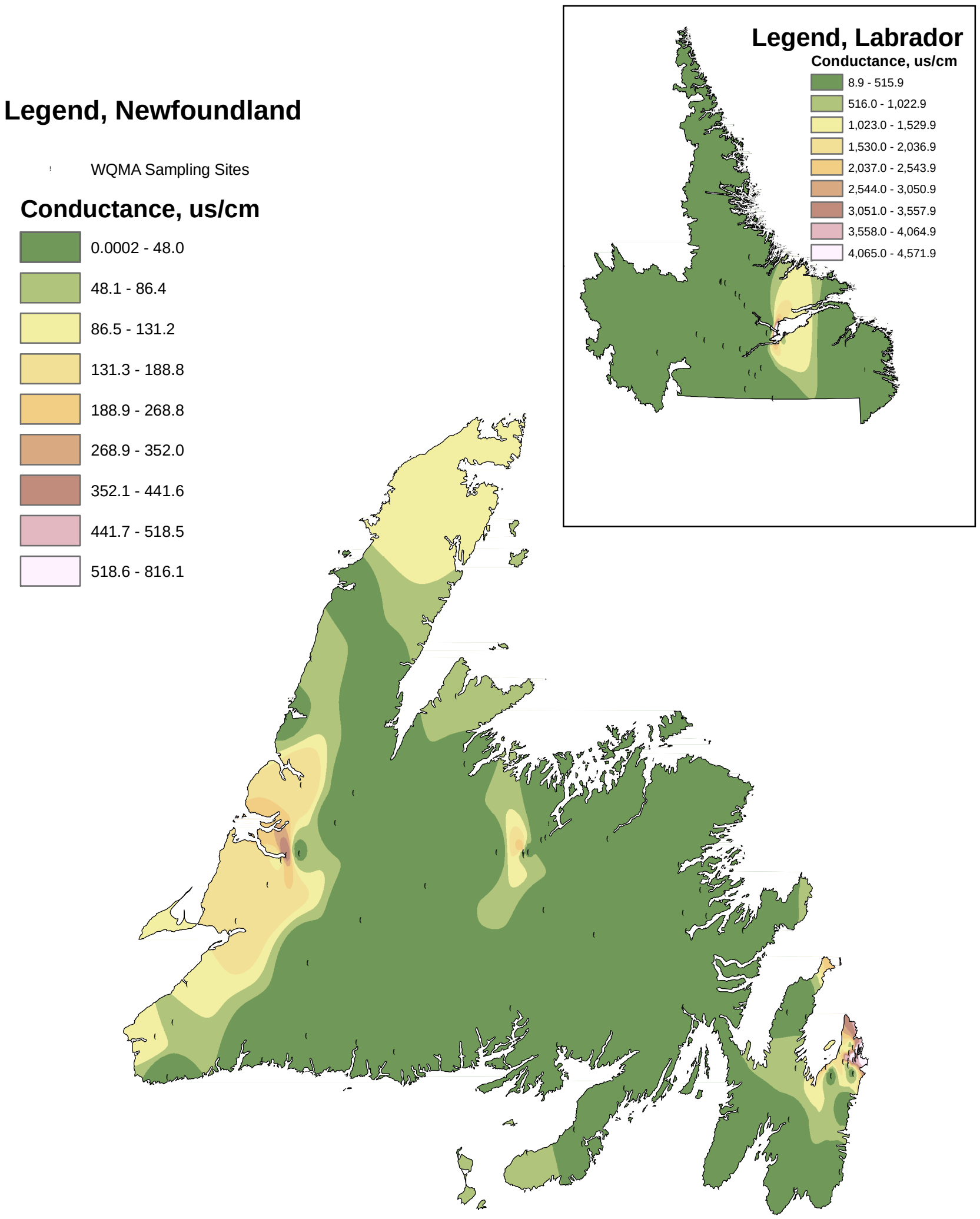
Conductivity Contours Based on Canada-Newfoundland Water Quality Monitoring Agreement Data



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.

Conductance or conductivity is defined as the amount of ionic material (i.e. salts) dissolved in the water. Conductivity of waterbodies tends to be higher in urban areas and near highways, as it is influenced by road salt and fertilizer application. In addition, conductivity of a water body can be influenced by the conductivity of rainwater (i.e. if the clouds form over the ocean they have a higher salt content). There is no conductivity 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