

Energy, Mines and Resources Canada / Énergie, Mines et Ressources Canada

THE NATIONAL ATLAS OF CANADA 5th EDITION

CANADA

DISTRIBUTION OF WETLANDS

Produced by the Geographical Services Division, Surveys and Mapping Branch, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada. Printed 1986.

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Scale 1:7 000 000 or 1 centimetre represents 70 kilometres

0 75 150 225 300 375 450 Kilometres

Lambert Conformal Conic Projection, Standard Parallels 49°N and 77°N
Modified Polyconic Projection, North of Latitude 80°

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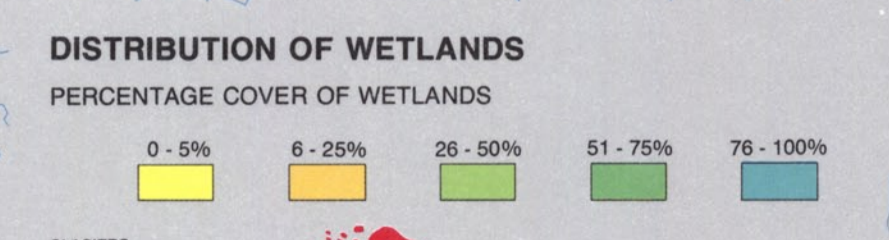
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WETLAND: Land that is saturated with water long enough to promote wetland or aquatic processes as indicated by poorly drained soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and various kinds of biological activity which are adapted to a wet environment.

Wetlands include peatlands which are characterized by more than 40 cm of peat accumulation, on which Organic soils (excluding Foliosols) develop. Wetlands also occur in areas that are influenced by excess water but which, for climatic, edaphic (factors related to soil), or biotic reasons, produce little or no peat. These wetlands are characterized by Gleysols or the peaty phases of Gleysols.

Shallow open water, generally less than 2 m deep, is also included in wetlands if associated with other kinds of wetlands. In certain areas of these wetlands, vegetation is lacking and soils are poorly developed as a result of frequent and drastic fluctuations of surface water levels or of wave action, water flow, turbidity, or high concentration of salts or other toxic substances in the water or in the soil.

Wetlands also include areas which are modified by water control structures or which are filled and planted but which, if allowed to revert again, become saturated for long periods and will be associated with wet soils (Gleysols) and hydrophytic vegetation.

Regional differences in the development of wetlands are readily apparent in Canada. Some of these differences relate to the distribution and abundance of wetlands. Although distribution is often influenced by physiography, the developmental trends and the establishment of specific kinds of wetlands can be attributed to climatic factors.

The research and preparation of this map was done by the NATIONAL WETLAND WORKING GROUP OF THE CANADA COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION.

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ESTIMATES OF WETLAND AREAS BY PROVINCE

Area of Wetland Within Each Distribution Class (Figures in thousands of hectares)

PROVINCE	0-5%	6-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%	Total Wetland Area	Percentage of Wetland by Province	Percentage of Total Canadian Wetlands
Newfoundland	58	3 596	3 138	-	-	6 792	18	5
Prince Edward Island	4	-	-	-	-	4	-1	-1
Nova Scotia	22	155	-	-	-	177	3	-1
New Brunswick	128	294	122	-	-	544	8	-1
Quebec	628	4 579	3 256	2 849	586	12 898	9	10
Ontario	105	684	4 795	8 654	15 023	29 241	33	23
Manitoba	38	2 225	7 089	5 184	7 934	22 470	41	18
Saskatchewan	269	4 170	3 695	1 271	153	9 657	17	8
Alberta	107	1 080	3 249	6 873	2 395	13 704	21	11
British Columbia	352	662	146	1 656	304	3 120	3	2
Yukon Territory	198	185	754	363	-	1 510	3	1
Northwest Territories	2 241	7 520	9 548	6 521	1 964	27 794	9	22
Canada	4 279	25 150	36 052	33 351	28 362	127 194	14	100