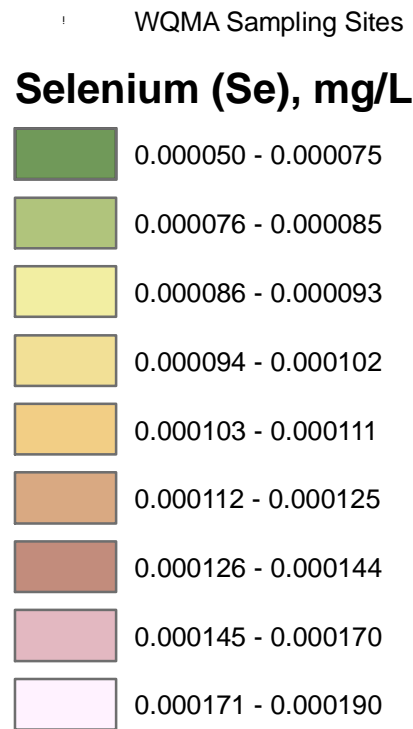
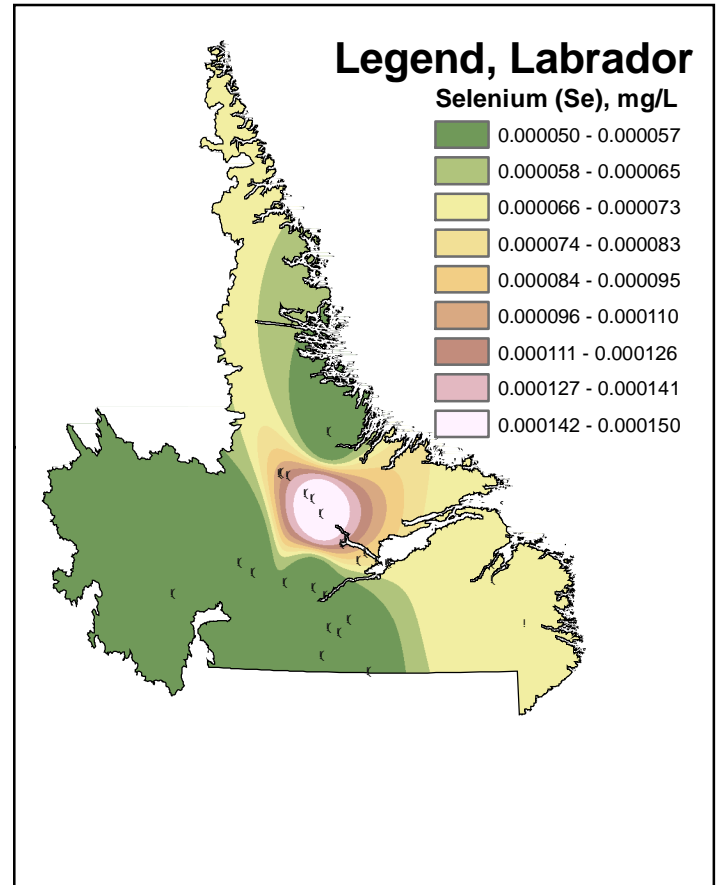
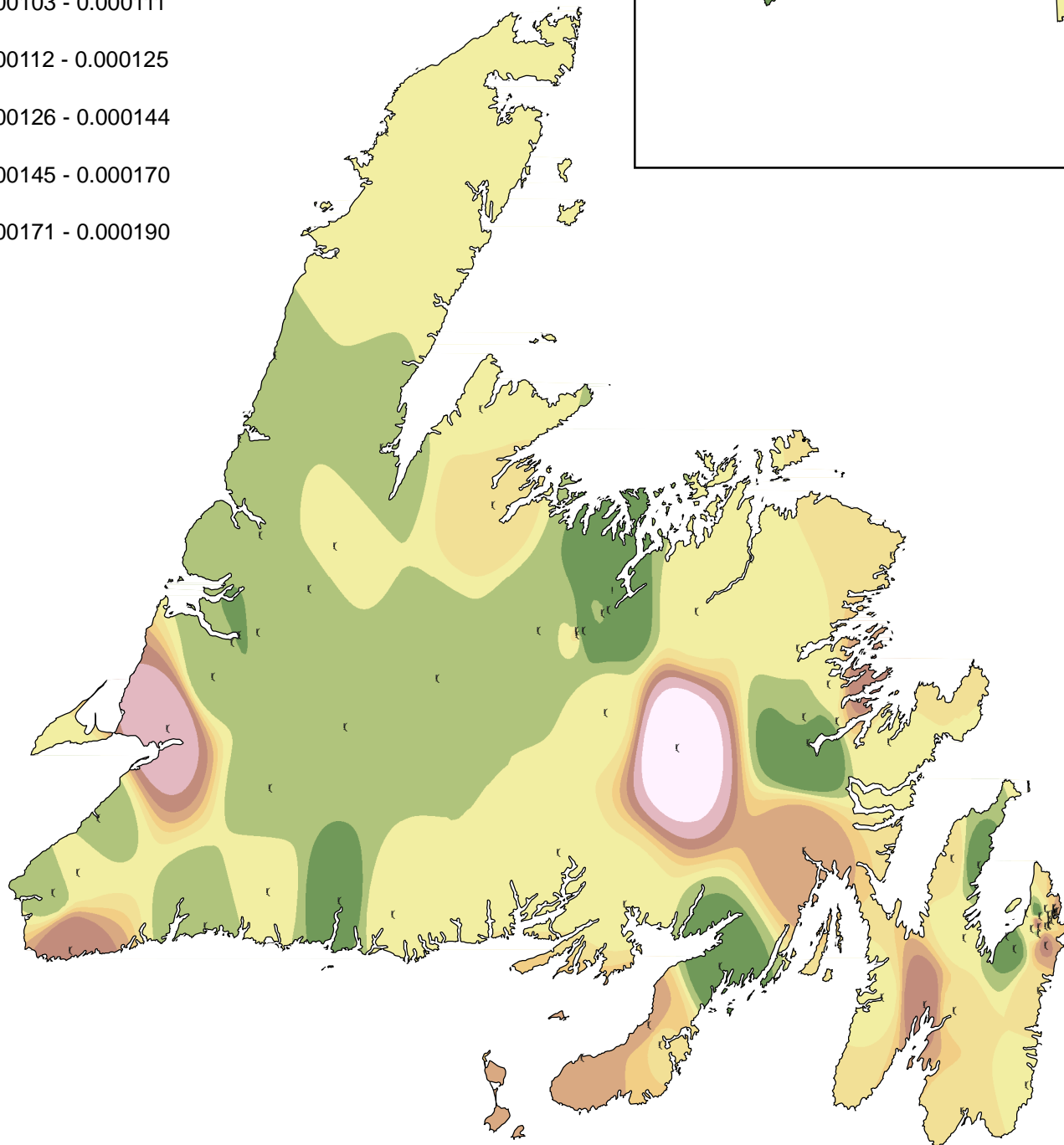
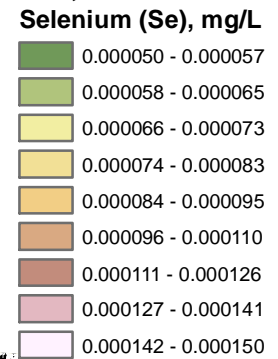


Selenium Contours Based on Canada-Newfoundland Water Quality Monitoring Agreement Data

Legend, Newfoundland



Legend, Labrador



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.

Low levels of selenium can end up in soils or water through weathering of rocks. Selenium can also settle in soil and water from the air after being released by coal and oil combustion. Agricultural activity can increase the selenium content in surface water, and levels are also influenced by urbanization. The selenium guideline for the Protection of Aquatic Life is 0.001 mg/L. Levels in the province are below this guideline.