

Council

CNL(05)47

***Impacts of Acid Rain
2005 Report***

(Tabled by Canada)

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Environment Canada, the Canadian agency responsible for water and air quality, has recently issued a report on acid rain. The title is "The 2004 Canadian Acid Deposition Science Assessment" (available on the Internet at: http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/saib/acid/acid_e.html)

Key results of the 2004 Canadian Acid Deposition Science Assessment report are:

- Acid rain affects a large area of south-eastern Canada (equal to the size of France).
- Acid rain deposition declined by 53% in Eastern Canada between 1980 and 2001.
- The main sources of acid rain in Canada are ore smelting, and fossil fuel burning electric generation facilities, primarily based in central Canada. More than half of the acid rain in Canada comes from the mid-western United States.
- A combined reduction of emissions from both countries of 75% is needed to overcome the impacts of acid rain.
- South-east Nova Scotia is an area where Atlantic salmon are significantly impacted by acid rain. A key problem in this area is the very limited buffering capacity of the soil to neutralize acidity.
- Important initiatives in Canada that will contribute to a reduction are: the elimination of coal-burning electric generating facilities in central Canada (Ontario) by 2007, and a 34% reduction of acid rain causing emissions from the mining industry by 2007.
- With these agreed reductions, acid rain is expected to decline by 21% over the next 20 years.

On a last note, Canada would like to highlight the involvement of the Atlantic Salmon Federation and their affiliate, the Nova Scotia Salmon Association (NSSA), to mitigate some impacts of acid rain, at a local scale, in Eastern Nova Scotia. A consortium of interested parties, led by the NSSA, is supporting the installation of a lime doser on West River Sheet Harbour, to improve the habitat and survival of salmon in a river that has been strongly impacted by acid rain.