

Abstract

This report presents the results of a five-year Peatland Inventory Program carried out by the Nova Scotia Department of Mines and Energy.

Nova Scotia has roughly 400,000-435,000 acres (162,000-175,000 ha) of peatland containing some 5.7 billion cubic yards (4.4 billion M³) of peat. Of this resource, 2.4 billion cubic yards (1.8 billion M³) are estimated to be "fuel grade" peat and 3.3 billion cubic yards (2.6 billion M³) are "moss" or "surficial grade" peat. The resource is widely distributed in Nova Scotia, but the majority is concentrated in several regions, the largest of which are the three southwestern counties of Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens.

The inventory program has identified sufficient fuel peat resources in southwestern Nova Scotia to warrant development of a fuel peat industry. Adequate peat moss resources exist in Hants County, Cumberland County, southwestern Nova Scotia and on Cape Breton Island, to support export production.

The report presents data on the peat resources in major areas of peatland concentration in Nova Scotia and in addition provides basic information on the natural development of peatlands, their economic and ecological value, current harvesting technologies, and climatic factors that may effect peat harvesting in Nova Scotia.