

APPENDIX C:

Watersheds of Nova Scotia

The term watershed describes an area of land where all water flows down to the lowest point, through streams, rivers and underground, ultimately to the sea. Watersheds are also referred to as drainage basins, or river basins, and are defined by the topography of the land. This includes its shape, contours and heights. The illustration below shows the components of a watershed. These include streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, estuaries, upland areas such as forest and meadows, and downstream areas such as shorelines.

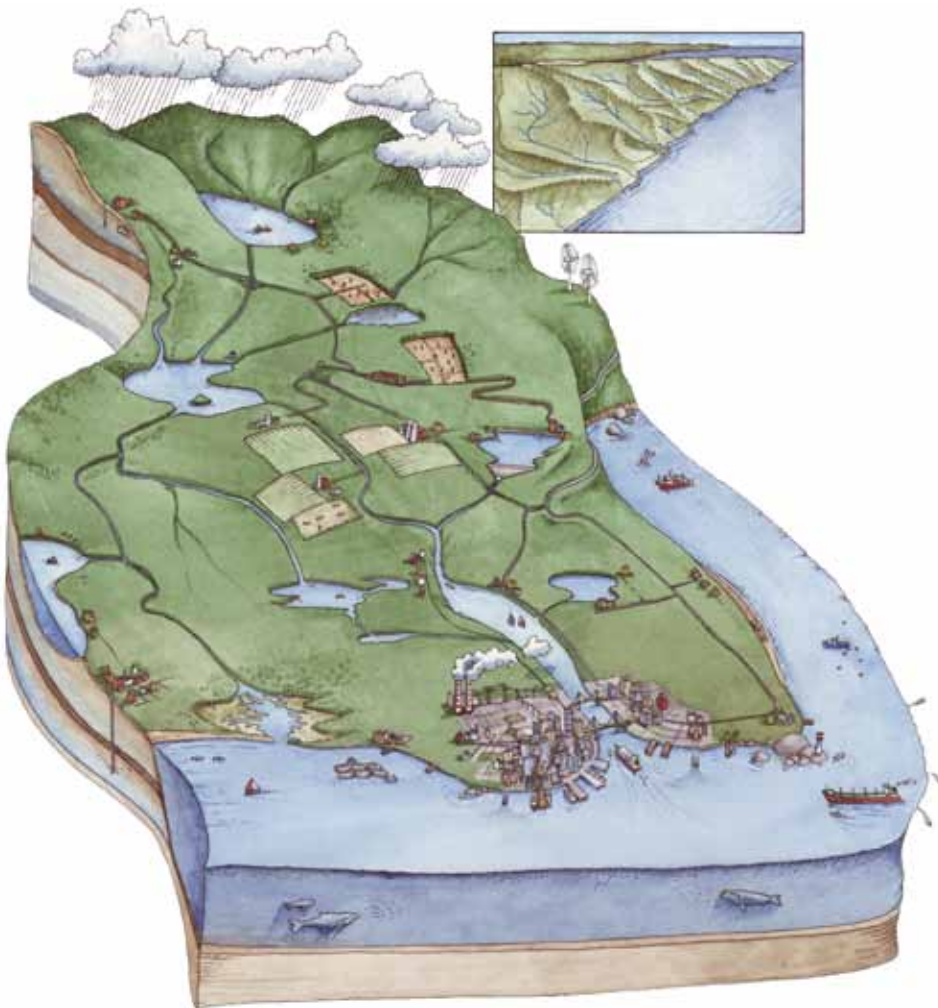


Illustration of a watershed

In the 1920's, the Water Survey of Canada developed a Water Resources Index Inventory as a system for recording and filing water resources data. Their system divided Canada into eleven major drainage regions. Each region was subdivided further into primary, secondary, or smaller watersheds. This system has been used ever since.

The Maritime provinces are one of the eleven national drainage regions. The map below, fig. x, shows the 46 primary watershed divisions in Nova Scotia. Because of the way the province is shaped, the primary watersheds drain into four different coastal regions.

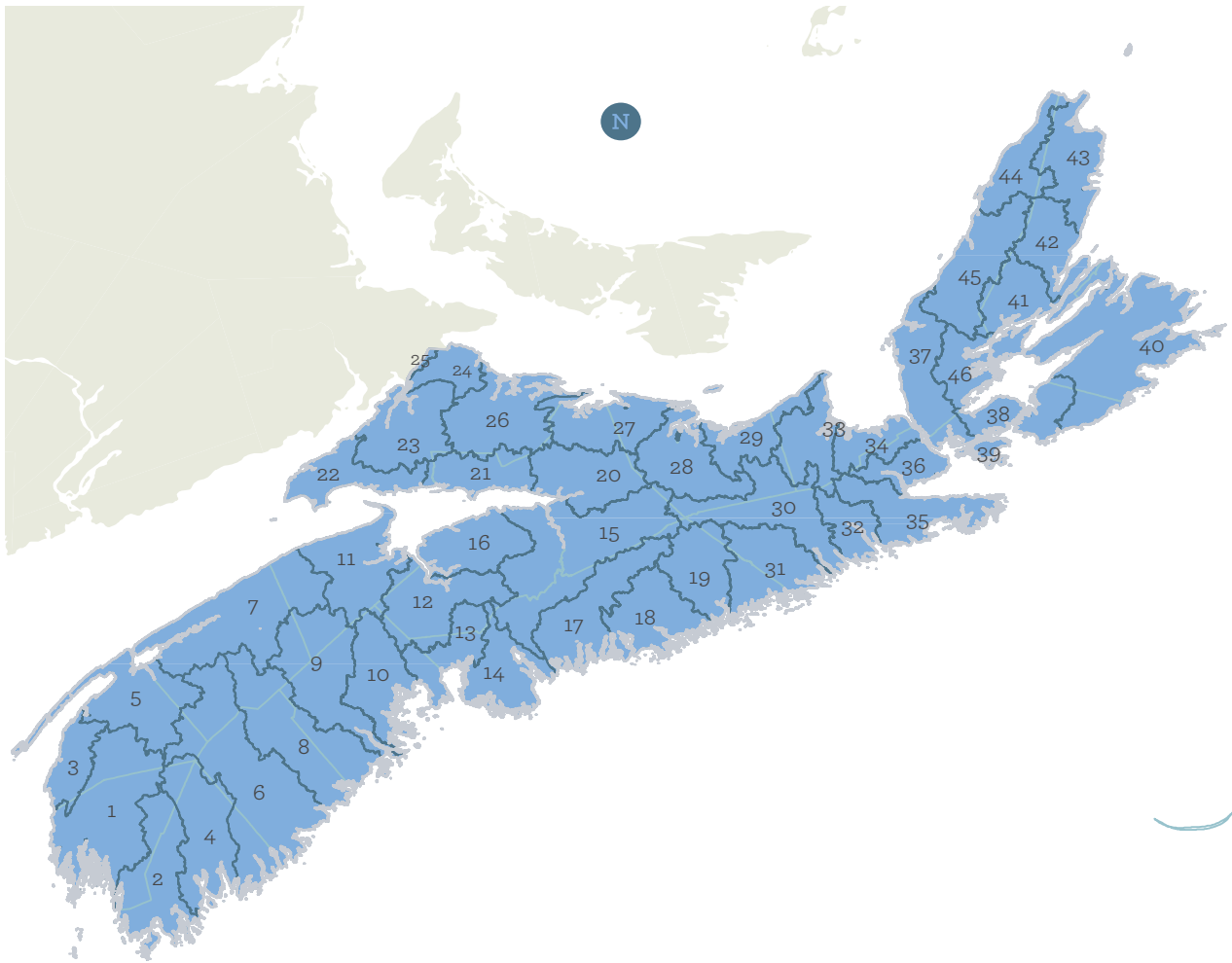
These include

- Atlantic Ocean, such as the LaHave or Sackville Rivers
- Bay of Fundy–Gulf of Maine, such as the Annapolis River
- Northumberland Strait, such as River Philip–Wallace
- Cape Breton Island/Bras d'Or Lakes, such as Salmon–Mira River

The primary watershed can be further subdivided into secondary watersheds. These in turn can be divided into many smaller tributary watersheds.

You can read more about provincial watersheds and freshwater hydrology in Natural History of Nova Scotia, Volume 1, Section T8.1. This is located on the Nova Scotia Museum's webpage at <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh/nature/nhns/t8/t8-1.htm>.

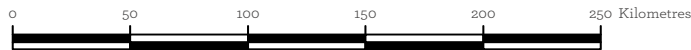
Maps of provincial watersheds are available on our website at www.gov.ns.ca/nse/water.strategy/resources.asp.



Legend

— Watershed Divides

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Tusket River | 17. Musquodoboit River | 32. Country Harbour River |
| 2. Barrington/Clyde River | 18. Tangier | 33. South, West River |
| 3. Meteghan River | 19. East, West River (Sheet Hbr) | 34. Tracadie River |
| 4. Roseway, Sable, Jordan River | 20. Salmon, Debert River | 35. New Harbour, Salmon River |
| 5. Sissiboo, Bear River | 21. Economy River | 36. Clam Harbour, St. Francis River |
| 6. Mersey River | 22. Parrsboro River | 37. River Inhabitants |
| 7. Annapolis River | 23. Kelly, Maccan, Herbert River | 38. Grand River |
| 8. Herring Cove, Medway River | 24. Tidnish, Shinimicas River | 39. Isle Madame |
| 9. Lahave River | 25. Missaguash River | 40. Salmon, Mira River |
| 10. Gold River | 26. Philip Wallace River | 41. North, Baddeck, Middle River |
| 11. Gaspereau River | 27. River John | 42. Indian River |
| 12. St. Croix River | 28. East, Middle, West River (Pictou) | 43. Wreck Cove |
| 13. East, Indian River | 29. French River | 44. Cheticamp River |
| 14. Sackville River | 30. St. Mary's River | 45. Margaree River |
| 15. Shubenacadie, Stewiacke River | 31. Liscomb River | 46. River Denys, Big River |



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primary watersheds of Nova Scotia