

Drainage Basins (Nunavut)

Abstract

A drainage basin is the area that drains all precipitation into a river or stream system into a common outlet such as a lake or sea. There are two main river basins in Nunavut: the Thelon River flows into Hudson Bay and the Back River empties into the Arctic Ocean. Most of Nunavut's area is not drained through large rivers; instead the water flows directly to the ocean through small rivers and streams.

Canada consists of five major ocean basins – those of the Atlantic, Arctic, and Pacific Oceans, Hudson Bay, and the Gulf of Mexico. Nunavut falls within two major ocean basins – the Arctic and Hudson Bay. There are two principal river basins in Nunavut: the Thelon River (with its two large tributaries, the Kazan and the Dubawnt rivers), flows into Hudson Bay; and the Back River which flows into the Arctic Ocean. However most of Nunavut's area is not drained through large rivers; instead the water flows directly to the ocean through small rivers and streams.

Map Sources

Drainage Basins

River flow (discharge) was the critical factor used to delineate basin boundaries. All rivers with an annual mean flow higher than 10 000 cubic feet per second were depicted. However, land areas containing river basins that did not meet this annual mean flow threshold were assigned to the generic category "seaboard". The major river basins are the rivers that directly flow into the ocean. Within each major river basin, up to three levels of component basins were identified. In addition, water diversions larger than 1000 cubic feet per second were mapped. Natural Resources Canada. 1985. Canada--Drainage Basins [map]. National Atlas of Canada, 5th Edition.

References

Nunavut Implementation Commission. 1995. Footprints in New Snow: A comprehensive Report from the Nunavut Implementation Commission to the Department of Indian and Northern Development, Government of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated Concerning the Establishment of the Nunavut Government. Iqaluit, Northwest Territories. 263 pp.

Related Web sites (1999 – 2009)

Federal Government

CEONet Database.

<http://ceonet.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/>

Find maps, satellite images, publications and other geospatial data provided by Canadian and international organizations.

Environment Canada. Freshwater Web Site

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water/>

This web site gives access to the nature of water, water policy and legislation, the management of water, water and culture, and informational resources and services.

