

Attachment X.V. Benthic Invertebrate Community

List of Tables

Table X.V-1	Historical Benthic Invertebrate Taxonomic Results for the Kiggavik Project Area, 1979-1991.
Table X.V-2	Benthic Invertebrate Taxonomic Results for Lakes in the Kiggavik Project Area, 2007.
Table X.V-3	Biotic Indices for the Benthic Invertebrate Communities for Lakes in the Kiggavik Project Area, 2007.
Table X.V-4	Benthic Invertebrate Taxonomic Results for Lakes in the Kiggavik Project Area, 2008.
Table X.V-5	Biotic Indices for the Benthic Invertebrate Communities for Lakes in the Kiggavik Project Area, 2008.
Table X.V-6	Benthic Invertebrate Taxonomic Results for Streams in the Kiggavik Project Area, 2008.
Table X.V-7	Biotic Indices for the Benthic Invertebrate Communities for Streams in the Kiggavik Project Area, 2008.
Table X.V-8	Relative Density (percent composition) for the Lake Benthic Invertebrate Communities in the Kiggavik Project Area, 2007 to 2009.
Table X.V-9	Relative Density (percent composition) for the Benthic Invertebrate Communities for Lakes in the Kiggavik Project Area, 2008 to 2009.
Table X.V-10	Benthic Invertebrate Taxonomic Results for Lakes in the Kiggavik Project Area, 2009.
Table X.V-11	Biotic Indices for the Benthic Invertebrate Communities for Lakes in the Kiggavik Project Area, 2009.
Table X.V-12	Benthic Invertebrate Taxonomic Results for Streams in the Kiggavik Project Area, 2009.

Table X.V-13 Biotic Indices for the Benthic Invertebrate Communities for Streams in the Kiggavik Project Area, 2009.

Table X.V-14 Supporting Environmental Data Collected for the Benthic Invertebrate Communities from Lakes in the Kiggavik Project Area, 2008 to 2009.

Table X.V-15 Supporting Environmental Data Collected for the Benthic Invertebrate Communities from Streams in the Kiggavik Project Area, 2008 to 2009.

Benthic Invertebrate Communities Laboratory Results for Baker Lake, 2008

Sample Processing Methods

Internal QA/QC

Each sorter has 25% of their sorted samples examined by a qualified sorter as a quality control measure. If a project requires QA for re-sorts then each jar of sorted debris from each sample is examined. A portion of the sample from each jar is spread in a 9" x 13" white pan and examined under a dissecting microscope at 10x magnification. If more than three identifiable organisms are removed per 500 mL then the sample is re-sorted.

Any new identified specimens are checked for consistency by the principal taxonomist.

Data Entry

The benthic data is generally entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet and checked against the taxonomist's bench sheets to ensure that no typographical errors are made. The counts from the sorted portions are multiplied by the appropriate factor and added to calculate the total of each taxon for that sample. The raw data is forwarded to the lead contractor for analysis.

A calculation of species richness designated here as Total Taxa per sample is calculated in the following manner. Each species recovered is counted as one taxon. Organisms which were identified to broader levels than species are counted if no organisms of the same type have been more precisely defined in the sample. Total taxa can be a combination of species, genus, family, class or greater.

Sample Processing Methods

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