

# 2015 Statistics about Peatland Areas Managed for Horticultural Peat Harvesting in Canada



Internal version: August 4, 2016

## DATA COMPILED FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:

- Data from CSPMA members (14 answers/16<sup>1</sup> = 87%)
- Data from APHQ members (9 answers/9 = 100%; 3 non CSPMA members)
- Data from NBPPA members (2 direct answers; others estimated by Jacques Thibault in 2014)
- Missing answers and other areas estimated from Google Earth

## DEFINITIONS OF MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

1. **Opened since the beginning of the industrial operations:** Total areas that has been in production since the beginning of peat harvesting operations.
2. **In Production:** Areas in production in **2015**.
3. **Post-production management options:** Areas closed for production
  - **Restoration:** includes the following
    - **Restoration (MLTT):** Restored by the Moss-Layer-Transfer Technique, with plant reintroduction and rewetting (mostly bog)
    - **Rewetting:** Drainage ditches blocked, water table raised but no open water area (see marsh creation), no plant reintroduction (can be bog or fen)
    - **Natural regeneration:** Unrestored but naturally well-regenerated, without any intervention (mostly old block-cut sites). If the status of regeneration is unknown, “no intervention” is selected).
  - **Reclamation:** includes the following
    - **Tree plantation:** Planting of trees, such as larch, spruce, etc. (for economic or ecological purposes)
    - **Berry plantation:** Plantation of species producing berries, such as blueberry, aronia, cloudberry, etc. (for economic or ecological purposes)
    - **Cranberry production:** Area managed for cranberry production (economic purpose)
    - **Marsh creation:** Rewetted area where the level of the water table is high enough to create an open water body (on more than 50% of the sector), such as pool, pond, marsh, small lake.
  - **No intervention:** Unrestored and not well-regenerated (without peat accumulating plant species), or regeneration status unknown (= what we used to call “abandoned peatland”).

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<sup>1</sup> Note that one company is split in 4 divisions.

## **SOME RESULTS IN A NUTSHELL**

- Area opened since the beginning of the industrial operations: 29 744 ha
- Area under production: 17 454 ha
- Total area no longer in production (post-production): 12 116 ha
- Area that has been restored or reclaimed (all categories except the “No intervention”): 7 577 ha
- Restored peatlands (by the MLTT, rewetting or natural regeneration): 5 959 ha
- Area restored by the MLTT: 1 075 ha
- Area of peatland no longer in production and not restored or reclaimed (“no intervention” or what we used to call “abandoned”): 4 540 ha
  
- Certification: 85% of the areas under production are Veriflora certified

## **UNCERTAINTY:**

- More accurate than 2014.
- Still some data not updated (2014 areas have been used in those cases).
- Difficult to compare 2014 and 2015 data because of new information and some reclassifications.
- Historical footprint: A few marginal peatlands or sections of peatlands probably not included. I don't know the delineation of peatlands provided by the peat companies, so I can't check if all areas have been included. A detailed mapping would be needed.
- Restoration (by the MLTT, rewetting or natural regeneration) vs No intervention: should be assessed depending on their success or regeneration status, which is difficult to verify. For example, a lot of old block-cut are classified as “natural regeneration” but not 100% of these areas should be considered as such if we take into account the baulks. Another example, if a site has been restored by the MLTT, but the restoration has not been successful, the area should be re-classified as “No intervention”.

## **NEXT UPDATE:**

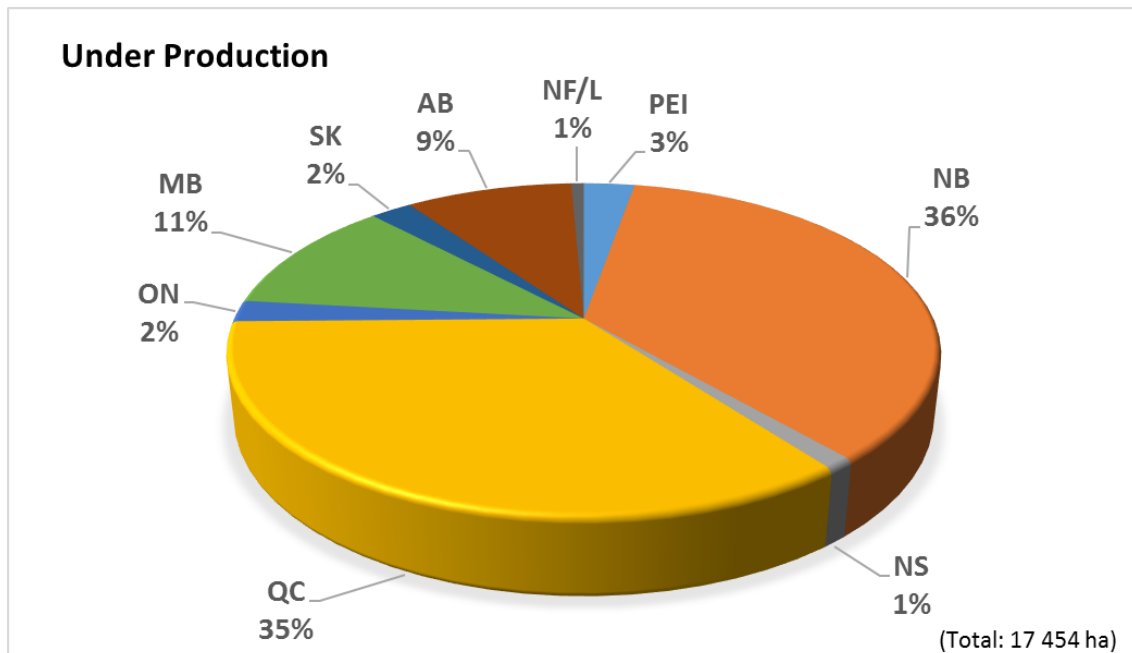
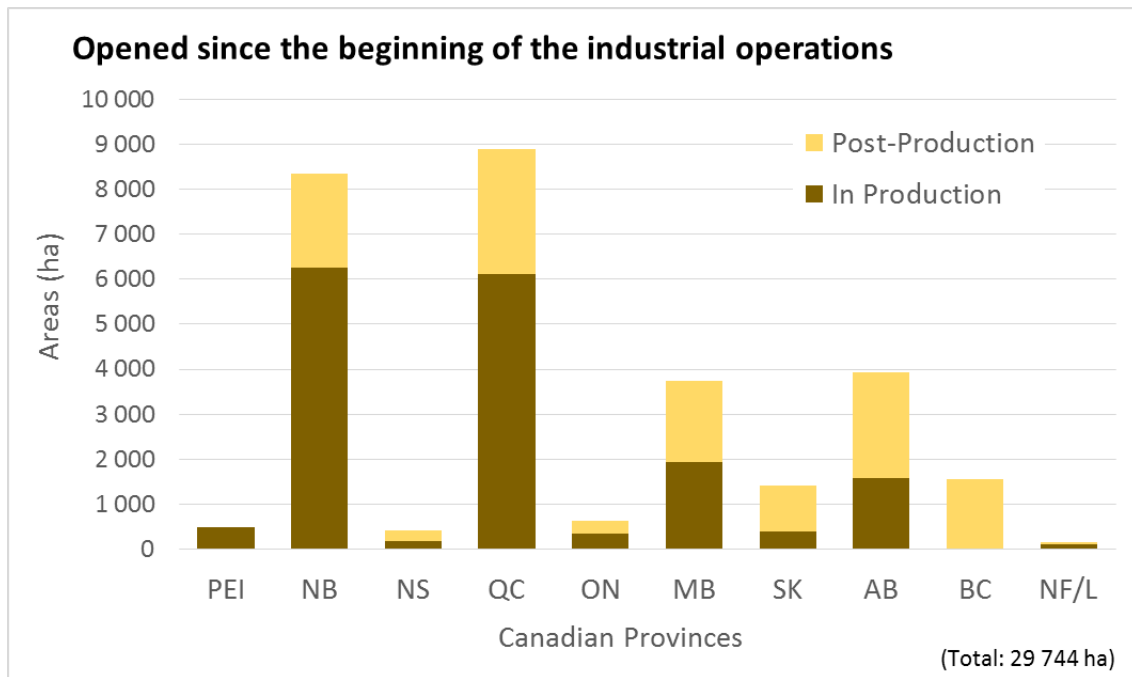
- January/February 2017 (2016 data)

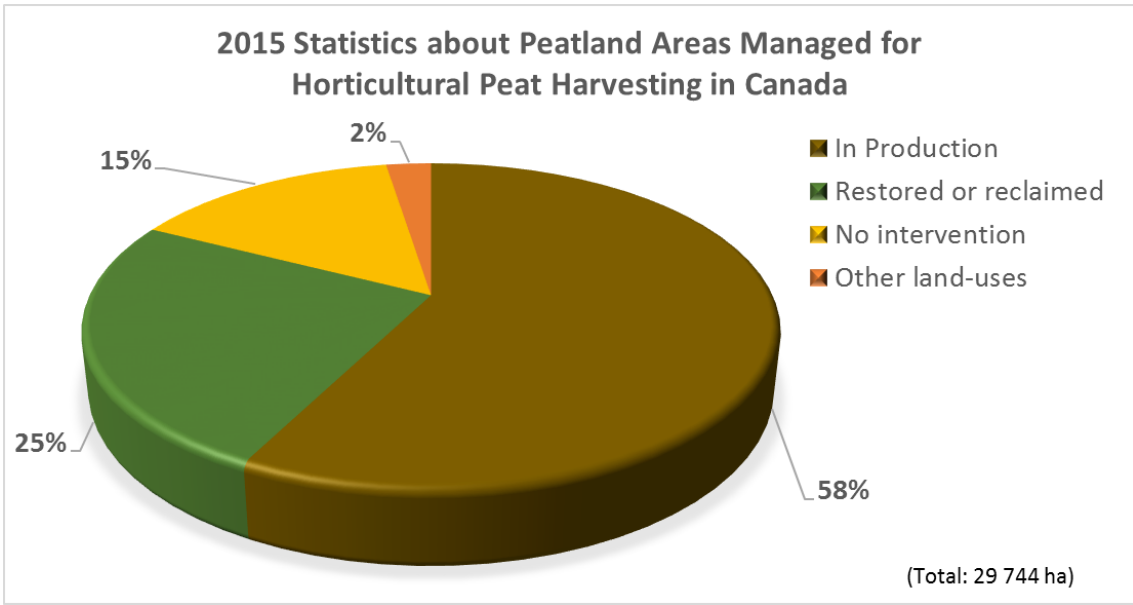
## **COMMUNICATION:**

- A shorter version will be posted on our web site, after approval by the board.

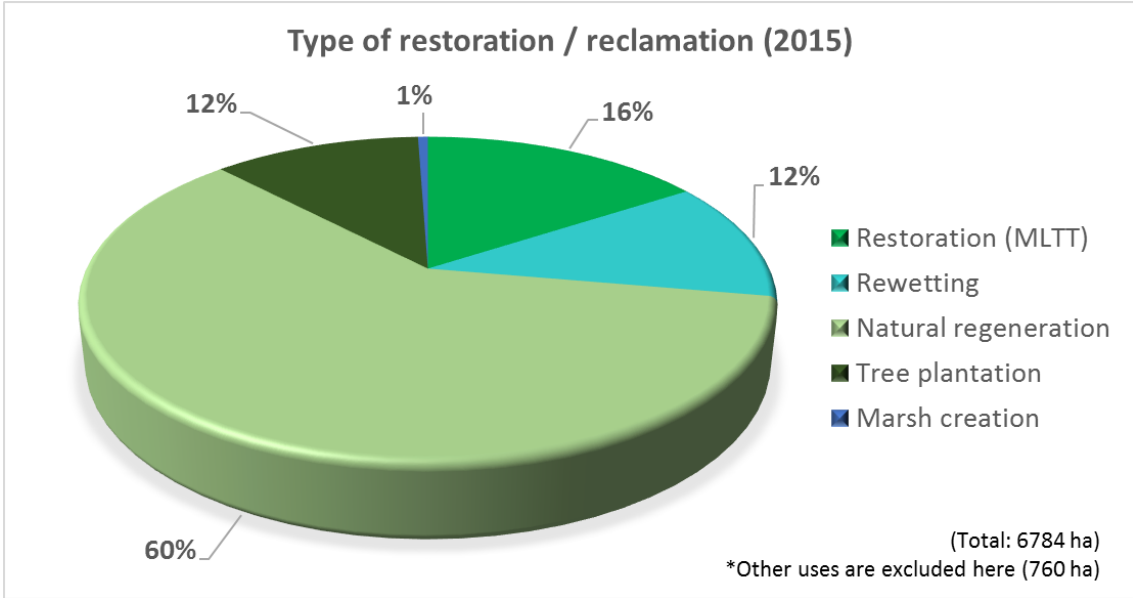
## PROPOSED FIGURES

### THE PEAT INDUSTRY IN CANADA (2015)





\*Note that other land-uses is mainly conversion to agriculture



**COMPILED TABLE – All Canadian Peatlands (2015)**

Management options (Hectares)		Opened since the beginning of the industrial operations	Under Production	Post Production**										
				Restoration (MLTT)	Rewetting	Sphagnum farming	Tree plantation	Berry plantation	Cranberry production	Marsh creation	Natural regeneration	No intervention	Other (please specify)	
Canadian Provinces	PEI	482	482	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	New Brunswick	8 360	6 256	155	0	2	345	0	5	21	358	1 202	3	
	Nova Scotia	424	192	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	135	97	
	Québec	8 884	6 114	657	228	0	375	24	0	17	799	660	10	
	Ontario	624	361	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	246	18	0	
	Manitoba	3 746	1 946	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	202	1 504	0	
	Saskatchewan	1 408	395	96	0	0	64	0	0	0	1	203	650	
	Alberta	4 089	1 588	74	580	0	4	0	0	0	872	810	0	
	British Columbia	1 569	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 569	0	0	
	Newfoundland/Labrador	158	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	8	0	
<b>TOTAL CANADA</b>		<b>29 744</b>	<b>17 454</b>	<b>1 075</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4 077</b>	<b>4 540</b>	<b>761</b>	

**COMPILED TABLE – CSPMA members only (2015)**

Management options (Hectares)		Opened since the beginning of the industrial operations	In Production	Post Production**									
				Restoration (MLTT)	Rewetting	Sphagnum farming	Tree plantation	Berry plantation	Cranberry production	Marsh creation	Natural regeneration	No intervention	Other (please specify)
Canadian Provinces	PEI	482	482	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	New Brunswick	7 437	5 558	130	0	0	345	0	0	17	322	1 055	3
	Nova Scotia	424	192	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	135	97
	Québec	8 254	5 934	642	204	0	367	24	0	9	604	464	7
	Ontario	379	361	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0
	Manitoba	3 746	1 946	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	202	1 504	0
	Saskatchewan	1 408	395	96	0	0	64	0	0	0	1	203	650
	Alberta	4 089	1 588	74	580	0	4	0	0	0	872	810	0
	British Columbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Newfoundland/Labrador	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL CANADA</b>		<b>26 219</b>	<b>16 456</b>	<b>1 035</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2 001</b>	<b>4 188</b>	<b>757</b>