

The international toxics monitoring project - a status report

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Scientific literature has shown a high level of mercury and other metal contamination in fish in New England and Canada. Very recent data have indicated an alarmingly high concentration of mercury in the feathers of American Bald Eagle chicks in Maine. These data, when viewed in conjunction with air emissions data available through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, focus our need to gather information to assist in the explanation of the sources of toxic materials.

The following study was designed to obtain first year

regional data, gathered on atmospheric deposition of toxic materials within lake basins. The study area includes all of eastern North America, north of the State of Pennsylvania, in an attempt to investigate the impact of as many atmospheric patterns as possible. Fish species and snow melt data will be gathered and analyzed. Control sites in northern Canada were selected to investigate sample locations previously selected by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and the Environment in 1977-78. Available results will be presented at the conference.