



### **Methyl Mercury Quick Facts**

- Methylmercury naturally occurs in lakes and rivers all over the world. The levels of methylmercury in the Muskrat Falls Reservoir after flooding are predicted to be substantially less than those observed in the Smallwood Reservoir after flooding.
- The area to be flooded for the construction winter head pond (elevation 25 m) is 11 km sq. The total area to be flooded for the Muskrat Falls reservoir is 41 km sq. (elevation 39 m). The area flooded for the Smallwood Reservoir was 2,300 km sq.
- The issue of methylmercury and hydroelectric developments is a very important one. It has been well studied globally for decades. Methylmercury has been studied for this project since the 1990s.
- Methylmercury concentrations in fish species are expected to peak between 5-15 years after reservoir creation. The expected peak levels are well below those that would impact fish health.
- Methylmercury in water will gradually increase for several weeks and months after the reservoir is created. The expected concentrations of methylmercury will be well within the standards for drinking water. The recommended Health Canada guideline for methylmercury in drinking water is 1000 ng/L. The levels observed in existing reservoirs, and expected at Muskrat Falls is 0.04-0.10 ng/L.