

network. The stations can be separated into two broad categories - oceanic and continental (but in regions of low population usually coinciding with arid areas). A third category of locations which is useful for studying background precipitation chemistry consists of stations on the west coast of the major continents in the westerlies belt where most of the precipitation occurs with on-shore air-mass trajectories. Finally, data from the polar regions represents the most remote locations. Data on precipitation pH in each of these categories are summarized on Table 6.

Remote oceanic stations

These locations indicate considerable variability with monthly average pH values of precipitation ranging over at least 1.5 units. In all cases, the median value is less than pH 5.6 with lowest values about 4.6 to 4.7. This represents an increase in acidity by a factor of 10 above that expected in "clean" rain.

West-coast stations

Except for the heavily populated areas around Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle-Vancouver, pH values on the west-coast of North America average about 5.0.

On the west-coast of Norway (well removed from the polluted region in the south) the pH of the rain is averaging over 6-month periods between 4.6 and 4.9. The sulfate content