



Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
Arctic Region
301 – 5204 50th Ave. (Wiilideh)
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
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Programme de protection du poisson et de son habitat
Région de l'Arctique
301 – 5204 50th Ave. (Wiilideh)
Yellowknife, Territoires du Nord-Ouest
X1A 1E2

Your file Votre référence
2AM-LUP2032

July 6, 2026

Subject: 2025 Annual Reports for the Lupin Mine Project: Water Licence No: 2AM-LUP2032.

To whom it may concern,

On April 10, 2026, the Nunavut Water Board invited parties to comment on the 2025 Annual Report for the Lupin Mine Project: Water Licence No: 2AM-LUP2032. The Fish and Fish Habitat Program of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FFHPP) appreciates the opportunity to review the application and offers a comment below.

DFO Comment:

The 2025 Annual Report for the Lupin Mine Project - Water Licence (file number: 2AM-LUP2032) discusses the projects water withdrawal which have the potential to impact fish and fish habitat.

Impacts to fish and fish habitat can occur during remediation activities through loss of riparian habitat during site clearing, erosion and sedimentation, release of drilling fluids and cuttings into aquatic environments, disturbance to fish and fish habitat during sensitive life stages, and water withdrawals, particularly during low water periods, associated with drilling, surface stripping and camp operations.

Direct fish mortality can occur during water withdrawal and sediment removal activities through entrainment/impingement and from unplanned releases of sediment or other deleterious substances. Entrainment occurs when a fish is drawn into a water intake and cannot escape. Impingement occurs when a fish is held in contact with the intake screen and is unable to free itself. Sedimentation can have lethal and sub-lethal effects on fish from displacement and avoidance behaviours and through cumulative effects on fish egg development and survival.

Recommendation:

In order to comply with the Fisheries Act, it is recommended that the Proponent follow DFO's protective measures for fish and fish habitat and standard codes of practice which

can be found on DFO's website (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/measures-mesures-eng.html> and <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/practice-pratique-eng.html>).

Proponents are also asked to respect the NU in-water works restricted activity timing windows ([Projects Near Water - Nunavut Restricted Activity Timing Windows for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-003-eng.html)) to protect fish during spawning and incubation periods when spawning fish, eggs and fry are vulnerable to disturbance or sediment.

In addition, the proponent should refer to DFO's [Interim code of practice: Water intake end-of-pipe fish screens](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-004-eng.html) when using fish screens and if the water intake flow is up to 0.150 m³/s, or 150 liters per second (L/s).

If the proposal meets the criteria for a site specific review (e.g., alteration of fish habitat), as described on DFO's website (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-003-eng.html>), DFO recommends that the proponent should complete and submit the request for review form available on the website (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-004-eng.html>).

It is also the proponent's Duty to Notify DFO if they have caused, or are about to cause, the death of fish by means other than fishing and/or the harmful alteration, disruption, or the destruction of fish habitat. Such notification should be directed to DFO.ARCENTriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "NATALIE GRISHABER". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Natalie Grishaber
Biologist
Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
Fisheries and Oceans Canada