

SUMMARY NOTES: FISH OFFSETTING

Agnico Eagle Mines (AEM) conducted community consultation in Baker Lake on March 26, 28, and 29, 2019. Consultation meetings were proposed in Chesterfield Inlet on March 27, but had to be cancelled due to a blizzard restricting travel. The purpose of the meetings were to provide a general project update on the construction of the Whale Tail Pit Project, as well as the upcoming expansion of the Baker Lake Fuel Farm. AEM were supported by consultants from ERM, who provided an update on the Alternatives Assessment for an attenuation pond as part of the Whale Tail Pit – Expansion Project, as well as an overview on fish habitat losses and compensation (offsetting). These notes provide a summary of the major discussions points on fisheries offsetting.

Focus groups and an open-house community meeting were the main methods of engagement. The following sessions were held: Elder's Focus Group (March 26, 2019; 10 attendees); Hamlet of Baker Lake (March 26, 2019; 5 attendees); Youth Focus Group (March 26, 2019; 4 attendees); Baker Lake Community Open-House (March 26, 2019; 13+ attendees); Women's Focus Group (March 28, 2019; 10 attendees); Kivalliq Inuit Association (March 29, 2019; 4 attendees). The major topics were previously discussed during consultation meetings in Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet in July 2018, and the March 2019 meetings provided an opportunity for AEM and ERM to provide an update and to respond to additional questions. All written presentation materials were translated into Inuktitut, and an Inuktitut translator was used for the Elder and Hamlet meetings. The participants at the Youth Group, Women's Group and Community Open House sessions were comfortable conversing in English. A translator was available for the Community Open House, but was not required.

An overview of the ongoing construction of the Whale Tail Pit Project mainly resulted in questions on dewatering and fish relocation based on the construction of the Whale Tail Lake dike. There were no concerns noted on the construction of the Project in general, except to note that moving fish is not natural and may have environmental effects. There was interest across the groups in the success rate of the 'fish-out' from Whale Tail Lake.

The loss of fish habitat from the Whale Tail Pit – Expansion Project was explained, and there were no comments or concerns raised, except to point out that relocating fish may change the environment and that fish should not be moved to new areas (different sources of water). The preferred concept for the Whale Tail Pit – Expansion Project was described as a sill between Whale Tail Lake and Lake A18, and no objections were raised. There was one question on whether fish would be moved into Lake A18 and whether the environment would be suitable. The concept for the sill and offsetting means that fish will move into the new habitat on their own, and will not be transferred.

No new ideas were forthcoming for fisheries compensation, and as found in the July 2018 consultation, there was little interest from participants in small-bodied fish, or burbot. Arctic char remained the preferred fish species in the area. There was interest in the idea of a proof-of-concept for a fish hatchery, and the elders seemed more supportive of the project than previous discussions. Some elders continue to have concerns that the hatchery-raised fish may be unnatural and that the fish may taste different, although all groups were interested in learning more about the process and potential for a small-scale trial.

Feedback was provided to the community on the five alternatives for the attenuation pond for the Whale Tail Pit – Expansion Project, including on the preferred option – Lake A53. Previous community feedback was incorporated into the alternatives assessment, including concerns on: fish impacts; impacts to larger waterbodies such as Mammoth Lake; use of large above-ground structures that could affect movement of caribou and wildlife; and use of areas already affected by the mine. There were no concerns raised on the selection of Lake A53 as the preferred option, even though the lake contains fish. Discussion mainly turned to where the fish would be relocated and to make sure that the fish stay in the same area and do not get transferred to new areas where predator-prey (foodweb) dynamics may be affected.



Photo 1: Baker Lake Elder's Focus Group. March 26, 2019. Describing fish species present in the Whale Tail Pit Project Area. (English followed by Inuktitut translation; meeting materials in Inuktitut).



Photo 2: Baker Lake Elder's Focus Group. March 26, 2019. Describing fish habitat impacts from the Whale Tail Pit – Expansion Project. (Inuktitut).



Photo 3: Baker Lake Elder's Focus Group. March 26, 2019. Describing conceptual overview of fish hatchery. (Inuktitut).



Photo 4: Baker Lake Community Open House, March 26, 2019. Favourite fish from the species found in the Whale Tail Pit Project area – Arctic char.

APPENDIX A. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MATERIALS AND PHOTOS

WHALE TAIL PIT PROJECT EXPANSION: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION, JULY 10-13, 2018

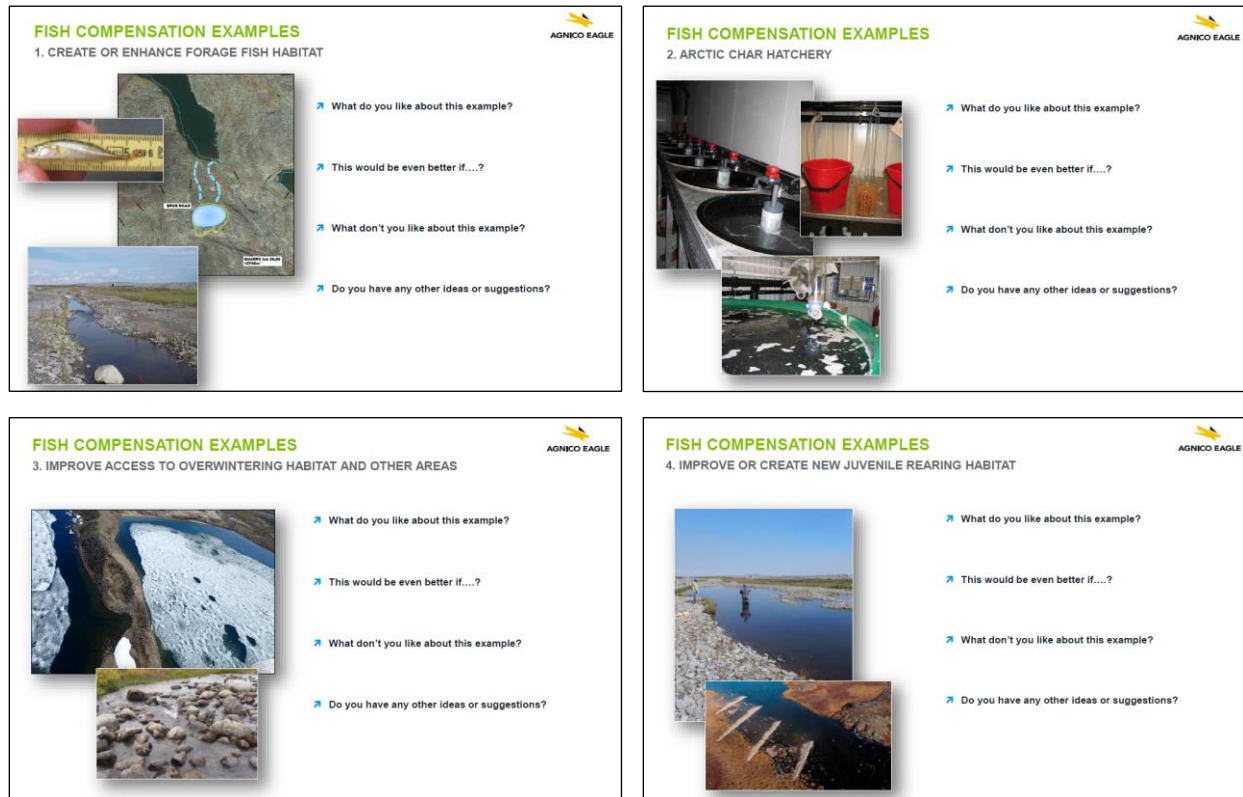


Plate A-1. Selection of handouts of fish compensation examples provided at Community Consultation Meetings.

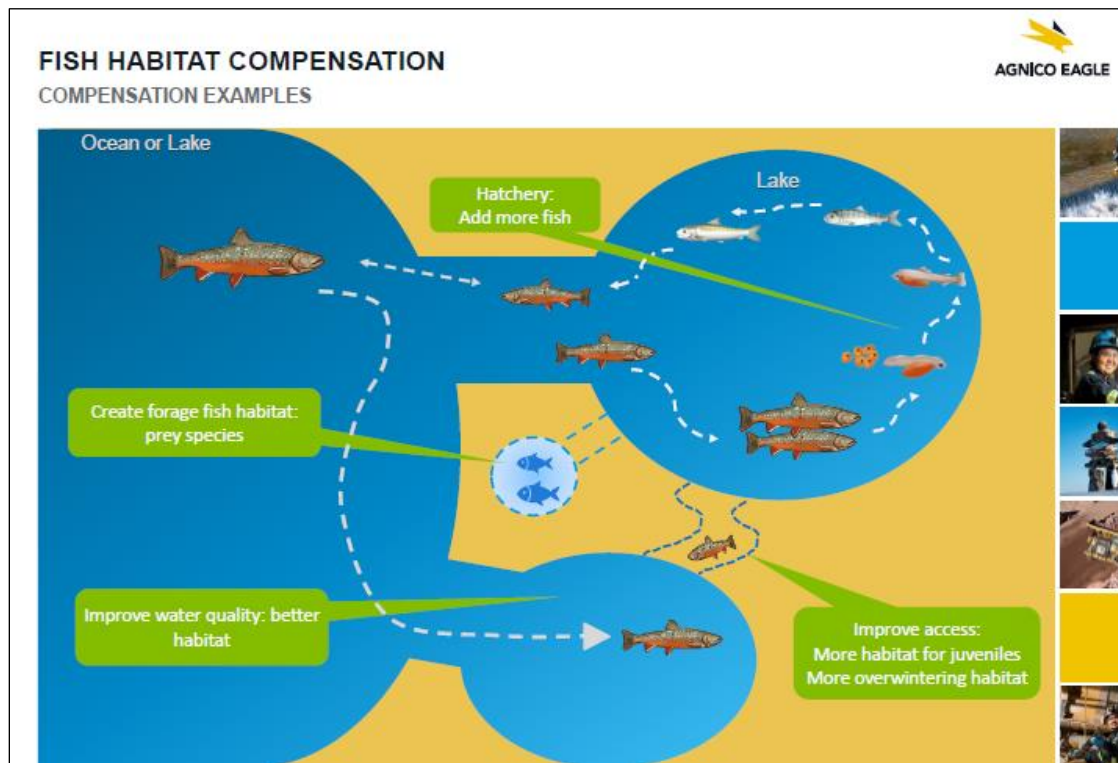
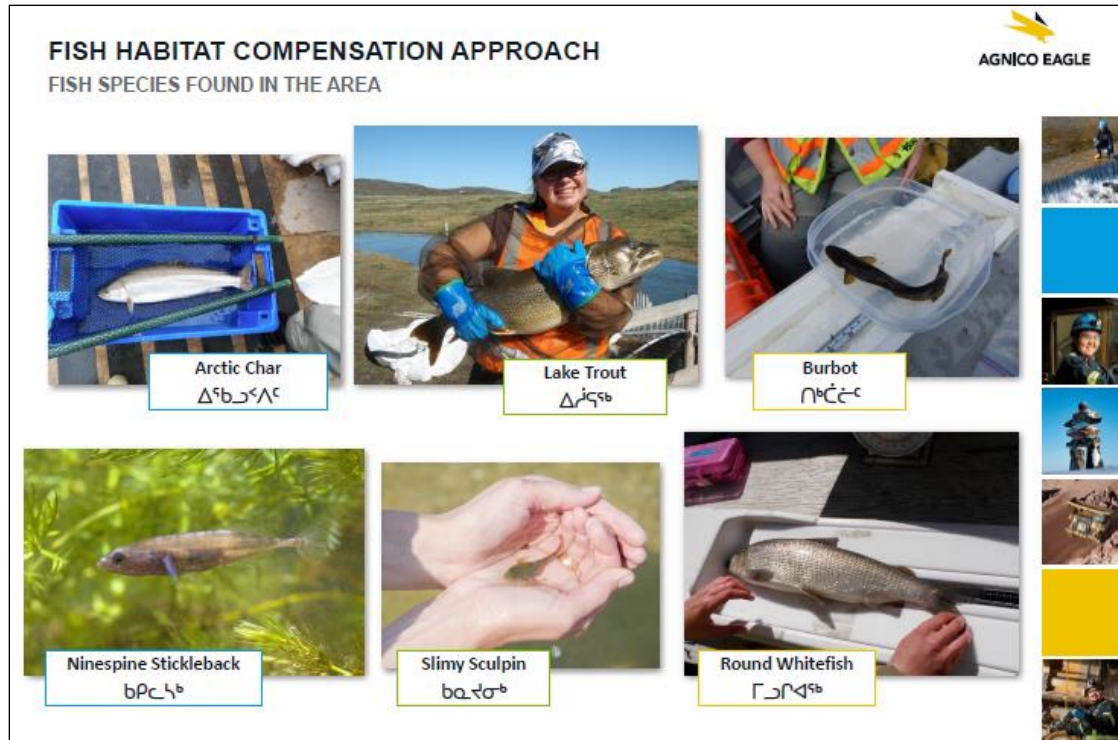
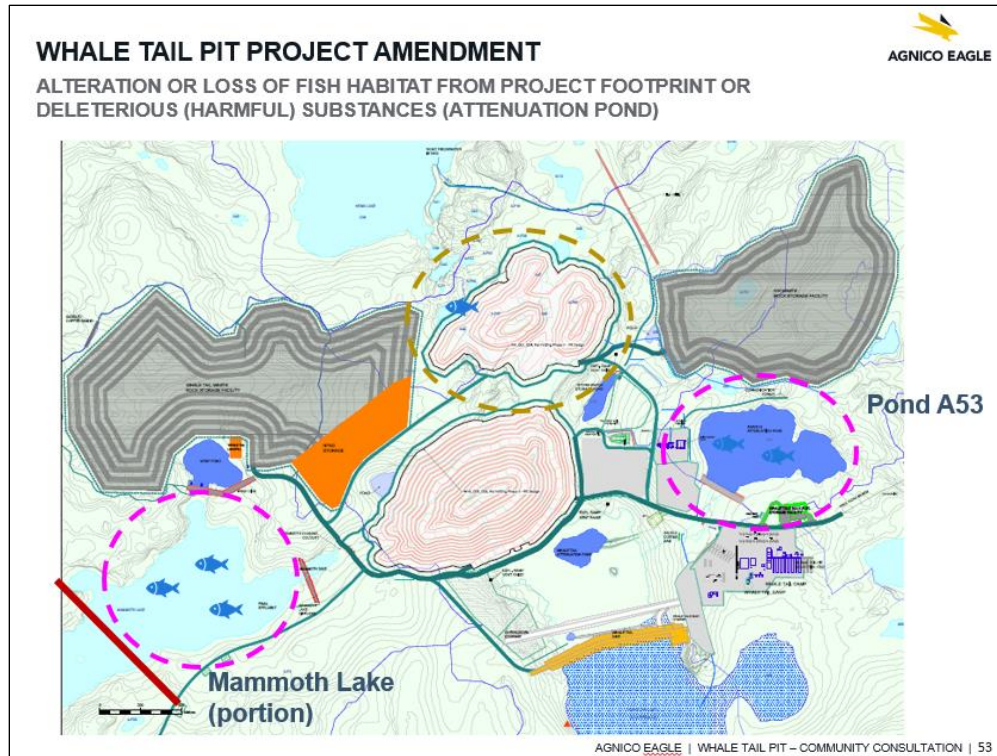


Plate A-2. Posters provided at Community Consultation Meetings.



FISH HABITAT COMPENSATION

AGNICO EAGLE

➤ Do you have any more ideas for enhancing fish productivity in the Kivalliq?

➤ Any preferred fish compensation examples from the ones presented today?

AGNICO EAGLE | WHALE TAIL PIT – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION | 57

Plate A-3. Examples of slides provided at Community Consultation Meetings.



Photo A-1. Baker Lake Open House. July 10, 2018.



Photo A-2. Baker Lake Open House. July 10, 2018.



Photo A-3. Baker Lake Open House, Discussion on Fish Species. July 10, 2018



Photo A-4. Baker Lake Open House, favourite Fish Species. July 10, 2018.

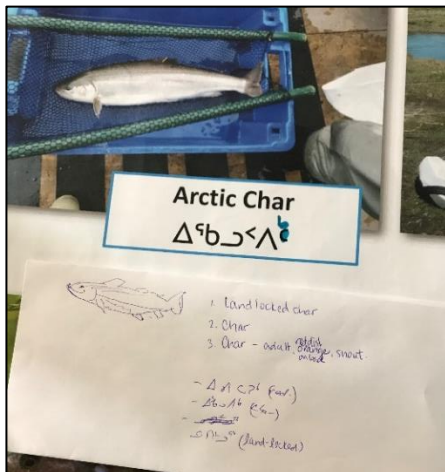


Photo A-5. Baker Lake Elders Meeting, different Inuktitut (local dialect) names for Arctic Char. July 11, 2018.

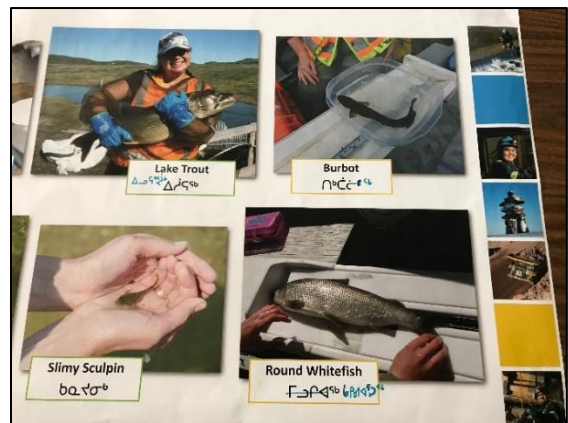


Photo A-6. Baker Lake Elders Meeting, Inuktitut (local dialect) Fish Names. July 11, 2018.

Appendix B. Representative Photos of Existing Fish Habitat

APPENDIX B. REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOS OF EXISTING FISH HABITAT



Photo B-1. West basin of Lake A53 with Watercourse A53-A17 and Whale Tail Lake in the background. September 2, 2014.

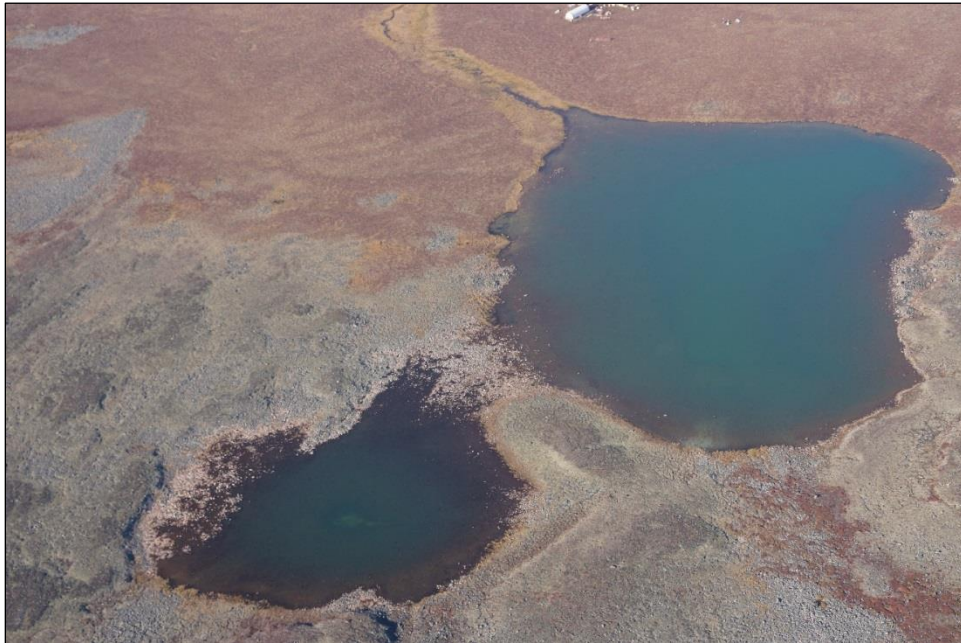


Photo B-2. Both basins of Lake A53 and upstream portion of Watercourse A53-A17. September 2, 2014.



Photo B-3. West Basin of Lake A53, looking north from south shore. June 29, 2018.



Photo B-4. Connection between East and West Basins of Lake A53, looking toward West Basin. August 5, 2018.



Photo B-5. Upstream reach of Watercourse A53-A17 looking upstream toward Lake A53. July 5, 2016.



Photo B-6. Downstream reach of Watercourse A53-A17, looking upstream. June 26, 2018.



Photo B-7. From left to right, part of the West Basin of Lake A53, Lake A52 (dry), Lake A51, and Lake A50, with Whale Tail Lake in the background. September 2, 2014.



Photo B-8. Whale Tail Lake (upper left), Lake A46, A47, A49 and A-P38. September 2, 2014.

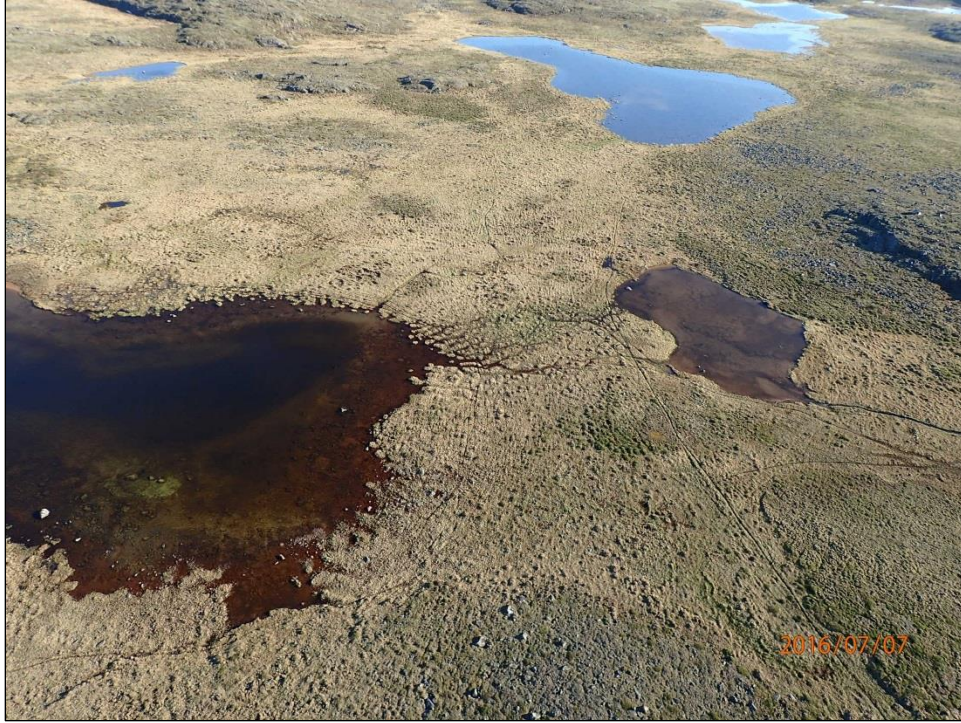


Photo B-9. North-east portion of Lake A47 (lower left), Lake A48 (centre right), and Lake A113 (upper right). July 7, 2016.



Photo B-10. Watercourse A50-A17, looking downstream toward Whale Tail Lake. July 2, 2016.



Photo B-11. Looking upstream along Watercourse A50-A17. July 6, 2015.



Photo B-12. Narrow section of Watercourse A46-A17. July 7, 2016.



Photo B-13. South portion of Lake A46. Outlet to A46-A17 is on left. June 29, 2018.



Photo B-14. Connection between Lake A46 (right) and A47 (left). June 29, 2018.



Photo B-15. Looking north-east across Lake A47. Watercourse A47-A46 is centre right. June 29, 2018.



Photo B-16. Lake A48 looking downstream from the mouth of Watercourse A0-A48. July 6, 2016.



Photo B-17. Watercourse A0-A48 looking upstream from Lake A48. July 6, 2016.



Photo B-18. 'Lake' A0 looking upstream from A0-A48. July 6, 2016.



Photo B-19. Looking south-west across A-P38. July 6, 2016.



Photo B-20. Looking south across Lake A113. July 7, 2016.