



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
Arctic Region
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Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
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Programme de protection du poisson et de son habitat
Région de l'Arctique
301 – 5204 50th Ave. (Franklin)
Yellowknife, Territoires du Nord-Ouest
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June 5, 2025

Your file *Votre référence*
2BE-COP2429

Subject: Coppermine River Drilling Program, Water Licence Amendment

To whom it may concern,

On May 7, 2026, the Nunavut Water Board invited parties to comment on the Coppermine River Drilling Program, Water Licence Amendment, file number: 2BE-COP2429. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Fish & Fish Habitat Protection Program (DFO-FFHPP) appreciates the opportunity to review the application and offers the comment below.

Comment:

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program (DFO-FFHPP) has reviewed the Coppermine Drill Programs Water Licence Amendment, file number: 2BE-COP2429, in accordance with DFO's mandate. The documents outline the projects water withdrawal activities which have the potential to impact fish and fish habitat.

Direct fish mortality can occur during water withdrawal activities through entrainment/impingement. 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.

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/practice-pratique-eng.html)) to protect fish during spawning and incubation periods when spawning fish, eggs and fry are vulnerable to disturbance or sediment.

Unclassified - Non-Classifié

The proponent should refer to DFO's Interim code of practice: End-of-pipe fish protection screens for small water intakes in freshwater available at <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/codes/screen-ecran-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, as described on DFO's website (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-003-eng.html>), they 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.ARCEMTriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Yours sincerely,



Anna-Maija LaFlamme
Triage/RRU Biologist
Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
Fisheries and Oceans Canada