



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program  
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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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August 25, 2025

*Your file*      *Votre référence*  
3AM-COR2232

*Our file*      *Notre référence*  
25-HCAA-01761

**Subject: Municipality of Coral Harbour 2023 and 2024 Annual Reports**

To whom it may concern,

On July 18, 2025, the Nunavut Water Board invited parties to comment on the Municipality of Coral Harbour's 2023 and 2024 Annual Reports (3AM-COR2232). The Fish and Fish Habitat Program of Fisheries and Oceans Canada appreciates the opportunity to review and offers a comment below.

**Comment DFO:**

The Municipality of Coral Harbour's 2023 and 2024 Annual Reports briefly discusses the projects water withdrawal activities which have the potential to impact fish and fish habitat. The Proponent also indicates hydrological studies being performed in Post River to determine instantaneous flow of the river.

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. In addition, excessive amounts of water withdrawn from ice-covered waterbodies can impact fish through oxygen depletion, loss of over-wintering habitat and/or reductions in littoral habitat.

**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.

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 m<sup>3</sup>/s, or 150 liters per second (L/s).

For water withdrawal from watercourses, DFO recommends the proponent follow the Framework for Assessing the Ecological Flow Requirements to Support Fisheries In Canada (<https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/348881.pdf>) and demonstrates that water withdrawal rate remains <10% of actual (instantaneous) flow and does not result in flows <30% of mean annual discharge (MAD).

In addition, the proponent should follow the DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the NWT (2010) and not withdraw more than 10% of under-ice water volumes ([Microsoft Word - Water Withdrawal Protocol - Jan 05.doc](#))

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>).

The hydrological study to determine the instantaneous flow of Post River that the community receives water from is of interest to DFO. Information that could be shared about flow rates, river cross section(s), fish species, fish habitat, and use of the river by fish species obtained through the study would be appreciated.

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.ARCETriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.ARCETriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Yours sincerely,



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