



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program  
Arctic Region  
301 – 5204 50th Ave. (Franklin)  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
X1A 1E2

Programme de protection du poisson et de son habitat  
Région de l'Arctique  
301 – 5204 50th Ave. (Franklin)  
Yellowknife, Territoires du Nord-Ouest  
X1A 1E2

August 6, 2024

*Your file*      *Votre référence*  
3AM-IQA1626

*Our file*      *Notre référence*  
24-HCAA-01865

**Subject: City of Iqaluit, 2023 Annual Report, Water Licence (3AM-IQ1626)**

To whom it may concern,

On June 5, 2024, the Nunavut Water Board invited parties to comment on the 2023 Annual Report for the City of Iqaluit Water Licence 3AM-IQA1626. The Fish and Fish Habitat Program of Fisheries and Oceans Canada appreciates the opportunity to review the application and offers a comment below.

**Comment DFO #1: Water Withdrawal**

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 In addition, excessive amounts of water withdrawn from ice-covered waterbodies can impact fish through oxygen depletion, loss of over-wintering habitat and/or reductions in littoral habitat.

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/measure-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)). By doing so, works, undertaking or activities where impacts to fish and fish habitat can be avoided.

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, if water intake flow rate is up to 0.150 m<sup>3</sup>/s, or 150 litres per second (L/s). The proponent should also follow the DFO protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the NWT (2010).

If the proposal meets the criteria for a site specific review (e.g., withdrawing water during the Restricted Activity Period), 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 destruction of fish habitat. Such notifications should be directed to [DFO.ARCENTriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.ARCENTriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

Yours sincerely,

8/6/2024

X Anna-Maija LaFlamme

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Signed by: LaFlamme, Anna

Anna-Maija LaFlamme

Biologist

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program

Fisheries and Oceans Canada