

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Fish Habitat Management
P.O. Box 358
Iqaluit, Nunavut

Feb 11th, 2003

Gladys Joudrey
Nunavut Impact Review Board
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut

RE: Kugluktuk Marine Facility

Dear Gladys,

On behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Fish Habitat Management I would like to provide you with preliminary comments on the Kugluktuk Marine Facility proposed by Jivko Engineering on behalf of CG&T, Government of Nunavut.

The project proposal involves construction of a dock and breakwater near Kugluktuk, Nunavut. The proponent has conducted adequate baseline studies to document the presence of 18 species of fish, habitat use, and movement trends of fish near the site. The study indicates there is a diverse cast of fish species present near the proposed site near the Coppermine River estuary. The study was necessary to ensure the fish habitat and fishery near the proposed site are protected during project construction, operation and maintenance.

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The baseline fish habitat studies nicely demonstrate potential effects on fish habitat, and mitigation measures to protect fish habitat. The potential effects include habitat loss, sedimentation, and obstruction of fish passage. The potential effects of sedimentation on fish and fish habitat related to project implementation will be mitigated by constructing the dock and breakwater "in the dry" during winter months. The study design also incorporated a creative survey of fish movement to determine whether the structure would impede fish passage and the fisheries consultant suggests that the structure will not impede movement of fish past the site. The potential release of deleterious substances associated with fuel spills during operation and maintenance of the site is a concern that will be reviewed by Environment Canada. DFO-FHM concurs with the recommendation of the fisheries consultant that there will likely be no significant environmental effect associated with the project provided that appropriate mitigation measures are implemented to protect fish habitat.

The project proposal also indicates that benthic fish habitat will be lost due to infilling required for construction of the dock and breakwater and DFO-FHM has concerns regarding whether "No Net Loss" will be achieved. DFO-FHM will work with the proponent to further develop a No Net Loss compensation plan as required prior to issuance of a Section 35(2) *Fisheries Act* authorization. It is suggested that NIRB approval of the project proposal be contingent upon development of an adequate "No Net Loss" plan by the proponent.

I would like to emphasize that DFO-FHM will work with the NIRB and the proponent towards the objective of issuance of a Section 35(2) *Fisheries Act* authorization prior to the end of March. However, the proponent is ultimately responsible for delays in the assessment of this project related to failure to apply for necessary permits (i.e., DIAND Water Lot Lease). I would like to commend the NIRB for the leadership demonstrated thus far in the assessment and encourage the proponent (Jivko Jivkov, on behalf of CG&T) to continue working with our co-management partners, including the communities, Institutions of Public Government, territorial, and federal government departments to ensure environmental assessment information needs are met.

Regards,

Original Signed by:

Jordan DeGroot
Habitat Management Biologist
Eastern Arctic Area
Fisheries and Oceans Canada