Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
Arctic Region
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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 21, 2026

*Your file* *Votre référence*
8BC-ABH2529

**Subject: Arctic Bay Harbour Development Project Application for Amendment to Water Licence, File No. 8BC-ABH2529**

To whom it may concern,

On July 29, 2026, the Nunavut Water Board invited parties to comment on the Arctic Bay Harbour Development Project Application for Amendment to Water Licence, File No. 8BC-ABH2529. The Fish and Fish Habitat Program of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FFHPP-DFO) appreciates the opportunity to review the application and offers a comment below.

**DFO Comment:**

**Comment**
The Arctic Bay Harbour Development Project Application for Amendment to Water Licence, File No. 8BC-ABH2529, discusses water withdrawal activities for the duration of the project, 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-practique-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) 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

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,

Pakozdi, Sarah

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