



January 28, 2020

Our File #: 2020-RUS-R010

United Counties of Prescott and Russell  
 Attn: Jeremie Bouchard  
 59 Court Street  
 L'Original, ON  
 K08 1K0



**SUBJECT: Bridge Deck Replacement – Results of Screening Process for Fisheries and Oceans Canada Projects Near Water**

Dear Jeremie,

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (“DFO”) – as administrator of the *Fisheries Act* – encourages project proponents to consult a qualified environmental professional to review projects near water for compliance with the *Fisheries Act*.

South Nation Conservation (“SNC”) reviewed your project near water on your behalf. SNC consulted with DFO staff and reviewed applicable policy documents. Please find the review’s findings below.

Project Review Criteria	Bridge Deck Replacement
Date Review Completed:	January 28, 2020

**The documentation you provided suggests that your project can be completed in compliance with the fish and fish habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act*.** The proposed works, undertakings, or activities are unlikely to cause impacts to fish and fish habitat, provided the *Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat* are followed.

Below is a summary from the Projects Near Water [Website](#) describing the *Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat* that should be implemented during your project:

<b>Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat:</b>	Comply with the fish and fish habitat protection provisions of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> by incorporating measures to avoid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>causing the death of fish</li> <li>harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat in your work, undertaking or activity</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Prevent the death of fish:</b></p>	<p>You can prevent the death of fish by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• avoiding killing fish by means other than fishing</li> <li>• avoiding using explosives in or near water</li> <li>• planning in water work, undertaking or activity to respect timing windows (<b>no in-water-work March 15 to June 30</b>) to protect fish, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ their eggs</li> <li>○ juveniles</li> <li>○ spawning adults</li> <li>○ the organisms upon which they feed and migrate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Maintain riparian vegetation:</b></p>	<p>Measures to maintain riparian vegetation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintaining an undisturbed vegetated buffer zone between areas of on-land activity and the high water mark of any water body</li> <li>• using existing trails, roads or cut lines wherever possible</li> <li>• avoiding tree removal</li> <li>• using methods to prevent soil compaction, such as swamp mats or pads</li> </ul>
<p><b>Carry out works, undertakings and activities on land:</b></p>	<p>You can prevent the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat by avoiding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conducting any work, undertaking or activity in water</li> <li>• placing fill or other temporary or permanent structures below the high water mark</li> <li>• fording of the watercourse</li> <li>• disturbing or removing materials from the banks, shoreline or waterbody bed, such as:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ sand</li> <li>○ rocks</li> <li>○ aquatic vegetation</li> <li>○ natural wood debris</li> </ul> </li> <li>• building structures in areas that:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ may result in erosion and/or scouring of the stream bed or banks</li> <li>○ are inherently unstable, like:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ bends</li> <li>▪ meanders</li> <li>▪ floodplains</li> <li>▪ alluvial fans</li> <li>▪ braided streams</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Maintain fish passage:</b></p>	<p>Maintain fish passage by avoiding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• changing flow or water level</li> <li>• obstructing or interfering with the movement and migration of fish</li> </ul>



<b>Ensure proper sediment control:</b>	<p>Ensure proper sediment control by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• avoiding introducing sediment in the water, like:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ silts</li><li>○ clays</li><li>○ sands</li></ul></li><li>• developing and implementing an erosion and sediment control plan<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ installing effective erosion and sediment control measures to stabilize all erodible and exposed areas</li><li>○ regularly inspecting and maintaining the erosion and sediment control measures during all phases of the project</li><li>○ keeping the erosion and sediment control measures in place until all disturbed ground has been permanently stabilized</li><li>○ installing settling basin and/or filtration system for water flowing onto the site and water being pumped or diverted from the site, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ holding back runoff water until suspended sediment has resettled in the settling basin and runoff water is clear</li><li>▪ dewatering gradually to prevent sediment resuspension and bank destabilization</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• disposing of and stabilizing all excavated material above the high water mark or top of bank of nearby waterbodies and ensuring sediment re-entry to the watercourse is prevented</li><li>• heeding weather advisories and scheduling work to avoid wet, windy and rainy periods that may result in high flow volumes and/ or increase erosion and sedimentation</li><li>• regularly monitoring the watercourse for signs of sedimentation during all phases of the work, undertaking or activity and taking corrective action if required</li><li>• using biodegradable erosion and sediment control materials whenever possible and removing all exposed non-biodegradable erosion and sediment control materials once site is stabilized</li><li>• operating machinery on land in stable dry areas</li><li>• stopping work and containing sediment-laden water to prevent dispersal</li><li>• installing temporary clear span bridges to accommodate expected high water flows and to not damage erodible banks</li><li>• limiting the impacts to stream or shoreline banks</li></ul>
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**Prevent entry  
of deleterious  
substances in  
water:**

Prevent entry of deleterious substances in water by:

- avoiding depositing any deleterious substances in the watercourse
- developing a response plan to be implemented immediately in the event of a spill of a deleterious substance
- keeping an emergency spill kit on site
- stopping work and containing deleterious substances to prevent dispersal
- reporting any spills of sewage, oil, fuel or other deleterious material whether near or directly into a water body
- ensuring clean-up measures are suitably applied so as not to result in further alteration of the bed and/or banks of the watercourse
- cleaning up and appropriately disposing of the deleterious substances
- planning activities near water such that materials and chemicals don't enter the watercourse, including:
  - grout
  - paint
  - primers
  - degreasers
  - rust solvents
  - poured concrete
  - blasting abrasives
  - or other chemicals
- maintaining all machinery on site in a clean condition and free of fluid leaks to prevent any deleterious substances from entering the water
- washing, refueling and servicing machinery and store fuel and other materials for the machinery in such a way as to prevent any deleterious substances from entering the water
- disposing all waste materials (including construction, demolition, excavation, commercial logging) above the high water mark of nearby waterbodies to prevent entry
- ensuring that building material used in a watercourse is handled and treated in a manner to prevent the release or leaching of substances into the water that may be deleterious to fish



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You are responsible for reviewing the complete list of measures and implementing those that are applicable to your work, undertaking or activity. If you cannot completely implement the protection measures, your project may need to be reviewed by DFO and you should contact SNC as soon as possible to maintain your project timelines.

This assessment is based on the information as presented to our office and assumes that the information and diagrams, as submitted, are a fair and accurate representation of the proposed undertakings. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to contact SNC if the project information is incomplete or if there are any changes to the location or operational nature of the proposed works.

Regards,

Brent Harbers,  
Watershed Biologist