

Ice bridges are temporary water crossings constructed of clean water, ice and snow. These crossings provide cost-effective access to remote areas when lakes, rivers and streams are frozen. Since the ground is frozen, the road can be built with minimal disturbance to the bed and banks of lakes, rivers, or streams. Temporary ice bridges can still have negative effects on fish and fish habitat. Clearing shoreline and bank vegetation increases the erosion potential and instability of the banks and can lead to deposition of sediments into fish habitat.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for protecting fish and fish habitat across Canada. Under Section 35 of the *Fisheries Act* no one may carry out a work or undertaking that will cause the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) of fish habitat unless it has been authorized by DFO. By following the conditions and measures set out below you will be in compliance with Subsection 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act*.

The purpose of this Operational Statement is to describe measures to incorporate into the design, construction and decommissioning of your ice bridge project, in order to avoid negative impacts to fish habitat. You may proceed with your ice bridge project without a DFO review when you meet the following conditions:

- ▶ the ice bridge is constructed of clean water, ice and snow,
- ▶ materials such as gravel, rock and woody material are NOT used, and
- ▶ you incorporate the *Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat when Constructing an Ice Bridge* listed below in this Operational Statement.

If you cannot meet all of the conditions listed above and cannot incorporate all of the measures listed below then your project may result in a violation of Subsection 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act* and you could be subject to enforcement action. In this case, you should contact a DFO office in your area if you wish to obtain DFO's opinion on the possible options you should consider to avoid contravention of the *Fisheries Act*.

You are required to respect all municipal, provincial, territorial or federal legislation (for example, the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*) that applies to the work being carried out in relation to this Operational Statement. If you have questions regarding this Operational Statement, please contact DFO by telephone at (418) 775-0726 or by email at Habitat-qc@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

We ask that you notify DFO, preferably 10 working days before starting your work by filling out and sending the attached notification form to: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 850 route de la Mer, C.P. 1000, Mont-Joli, Québec, G5H 3Z4; Fax: (418) 775-0658. This information is requested in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the work carried out in relation to this Operational Statement.

This Operational Statement applies to the province of Québec.

Aussi disponible en français.

Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat when Constructing an Ice Bridge

1. Use existing trails, winter roads or cut lines wherever possible as access routes to limit unnecessary clearing of additional vegetation and prevent soil compaction.
2. While this Operational Statement does not cover the clearing of riparian vegetation, the removal of select plants may be necessary to accommodate the road. This removal should be kept to a minimum and should not be wider than the road surface.
3. Construct approaches using clean, compacted snow and ice to a sufficient depth to protect the banks of the lake, river or stream.
4. Operate machinery on land and in a manner that minimizes disturbance to the banks of the lake, river or stream.
 - 4.1. Machinery is to arrive on site in a clean condition and is to be maintained free of fluid leaks.
 - 4.2. Wash, refuel and service machinery and store fuel and other materials for the machinery away from the water to prevent any deleterious substance from entering the water or spreading onto the ice surface.
 - 4.3. Keep emergency spill kit on site in case of fluid leaks or spills from machinery.
 - 4.4. Restore banks to original condition if any disturbance occurs.
5. If water is being pumped from a lake or river to build up the bridge, the intakes are sized and adequately screened to prevent debris blockage and fish mortality (refer to DFO's *Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guidelines* 1995). Avoid using streams as a source for water.
6. Crossings do not impede water flow at any time of the year.
7. When the crossing season is over and where it is safe to do so, create a v-notch in the centre of the ice bridge to allow it to melt from the centre and also to prevent blocking fish passage, channel erosion and flooding.
8. Stabilize any waste materials removed from the work site to prevent them from entering the lake, river, or stream. This could include covering stockpiles with biodegradable mats or tarps or planting stockpiles with grass or shrubs.
9. Vegetate and stabilize (e.g., cover exposed areas with erosion control blankets or tarps to keep the soil in place and prevent erosion) any disturbed areas by planting and seeding preferably with native trees, shrubs or grasses. Cover such areas with mulch to prevent soil erosion and to help seeds germinate.



NOTIFICATION FORM

Québec
Operational Statement

VERSION 2.0
Valid until March 31, 2007

PROPONENT INFORMATION			
NAME:			
STREET ADDRESS:			
CITY/TOWN:		PROVINCE/TERRITORY:	POSTAL CODE:
TEL. NO. (RESIDENCE):		TEL. NO. (WORK):	
FAX NO:		EMAIL ADDRESS:	
CONTRACTOR INFORMATION (provide this information if a Contractor is working on behalf of the Proponent)			
NAME:			
STREET ADDRESS:			
CITY/TOWN:		PROVINCE/TERRITORY:	POSTAL CODE:
TEL. NO. (RESIDENCE):		TEL. NO. (WORK):	
FAX NO:		EMAIL ADDRESS:	
PROJECT INFORMATION			
Select Operational Statements that are being used (check all applicable boxes):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Vegetation Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Culvert Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of Riparian Vegetation in Existing Rights-of-Way	
<input type="checkbox"/> Beach Creation	<input type="checkbox"/> Directional Drilling	<input type="checkbox"/> Moorings	
<input type="checkbox"/> Beach Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Dock Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Overhead Lines	
<input type="checkbox"/> Beaver Dam Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice Bridges	<input type="checkbox"/> Punch and Bore Crossings	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bridge Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Isolated Ponds	<input type="checkbox"/> Routine Maintenance Dredging	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clear-Span Bridges	<input type="checkbox"/> Log Salvage	<input type="checkbox"/> Underwater Cables	
Select the type of water body or watercourse at or near your project:			
<input type="checkbox"/> River, Stream, Creek	<input type="checkbox"/> Marine (Ocean or Sea)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Lake (8 hectares or greater)	<input type="checkbox"/> Estuary		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pond or wetland (pond is less than 8 hectares)			
PROJECT LOCATION (S) (fill out this section if the project location is different from Proponent Information; append multiple project locations on an additional sheet if necessary)			
Name of water body or watercourse		Coordinates of the Project (UTM co-ordinate or Degrees, Minutes, Seconds), if available	
		Easting: Latitude:	Northing: Longitude:
Legal Description (Plan, Block, Lot, Concession, Township, Section, Range)		Directions to Access the Project Site (i.e., Route or highway number, etc.)	
Proposed Start Date (YYYY/MM/DD):		Proposed Completion Date (YYYY/MM/DD):	

We ask that you notify DFO, preferably 10 working days before starting your work, by filling out and sending in, by mail or by fax, this notification form to: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 850 Route de la Mer, P.O. Box 1000, Mont-Joli, Québec G5H 3Z4; Fax : (418) 775-0658. This information is requested in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the work carried out in relation to the Operational Statement.

I, _____ (print name)
certify that the information given on this form is, to the best of my knowledge, correct and complete.

Signature

Date

Note: If you cannot meet all of the conditions and cannot incorporate all of the measures in the Operational Statement then your project may result in a violation of Subsection 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act* and you could be subject to enforcement action. In this case, you should contact the DFO office in your area if you wish to obtain DFO's opinion on the possible options you should consider to avoid contravention of the *Fisheries Act*.

Information about the above-noted proposed work or undertaking is collected by DFO under the authority of the *Fisheries Act* for the purpose of administering the fish habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act*. Personal information will be protected under the provisions of the *Privacy Act* and will be stored in the Personal Information Bank DFO-SCI-605. Under the *Privacy Act*, individuals have a right to, and on request shall be given access to, any personal information about them contained in a personal information bank. Instructions for obtaining personal information are contained in the Government of Canada's Info Source publications available at www.infosource.gc.ca or in Government of Canada offices. Information other than "personal" information may be accessible or protected as required by the provisions of the *Access to Information Act*.

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