

Routine maintenance dredging refers to the removal of accumulated sediment from channel beds to maintain the design depths of navigation channels, harbours, marinas, boat launches, and port facilities. Routine maintenance dredging is conducted regularly (at least once within the previous five years) and does not include any expansion of the previously dredged area. Dredging is typically conducted by mechanical methods such as clam buckets, draglines or backhoes. From a fisheries perspective, the largest threat to fish habitat is from the increased amount of suspended sediments introduced to the water column during the dredging process.

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 your routine maintenance dredging project in order to avoid negative impacts to fish habitat. You may proceed with routine maintenance dredging without a DFO review when you meet the following conditions:

- ▶ the site has been previously dredged and no expansion of the dredged area occurs,
- ▶ the dredged material will not be used to infill the shoreline or adjacent wetlands, and
- ▶ you incorporate the *Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat when doing Routine Maintenance Dredging* 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 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*.

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.

Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat when doing Routine Maintenance Dredging

1. Time routine maintenance dredging to protect spawning fish and incubating eggs by adhering to the following timing windows: between June 27 and September 1, unless it is clearly established that the work schedule will not interfere with the fish species life cycles.
2. Install effective sediment control measures around the perimeter of the work area before starting work and during dredging to prevent re-suspended sediment from spreading to adjacent areas. Inspect sediment control measures regularly and make all necessary repairs if any damage is discovered. Remove these control measures in a way that prevents the escape of re-suspension of sediments.
3. Dredge on calm days to minimize the suspension of fine sediment particles into the water column and ensure the sediment control measures are not disturbed by wave action.
4. Minimize the amount dredged material removed by only dredging the area and depth required for navigation.
5. Remove all dredged material to a location outside of the high water mark.
6. Operate machinery in a manner that minimizes disturbance to the banks or bed of the water body.
 - 6.1. Machinery is to arrive on site in a clean condition and is to be maintained free of fluid leaks.
 - 6.2. 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.
 - 6.3. Keep emergency spill kit on site in case of fluid leaks or spills from machinery.
 - 6.4. Restore banks to original condition if any disturbance occurs.
7. Stabilize any waste materials removed from the work site to prevent them from entering the water body. This could include covering stockpiles with biodegradable mats or tarps or planting stockpiles with grass or shrubs.

Aussi disponible en français.



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):	

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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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