



FISH HABITAT AND OFFSETTING PLAN

Fish Habitat

The Sisson Project footprint will cover the upper reaches of three brooks that drain into Napadogan Brook – Bird Brook, Sisson Brook and an un-named tributary – and will result in flow reductions in Napadogan Brook at different times during operations and closure.

Direct and indirect losses of fish habitat will be offset by enhancing other areas of fish habitat in the Nashwaak River watershed. A habitat offset plan must be approved by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) before the Sisson Project is allowed to undertake activities that may impact fish habitat. Our proposal is to remove an old water-level control dam/road culvert on the Nashwaak River just below its exit from Nashwaak Lake, and to replace it with a bridge. The dam/culvert is a barrier to fish passage. Replacing it with a bridge will allow alewife (gaspereau) to regain access to the lake for spawning and rearing, and may also provide benefits to other species such as brook trout. We have initiated engagement with First Nations on the plan, and it will be finalized during DFO's Fisheries Act authorization process which will include consultation with First Nations.

The upper reaches of the three brooks that will be directly affected by the Project do not provide habitat used by Atlantic salmon. Atlantic salmon do use Napadogan Brook, and the minor habitat changes in that brook due to flow reductions have been studied and are not expected to affect them. Monitoring during the project lifespan will enable adaptive management measures if any unexpected effects on salmon habitat downstream of the project are observed.

Wetlands

Provincially-mapped wetlands make up a small portion of the Sisson Project's footprint – approximately 2%. We will be required to develop a plan to compensate for these wetland losses that must be approved by the province before the Project can proceed into development. The Sisson Project has developed options for restoring degraded wetlands outside the area of project influence, and is committed to working with the provincial government in order to compensate for project effects to wetlands.

The Sisson Project team will continue to work with interested First Nations and stakeholders in order to enhance our plans to mitigate fish habitat and wetlands losses.

THE SISSON PARTNERSHIP