

DFO Presentation Summary

Environmental Assessment of Consolidated Goldwin Ventures and Sidon International Resources (EA0506-005 and EA0506-006) Public Hearing,

**Wednesday, April 4th, 2007
Yellowknife, NT**

Role of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for the management and protection of fish and marine mammals and their habitats. The *Fisheries Act* provides the legal basis for this responsibility. DFO's review was limited to potential impacts of the project pursuant to the responsibilities of DFO under the fish and fish habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act*.

Winter Water Withdrawal

The withdrawal of water from fish-bearing water bodies during the winter may impact fish and fish habitat through: (1) fish being destroyed when taken up by water intakes, and (2) withdrawing excessive amounts of water from waterbodies can have negative impacts to over-wintering fish and fish habitat. The DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal in the Northwest Territories (January, 2005) was developed to avoid these impacts. The protocol outlines how water volumes are to be calculated and the maximum amount of water that can be removed during under ice conditions to prevent impacts to fish for both lakes and running waters. The protocol also specifies how water intakes should be screened to prevent the entrainment of fish into water intakes.

Both Sidon International Resources and Consolidated Gold Win Ventures have stated that, if required, they would conduct a bathymetric survey to determine the volume and depth of the lake (in addition to looking for the presence of spawning shoals). Provided the company follows the DFO Protocol for Winter Water Withdrawal (January, 2005) for any lakes and or streams that will be used as water sources for the program (including for ice road construction, drilling and camp use) the project will likely not impact fish or fish habitat.

Drill Cuttings

The potential effects of cuttings generated by drilling activities on fish habitat is by: (1) leaving the cuttings on the ice to melt through during the spring thaw; (2) allowing cuttings to spread onto adjacent fish habitat during on-ice drilling; and (3) the deposit into water bodies through the erosion of cutting deposited in land-based sumps.

It is DFO's understanding that for both programs all drill cuttings from on ice-drilling activities will be collected, removed and transported to Yellowknife for disposal. All drill cutting from on land drilling will be placed in an on-site depression well removed from any water body. The project will likely not impact fish or fish habitat if the mitigation measures proposed are implemented.

Drilling on Spawning Shoals

If drilling activities take place shoals, the potential negative impacts on fish habitat are: (1) the physical destruction of spawning habitats, and (2) the sediment generated by drilling activities may spread to adjacent areas, smothering eggs or harming over-wintering fish.

To protect fish and fish habitat, both proponents have stated that on ice drilling will only be conducted on areas frozen to the bottom or in depths greater than 11 metres. All drill cuttings from on ice-drilling activities will be collected, removed and transported to Yellowknife for disposal. The project will likely not impact fish or fish habitat if these mitigation measures are implemented as proposed.