



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Ontario and Prairie Region
Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
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Pêches et Océans
Canada

Région de l'Ontario et des Prairies
Programme de protection du poisson et de son habitat
867 chemin Lakeshore
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April 21, 2026

Our file Notre référence
26-HCAA-00717

The Georgian Yacht Club
Mike Forcier
PO Box #382
Owen Sound, ON, N4K 5P5

Subject: Dredging, Georgian Bay, Grey County (26-HCAA-00717) – Implementation of Measures to Avoid and Mitigate the Potential for Prohibited Effects to Fish and Fish Habitat

Dear Mike Forcier:

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program (the Program) of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) received your proposal on April 2, 2026. We understand that you propose to:

- Conduct maintenance dredging at the entrance to the Georgian Yacht Club to restore bottom depth contours to 1.8 to 2.0m below chart datum, resulting in an approximate footprint of 750 square meters (m²) below the high-water mark; and,
- Work in isolation of open water to avoid sedimentation of the watercourse.

We understand the following aquatic species listed under the *Species at Risk Act* may use the area in the vicinity of where your proposal is to be located:

- Upper Great Lakes Kiyi listed as Special Concern.

Our review considered the following information:

- Request for Review form and associated documents submitted on April 2, 2026;

Your proposal has been reviewed to determine whether it is likely to result in:

- the death of fish by means other than fishing and the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat which are prohibited under subsections 34.4(1) and 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act*; and,
- effects to listed aquatic species at risk, any part of their critical habitat or the residences of their individuals in a manner which is prohibited under sections 32, 33 and subsection 58(1) of the *Species at Risk Act*.

The aforementioned impacts are prohibited unless authorized under their respective legislation and regulations.

To avoid and mitigate the potential for prohibited effects to fish and fish habitat (as listed above), we recommend implementing the measures listed below:

- Carry out the project in accordance with [timing windows](#);
 - No in-water work between March 15 and July 15;
- Limit the duration of in-water works, undertakings and activities;
- Capture fish trapped within an isolated or enclosed area and relocate them to the same watercourse or water body;
 - Implement measures to minimize the number of fish requiring rescue prior to works being conducted (passive fish removal);
 - This can include but is not limited to herding fish using a turbidity curtain or seine net and/or providing an escape route out of the area of operation, prior to and during the dewatering process or other rescue techniques;
- Dispose of dredged material and stabilize it on land following provincial legislation;
- Contaminated dredged material should be disposed of according to provincial guidelines. It is the proponent's responsibility to determine if the dredged material is contaminated;
- Limit disturbance of fish habitat features (e.g., aquatic plants, rocks, woody material) to the area required to carry out the project;
 - Limit the amount of dredged material removed for depth required for navigation;
- Maintain a functioning vegetated riparian zone between the project site and the ordinary high water mark;
 - Limit access to shorelines and banks or areas adjacent to the watercourse or water body;
- Develop and implement an erosion and sediment control plan for all phases of the project;
 - Conduct all operations in isolation of open or flowing water;
 - Follow the [standard for in-water site isolation](#)
 - Use the interim standard: [Planning for land-based erosion and sediment controls](#);
 - Operate machinery on land during all phases of the project;
 - Use methods to reduce soil compaction (e.g., swamp mats, pads);
 - Regularly observe the watercourse or water body for signs of suspended sediment during all phases of the project and take corrective action when and where required;
 - Keep the erosion and sediment controls in place until all disturbed ground has been stabilized and suspended sediments have settled.

- Dispose of, and stabilize, all excavated material above the ordinary high water mark or top of bank of nearby watercourses or water bodies;
- Develop a plan to prevent deleterious substances from entering a watercourse or water body;
 - Maintain all machinery on site in a clean condition and free of fluid leaks;
 - Wash, refuel and service machinery in such a way as to prevent any deleterious substances from entering a watercourse or water body;
 - Implement a response plan immediately in the event of a spill of a deleterious substance (including sediment);
 - Report spill immediately when a deleterious substance enters a watercourse or water body;
 - Contain water with deleterious substances;
 - Clean-up and dispose of water contaminated with deleterious substances;
- Aquatic invasive species are introduced and spread through transporting water, sands and sediments and using contaminated construction equipment. To prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species during construction in aquatic environments:
 - Ensure all equipment arrives on site clean and free of invasive species;
 - Clean, drain and dry any equipment used in the water; and,
 - Never move organisms or water from one body of water to another.

Provided that you incorporate these measures into your plans, the Program is of the view that your proposal is not likely to result in the contravention of the above mentioned prohibitions and requirements.


Should your plans change or if you have omitted some information in your proposal, further review by the Program may be required. Consult our website ([Projects near water \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](http://ProjectsNearWater.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)) or consult with a qualified environmental consultant to determine if further review may be necessary. It remains your responsibility to remain in compliance with the *Fisheries Act*, the *Species at Risk Act*.

It is also your *Duty to Notify* DFO if you have caused, or are about to cause, the death of fish by means other than fishing and/or the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. Such notifications should be directed to DFO.OPHabitat.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca or 1-855-852-8320.

We recommend that you notify this office at least 10 days before starting your project and that a copy of this letter be kept on site while the work is in progress. Send your notification to the DFO 10 day notification mailbox: DFO.OP10DayNotification-Notification10JourOP.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. It remains your responsibility to meet all other federal, territorial, provincial and municipal requirements that apply to your proposal.

If you have any questions with the content of this letter, please contact Tyler Peat at Tyler.Peat@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Please refer to the file number referenced above when corresponding with the Program.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Peat". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Tyler Peat
Biologist, Triage and Planning
Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program