



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

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Canada

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July 14, 2025

*Our file*    *Notre référence*  
25-HPAC-00614

Village of Slocan  
PO Box 50  
503 Slocan Street  
Slocan, BC  
V0G 2C0

Via email: [info@villageofslocan.ca](mailto:info@villageofslocan.ca)

**Subject: Erosion Protection Replacement, Springer Creek, Slocan – Implementation of Measures to Avoid and Mitigate the Potential for Prohibited Effects to Fish and Fish Habitat**

Dear Village of Slocan:

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program (the Program) of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) received your proposal on June 6, 2025. We understand that you propose to:

- Remove a limited number of trees and shrubs along the equipment access route;
- Temporarily remove the bridge deck from the abutments to improve site access;
- Install new riprap along the banks of Springer Creek, with no increase to the current extent; and,
- Re-seed disturbed ground along the bank and the laydown area with a native seed blend suitable for the site.

As of the date of this letter, no individuals of any aquatic species listed under the *Species at Risk Act* were identified in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Our review considered the following information:

- *Request for Review* form prepared and signed by Beth Wasylyshyn (Masse Environmental Consultants Ltd.), dated May 20, 2025;
- Site photographs, received on June 6, 2025; and
- *Springer Creek Bridge Riprap Erosion* design drawings prepared by SNT Geotechnical Ltd., dated May 16, 2025.

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 outcomes 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 **in addition to those set out in your project proposal**:

1. Retain a qualified environmental professional to conduct environmental monitoring during all project works, undertakings or activities that may result in potential adverse effects to fish and fish habitat.
2. Conduct works, undertakings, or activities during favourable weather with minimal precipitation and low water conditions.
3. Maintain fish passage during all phases of the project.
4. Ensure that riprap does not interfere with fish passage or constrict the channel width.
5. Follow the applicable guidance in DFO's [Interim standard: in-water site isolation](#) when conducting works, undertakings, or activities in isolation of flowing water.
6. Construction works, undertakings or activities are not to result in the trapping or stranding of fish. Any excavations or materials (e.g., riprap) placed below the high water mark should be sloped appropriately and graded smooth to prevent benches and reduce the risk of trapping or stranding fish.
7. Develop and implement an erosion and sediment control plan to avoid and minimize the introduction of sediments (e.g., silts, clays, soil and sand) into fish habitat.
8. Stabilize disturbed soils during and upon completion of the project to prevent sediment from entering fish habitat.
9. All excavated materials, temporary or otherwise, are to be stored and/or stockpiled upland in a manner that prevents materials from entering fish habitat.
10. Avoid grubbing of riparian vegetation within temporary disturbances to enable quick recover and ongoing soil stabilization.

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 (<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>) 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* and the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations*.

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 the DFO-Pacific Observe, Record and Report phone line at 1-800-465-4336 or by email at [DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

Please notify the Program by email at [Marissa.Miles@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Marissa.Miles@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) at least 10 days before starting your project, ensuring your file number and appropriate on-site contact information is included. We recommend that a copy of this letter be kept on site while the work is in progress. It remains your responsibility to meet all other federal, territorial, provincial and municipal requirements that apply to your proposal.

Please note that the advice provided in this letter will remain valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance. If you plan to execute your proposal after the expiry of this letter, we recommend that you contact the Program to ensure that the advice remains up-to-date and accurate. Furthermore, the validity of the advice is also subject to there being no change in the relevant aquatic environment, including any legal protection orders or designations, during the one-year period.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact Marissa Miles at our Nanaimo office by email at [Marissa.Miles@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Marissa.Miles@dfo-mpo.gc.ca). Please refer to the file number referenced above when corresponding with the Program.

Yours sincerely,

Marissa Miles, RPBio  
A/Senior Biologist  
Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program

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