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# Mineral Exploration in Nunavut

## DFO's Role

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# Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- Fisheries Management
- Hydrographics
- Oceans Programs
- Science
- Coast Guard
- Fish Habitat Management – *regulatory reviews*

A decorative banner at the bottom of the slide. On the left, there is a close-up image of a red maple leaf. On the right, the word "Canada" is written in white, with a small red maple leaf icon above the letter 'a'.

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# Fish Habitat Management Program

- Protect and conserve fish habitat to support coastal and inland fisheries
- Administration and enforcement of the *Fisheries Act* and *Species at Risk Act*
- Conduct environmental assessments, make regulatory decisions under the habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act*



# Nunavut Regulatory Process

- DFO participates in screenings and reviews of projects by NIRB, NWB
- Provides advice to Boards and Proponents



## *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*

- Prevent wildlife species from becoming extinct
- Illegal to kill or harm species listed or destroy their critical habitats
- DFO responsible for aquatic species at risk



## *Fisheries Act*

Fish Passage and flows –  
Sec. 20, 22

Fish Guards and Screens  
- Sec. 30

Destruction of Fish - Sec.32

Fish Habitat – Sec. 35

Deleterious Substances  
Sec.36





## Is it Fish Habitat?

- Fish observed?
- Connectivity?
- Dry now, but flooded in spring?
- Flow during winter?
- Does it hold water year round?



Cott, Moore 2003





# Risk Management Framework

Scale of Negative Effect	Sensitivity of fish and fish habitat				
	Rare	Highly sensitive	Moderately sensitive	Low sensitivity	Not fish habitat
High	Significant negative effects Site specific review and authorization	Streamlined authorization process, regulations, class authorizations	Operational Statements, letters of advice, best management practices, guidelines, certification, partnership		
Medium					
Low					
None	No impact - no <i>Fisheries Act</i> requirements				

Development proposals categorized by scale of the effect and fish and fish habitat sensitivities present.





# Operational Statements



Streamline regulatory review of **low risk** activities.

Project fits criteria and mitigation - Compliance with the *Fisheries Act*.

Download: [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)





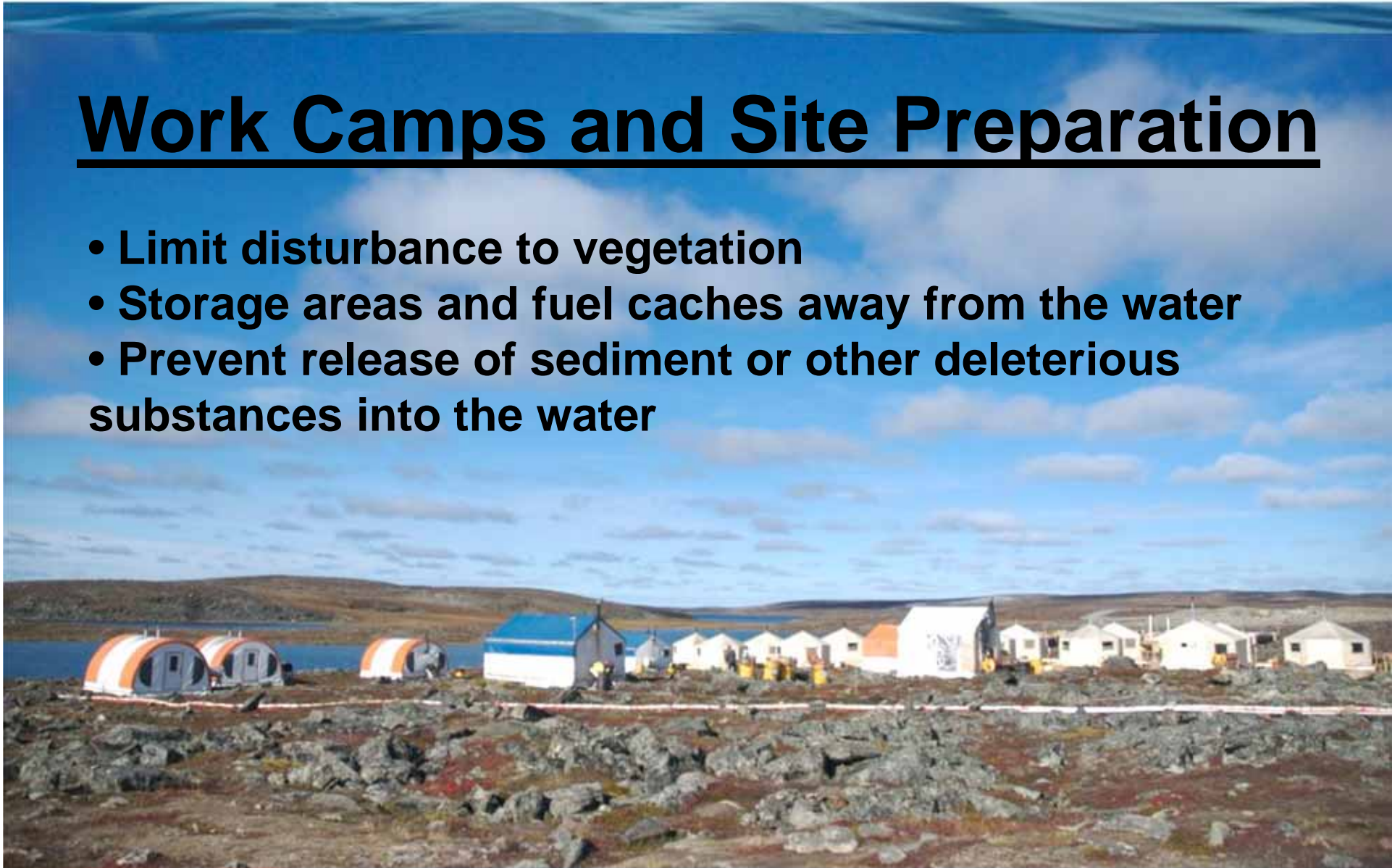
# Mineral Exploration Operational Statement

- Intended to cover all common exploration activities up to “advanced exploration”
  - Surface stripping
  - Trenching
  - Pitting
  - Camps
  - Drilling
  - Bulk sampling



# Work Camps and Site Preparation

- Limit disturbance to vegetation
- Storage areas and fuel caches away from the water
- Prevent release of sediment or other deleterious substances into the water





## Overburden Removal

Undertake trenching and surface stripping in a manner that ensures sediment-laden run-off does not enter any water body.





# Drilling

- **Land-based: set back from water**
- **Small diameter/low density drilling on ice**
- **No drilling in spawning areas**
- **Keep on ice drilling in deeper off-shore areas**





# Drilling

- **Managing drill cuttings**
- **Clean up any spills and remove debris from the ice**

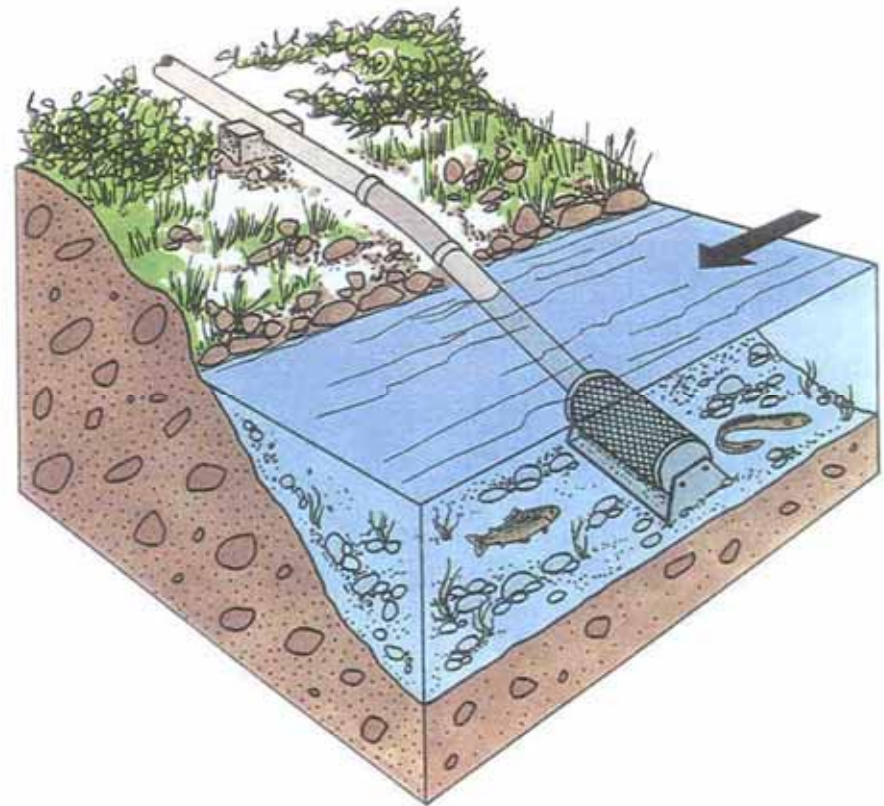


**Frozen sausage casings**



# Water Withdrawal

- Prevent lake or streambed disturbance
- Draw-down, dewatering
- Entrainment/impingement of fish.
- See DFO Freshwater intake End-of-Pipe fish Screen Guide







## What is not covered?

- Water crossings in open water conditions
- Seismic surveys
- Camp waste management
- Explosives



Can't meet the conditions of the Operational Statement?  
Submit your project for a site-specific review



## Other DFO Operational Statements

- Timing Windows
- Clear-Span Bridges
- Dock Construction
- Ice Bridges and Snow Fills
- Temporary Stream Crossing

\* Notification Form





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# Questions?



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