Version 3 Hammond Reef Gold Project EIS/EA – Addendum (Part B) Responses to Provincial Information Requests

1656263

Identifier	Topic	Reference to EIS/EA Report	Summary of Comment	Proponent's Response	Subsequent Comment
			Date: March 2014	Date: June 2015	
MNR-10	Aquatic Habitat		The importance of the recreational fishery of Marmion is not adequately addressed. 6.3.1.7 states that the project is not anticipated to change the number and types of visitor to the RSA or LSA from tourism. It is expected, that the TSD would identify additional fishing pressure as it is for hunting on pg. 107.	Impacts to fishing are assessed in the Final EIS/EA Report. Fishing is an identified VEC for the socio-economic environment and was assessed using three indicators: recreational fishing participation; fishing areas, license sales and harvest volumes; and baitfish areas and harvest volumes. Assessment of direct effects is focused on the alteration of fishing areas in the LSA important to recreational and commercial fishing. The aboriginal interest assessment also considered impacts to fishing through the traditional use of land and resources VEC. The fishery in Upper Marmion Reservoir is of major cultural significance to Aboriginal communities and is an important source of traditional foods. It is also important for local economy and the Town of Atikokan, who hosts annual events around the fisheries. It is acknowledged that the introduction of a large workforce could exert unsustainable pressure on the local fishery, affecting the sustainability of fish populations. As a result, to help maintain fish stocks, fishing by camp personnel while on-site will be restricted through an OHFG policy preventing fishing while residing at the worker accommodation camp. The Project will not restrict access to or result in the removal of any commonly-used public fishing areas. Additionally, an Agreement has been negotiated with a baitfish license holder in the vicinity of the Project to mitigate losses to baitfish harvesting area within the Project area. Accordingly, the Project is not likely to result in any measurable changes or direct effects on fishing opportunities. However, there may be indirect effects caused by Project-induced changes to the physical environment identified in the Aquatic Environment TSD. With additional workers entering the area there may be some associated indirect increase in fishing pressure. The effects are not deemed to be significant and are outweighed by the potential economic benefits from creation of jobs, contracts, and services. Monitoring for fishing pressure increase will include conductin	MNRF-10