



FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA (DFO)

*Ring of Fire Regional Assessment
Working Group Meeting
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DFO is responsible for the conservation, protection and sustainable use of Canada's fish and fish habitat for future generations



Guiding Legislation - Highlights



Fisheries Act

FISH AND FISH HABITAT PROHIBITIONS:

- **Obstruction to fish passage and water flows**
- **Death of Fish**
- **Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction of Fish Habitat (HADD)**
- Deposit of deleterious [harmful] substance in water frequented by fish

Species at Risk Act (SARA)

PROHIBITIONS: For aquatic species listed as extirpated, endangered or threatened:

- **Kill, harm, harass, capture or take**
- **Possess, collect, buy, sell or trade (an individual or any part)**
- **Damage or destroy the residence**
- **Destroy any part of the critical habitat**

[Aquatic species at risk map](#)

FISHERIES ACT KEY FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Offsetting Policy

- Guidance to proponents on the use of offsetting measures to counterbalance the death of fish or the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat including:
 - Guiding Principles for Offsetting
 - Measures to Offset



Cumulative Effects Position Statement

- How DFO considers cumulative effects on fish and fish habitat prior to deciding to issue or refuse a Fisheries Act authorization related to the death of fish and the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat.
- DFO's approach to ensure that cumulative effects on fish and fish habitat are considered consistently and transparently

HOW DFO CONTRIBUTES TO REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS

Expert science and impact management advice

- **Support evaluation of potential impacts to fish and fish habitat (mandate) and management measures including:**

- Add to Traditional knowledge of fish and fish habitat baseline status (including aquatic Species at Risk) with available aquatic and marine science information
- Evaluation advice for potential impacts of development, including cumulative effects and associated sustainability considerations
- Advice for approaches to avoid, reduce or eliminate potential adverse effects
- Monitoring and evaluation advice for the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures
- Recommendations for Adaptive management
- Consideration of Protected and Special Areas

Current and Planned Initiatives

- Restoration Action Dashboard



INITIATIVE - RESTORATION ACTION DASHBOARD (RAD)

What RAD is:

- Regional map (geospatial dashboard)
 - Currently populated for Lake Erie watershed
 - Future: populate for all of Ontario (including Ring of Fire area), Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta
 - Current draft, final to be posted in 2025-26
- Contains:
 - **Restoration Goals** – *area-based long-term outcomes for species, areas or ecosystem functions*
 - **Restoration Actions** – *Strategic potential site-specific opportunities which contributes to a restoration goal*
 - **Important areas**

How RAD could be used:

- Repository of community identified
 - potential restoration or offset opportunities
 - important areas
- Resource for proponents to identify strategic offsetting opportunities
- Resource for potential grant and contribution applicants to identify strategic restoration opportunities.

[Link:](#)
[Restoration Action Dashboard \(RAD\)](#)

CONTACTS



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