

# Notice of Determination

Steveston Paramount Harbour, Richmond BC – November 9, 2020 – The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Small Craft Harbours Branch has determined that the proposed Steveston Paramount Maintenance Dredging Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

This determination was based on a consideration of the following factors:

- impacts on rights of Indigenous peoples;
- Indigenous knowledge;
- community knowledge;
- comments received from the public;
- assessment of biophysical site conditions surrounding work area(s);
- receipt of a Disposal at Sea (DAS) permit; and
- technically and economically feasible mitigation measures.

Mitigation measures taken into account for this determination are:

The project must comply with the mitigation measures in the DFO code of practice for maintenance dredging, mitigation measures as part of Transport Canada's minor works order, and permit conditions of the Disposal at Sea permit.

## Avoidance Measures

- In-water works will be scheduled during the least risk window of July 16 and February 15 to minimize adverse effects on fish.

## Mitigation Measures for Fish

- Implement ramp up procedures during dredging to allow for fish to vacate the area prior to full dredging operations.
- No grounding of barges will be allowed to occur on the riverbed, except for the use of vertical spuds or anchors employed to hold the spud barge in place.
- Dredged material is not to be released from above the water surface or within the upper portion of the water column.
- If a dead or distressed fish is observed, work will stop to allow the monitor to investigate and determine the best course of action.

- Do not deposit any substances deleterious to fish or fish habitat directly or indirectly into the Fraser River or any adjacent watercourses. In the event of a spill into a watercourse, ensure the spill response plan is implemented immediately to mitigate potential effects to fish and fish habitat.

### **Mitigation Measures for Aquatic Mammals**

- If harbour seals or other aquatic mammals are observed within the Project footprint during dredging works, the equipment operator will suspend operations and wait until the animal has moved outside the Project footprint.
- If the contractor observes dead or distressed aquatic mammals, they will contact the environmental monitor immediately and stop work to allow the monitor to investigate and determine the best course of action.

### **Mitigation Measures for Project Activities**

- The Project is to be carried out in compliance with all applicable legislation including the Species at Risk Act, the Fisheries Act and Marine Mammal Regulations, and the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 and Disposal at Sea Regulations and Transport Canada's minor works order.
- Vessel operators will be appropriately trained and qualified and familiar with the operation area.
- Vessels must be appropriately marked in accordance with the Collision Regulations administered by Transport Canada.
- The equipment used will be in proper working order and will be adequately maintained to prevent leaks and spills.
- Complete side scan sonar prior to commencement of dredging.
- Notify Musqueam officers ahead of dredging activities if they may overlap with fishing activities.
- Ensure crew is trained on the Chance Find procedure and that Musqueam is contacted if an artifact is discovered.

## **Mitigation measures for dredging / loading activities**

- Dredging operators will be properly trained and will operate equipment based on industry best practices that include utilizing techniques to minimize the re-suspension of sediments in the water column.
- Dredging and loading operators will ensure that the bucket is completely emptied into the scow before swinging the bucket back over the water.
- Scheduling of dredging and loading activities will take into account tides and currents.
- Equipment or machinery used in the marine environment will be located and secured in such a way as to prevent grounding onto intertidal marshes, the foreshore or the river bed.
- Dredging and loading time will be minimized to the extent possible and appropriate techniques will be utilized to keep sediment within the immediate work area.
- Every reasonable effort will be made to minimize any overflow or spillage from the barges.
- Direct or indirect releases of water containing elevated suspended solids or elevated turbidity will be minimized.

## **Mitigation measures for transit to the disposal site**

- Barges will transit only under suitable conditions to minimize chances of spillage.
- The most direct navigational route from the load site to the disposal site will be taken.

## **Mitigation measures for disposal at sea activities**

- The dredged material to be disposed will have the appropriate physical characteristics for disposal and the contaminant levels will meet the criteria outlined in the Disposal at Sea Regulations of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999.
- All disposal activity must occur within the specified disposal site boundaries.
- Every reasonable effort will be made to minimize disposal time.

## **Additional Mitigation Measures**

- Maintenance dredging will be conducted under the direction of a full-time environmental monitor to ensure conformance with avoidance and mitigation measures.
- Monitor for potential signs of nearshore sedimentation during all phases of the project. Take appropriate corrective actions as required to prevent death of fish and/or the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat.
- Dredging operations will be ceased if there is a risk of physical harm to fish or any marine mammal from direct contact and/or if fish or marine mammals appear to be distressed as a result of the work. Dredging may only resume once these risks have been mitigated.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Small Craft Harbours Branch is satisfied that the carrying out of the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

Therefore, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Small Craft Harbours Branch may carry out the project, exercise any power, perform any duty or function, or provide financial assistance to enable the project to be carried out in whole or in part.