

**From:** Rebekka Lindskoog <[lindskoogr@ae.ca](mailto:lindskoogr@ae.ca)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 2:00 PM

**To:** Heather Scott <[heather.scott@mvlwb.com](mailto:heather.scott@mvlwb.com)>; Tyree Mullaney <[tyree@mvlwb.com](mailto:tyree@mvlwb.com)>; Chris Hotson <[chotson@mvlwb.com](mailto:chotson@mvlwb.com)>; [Wendy Bidwell@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Wendy_Bidwell@gov.nt.ca); Aileen Stevens <[Aileen Stevens@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Aileen_Stevens@gov.nt.ca)>

**Cc:** Joshua Gauthier <[Joshua\\_Gauthier@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Joshua_Gauthier@gov.nt.ca)>; Joyce Gourlay <[Joyce\\_Gourlay@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Joyce_Gourlay@gov.nt.ca)>; Dean Foster <[fosterd@ae.ca](mailto:fosterd@ae.ca)>

**Subject:** MV2023L8-0005 - GNWT - INF - HR Harbour - Request for extension

Hello everyone,

As conditions are improving in Hay River and the evacuation order is being lifted, GNWT-INF is interested in returning to the dredging program this summer (MV2023L8-0005). We understand that Hay River is tentatively opening to public re-entry on Sunday September 17 2023 and as such, we hope to resume dredging as early as September 18, pending successful remobilization. GNWT-INF recognizes that the project's Water License authorizes the dredging activity to occur during the fish timing window of July 16 to September 14, and as such, we are requesting an extension of that window to October 7 to accommodate additional dredging.

Details of the proposed resumed dredging program are outlined below:

- Dredging may commence as early as Monday September 18, 2023.
- The dredging program will only consist of Dredge Area A (plug/outfall area).
- The dredging program is estimated to take about 20 days, thus extending the window to October 7, 2023.
- All conditions and Management Plans under the Water Licence will be in effect.

The project is also subject to a DFO Letter of Advice, which includes the fish timing window of July 16 to September 14. We have met with DFO and received approval of the extension (attached is both our request and the approval from DFO - via email), based on the following considerations:

- The changes in temperature and water flow, which are the typical triggers to commence fish movement, have been delayed this year due to unseasonably warm temperatures, low precipitation, and low water levels. It is expected that an extension to the dredging window will therefore not result in increased risk of interactions between dredging activities and fish.
- Precautionary mitigation measures will be employed, which will include monitoring by qualified professionals to observe if fish are congregating below dredging operations. If congregations are observed, dredging operations will be temporarily paused to allow fish to migrate upstream unimpeded or supplementary mitigation measures will be developed.
- Communication on these items shall be carried out with IGO's.

GNWT-INF will advise project stakeholders and IGO's of the abovementioned schedule updates, technical rationale, and precautionary mitigation measures to be implemented for their information.

Given the unforeseen circumstances in Hay River this summer and the urgency of this task, we respectfully request a response from the MVLWB as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Rebekka Lindscoog, R.P.Bio.**  
Manager, Northern Environment  
**Associated Environmental Consultants Inc.**  
Cel: 250.938.5528



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**From:** [D'Aguiar, Mark](#)  
**To:** [Dean Foster](#)  
**Cc:** [Aileen Stevens](#); [Rebekka Lindskoog](#); [Glass, William R](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Hay River Emergency Dredging - Work Timing Extension  
**Date:** September 15, 2023 7:31:56 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hi Dean, Aileen, and Rebekka,

Thank you for the updated information regarding the extension and changes to the timing of the dredging within Area 'A'. DFO understands that the extension to conduct dredging into the timing window (to October 7, 2023) is necessary as the operations were halted due to the wildfire and evacuation order. DFO also recognizes the urgency in completing the dredging operations to maintain critical navigation channels into Hay River.

We have reviewed and contemplated the proposed mitigation and avoidance measures, including the additional proposed monitoring measures to reduce potential impacts on migratory fishes, and have determined that the proposed extension plan is acceptable to DFO.

Please continue to follow all the remaining advice as provided within the original Letter of Advice #23-HCAA-00530, in addition to the updated mitigation measures provided as part of the timing extension request proposal email to DFO.

Please consider this email as DFO's agreement with the updated plan, and keep a copy of this email onsite with the original LOA.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [mark.daguiar@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:mark.daguiar@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Sincerely,

***Mark D'Aguiar, MSc***

Senior Biologist, Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program  
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General E-Mail in English ([fisheriesprotection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:fisheriesprotection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)) or French ([protectiondespeches@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:protectiondespeches@dfo-mpo.gc.ca))

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**From:** Dean Foster <fosterd@ae.ca>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 4:36 PM

**To:** D'Aguiar, Mark <Mark.DAguiar@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Glass, William R <William.Glass@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>

**Cc:** Aileen Stevens <Aileen\_Stevens@gov.nt.ca>; Rebekka Lindskoog <lindskoogr@ae.ca>

**Subject:** Hay River Emergency Dredging - Work Timing Extension

Hello Mark and Bill,

The Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Infrastructure (GNWT-INF) is requesting an extension of the allowable works window in Letter of Advice #23-HCAA-00530 Letter of Advice #23-HCAA-00530 until October 7, 2023.

The Town of Hay River has been under an evacuation order since August 13, 2023, but we understand the town is tentatively opening to public re-entry on September 17, 2023. Based on the extent of remaining emergency dredging and the urgency for maintaining navigation channels in 2024, the GNWT-INF is proposing to resume dredging on September 18. The priority area for dredging is located where the Hay River enters Great Slave Lake ("Area A" in the attached figure). Due to unusually low water levels observed in 2023, barges were reported scraping the lake bottom at this location, which has significantly impacted this year's shipping season. Dredging the plug before spring 2024 is imperative to maintain the supply of goods to communities along the Mackenzie River and on Great Slave Lake. Approximately 20 days of dredging is anticipated to be required to achieve this.

GNWT-INF recognizes that the project's Letter of Advice from DFO and Type B Water License from the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) allow the dredging activity during the fish timing window of July 16 to Sept 14, 2023. As per our meeting with DFO on August 31, 2023, GNWT-INF is requesting DFO grant an extension to this window such that the emergency dredging program can resume as described above. To mitigate any potential unforeseen effects, additional environmental monitoring will be implemented for the instream work. Monitoring will be conducted by a qualified professional (e.g., biologist, environmental scientist) by boat to observe fish congregating below dredging operations and unable to enter the Hay River. If fish congregations are observed, works will temporarily pause to fish to migrate upstream unimpeded. A daily log will be recorded including any fish observations and applicable photographs.

GNWT-INF will concurrently request an extension of the authorized dredging window from September 14 to October 7 to the MVLWB Water License, and will advise the project stakeholders, including Indigenous Government Organizations with the abovementioned schedule updates and precautionary mitigation measures to be implemented.

Given the unforeseen circumstances experienced in Hay River this summer and the urgency of the task, we respectfully request a response from DFO as soon as possible.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions,  
Dean

**Dean Foster, P.Biol., R.P.Bio.**

**Environmental Scientist**

**Associated Engineering Group Ltd.**

Suite 400 - 600 Crowfoot Crescent NW, Calgary, AB T3G 0B4  
Tel: 403.262.4500 | Cel: 403.875.8932 | Dir: 587.774.2025



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**From:** [Dean Foster](#)  
**To:** [D'Aguiar, Mark](#); [william.glass@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:william.glass@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)  
**Cc:** [Aileen Stevens](#); [Rebekka Lindskoog](#)  
**Subject:** Hay River Emergency Dredging - Work Timing Extension  
**Date:** September 14, 2023 2:36:07 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[16a77c33-98d0-4df3-81f3-079d20a49ce9.png](#)  
[V4\\_Figure1\\_1.pdf](#)

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Dean

**Dean Foster, P.Biol., R.P.Bio.**

**Environmental Scientist**

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