



Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre – 5102 – 50th Ave
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2N7

DEC 21 2016

Dear Mr. Cliffe-Phillips:

RE: EA1617-01 Tlicho All-Season Road Review Board Information Request to Indigenous Groups and Resource Managers

On October 28, 2016, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) issued information requests (IR) to Indigenous groups and resource managers. The Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency's Northern Projects Management Office is providing the following response to IR1 regarding fish harvesting on behalf of the Government of Canada.

The Government of Canada does not maintain a list of Indigenous fisheries and recognizes that Indigenous peoples are best placed to speak to traditional use and harvesting as it relates to the Tlicho All-Season Road (TASR) Project area. The information provided to MVEIRB by Indigenous groups in response to this IR, as well as these groups continued participation through the environmental assessment (EA), will help inform the Government of Canada's assessment of impacts on asserted or established Aboriginal rights.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada Fisheries Management does expect increased sport and subsistence fishing pressure on some fish stocks along the proposed road route, particularly at the major river crossings such as the James River, Duport River and La Martre River, due to improved access to these sites. There may or may not be concerns about potential overharvesting of certain fish stocks in the area but it is difficult to assess this further until there is a full inventory of fish presence and their seasonal migrations/occupancy/habitat use in these rivers. It may be determined that existing information on these fisheries provided by other IR responses is sufficient to continue the discussion regarding pressures of fish harvesting.

The Government of Canada continues to encourage Indigenous participation during the TASR EA and will rely on the MVEIRB process as the primary means to discharge any consultation obligations.

Sincerely,


Tineka Simmons
A/Director General
Northern Projects Management Office
Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

Cc: Tara Schweitzer, Fisheries Protection Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Ruari Carthew, Senior Environmental Assessment Officer, Mackenzie Valley Environmental
Impact Review Board