



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
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JAN 21 2019

Dear Ms. Gilbert:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 9, 2019 regarding flood risk and mitigation works near Newsome Creek in Sorrento, British Columbia. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard.

The conservation and protection of Canada's marine resources is a top priority for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The role of the [Fisheries Protection Program](#) (FPP) is to provide for the sustainability and ongoing productivity of commercial, recreational, and Aboriginal fisheries and to make regulatory decisions under the fisheries protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act*.

The FPP is specifically responsible for reviewing projects that may require a section 35(2)(b) *Fisheries Act* Authorization to ensure that proponents avoid, mitigate, and offset serious harm to fish, as appropriate, compliant with the *Fisheries Act*. Fish habitat includes areas that directly and indirectly contribute to the productivity of fisheries. Projects can often avoid harming fish and fish habitat through implementing mitigation measures. Proponents with projects that cannot avoid harming fish or fish habitat may apply to DFO for a *Fisheries Act* Authorization. Proponents who are unsure if their projects will result in harm to fish or fish habitat can request a review by the Department.

To date, the Department has not received a request to review stream stabilization or flood abatement works related to the protection of the properties along Caen Road that you reference. DFO's [Projects near water website](#) provides information on the types of works that should be reviewed by the Department to avoid causing serious harm to fish. I encourage you to visit the website for information regarding development of future flood and erosion protection works. If you have any questions regarding the DFO *Fisheries Act* review and authorization process, please contact Brenda Rotinsky, Regulatory Reviews Manager, Fisheries Protection Program, at < Brenda.rotinsky@dfo-mpo.gc.ca >.

Thank you for taking the time to write with your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Cheryl Webb
Regional Director
Ecosystems Management
Pacific Region

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