

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Talkfishhabitat.ca

Subject: Standards and Codes of Practice under the Fisheries Act

The Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA) is a non-profit organization established in 1960 to represent the nuclear industry in Canada and promote the development and growth of nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes. The CNA is the voice of the Canadian nuclear industry. We have nearly 100 members, representing over 70,000 Canadians employed directly or indirectly in exploring and mining uranium, generating electricity, advancing nuclear medicine, and promoting Canada's worldwide leadership in science and technology innovation.

Many of our members carry out projects and activities in and near fish habitat and as such have considerable experience with Standards and Codes of Practice. The CNA believes that the increased use of Standards and Codes of Practice, can provide clear, nationally consistent advice for the design and implementation of common, low risk works, undertakings or activities (WUA) which will result in a significantly reduced administrative burden for both industry and DFO thus freeing up valuable resources for more pressing issues.

As we noted during the process to amend the Fisheries Act, it is critical that DFO develop and implement as many instruments to address routine works, undertakings or activities (WUA) of low to moderate risk so that site-specific reviews can be minimized. CNA agrees with other industry stakeholders that relying exclusively on project-specific request for reviews is unsustainable as it does not balance project application and review requirements with the reduced project risks of repeatable works, undertaking and activities with well understood risks.

Without clear, consistent and practical Standards and Codes of Practice, and in the absence of other self-assessment options, a greater number of projects are likely to require Authorizations, even if this is not warranted by the residual impacts to fish and fish habitat. In addition, requiring site specific reviews for all routine WUAs is a poor use of government resources, and suggest that Standards and Codes of Practice would increase capacity and attention to large complex projects, effectiveness monitoring and compliance.

CNA is encouraged that DFO has published six Interim Codes of Practice but would request that DFO proceed to implement additional Standards and Codes of Practice as quickly as practical.



Our members are particularly interested in seeing standards or codes of Practice developed for the following WUAs:

- Bridge maintenance
- Installation, repair and removal of water intake and discharge structures that do not exceed a size threshold
- Installation, maintenance and replacement of electricity transmission and distribution structures
- Erosion control work, including the use of rip rap, (potentially under the same class as shoreline stabilization which is mentioned in the discussion paper;
- Construction and maintenance of boat ramps for the launching of small vessels
- Placement, maintenance and removal of underwater cables or conduits unless they exceed certain size thresholds
- Geotechnical surveys
- Placement and removal of scientific equipment
- All works and related activities that were listed under previous versions of the Fisheries Act for exemption from a case-by case review;

The CNA would be pleased to work with DFO to develop additional Standards and Codes of Practice. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input.

Sincerely,



Steve Coupland

Director of Regulatory and Environmental Affairs
Canadian Nuclear Association