

Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project – Clarification Questions – February 2024

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym or Abbreviation	Definition
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
HADD	Habitat Alteration Disruption or Destruction
IAAC	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
LMOC	Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel
LSMOC	Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel

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Clarification Question Number	Referenced Round 3 IR(s)	Expert Dept. or group	EIS Guideline Reference	Context and Rationale	Clarification Questions for the Information Request Responses
IAAC-05-01	IAAC-R3-01 IAAC-R3-02 IAAC-04-05	IAAC DFO	7.1.5 Fish and fish Habitat 7.1.10 Indigenous Peoples 7.3.1 Fish and fish Habitat 7.3.3 Indigenous Peoples	<p>The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines require the Proponent to identify any potential adverse effects to fish and fish habitat due to changes in water quality and sediment quality as a result of storing water in, and releasing water from one lake to another and from the channels.</p> <p>The EIS Guidelines also require the Proponent to assess changes to the environment on Indigenous groups’ socio-economic conditions, including commercial fishing, recreational use, and food security.</p> <p>Based on the data on the effects on fish habitat provided in the responses to the Round 3 IRs and to date throughout the technical review; and based on expert advice from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), there is uncertainty related to the spatial extent of Harmful Alteration Disruption or Destruction (HADD) and associated offsetting for the purposes of the environmental assessment in preparation for a potential future authorization under the <i>Fisheries Act</i>. The Proponent has stated that it will work with DFO on HADD and offsets as part of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> process. Potential offsets submitted to DFO to date are draft, do not encompass the entire area of HADD offset required for the Project, and are still undergoing consultation with Indigenous groups.</p>	<p>a. For the following questions, please respond in a written format without referencing previous documents, in order to expedite the review of information provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. For the reduction in flows at the Fairford and Dauphin Rivers and Birch and Buffalo Creeks, an estimate of the reduction of average wetted area was provided along with an indication, in some cases, of availability of habitat types. Provide a complete description of habitat types that will be affected by these reductions in average wetted area and approximate the percentages of each affected habitat type. ii. More than 2 millimetres of sediment is predicted to be deposited from the commissioning of the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel (LMOC) over 90 hectares in Birch Bay, including 0.9 hectares over preferred spawning habitat. Provide a habitat description for the remaining 89.1 hectares. iii. For sediment deposition in Birch Bay from operation of the LMOC, using previous existing modelling for commissioning sediment loads, provide an estimate of deposition area and habitat types potentially affected for both commissioning and operation. iv. For sediment deposition in Sturgeon Bay from operation of the Lake St. Martin Outlet Channel (LSMOC), using previous existing modelling for commissioning sediment loads, provide an estimate of deposition area and habitat types potentially affected for both commissioning and operation. v. Confirm that all of the offsetting options presented in Table IAAC-04-05-1 are still being considered.