

Where is your project located?

You have selected WATER.

The Fisheries Act requires that projects avoid causing serious harm to fish unless authorized by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This applies to work being conducted in or near waterbodies that support fish that are part of or that support a commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fishery. If your project activities are listed below and they meet the associated criteria (if applicable), your project does not require DFO review. However, you are still required to avoid causing serious harm to fish by following best practices such as those described in the measures to avoid harm:

- <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/measures-mesures/index-eng.html>

DFO Project Types: Cottage, Boating and Recreation

Project Type	Project Activity
Docks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new construction, repair or rebuild of a floating, cantilever or post dock • All removal activities
Boat Houses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New construction, repairs or rebuilds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No new fill placed below the High Water Mark • All removal activities
Boat Launches / Ramps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction or repairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No new fill placed below the High Water Mark • All removal activities
Aquatic Vegetation Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of aquatic vegetation by hand or mechanical cutting for swimming areas and private boat access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Area is less than 4 meters in width, perpendicular to shore
Dredging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dredging for private boat access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Area is less than 4 meters in width and 10 meters in length (perpendicular to shore) • Marina routine maintenance dredging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No increase in footprint below the High Water Mark ○ Dredging material is deposited and stabilized on land (no open water disposal) ○ Dredging has occurred in the last 10 years
Excavation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In land excavation for nearshore development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All work is conducted above the High Water Mark ○ No alteration of water levels in nearby waterbodies ○ No excavation in seasonally inundated areas and floodplains

Project Type	Project Activity
Shoreline Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreline stabilization such as rock protection, plantings and bioengineering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No increase in footprint below the High Water Mark ○ No new fill placed below the High Water Mark
Beaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation and replenishment of private and public beaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All sand is isolated and contained above the High Water Mark such that sand cannot wash into the water
Water Intakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of and repairs to water intakes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No increase in footprint below the High Water Mark ○ No new fill placed below the High Water Mark ○ Can avoid killing of fish • All removal activities

About the Habitat Screening Tool

The Georgian Bay coast is home to more than 1,100 native plant and animal species. Most have stable populations, but some are experiencing significant declines and therefore have protection under the Provincial Endangered Species Act (ESA). The loss of biodiversity has many consequences that we understand, and many that we do not. The loss of species may reduce the environment's resistance to disturbances which can lead to a decrease in available natural resources. Currently, over 40 species are "at risk" in the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) due to a variety of factors including habitat loss and fragmentation, road mortality, competition from invasive species, pollution and over-harvesting. Much of GBBR offers excellent habitat for species at risk, especially reptiles.

It is your responsibility to ensure your building project is in compliance with the ESA. Local Townships are not responsible for verifying if you are compliant under the ESA, and do not have the authority to consider the ESA provisions in their decision to issue a building permit.

This habitat screening tool has been created to help you determine how the ESA may be applicable to your proposed building project. Essentially the screening tool helps you determine the potential for species at risk habitat on, or adjacent to, your proposed building site. This is best completed as early as possible in your planning process. This screening tool has been designed for small scale building projects.

Please note that this screening tool does not replace an ESA permit or absolve the user of any responsibility under the Endangered Species Act. Please contact the Parry Sound MNR Species at Risk Biologist at 705-773-4205 with any questions or clarifications about the ESA.