

March 20, 2023

Affected Property Owners

Re: Repair and Improvement of Curtis Drain

Please be advised that the spring restricted activity timing window is in effect as of March 15, expiring on July 15, as a form of avoidance and mitigation to prohibited effects to fish and fish habitat. This is a requirement set out by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada in Ontario (DFO) to comply with provincial legislation (*Fisheries Act, 1985*). Attached to this letter is an extract from the Fisheries and Oceans website explaining further details on timing windows and why they are used. Please note that even when fish are not present, drains are identified as fish habitat and therefore must comply with these requirements.

As a result, all in-water construction operations for the repair and improvement of Curtis Drain are paused and the Contractor is in progress of mobilizing off-site. The Municipality, Engineer and Contractor will be meeting this week to review the current site conditions. As part of this, all deficiencies will be identified for the Contractor to rectify prior to full demobilization in ensuring the site is safe and suitable during the project downtime.

It is emphasized that this project is not completed and the bulk of the work, including open channel excavation/material levelling, culvert replacements, and restoration (topsoil, seeding) remains outstanding. This work will resume in the summer upon expiration of the restricted activity window.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this project or notice, please direct them to the following Town of Tecumseh contacts:

Alessia Mussio, EIT
Drainage Superintendent
Public Works and Engineering Services
amussio@tecumseh.ca
(519) 735-2184 ext. 140

Joseph Lappalainen, EIT
Assistant Drainage Superintendent
Public Works and Engineering Services
jlappalainen@tecumseh.ca
(519) 735-2184 ext. 105

You are also reminded that towards the end of this restricted activity window, a site meeting will be held with landowners, the Contractor, Engineer, and Town of Tecumseh Drainage staff in attendance to



discuss details about project resumption. **Further information regarding this meeting will be provided to you at a later date, closer to the end of the restricted timing window.**

We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this project.

Sincerely,

Alessia Mussio, EIT
Drainage Superintendent





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of Canada

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du Canada

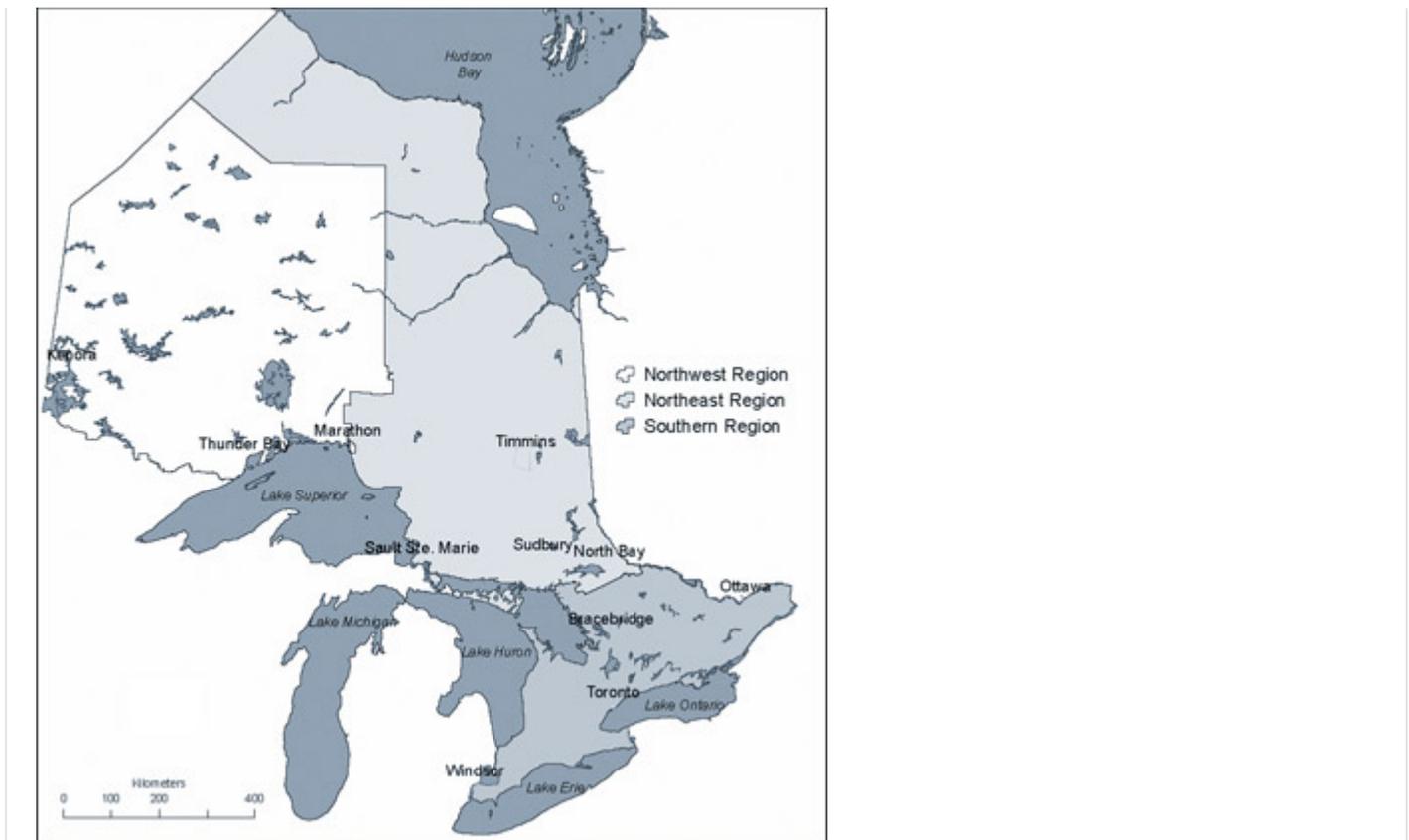
[Canada.ca](#) > [Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#) > [Aquatic ecosystems](#)

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Ontario Restricted Activity Timing Windows for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat

Restricted activity timing windows are applied to protect fish from impacts of works or undertakings in and around water during spawning migrations and other critical life history stages. In Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has the responsibility for setting timing window guidelines. These guidelines are determined on a case by case basis according to the species of fish in the water body, whether those fish spawn in the spring or fall, and whether the water body is located in the Northwest, Northeast or Southern Region of Ontario.

Figure 1: Ontario's Northwest, Northeast and Southern Region boundaries for determining application of restricted activity timing windows.



How To Determine Timing Windows

1. Determine the fish species living in the water body where you wish to do work.
2. Determine if the water body is located in the Northwest, Northeast or Southern Region of Ontario according to Figure 1.
3. Use Table 1 to determine the in-water restricted activity timing windows according to the location of the waterbody and all of the species of fish found within that waterbody (spring or fall spawners).
4. For water bodies with more than one species, the most restrictive timing windows should be combined for all species present (e.g. for a water body with both walleye and bass in Southern Region, the combined timing window should be: Mar. 15 to July 15).

Table 1: Restricted Activity timing windows for the protection of spawning fish and developing eggs and fry.

Dates represent when work should be avoided. Regional boundaries are

shown in Figure 1.

Spawning Period - Spring

Fish Species	Northwest Region	Northeast Region	Southern Region
Walleye	April 1 to June 20	April 1 to June 20	March 15 to May 31
Northern Pike	April 1 to June 15	April 1 to June 15	March 15 to May 31
Lake Sturgeon	May 1 to June 30	May 1 to July 15	May 1 to June 30
Muskellunge	May 1 to July 15	May 15 to July 15	March 15 to May 31
Large/ Smallmouth Bass	May 15 to July 15	May 15 to July 15	May 1 to July 15
Rainbow Trout	April 1 to June 15	April 1 to June 15	March 15 to June 15
Other/Unknown Spring Spawning Species	April 1 to June 15	April 1 to June 15	March 15 to July 15

Spawning Period - Fall

Fish Species	Northwest Region	Northeast Region	Southern Region
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Lake Trout	September 1 to May 31	September 1 to May 31	October 1 to May 31
Brook Trout	September 1 to June 15	September 1 to June 15	October 1 to May 31
Pacific Salmon	September 1 to June 15	September 1 to June 15	September 15 to May 31
Lake Whitefish	September 15 to May 31	September 15 to May 15	October 15 to May 31
Lake Herring	October 1 to May 31	October 1 to May 31	October 15 to May 31
Other/Unknown Fall Spawning Species	September 1 to June 15	September 1 to June 15	October 1 to May 31

Date modified:

2013-12-27