

IA Report Section	DFO Comment
2.1 Fish and Fish Habitat Alteration of habitat from the alteration of stream flows	<u>Water quantity changes</u>, if unmitigated, can lead to potential direct or indirect impairment of fish habitat's capacity to support one or more life processes of fish (spawning, breeding, rearing, nursery, feeding, migration, refuge) resulting in sublethal or lethal effects. It is expected that the Crawford Nickel Project will impact water quantity in waterbodies and watercourses through water management practices, groundwater drawdown, and watershed area changes. The proponent modelled predicted changes to water quantity that may result from the Project but subject matter experts from ECCC and NRCan identified high levels of uncertainty. Based on the high level of uncertainty identified in water quantity modelling by ECCC and NRCan, DFO recommends the addition of follow-up program conditions, as described by ECCC.
2.1 Fish and Fish Habitat Loss or alteration of fish habitat	DFO assesses risk to fish and fish habitat using a number of factors, including persistence. Current DFO guidance suggests that impacts that last longer than one year have a high persistence. DFO expects that the alteration of fish habitat due to water quantity changes will persist longer than one year and in some instances be permanent. For example, the placement of an end-pit lake on the landscape will fundamentally alter surface water characteristics as compared to pre-development. Therefore, DFO recommends removing the word temporary from discussions of alteration of fish habitat.