

GUIDANCE ON USING SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AS PART OF AN OVERALL BENEFIT PERMIT

REQUIREMENT 1: DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY PROPOSAL

As part of permit application, scientific study proposal submitted to MNRF.

REQUIREMENT 2: PEER-REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY PROPOSAL

Scientific study proposal peer-reviewed by qualified and approved reviewers. A copy of each review and a revised study proposal provided to MNRF for approval as a part of the permit.

REQUIREMENT 3: PEER-REVIEW OF FINAL RESULTS AND REPORT

Peer-review of report. A copy of each review and the final report/journal article provided to MNRF. Final reports must reflect outcomes of reviews.

REQUIREMENT 4: AVAILABILITY AND DISSEMINATION

Final revised report and supporting data provided to MNRF and made available in the public domain.

PRELIMINARY SCREENING

Proponent discusses the proposed activity with MNRF. MNRF advises the proponent on potential species at risk (SAR) or habitat concerns.

If there are potential SAR concerns, proceed to Phase 1

If there are no potential SAR concerns, OR if SAR concerns can be avoided, no ESA permit is required.

PHASE 1: INFORMATION GATHERING

Proponent provides detailed information to the MNRF district office by completing the Information Gathering Form (IGF).

PHASE 2: ACTIVITY REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

MNR reviews the IGF to determine whether the proposed activity will likely contravene the ESA. If a contravention is likely, the proponent provides the completed Avoidance Alternatives Form (AAF) and elects to: 1) avoid a contravention, or 2) apply for a permit.

If a contravention is likely AND an avoidance alternative was not adopted, proceed to Phase 3

If a contravention is unlikely OR if an avoidance alternative is adopted, no overall benefit permit is required.

PHASE 3: PERMIT APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

Proponent submits permit application. MNRF assesses whether the legislated conditions for an overall benefit permit are likely to be met and determines whether or not the submission is complete.

If the submission is deemed complete proceed to Phase 4 (3-mth service standard begins for Phases 4 and 5)

PHASE 4: PERMIT DRAFTING

MNRF completes the drafting of the proposed permit, and ensures that MNRF requirements (e.g., Aboriginal consultation, environmental assessment) have been met.

If all MNRF requirements have been met, proceed to Phase 5

PHASE 5: PERMIT DECISION

Proposed permit is submitted for the Minister's decision. MNRF notifies the proponent of the decision.

If the permit is issued, proceed to Phase 6

If the permit is denied, the proponent may submit a new permit application with the goal of meeting the legislated requirements for an overall benefit permit.

PHASE 6: PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION

Proponent undertakes the activity in accordance with the conditions of the permit.