

**CARTWRIGHT JUNCTION TO HAPPY VALLEY-GOOSE BAY
TRANS LABRADOR HIGHWAY
FISH AND FISH HABITAT COMPONENT STUDY ADDENDUM
SUPPLEMENTARY DEFICIENCY STATEMENT
Issued February 2004**

- The Guidelines required that a discussion of fish species and fisheries (e.g., recreational, commercial and subsistence) be provided. The Guidelines further required that a qualitative description of fish populations, including abundance and life history parameters, be provided for each of the watersheds traversed by the highway. The Deficiency Statement reflected the absence of this information in the Component Study. While information is provided on fish species known, suspected and unconfirmed in the watersheds there is no recognition of qualitative differences of species from watershed to watershed. The Addendum refers the reader to the EIS for some information on angling, identifies there is no commercial fishery in the study area and refers the reader to the land and resource use component study for some information on aboriginal fisheries. The Addendum continues to rely on the assumption, advanced in the Component Study, that there is one fish population of each species distributed in the study area, and in the wider region. The proponent is advised that there is a fishery in the Eagle River watershed that warrants the investment of infrastructure to provide what is considered to be a unique fishing experience, enticing out-of-province and out-of-country anglers. The proponent is therefore directed to consult with the outfitting industry and access traditional ecological knowledge to provide a meaningful discussion of fish species and fisheries as they exist separately in each watershed using the assumption that all watersheds differ unless otherwise demonstrated. The proponent must compare and contrast the fishery exercised by resident and non-resident anglers, aboriginals and the outfitting industry.
- The proponent must consult with the outfitting industry and access traditional ecological knowledge to propose some information on life history parameters and population characteristics of fish species, comparing and contrasting those life history parameters and population characteristics among affected watersheds. The proponent must compare the information gathered through consultation with available information and literature of life history parameters and population characteristics for fish species to provide a comparison of those parameters and population characteristics of fish species in the watersheds affected by the highway and for fish species in the broader Labrador region. The proponent must evaluate the fish species and fisheries information gathered from the outfitting industry and any preliminary results of fish sampling by Inland Fish and Wildlife Division to provide projections for the carrying capacity of each watershed, the population composition in each watershed and the sustainable yield of fish species in each watershed.
- The Guidelines required that a discussion of fish species and fisheries (recreational, commercial and subsistence) be provided. While the term 'trophy' brook trout may not normally be used in biological or ecological descriptions of fish populations it is commonly used in angling circles. Trophy brook trout in the Eagle River watershed

support a unique existing lodge based fishery. The Deficiency Statement required a description of the key features of the existing lodge based fishery, which was not provided. Such a fishery is sensitive to the fish resources it depends upon and the quality of the fishing experience it provides. Consult with outfitters to describe the key features of the existing lodge based fishery and consult with outfitters to describe the sensitivity of market demand for this fishery, based on lodge packages, to the management of these key features. Compare and contrast the lodge based fishery and its key features with the fishery exercised by resident and non-resident anglers and aboriginals. Based on the description of the fishery and the sensitive features of that fishery developed from consultation with outfitters indicate how the precautionary principle has been applied to consider effects of the preferred and alternate routes for the highway on the fishery and its key features.

- The surveys for the preferred route were conducted in late September while those conducted for the alternate route were conducted in mid-July. Factors such as precipitation and water flow are expected to differ between those seasons. Explain how the water quality, water chemistry, water flow, surface velocity and water depth variables differ between July and September and compare and contrast the results of the mid-July survey to the late September survey. Provide an evaluation of the seasonal differences that could be expected between July and September and extrapolate the results to provide an explanation of how those seasonal differences can be used for comparison to contribute to an assessment of effects and stream passage devices.
- Trophy brook trout in the Eagle River Plateau have not yet been aged but are commonly believed to be long lived and slow growing. The Addendum states that these are more likely fast-growing brook trout that have achieved larger size as a result of feeding ecology. The differing views of how a brook trout becomes large carries important implications for an assessment of the potential effects of the highway on brook trout species, the outfitting industry and the fishery upon which the outfitting industry is based. Provide the scientific evidence that trophy brook trout in the Eagle River Plateau are fast-growing as opposed to long lived and slow growing.