



Baffinland Freshwater Monitoring Program Summary

Permits and Regulations

Baffinland operates the Mary River Project under a “Type A” Water Licence (Water Licence). The Water Licence allows Baffinland to use water from local waterbodies near the Project and manage water at the Project sites (the Mine Site, Milne Port, etc.). The Water Licence is issued by the Nunavut Water Board.

How does Baffinland know if the Project is having an effect on freshwater?

Baffinland completes the aquatic monitoring program throughout the year, with key sampling events occurring in the winter (April/May), spring (June), summer (July) and fall (August/September). Each year, water, sediment, benthic invertebrate (bugs that live in sediment; fish food) and fish samples are collected in several lakes and streams near the Project’s Mine Site. After the samples are collected, Baffinland tests the samples to determine if the quality or condition of the water, habitat and/or organisms have changed since Project operations began.

Does Baffinland monitor if the project is affecting Arctic Char? Can I eat fish from waterbodies near the mine?

We monitor fish populations in Mary River and several lakes near the Project’s Mine Site, including Camp Lake, Sheardown Lake and Mary Lake. This is done by catching some Arctic Char throughout the year and measuring the size and weight of the fish. We keep track of population levels by calculating how much effort is required to catch a fish. Project related effects on fish populations in the lakes and streams near the Project’s Mine Site have not been identified to date. Monitoring results indicate that there is no reason to believe that the risks associated with consuming fish from lakes and streams near the Project’s Mine Site have changed since Project operations began.

Can I drink or make tea from water near the mine?

Monitoring results have shown that the risks associated with drinking raw water from waterbodies near the Project’s Mine Site are similar to the risks that existed before the Project began.

Who can hunters contact when they have questions about the environment on site?

Baffinland has a Hunter and Visitor Site Access Protocol that explains the process for who hunters and visitors should contact when they visit Mary River. A copy of this Protocol is available in the Baffinland Community Liaison Offices and from Site Security. In accordance with the policy, once arriving on site hunters will check in with Site Security. If visitors have any questions about the site environmental upon their arrival they can ask Site Security to share any information requests they may have with Baffinland’s Site Environment team who will provide a response and discuss concerns with visitors as needed.



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But I heard that there are high levels of metals, such as Aluminum and Mercury in the water?

For several years before the mine began operating, Baffinland conducted water sampling to understand the natural conditions in and around the Project area. By doing this sampling, we realized that some metals in the water, such as aluminum in the water near Mary River had naturally occurring higher levels of metals before Baffinland started operating the Project. So, when we monitor the water bodies near the Project during operations, we are checking to see if the water quality is similar to the condition it was before the Project started operations – in other words, similar to natural conditions. There are not however, naturally high levels of mercury in the water, and this has stayed the same since the Project began operations.

Summary of monitoring results

To date, the results of the monitoring program have confirmed that the Project is not having significant effects on the freshwater habitat or the species that live in the water bodies near the Project's Mine Site.

Who are the results of the monitoring program shared with?

On March 31 of each year, we submit a final report sharing the results of our monitoring program with several key stakeholders and regulators including the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, the Nunavut Water Board, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.

Where can I find copies of the monitoring reports?

The annual water monitoring summary report submitted to the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Nunavut Water Board can be found on the Nunavut Water Board FTP site, which is publically accessible.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please visit www.baffinland.com , email your questions to communityquestions@baffinland.com, or visit one of our Community Liaison Officers.