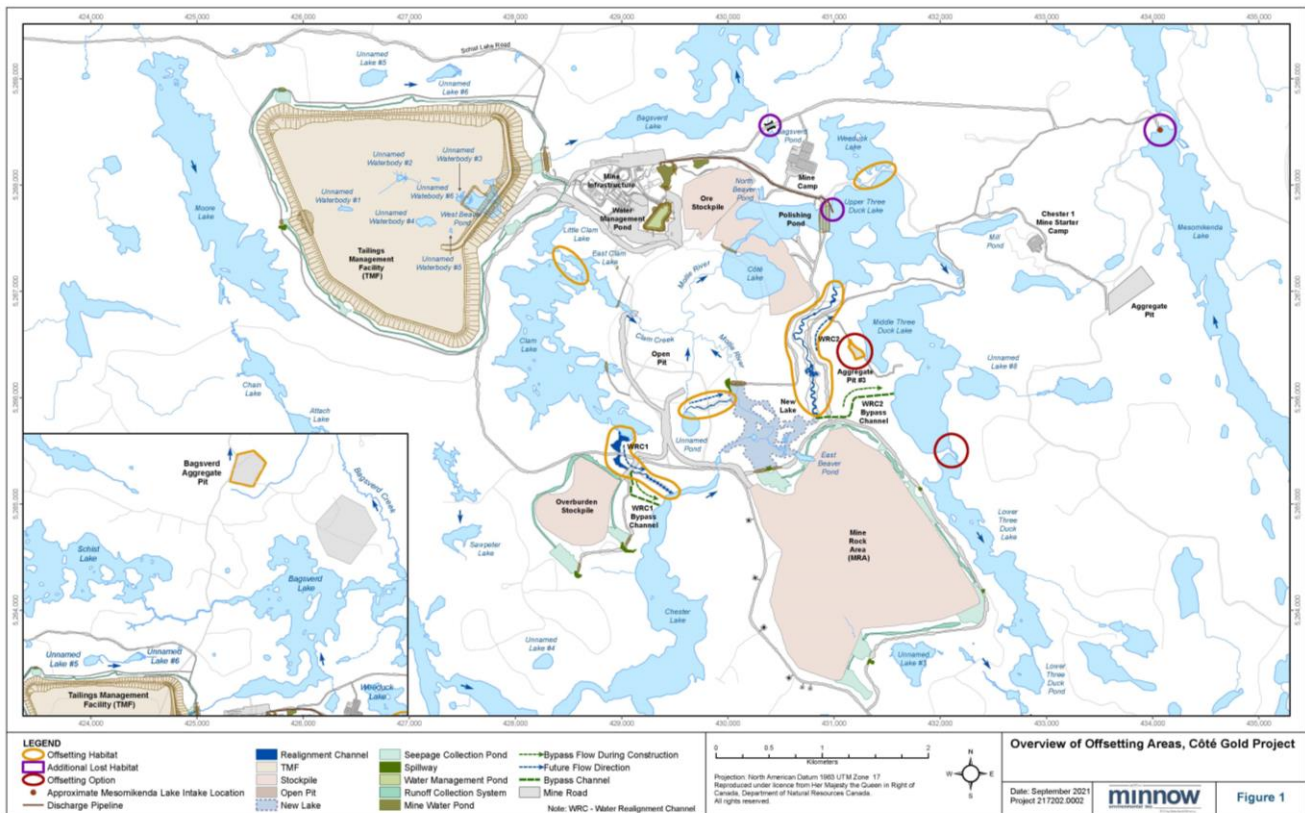


## Fisheries Act Authorization – update and proposed amendment

IAMGOLD is building the Côté Gold Project, a new open pit mine. The Project is located off of Highway 144, about 20 kilometres southwest of Gogama and 40 kilometres southwest of Mattagami First Nation. Construction will result in some loss of fish habitat. IAMGOLD has a plan (Offsetting Plan) to offset, or compensate, for this loss of fish habitat. This plan was shared with communities for their input. Fisheries and Oceans Canada granted a *Fisheries Act* Authorization in 2020 which allows the Project to remove fish habitat and requires new habitat be constructed to offset the losses. The plan includes the construction of:

- Streams to maintain flow out of Clam Lake, Unnamed Pond, and in the Mollie River (*status: nearly complete; vegetation will be planted in 2022*).
- A New Lake on the Mollie River (*status: will be complete in 2022*).
- Connecting previously isolated lakes – Little Clam and East Clam to Clam Lake, and Weeduck Lake to Upper Three Duck Lake. This allows the fish access to more habitats (*status: completed in fall of 2020*).
- Creating fish habitat to support small-bodied fish (minnows) communities within two aggregate pits (*status: not started*).

Figure 1



As we build the Project, we expect to identify improvements to Project design. Since construction started, the team identified changes that will require an amendment to the Offsetting Plan approved under the existing *Fisheries Act* Authorization. These changes include (Figure 1):

- The Bagsverd Aggregate Pit is no longer needed. This means there is no longer an opportunity to create habitat in this location.
- Aggregate Pit #3 needs changes to the design. This means that the habitat built there will be different to what was originally proposed and approved.
- Other small changes to the Project design include:
  - a culvert installation at a road crossing;
  - temporary placement of the construction discharge pipe into Upper Three Duck Lake; and
  - installing a freshwater intake pipe to Mesomikenda Lake.

### Options for Habitat Replacement

After studying a variety of options, three modifications are proposed as amendments to the *Fisheries Act* Authorization for the Project. These modifications will offset the changes required to construct the Project and will still meet the goals of the original Offsetting Plan.

**Modification 1:** modify and extend the size of Aggregate Pit #3 connected to Middle Three Duck Lake



**Modification 2:** create walleye spawning habitat in the Mollie River between Middle Three Duck Lake and Lower Three Duck Lake



**Modification 3:** develop an adaptive Fisheries Management Plan in partnership with Mattagami First Nation to support the walleye population in Mattagami Lake

This plan will be developed in coordination with Mattagami First Nation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry and in consultation with other Indigenous and local communities. Ideally the plan will outline:

- the fisheries management planning process;
- current knowledge of the fisheries and fish habitat;
- how the plan will work and support the walleye population; and
- the process for reporting, and reviewing and updating the plan as new information is obtained.

The plan will take an adaptive approach to identify changes and implement solutions to support the walleye population. Key items in the plan could include shoreline improvements to reduce erosion and constructing juvenile walleye habitat.

## Next Steps

1. Continue community consultations on the proposed changes (October / November 2021).
2. Formalize the scope and content of the Fisheries Management Plan (ongoing).
3. Complete the designs for walleye spawning habitat in the Mollie River, modifications to Aggregate Pit #3, shoreline improvements and juvenile rearing habitat in Mattagami Lake (ongoing).
4. Submit the request to amend the *Fisheries Act* Authorization for the Project to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (November 2021).

***If you would like more information about this or other aspects of the Côté Gold Project, or have a question or comment to share, please contact:***

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