

# Placer Class 1 Activities and Prospecting Leases: Working Near Water

When undertaking Class 1 activities and work programs under Prospecting Leases all items below must be reviewed and adhered to. Failure to follow the items below or any Act or Regulation may result in non-compliance and possible prosecution.

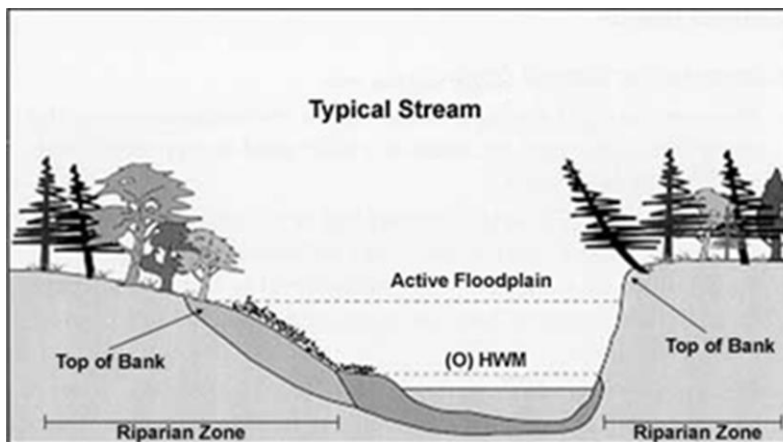
1. A leave strip is required for all streams and is dependent on the stream's habitat suitability classification as defined in the [Fish Habitat Management System for Yukon Placer Mining](https://yukon.ca/en/guidebook-mitigation-measures-placer-mining-yukon) (Guidebook of Mitigation Measures for Placer Mining in the Yukon available from the Yukon Placer Secretariat website at <https://yukon.ca/en/guidebook-mitigation-measures-placer-mining-yukon>).

The distances set in the Management System refer only to licensed works. In consultation with DFO the leave strips set for placer water use without a licence are more precautionary and are as follows:

Highly Suitable:	30 metres
Moderate-High:	30 metres
Moderate-Moderate:	20 metres
Moderate-Low:	10 metres
Low:	5 metres
Water Quality Zone (WQZ):	5 metres

**Measurements for setbacks should be taken from the Ordinary High Water Mark.**

**(Ordinary) High Water Mark (HWM):** the visible high water mark of any lake, stream, or other body of water where the presence and action of the water are so common and usual and so long continued in all ordinary years as to mark upon the soil of the bed of the lake, river stream, or other body of water a character distinct from that of the banks, both in vegetation and in the nature of the soil itself. Typical features may include, a natural line or "mark" impressed on the bank or shore, indicated by erosion, shelving, changes in soil characteristics, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or other distinctive physical characteristics.



Mapping showing the Habitat Suitability for creeks in the Yukon can be found at:

<https://mapservices.gov.yk.ca/GeoYukon/>

# Placer Class 1 Activities and Prospecting Leases: Working Near Water

Proponents conducting [projects near water](#) are responsible to ensure they avoid causing serious harm to fish in compliance with the [Fisheries Act](#). Following the measures to avoid harm will help proponents comply with the Fisheries Act. The riparian setbacks recommended by Yukon government in relation to placer mining exploration activities establish a minimum setback distance from watercourses to assist proponents in avoiding causing serious harm to fish. In all cases, it remains the proponent's responsibility to ensure they avoid causing serious harm to fish and comply with the Fisheries Act. It is further recommended that proponents seek advice from a qualified environmental professional if they are unsure about whether their proposed activities will comply with the Act.<sup>1</sup>

2. All work carried out under a Class 1 Notification or under a Prospecting Lease must comply with Schedule I, Operating Conditions, and the Operation Class Criteria of the [Placer Mining Land Use Regulation](#) (Part II of the Yukon [Placer Mining Act](#)), as amended by Order-in-Council 189, dated 10 November 2005. If the activity exceeds certain thresholds, you may also need an approved Notification or Operating Plan. Unless a Class III or greater, Operating Plan approval is in place, Mining Land Use Regulations require that all physical activities be reclaimed within twelve months. These Operating Conditions can be found in the [Placer Mining Land Use Regulation](#) can be found at [https://legislation.yukon.ca/regs/oic2003\\_059.pdf](https://legislation.yukon.ca/regs/oic2003_059.pdf).<sup>2</sup>
3. All test pits must be safe and secure. Please consult Occupational Health and Safety for requirements and note the mine safety regulations governing shafts/pits within the Occupational Health and Safety Handbook (<https://www.yukonregs.ca/RegsPublic/Home/Details/4382>).<sup>3</sup>

The pits must also be stabilized, fenced and marked in such a way as to minimize the risk to public and to wildlife. The pits must be backfilled or securely capped within 12 months of commencement of the exploration program.<sup>2</sup>

4. Drill holes that pose a hazard or lead to ground water must be plugged in a suitable manner. All drilling must be done in a way that minimizes impacts to wildlife and the public. The location of drill holes must be marked on the ground by flagging or other suitable means. Drill mud must be contained in a sump.<sup>2</sup>
5. Trenches must be sloped to prevent wildlife entrapment and to permit their escape.<sup>2</sup>
6. Water use of less than 300 cubic metres per day without a deposit of a waste will require a Schedule III Notification of Water Use without a Licence (<https://www.yukonwaterboard.ca/forms/Schedule3/schedule3.pdf>) to the Yukon Water Board ten days prior to use.<sup>4</sup>
7. Water use of 300 cubic metres per day or greater requires a Water Use Licence issued by the Yukon Water Board prior to use.<sup>4</sup>
8. Any deposit of waste (i.e. dirty water) requires the activity to be licensed regardless of the quantity of water used.<sup>4</sup>

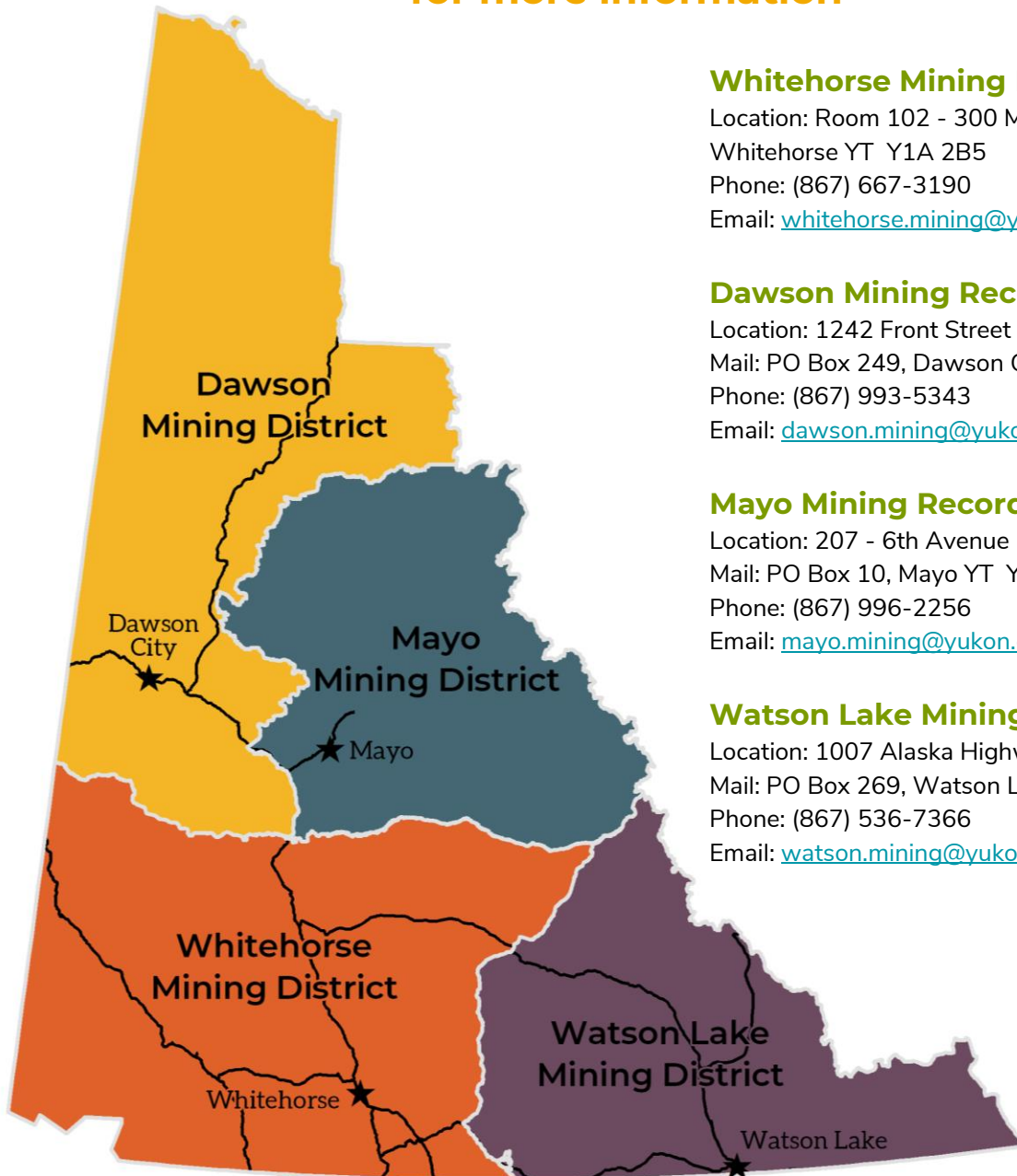
Corresponding Legislation

<sup>1</sup> – Fisheries Act; <sup>2</sup> – Placer Mining Act and Placer Mining Land Use Regulation; <sup>3</sup> – Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations;

<sup>4</sup> – Waters Act

# Placer Class 1 Activities and Prospecting Leases: Working Near Water

**Contact District Mining Recorder's Offices  
for more information**



### **Whitehorse Mining Recorder**

Location: Room 102 - 300 Main Street  
Whitehorse YT Y1A 2B5  
Phone: (867) 667-3190  
Email: [whitehorse.mining@yukon.ca](mailto:whitehorse.mining@yukon.ca)

### **Dawson Mining Recorder**

Location: 1242 Front Street  
Mail: PO Box 249, Dawson City YT Y0B 1G0  
Phone: (867) 993-5343  
Email: [dawson.mining@yukon.ca](mailto:dawson.mining@yukon.ca)

### **Mayo Mining Recorder**

Location: 207 - 6th Avenue  
Mail: PO Box 10, Mayo YT Y0B 1M0  
Phone: (867) 996-2256  
Email: [mayo.mining@yukon.ca](mailto:mayo.mining@yukon.ca)

### **Watson Lake Mining Recorder**

Location: 1007 Alaska Highway  
Mail: PO Box 269, Watson Lake YT Y0A 1C0  
Phone: (867) 536-7366  
Email: [watson.mining@yukon.ca](mailto:watson.mining@yukon.ca)