

Proponent-Led Habitat Banking

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An acceptable offsetting plan is mandatory before DFO considers authorizing a work, undertaking or activity under subsection 35(2) (b) of the *Fisheries Act*. DFO Policy guidance is being developed for offsetting in the form of proponent-led habitat banking. Proponent-led habitat banks are areas where fish habitat has been created, restored or enhanced in advance and then used to generate credits to offset impacts from a proponent's future projects. The best offsetting plan would provide measureable benefits for both fish habitat and proponents. This presentation will introduce the future of offsetting, outlining benefits, challenges, process and opportunities.