



## SPRINGPOLE PROJECT COMMUNITY UPDATE BULLETIN

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*First Minnig Gold is privileged to work on both Treaty 3 & 9 lands, the traditional territory of Ojibway and Chippewa in the District of Kenora, and the territory of the Northwest Ontario Métis Community.*

### Fish Habitat Assessment and Compensation Progress Update

Fish and fish habitat have been selected as a Valued Component (VC) for assessment because fish and their habitats are key indicators of fishery sustainability, productivity, and environmental health. This VC includes fish, the habitat that supports these fish, and the health of these fish populations. Fish habitat means fish frequented waters on which fish depend directly or indirectly to carry out their life processes.

Given the location of the ore body and the presence of numerous lakes and small waterbodies in the area, the avoidance of fish habitat is not feasible despite efforts to design the Project to minimize the encroachment on fish habitat. As a result, fish habitat will be overprinted or otherwise potentially impacted by proposed mine related infrastructure and activities. Many of the impacts will be considered Harmful Alteration, Disruption or Destruction (HADD) as per Paragraph 35 of the *Fisheries Act* or waterbodies requiring listing on Schedule 2 of the MDMER; and will require offsetting or compensation consistent with *Fisheries Act* regulations and policies, as detailed in the draft Fisheries Habitat Offset and Compensation Plan.

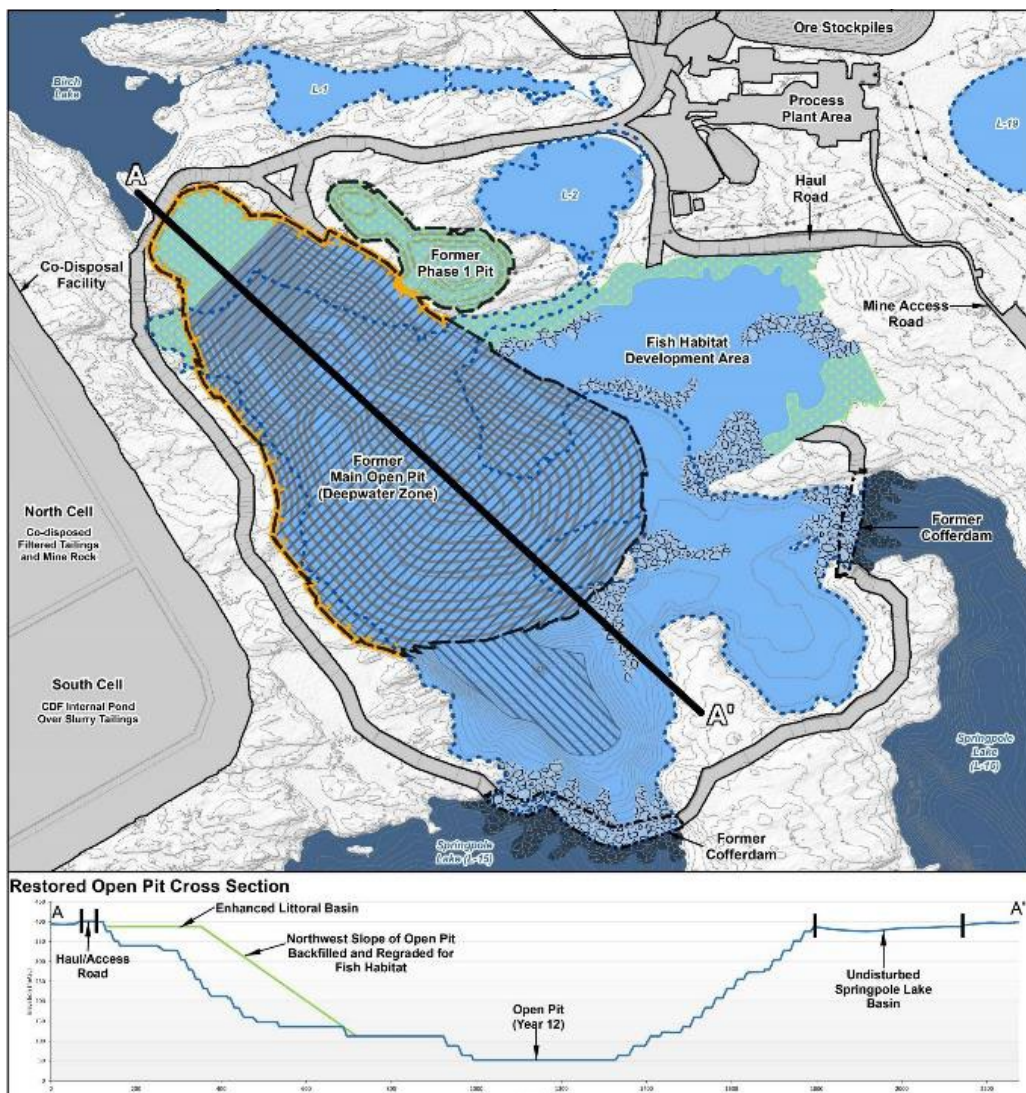
The assessment of the potential effects on fish and fish habitat from the proposed Project will compare potential effects against relevant criteria and existing conditions.

### Indicators and Measurable Parameters

In undertaking the assessment of fish and fish habitat, the following indicators and measurable parameters were used:

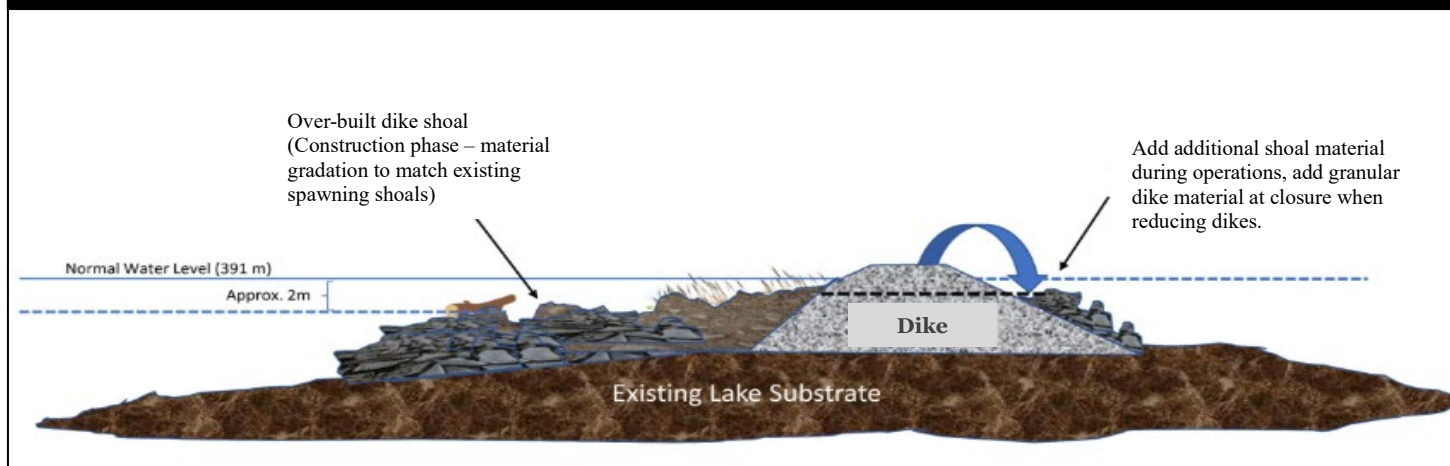
Indicator	Measurable Parameter
Change to fish communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Change in relative abundance of fish species</li><li>• Change in fish community structure</li></ul>
Change in fish habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Areal extents of fish habitat, measured in ha</li><li>• Change to surface water levels, measured in m</li><li>• Change in drainage areas, measured in hectares</li></ul>
Change in fish health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Change in water quality, measured in mg/L</li><li>• Change in fish tissue quality, measured in micrograms per milligram (µg/mg)</li></ul>

# Proposed Fish Offsetting Measure – Reclaimed Basin



Approximately 78 ha of the basin is temporarily dewatered but will remain largely in its current configuration (other than substrate management and basin enhancements) and 19 ha of backfilled area to depths suitable for littoral habitat, or deeper profundal zone (contoured, treated with retained lake sediment, macrophytes, log and rock structure). As well, 44 ha new fish habitat development basin designed and constructed to preferred habitat criteria, (contoured, treated with retained lake sediment, macrophytes, log and rock structure). The reclaimed basin is expected to function in a similar and comparable capacity as the existing dewatered basin and will increase the Springpole Lake area by 3.5%.

Diagram below: Shoal construction for fish habitat during construction, operation, and closure.



The proposed enhancement of shoreline sections in Springpole Lake would increase production of forage fish (e.g., Spottail Shiner) and other species (e.g., Walleye, Lake Trout and Northern Pike).