



AGNICO EAGLE

2020 Fish-Out for the Whale Tail Expansion Project - Summary

In the summer of 2020, ten ponds or lakes were fished out at the Whale Tail site, prior to construction of the Whale Tail Expansion Project. This fish-out occurred under DFO Fisheries Act Authorization 20-HCAA-00275, and followed a work plan that was approved by DFO in July 2020 and reviewed by the Baker Lake HTO on June 26, 2020. A map of the lakes and ponds that were fished out is provided below.

During the fish-out, Agnico was in daily communication with DFO, who told Agnico when fish-out activities could stop in each lake or pond.

Because of the short summer season, lots of methods were used at the same time to capture fish, including minnow traps, beach seines, backpack electrofishing, hoop nets and gill nets (photos provided below).

Using all these methods, between 0 and 17,682 fish were caught from each lake or pond. The species caught were ninespine stickleback (Kakilasak or Kakilahak), slimy sculpin (Kanayuuq), Arctic char, burbot, and lake trout. The number of each fish caught in each lake or pond is shown in Table 1. In total, four waterbodies had no fish, four had only ninespine stickleback, and two contained several different species.

Agnico and the fish-out consultant made every effort to transfer live fish to Whale Tail Lake South. For each lake or pond, between 70 – 97% of fish captured were successfully transferred alive.

For almost every fish caught, their length and weight were recorded. Gender, maturity and/or reproductive status and a detailed biological assessment (some or all of: stomach weights, gonad weights, liver weights, fecundity assessment, examination for deformities, erosions, lesions, and tumors) were also recorded for 29 fish that didn't survive capture. All of this information was provided to DFO for their records.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, field assistants from the community of Baker Lake could not be employed by the fisheries consultant (North/South Consultants Inc.) in 2020. Similarly, providing fish to the community was not allowed under COVID-19 restrictions.

Table 1. Total number and weight of fish caught during the 2020 Whale Tail Expansion Project Fish-out.

Lake or Pond	Species	Total Weight		Number of Fish	
		grams	%	#	%
A0	Ninespine stickleback	300	100%	1,050	100%
A-P38	-	0	-	0	-
A46	Ninespine stickleback	562	100%	837	100%
A47	Ninespine stickleback	2,361	100%	4,045	100%
A48	Ninespine stickleback	4,299	100%	17,682	100%
A49	Lake trout	6,250	96%	13	7%
	Slimy sculpin	279	4%	183	93%
A50	-	0	-	0	-
A51	-	0	-	0	-
A52	Pond dry (no water) – no fish present.	0	-	0	-
A53	Ninespine stickleback	3,216	6%	2,709	96%
	Slimy sculpin	125	0%	40	1%
	Burbot	3,808	7%	23	1%
	Arctic char	17,271	31%	29	1%
	Lake trout	31,310	56%	20	1%

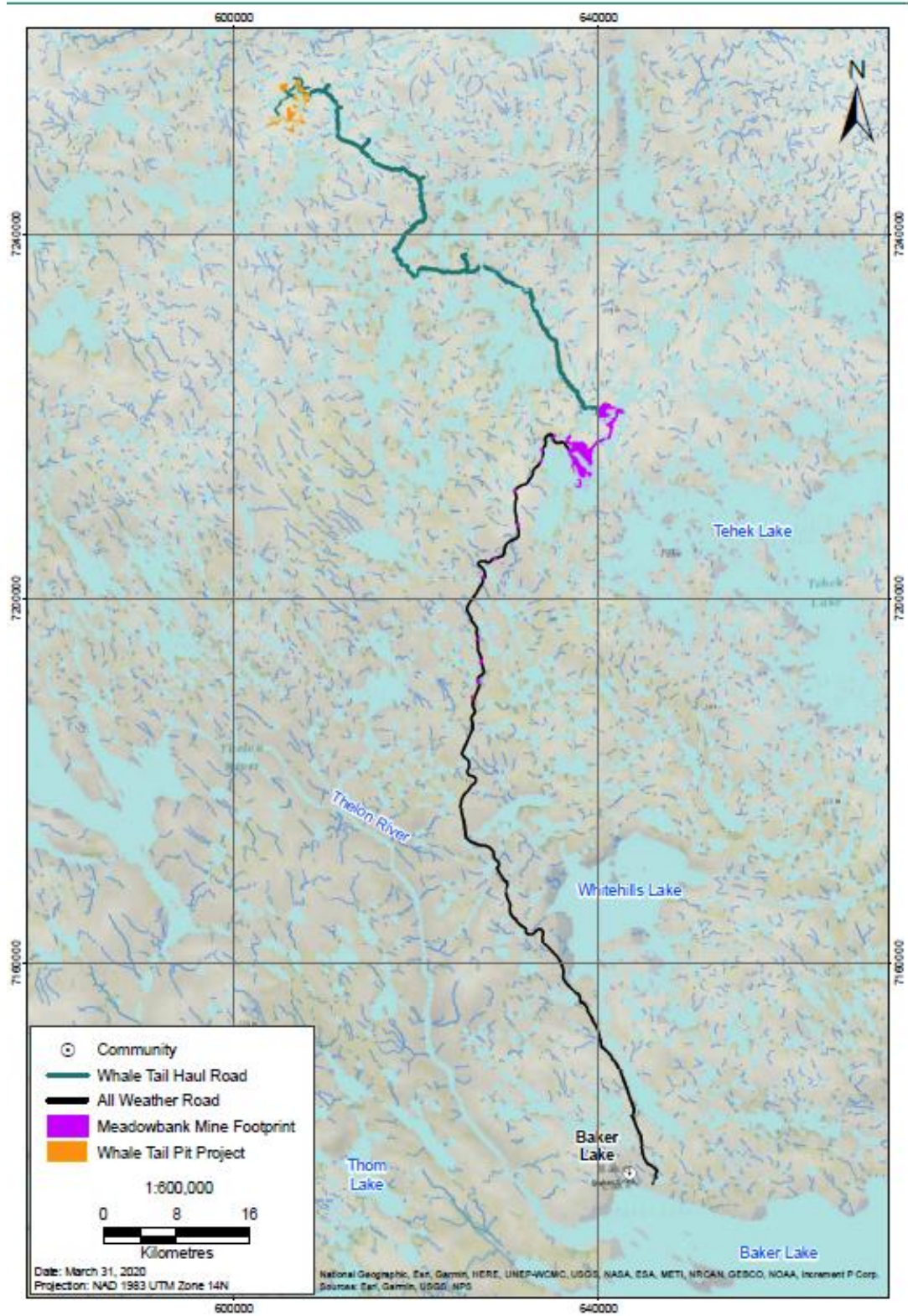


Figure 1-1: Location of Meadowbank Gold Mine and Whale Tail Pit Project

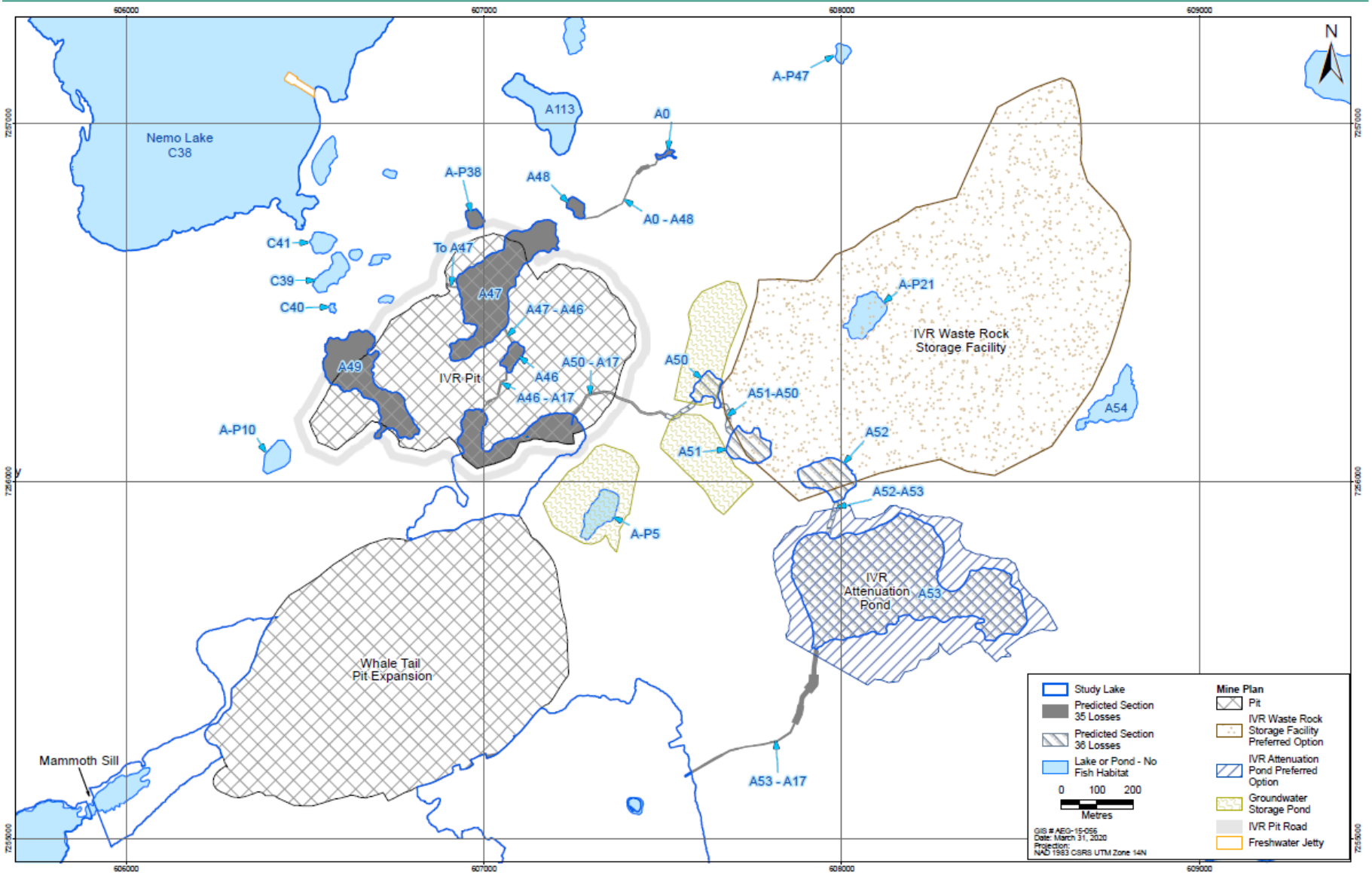


Figure 1-2: Areas of Predicted Fish Habitat Loss



Photo 1. Beach seining in A47. July 23, 2020.



Photo 2. Gill netting in A47. July 1, 2020.



Photo 3. Minnow trapping in A48. July 22, 2020.



Figure C- 4. Electrofishing in A50. August 22, 2020.