

Effective Date: April 14, 2020

Replaces: New

INTENT:

To outline ministry policy and procedures regarding Amphibian Salvage in the province of Saskatchewan. This policy applies to all persons including ministry employees, researchers, project proponents and their agents, or any other persons or agencies, seeking to salvage amphibians from project sites.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE:

- Regional wildlife biologists, the Fisheries Unit permitting officer, Ecological Protection Specialists (EPSs) and Habitat Unit ecologists are supportive of rescinding the [moratorium](#) on Amphibian Translocation and permitting amphibian salvage within a discrete and well-defined set of parameters (i.e., Amphibian Salvage Checklist).
- Fisheries Unit permits fish salvage, provided Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention measures are followed. Consistent practices should also apply to amphibians that occupy sites where construction has been authorized to occur.
- Fish, Wildlife and Lands Branch provided partial funding to the Calgary Zoo to develop “[Guidelines for Mitigation Translocations of Amphibians: Applications for Canada’s Prairie Provinces](#)” which was released in February 2018.
 - These Guidelines allow the ministry to defer to relevant sections, resulting in a standardized protocol for amphibian salvage in Saskatchewan.
- Post 2016, due to concerns regarding the efficacy of translocations, potential risks to amphibians at recipient sites and known risks associated with disease transmission, a [moratorium](#) was invoked.
- Prior to the field season of 2016, Research Permits were issued to translocate amphibians away from ministry approved projects, which required environmental consultants working on behalf of industry, to abide by the best available codes of practice to prevent disease transmission between individuals and sites.

POLICY:

- A. Risks and outcomes for translocations over 350 m remain unknown and will continue to not be permitted.
- B. Consistent with fish salvage, amphibians may be moved out of harms’ way in construction areas.
- C. Amphibian salvage, requested through an Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit (AHPP), will not be authorized as prerequisites associated with a Species Detection Permit are required.
- D. Amphibian salvage must be conducted under the authorization of a Species Detection Permit (see Procedures below).

DEFINITIONS/ACRONYMS:

AIS – Aquatic Invasive Species

Salvage – Salvage implies amphibians will be moved simply out of harm's way, adjacent to the capture site (≤ 350 m) but not translocated to sites over 350 m away from the capture site.

Species of Conservation Concern (SOCC): SOCC include any species listed under [SARA, Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada \(COSEWIC\)](#), [The Wildlife Act, 1998](#), [provincial Wild Species at Risk Regulations](#), [Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre \(SKCDC\) S1 and S2 species](#), and amphibians listed in the [Saskatchewan Activity Restriction Guidelines ARGs for Sensitive Species](#).

PROCEDURES:

- A. Amphibian salvage must be conducted under the authorization of a Species Detection Permit.
 1. Requirements outlined in [Species Detection Personnel Documents](#) must be met.
- B. Complete and submit a [Species Detection Application Form \(SDAF\)](#) to obtain a Species Detection Permit.
- C. An [Amphibian Salvage Checklist](#) must accompany the [Species Detection Application Form \(SDAF\)](#).
- D. The [Amphibian Salvage Checklist](#) ensures salvage proceeds within a discrete and well-defined set of parameters, not limited to, but including (see Amphibian Salvage Checklist for all parameters):
 1. Salvage only applies to amphibian Species of Conservation Concern (SOCC);
 2. Preventative measures (e.g., barrier fencing) are taken to preclude the need for salvage;
 3. Impacts to habitat are temporary and amphibians can re-occupy adjacent areas, and the site from which they were salvaged, immediately after construction;
 4. Amphibians shall not be held in captivity;
 5. Detailed procedures, cross-referenced to the Calgary Zoo Guidelines and consistent with Saskatchewan's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) strategy, are followed.
- E. All [Conservation Standards Terms and Conditions for Species Detection](#) shall apply (i.e. submission of [Species Detection Loadform](#)).

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

1. Authority:
 - a. The Wildlife Act, 1998 – Section 21
 - b. Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010 – Section 3
2. Permits/Forms:
 - a. [Species Detection Application Form \(SDAF\)](#)
 - b. [Amphibian Salvage Checklist](#)
 - c. [Species Detection Personnel Documents](#)
 - d. [Species Detection Loadform](#)
3. Permit Conditions:
 - a. [Conservation Standards Terms & Conditions: Species Detection](#)
4. Related References:
[Guidelines for Mitigation Translocations of Amphibians: Applications for Canada's Prairie Provinces](#)

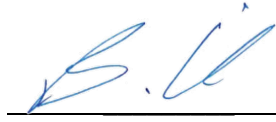
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