

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DECONSTRUCTION OF THE CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE



Protecting the environment is a core concern for JCCBI. Thorough studies and tests have been done to clearly identify the potential impacts of the deconstruction of the Champlain Bridge and effectively plan the required mitigation and compensation measures.

Environmental assessment process

An environmental assessment (EA) conducted in 2013 for the construction of the new Samuel De Champlain Bridge included a study and evaluation of the environmental impacts of the deconstruction of the Champlain Bridge. To account for changes in the environment since 2013, JCCBI carried out a targeted environmental analysis (TEA) specifically for the deconstruction of the Champlain Bridge. The goal was to update the EA and validate mitigation measures or propose new ones based on best practices in 2019 and the lessons learned during the construction of the new bridge.

The TEA addresses multiple environmental components: soil, water and air quality; greenhouse gases; noise levels; wildlife and plant life; at-risk species; boating activities; and the maintenance of economic activities on the St. Lawrence Seaway. It also includes studies on mobility and the impacts of truck traffic.

The TEA has been submitted for comments to the authorities responsible for issuing the required permits for the project, which in this case is Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Transport Canada. The public is also invited to submit questions and comments during our information days or on our site at champlaindeconstruction.ca.

These comments will be used to enhance the TEA, and a final version will be submitted to the authorities involved.

To consult the TEA and share your comments with us, visit champlaindeconstruction.ca.

Impacts on the community

Deconstructing the Champlain Bridge will require transporting a large volume of materials.

To responsibly manage the site, JCCBI is committed to respecting all standards in force, particularly in relation to noise and air quality. Mitigation measures to limit the impacts of the project on the community will be implemented as needed. Here are some examples:

Noise

- + Install acoustic panels in sensitive areas
- + Use impact noise reducers on the doors of dump trucks
- + Minimize activities in residential sectors
- + Limit truck speed
- + Decrease the noise level of back-up alarms

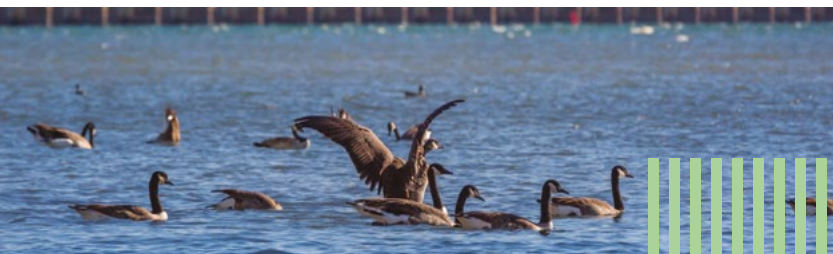
Dust

- + Apply a dust suppressant on work-site roads
- + Regularly clean roads used
- + Install tarps on trucks loaded with materials
- + Cover piles of materials

Traffic

- + Reduce transportation in rush-hour periods
- + Reduce road closures to nights and weekends
- + Provide clear signage and use flaggers as needed

The impacts will be carefully monitored throughout the project, particularly through the use of stations to measure air quality and noise levels in sensitive areas. Adjustments will be made as needed to enhance the implemented mitigation measures.



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Impact on the environment

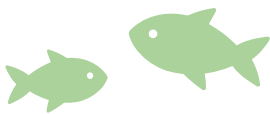
The Champlain Bridge is in a sector with rich biodiversity, and protecting this environment requires careful attention. Below are some examples of sensitive components of this environment along with planned measures to address these challenges:



CHALLENGE

PLANNED MEASURES

1. Presence of aquatic habitats and fish species with a special status, such as lake sturgeon, American shad, American eel, and striped bass.



- + Compensation projects to offset temporary losses of habitat due to the work
- + Adherence to required water quality thresholds for aquatic life during work that generates suspended sediment
- + Work in water environments stopped during the spawning period of different fish species
- + Strict follow-up to ensure that the mitigation measures are effective and to stop work if thresholds are exceeded

2. Migration area for many bird species



- + No work done in the land portion of the migratory bird sanctuary

3. Population of 400 cliff swallows under the Champlain Bridge



- + Implementation of an ecosystem management plan on infrastructure in the project sector to help develop and relocate existing populations impacted by the project
- + Implementation of mitigation and compensation measures

4. Wetland area of 0.1 hectares (or 1,000 m²) that may be affected by the project



- + Wetland compensation via projects to compensate for fish habitats in calm waters

Developing compensation projects is an important part of ongoing work that will continue in the coming months. To create these projects, JCCBI is in discussions with a number of organizations with varied profiles and expertise.

Do you have comments about the TEA or ideas for compensation projects?

Share them with us during our information days or at champlaindeconstruction.ca.

