



THE WEH-SEES INDOHOUN AND EASTMAIN SPECIAL MANAGEMENT SECTORS

Presentation to COMEX hearing
March 30th, 2015

JBNQA

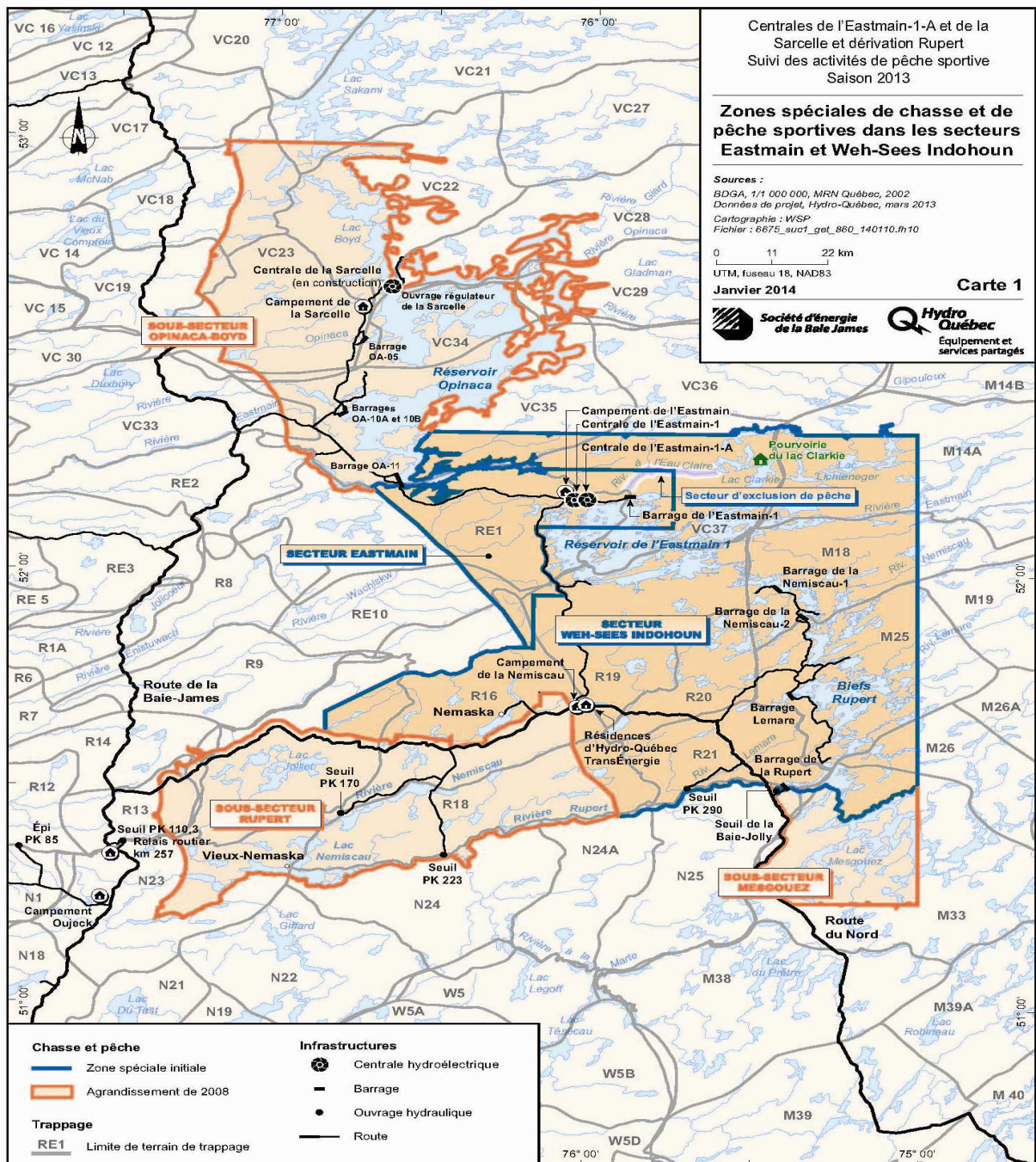
- The establishment of special wildlife management zones are foreseen in section 28.8.10 and 28.8.11 of the JBNQA where the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC) may recommend establishment of such measures when an influx of temporary work force may affect the regime or with a view of minimizing conflicts between Native and non-Native hunting and fishing activities.

THE WEH-SEES INDOHOUN (WSI)

- Created by virtue of the Nadoshtin and Bouhounan agreements in order to control the sport fishing and hunting activities of the workers during the construction phase of the EM-1 and EM1-A-Sarcelle-Rupert diversion projects.

MAIN COMPONENT OF WSI

- Delineation of Special Wildlife Zone
- Wildlife Management Plan (restrictive regulations)
- Wildlife Protection Plan
- Information officers
- Weh-Sees Corporation composed of a board of directors to oversee the management of zone



THE WSI AND EASTMAIN SPECIAL ZONE

Located in the Hunting and Fishing Zone 22

Covers 16 656 km²

Composed of two main sectors: Eastmain and Weh-Sees Indohoun sectors

In 2008 the Weh-sees was extended to include the Mesgouez, Rupert et Opinaca-Boyd region

Document d'information destiné aux publics concernés par le projet. Pour tout autre usage, communiquer avec : Géomatique, Hydro-Québec Équipement et services partagés.

- Fishing regulations;
 - Access pass must be acquired (free of charge) and reporting of catches is mandatory
 - A section of the Eau Claire river is closed for fishing.
 - Certain water bodies closed permanently
 - Quota limitations for water bodies are established
 - Catch limits more restrictive

- Hunting regulations;
 - Caribou hunting is prohibited
 - Eastmain sector is closed to sports hunt
 - Weh-Sees sector open but with restrictions: Male and calf, bow pre-hunting season prohibited, and shorter hunting season

OUTCOMES

HYDRO FOLLOW-UP OF THE SPORT FISHING AND HUNTING ACTIVITIES FROM 2007 TO 2013;

- Total 21 781 access rights pass emitted to 9 858 sports fishermen;
- Project workers accounted for 55%;
- 45% were the others anglers including 1 897 tourists (19%);
- Most frequented waterbodies was the Eastmain river, the Sarcelle region (Opinaca reservoir), Boyd Lake, Nemiscau Lake and the Rupert river;
- 150 729 fish caught, and 43% (64 798) have been brought back or consumed at site;

OUTCOMES

HYDRO FOLLOW-UP OF THE SPORT FISHING AND HUNTING ACTIVITIES FROM 2007 TO 2013;

- EM1-A-Rupert-Sarcelle project workers caught 75,525 fish, but kept 34,014.
- The other anglers caught 75,204 fish but kept 30,785.
- In the group of other anglers, the tourists caught the most fish (51,569) but only kept 38% of them.
- Majority of the species harvested was walleye with 52 424 (81% of total harvest) and were mostly from the Nemiscau Lake (6282), the Eastmain River (6263) and the Mesgouez Lake (6050).
- Second most harvest specie was Pike at 7417, then Brook trout 4 468 and finally Lake trout at 489 fish.
- 48 out of 769 water bodies were closed as a result of the quota being reached or at the request of the Cree communities or tallymen.
- Majority of water bodies frequented by fishermen were those along road and camp sites.

OUTCOMES

- The measures (WSI) implemented succeeded in ensuring the conservation of the resources for the exploited lakes.
- Tallymen are satisfied by the measures taken
- Proper control measures and mandatory reporting of catches enable a close monitoring of the area
- No over-harvesting has been reported

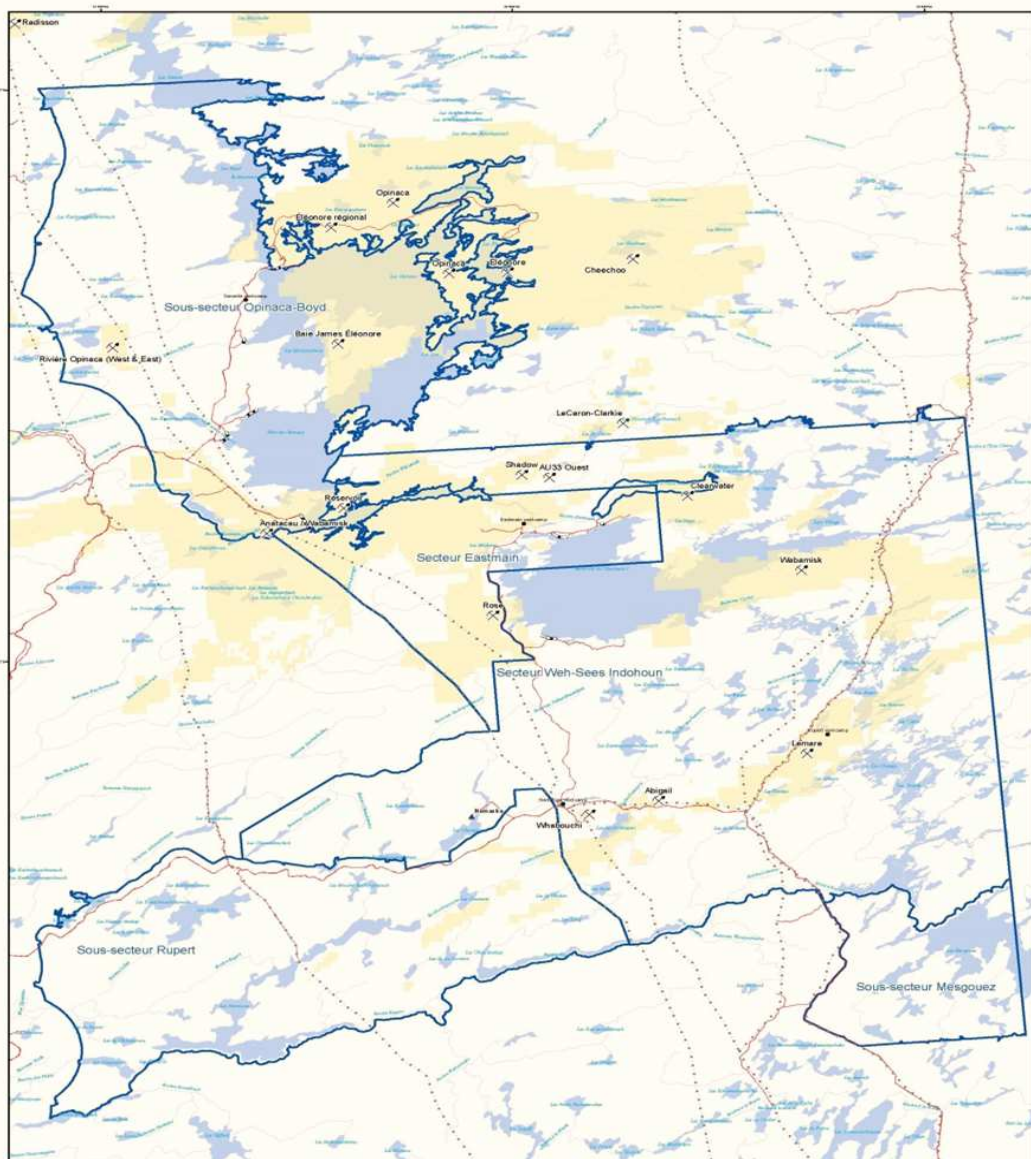
CURRENT STATUS

- WSI corporation dissolve due to Hydro retreat of funds
- WSI regulation and boundaries still in place
- Communities, CTA and CNG adopted resolution to maintain WSI
- HFTCC made recommendation to Qc Responsible Minister to maintain WSI (awaiting response from Minister)
- Funding secured with Niskamoon but only for the coming 2015 season to hire information officer and ensure the logistics for the emission of the Access rights and compiling catch reports.
- Information officer to be located in Nemaska

WHY MAINTAIN WSI?

- Clearly a positive experience and greatly appreciated by tallymen impacted
- Close monitoring and control of the sport hunting and fishing activities
- Close monitoring of lakes and fish
- Preserve sensitive areas (Moose habitat in Eastmain sectors, and brook trout population in Au Clair River)
- Although less EM1-A project workers; other workers from other exploration of development project are present and may increase in future
- Increased access; increase of other incomers

Mining Exploration in Weh-Sees-Indohoun Area



A great number of mining claims (approximately 3690 km²) overlap the WSI territory and approximately 35 exploration or mining companies currently have active claims in or near the territory.

* *GESTIM (2014) and MRN (2013)*

MINING WORKERS

- Exploration camps workers (unknown at present)
- Eleonore; ~1600 workers (construction phase) and 400 workers (operation phase)
- Whabouchi; ~ 150 workers (construction) and 70-80 workers (operations)
- Rose projects; ~ 200 workers (construction) and 200 workers (peak operation). (Project on hold)
- Without accounting for the workers affected to exploration activities, we can at least predict in a medium to long-term that a minimum 680 mining workers will be present in WSI territory.

WHABOUCHI

- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
 - due to the presence of workers, an increased fishing pressure in certain water
 - bodies could affect the structure and abundance of the local fish populations.

In order to reduce the impacts of the project on fish and its habitat, the mitigation measures that will be implemented include:

- Implement an employee awareness program on the effects of recreational fishing
- Forbid fishing within the limits of the mining lease and use leases

WHABOUCHI

The Whabouchi project is in the heart of the WSI sector and surrounded by numerous lakes vulnerable to accessibility and increase pressure; including the Lac des Montagnes, lac Spodumen, lac Champion, and other smaller lakes that are even more vulnerable to overharvesting.

Lac des Montagnes, right next to lac Champion, is one of the most frequented lakes in the area and therefore should continue to be monitored. Any added fishing pressure of incomers on the lakes in proximity of the project as a result of the Whabouchi project should be closely monitored.

COLLABORATION FOR FUTURE OF WSI

- Maintaining WSI in future will require collaboration from all stakeholders;
- Monitoring of increased access & pressure from fishing and hunting activities will ensure preservation of sensitive areas;
- Improve working conditions and enable workers to access these activities;

Hence Whabouchi should work in collaboration and contribute for the monitoring of these activities in the WSI and Eastmain sectors.

MEEGWETCH!

