

Using Animals for Research at IISD Experimental Lakes Area

January 2026

IISD Experimental Lakes Area (IISD-ELA) recognizes and supports the essential need for responsible animal research.

The use of animals in research is a privilege, and so IISD-ELA requires researchers to practice “the three Rs” of animal use (**R**eplacement, **R**eduction, **R**efinement), and to use non-lethal sampling methods whenever possible. Invertebrate organisms, other than crayfish, do not require permits.

If you wish to use the IISD-ELA facility to conduct research on vertebrate animals or crayfish (in the field or laboratory), you must follow the guidelines outlined here.

STEP 1

Contact IISD-ELA researchers to discuss the proposed project, including species, target lakes, and methodologies. Please endeavour to provide as much notice as possible, at least nine months prior to the commencement of research (to provide time for Research Advisory Board application, described in Step 2).

- [Vince Palace](#), Head Research Scientist
- [Michael Rennie](#), Research Associate
- [Lee Hrenchuk](#), Senior Biologist
- [Lauren Hayhurst](#), Fisheries Research Biologist
- [AJ Chapelsky](#), Fish Research Technician

STEP 2

Your project may require approval by the IISD-ELA Research Advisory Board (RAB). Proposals should be submitted to the RAB at least nine months in advance of the commencement of research.

Please contact [Vince Palace](#) to discuss your project and application requirements as soon as possible.

STEP 3

Provide IISD-ELA with an Animal Use Protocol (AUP) that describes the research in detail and has been reviewed and approved by the Animal Care Committee at your home institution. Approved AUPs must be submitted at least one month prior to commencement of research at the IISD-ELA facility to [Lee Hrenchuk](#). AUPs are not required for research involving crayfish.



All individuals who will handle animals as part of your project must be named on your AUP(s). Individuals who are not named on the AUP(s) may not handle animals.

STEP 4

Submit approved collection permits/licences for the target organisms at least one month prior to commencement of research at the IISD-ELA facility to [Lee Hrenchuk](#).

All individuals who will handle animals as part of your project must be named on your licence(s). Individuals who are not names on the licence(s) may not handle animals.

FISH OR CRAYFISH

1. Use the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (OMNRF) [Natural Resources Information Portal \(NRIP\)](#) to create your application for a Licence to Collect Fish for Scientific Purposes. If you haven't used NRIP before, you will need to create an account first.
2. Select "Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan" as the district closest to your activity location.
3. Upload a cover letter describing your project to your application as supporting documentation.
4. Submit your application. Processing will take one to three months.
5. Submit approved licence to Lee Hrenchuk **prior to commencement of research** at IISD-ELA. You may not begin your research until your licence has been granted.

OTHER ANIMALS

Follow the process above but select the "Wildlife Scientific Collector's Authorization" application.

SUMMARY TABLE

Number of months until start of research	Tasks	
9-12	Contact IISD-ELA researchers to discuss project idea.	
9	Submit proposal to IISD-ELA Research Advisory Board.	
3	Submit Animal Use Protocol applications to your institute.	Submit application to OMNRF through NRIP (takes 1-3 months to process)
1	Submit approval AUP to IISD-ELA (Lee Hrenchuk).	Submit approved Licence to Collect Fish to IISD-ELA (Lee Hrenchuk).