

REVIEW COMMENTS

Transport Canada

Option 1 - Fixed Wing Aircraft

Project aircraft must comply with the applicable regulations and standards for operation in Canada (i.e. Civil Aviation Regulations; NAFTA requirements).

Option 2 - Dedicated Marine Vessel

All project vessels must comply with the applicable regulations under the Canada Shipping Act, 2001 (CSA 2001) and applicable International Maritime Organization (IMO) standards.

More specifically:

- Project vessels registered in Canada must comply with all applicable provisions of the Regulations pursuant to the CSA 2001. In addition, the operation must comply with provisions under the Maritime Occupational and Health Regulations pursuant to Part II of the Canada Labour Code;
- Project vessels registered in a foreign country must apply for a Coasting Trade Permit issued under the Coasting Trade Act. This means that the vessel would comply with all applicable regulations under IMO Conventions. The Coasting Trade Permit is actually issued by Canadian Customs in consultation with CTA and TC.

Environment Canada

Section 5.2.2, third bullet should be revised to read “Noise or any electronic disturbance from equipment including both direct effects (physiological), or indirect effects (foraging behavior, prey species, adult attendance at the nest);”

Department of National Defence

The Department of National Defence (DND) is likely to be operating in the vicinity of the study area in a non-interference manner during the project timeframe.

A search of the unexploded ordnates (UXO) records was conducted to determine the possible presence of UXO within the proponent’s project area. Records indicate there are no wrecks present within the survey area. Given DND’s understanding of the survey activities to be conducted, the associated UXO risk is assessed as negligible. Nonetheless, due to the inherent dangers associated with UXO and the fact that the Atlantic Ocean was exposed to many naval engagements during WWII, should any suspected UXO be encountered during the course of the proponent’s operations it should not be disturbed/manipulated. The proponent should mark the location and immediately inform the Coast Guard. Additional information is available in the 2012 Annual Edition - Notices to Mariners. Section F, No.37. In the event of activities which may have contact with the seabed (such as drilling or mooring), it is strongly advised that operational aids, such as remote operated vehicles, be used to conduct seabed surveys in order to prevent unintentional contact with harmful UXO items that may have gone unreported or undetected. General information regarding UXO is available at our website at www.uxocanada.forces.gc.ca.

Fish, Food and Allied Workers

The Project Description for the proposed program is relatively limited, but this is to be seen in the light of the passive nature of the activity. The FFAW would have liked to have seen an approximate of the line kilometres associated with this project, as is customary with other programs. Further to this the FFAW would also have liked to seen an indication of the intent to using a Fisheries Liaison Officer, especially as the timing of the proposed activity is the same as that of the fisheries pursued by most of the members of the union.

In the Project Description developed by ARKeX there is no indication that they expect to use Marine Mammal Observer/ Fisheries Liaison Officer. The use of such expertise is required under the Canada- Newfoundland & Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, as prescribed on page 47 of the Canada- Newfoundland & Labrador Offshore Petroleum *Boards Geophysical, Geological, Environmental and Geotechnical Program Guidelines* – as per January 2012. It would be in the interest of the membership of the FFAW that a Fisheries Guide Vessel be used when pursuing Geophysical, Geological, Environmental and Geotechnical Programs – especially in heavily fished areas.

It is of utmost importance that the proponent diligently pursues the consultation process with all other ocean users. This is of importance as parts of this program will have activity close to and within various fishing areas. The Petroleum Industry Liaison with the FFAW is available to assist in arranging consultation sessions specifically aimed at those active within the fishing industry.