



September 6, 2019

Distribution:

**BHP Canada Exploration Drilling Project EL 1157 and 1158 Seabed Survey
Commencement of Environmental Assessment**

On August 28, 2019, BHP Canada (BHP) submitted to the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) a project description for an ROV/AUV video survey. The C-NLOPB determined that the Project would require an authorization pursuant to Section 138(1) (b) of the *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Act* and Section 134(1) (b) of the *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Newfoundland and Labrador Act*, referred to herein as the *Accord Acts*.

The attached *Project Description BHP Canada Exploration Drilling Project EL 1157 and 1158 Seabed Survey* (BHP August 27, 2019) outlines the activities proposed for the program. An ROV/AUV video survey is proposed for 2020.

The C-NLOPB has determined that your department or agency may be in the possession of environmental or fishery related experts that are required in the completion of this assessment.

This letter seeks, pursuant to the *Accord Acts*, to: identify the departments or agencies that may have expertise; set a timetable for conducting the determination; and seek comments on the attached draft scoping document.

Timing of Assessment

The C-NLOPB requests that the determination be carried out in as timely a manner as possible, and propose the following schedule:

Expertise Request	Response by September 20, 2019
Review of EA Report	Response approximately 4 weeks after receipt of document.
Review of revised EA or addendum, if required	Response approximately 2 weeks after receipt of document.
Preparation of EA determination	3 weeks for completion (may commence during review of final EA or addendum); includes review of all drafts.

Pursuant to the *Accord Acts*, the C-NLOPB requests that you review the attached information and inform the C-NLOPB by **September 20, 2019** of your determination. If you determine that you are in possession of any specialist or expert information or knowledge please advise the C-NLOPB of the nature of that information or knowledge and the person to contact for assistance by **September 20, 2019**.

If no response is received from you by the date indicated above, the C-NLOPB will assume that your department or agency is not in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge.

Species at Risk - Section 79(1) Notification of Competent Minister

Pursuant to Section 79(1) of the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*, the C-NLOPB hereby informs the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (the Competent Ministers) that the following Schedule 1 Species are likely to be in the project area under the jurisdiction of the C-NLOPB. A determination of the likelihood of adverse affects on these species will be undertaken during the determination process.

- Endangered:
 - Turtle, Leatherback Sea (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
 - Turtle, Loggerhead Sea (*Caretta caretta*)
 - Whale, Blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*) – Atlantic population
 - Whale, North Atlantic Right (*Eubalaena glacialis*)
 - Gull, Ivory (*Pagophila eburnea*)
 - Shark, White (*Carcharodon carcharias*)
 - Whale, Northern Bottlenose (*Hyperoodon ampullatus*) - Scotian Shelf population

- Threatened:
 - Wolffish, Northern (*Anarhichas denticulatus*)
 - Wolffish, Spotted (*Anarhichas minor*)

- Special Concern:
 - Wolffish, Atlantic (*Anarhichas lupus*)
 - Whale, Fin (*Balenoptera physalus*) – Atlantic population
 - Whale, Sowerby's beaked (*Mesoplodon bidens*)

If you have any questions on the attached, or wish to discuss the above, I may be reached at 709-778-1431 or via email at dhicks@cnlopb.ca.

Yours truly,

Original signed by Darren Hicks

Darren Hicks
Environmental Analyst

Attachments

Cc I. Murphy
E. Young

DISTRIBUTION:

Federal Agencies	
Mr. Bret Pilgrim Fisheries and Oceans Canada P. O. Box 5667 St. John's, NL A1C 5X1	Mr. Jerry Pulchan Environment and Climate Change Canada Newfoundland District Office 6 Bruce Street, Mount Pearl, NL A1N 4T3
Ms. Melissa Ginn Transport Canada P. O. Box 1300 St. John's NL A1C 5X1	Ms. Allison Denning Health Canada Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch Suite 1625, 1505 Barrington Street Halifax, NS B3J 3Y6
Ms. Carol Lee Giffin National Defence P. O. Box 99000 Stn. Forces Halifax, NS B3K 5X5	Mr. Max Genest Natural Resources Canada 580 Booth Street Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E4
Ms. Francine Mercier Parks Canada 4 th Floor 25 Eddy Street Gatineau, QC K1A 0M5	
Provincial Agencies	
Ms. Joanne Sweeney Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment P. O. Box 8700 St. John's, NL A1C 4J6	Ms. Nicole Rowsell Department of Fisheries and Land Resources P.O. Box 8700 St. John's, NL A1C 4J6
Mr. Chris Carter Department of Natural Resources P. O. Box 8700 St. John's, NL A1C 4J6	