

BP Canada Energy Group ULC – Ephesus Prospect Controlled Source Electromagnetic (CSEM)  
Survey 2020-2024 – Environmental Assessment Addendum

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**Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)**

**Specific Comment:**

With respect to the following comment on Table 4.9, the Proponent has removed the reference to the proposed recovery strategy but has kept the associated text. The reference noted, ALTRT 2006, is the most recent version of the recovery strategy and doesn't identify critical habitat. It is noted in the recovery strategy that, "while the state of knowledge on habitat requirements of leatherback turtles in Canadian waters is increasing as new scientific evidence becomes available, it is currently not possible to identify critical habitat for this species." The reference that should be removed, along with the associated text, is DFO 2016c, which was an early draft of a revised recovery strategy that was shared with stakeholders. It included proposed critical habitat; however, it wasn't finalized and shouldn't be referenced. I've highlighted the section in the Revised Text and the reference that should be removed.

**DFO Comment**

Section 4.5 Species at Risk, Table 4.9, pages 40-43 - .....The Recovery Strategy and associated critical habitat for Leatherback Sea Turtles is not publicly available and should not be discussed.

**Original Text in Table**

Although critical habitat has not yet been designated for this species in Atlantic Canadian waters (ALTRT 2006), areas previously identified as important foraging habitat have now been identified in the proposed recovery strategy as critical habitat areas for leatherbacks (DFO 2016c). Three proposed critical habitat areas have been identified: (1) the Southwestern Scotian Slope Area, (2) the Gulf of St. Lawrence-Laurentian Channel Area, and (3) the Placentia Bay Area (DFO 2016c).

**Revised Text**

Although critical habitat has not yet been designated for this species in Atlantic Canadian waters (ALTRT 2006), areas previously identified as important foraging habitat have now been identified as three proposed critical habitat areas: (1) the Southwestern Scotian Slope Area, (2) the Gulf of St. Lawrence-Laurentian Channel Area, and (3) the Placentia Bay Area (DFO 2016c).

ALTRT (Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Recovery Team). 2006. Recovery Strategy for Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in Atlantic Canada. Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa, NL. vi + 45 pp.

DFO (Fisheries and Oceans Canada). 2016c. Recovery Strategy for the Leatherback Sea Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in Atlantic Canada [Proposed]. Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa, ON. vii + 43 pp.