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BAB 3970-245

Darren Hicks  
Environmental Analyst  
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board  
140 Water St., 4th Floor  
St. John's, NL A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Hicks

**Subject: DFO Review – Chevron Canada Resources EA Addendum for offshore Labrador Seismic program 2010-2017**

As requested, DFO has completed a review the document entitled “*Addendum to the Environmental Assessment of Chevron’s Offshore Labrador Seismic Program, 2010-2017*” dated October 2010 and offers these comments as per Chevron’s responses.

#### General Comment

Please be advised that DFO recommends that Chevron adhere to the “*Statement of Practice with respect to the Mitigation of Seismic Sound in the Marine Environment*” (SOCP) when conducting seismic programs. The SOCP specifies the mitigation requirements that must be met during the Planning Seismic Surveys, Safety Zone and Start-up, Shut-down of Air Source Array(s), Line Changes and Maintenance Shut-downs, Operations in Low Visibility and Additional Mitigative Measures and Modifications in order to minimize impacts on life in the oceans. These requirements are set out as **minimum standards**, which will apply in all non-ice covered marine waters in Canada.

#### Specific Comments

##### **Response to General Comment 3(d)**

Based on information provided in Table 4.1 – Reproduction specifics of macro invertebrate and fish species known or likely to reproduce within or near the Study Area it is recommended, as per the SOCP Planning and Seismic Surveys 5.c., that each seismic survey must be planned to avoid dispersing aggregations of spawning fish from a known spawning area.

##### **Response to General Comment 4, General Comment 5 and Specific Comment 16.**

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With respect to operations in low visibility as per the SOCP Section 11, cetacean detection technology, such as Passive Acoustic Monitoring, **must be used** prior to ramp-up for the same time period as for visual monitoring set out in section 6 under the following conditions:

- a) the full extent of the safety zone is not visible; and
- b) the seismic survey is in an area that
  - i. has been identified as critical habitat for a vocalizing cetacean listed as endangered or threatened on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*, or
  - ii. in keeping with the considerations set out in sub-section 4(b), has been identified through an environmental assessment process as an area where a vocalising cetacean is expected to be encountered if that vocalizing cetacean has been identified through the environmental assessment process as a species for which there could be significant adverse effects.

Thank you for providing DFO the opportunity to comment on this document. Should you have any questions or comments regarding the above, you can contact me by phone at 772-8889 or by e-mail ([jason.kelly@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:jason.kelly@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)).

Regards

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