

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

February 5, 2010

GL-47317

Mr. Darren Hicks – Environmental Analyst Canada – Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board Fifth Floor, TD Place, 140 Water Street St. John's, NL A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Hicks:

I am writing in response to your request for review of the Environmental Assessment of the ConocoPhillips Canada Laurentian Sub-basin Offshore Area Seismic Survey Program 2010-2013.

There are potential disturbances upon the behaviour and distribution of finfish and shellfish from seismic surveys. Given that harvesting of multiple species occurs within the planned study area, we feel ongoing consultations with fishing representatives within the project area is needed to ensure minimal impacts to fishing operations and appropriate mitigation measures are employed.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on your proposal, and look forward to continued cooperation on this issue.

Sincerely,

Tom Dooley, Director

Sustainable Fisheries and Oceans Policy