



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

PO Box 5667
St. John's NL A1C 5X1

Your file *Votre référence*

Our file *Notre référence*
BAB 3990-25

April 14, 2010

Mr. Darren Hicks
Environmental Assessment Officer
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
5th Floor TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John's NL A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Hicks:

Subject: Addendum for Environmental Assessment of Conocophillips Canada Laurentian Sub-basin Seismic Program 2010- 2013

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has reviewed the document entitled "*Addendum for Environmental Assessment of Conocophillips Canada Laurentian Sub-basin Seismic Program 2010- 2013*", dated March 2010 and offer the following comments for your consideration.

In general, DFO Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) is satisfied with the responses provided by the proponent within this addendum. However, DFO Maritimes Region has further comments to response S-24, which is related to the project and study area boundaries. As mentioned in comments S-24, DFO Maritimes Region recognizes that several of the exploration licenses related to this project fall partially within the DFO Maritimes Regional boundary and as such may have implication on fisheries within this region. Based on Appendix A of the environmental assessment, it appears there has been a lack of consultation with fishing industry stakeholders in the Maritimes Region, specifically the groundfish and pelagic long line fisheries. DFO Maritimes Region provided the proponent with a number of fishing industry contacts in the region (Refer to letter from C. Grant to E. Young on February 9, 2010) and would like to reiterate its original recommendation that consultation should be undertaken prior to initiation of the project activities.

In response to S-24, the proponent mentions that "*...fishers operating in or near the survey area (s) will be aware of the CPC seismic program(s) through Notices to Shipping and direct communications with the FLO*". While DFO Maritimes Region recognizes the importance of this form of communication, it does not feel that this constitutes formal consultation with the fishing industry.

Thank you for providing DFO the opportunity to comment on this document. If you have any questions or comments regarding the above, please contact Elizabeth Bennett, Senior Biologist, Marine Section (Newfoundland Region) by phone at (709)772-0853 or by e-mail (elizabeth.bennett@df-mpo.gc.ca) or Donald Humphrey, Senior Environmental Analyst, Environmental Assessment and Major Projects

(Maritimes Region) by phone at (902) 426-9740 or by e-mail (donald.humphrey@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

Yours truly,



Carole Grant
Section Head – Marine Habitat
Habitat Protection Division
Oceans, Habitat and Species at Risk Branch

eb

cc: Donald Humphrey