

Dear Mr. Hicks,

The Regroupement des Palangriers et Petoncliers Unique Madelinots, (RPPUM) here addresses the Canada Newfoundland Petroleum Board to officially record its disapproval for a seismic program in the Laurentian Channel and Gulf of St. Lawrence. Representing pelagic and groundfish fishermen from the Magdalene Islands, the RPPUM firstly denounces the fact that they have not been consulted by Corridor Resources in its Environmental Assessments as required by the Canadian Environmental Assessments Act.

Contrary to the conclusions of Corridor Resources, the RPPUM finds that there is enough scientific evidence available attributing the negative effects of seismic surveys on fish to warrant a review and/or comprehensive study. To claim that there would be no serious adverse environmental derived from a seismic program in the Laurentian Channel in September and October goes against all traditional knowledge of fish aggregations gathered by Island fishermen. Traditional knowledge is further corroborated in DFO's findings published in the, "Description of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence and Sydney Bight Marine Ecosystems in Relation to Oil and Gas Exploration." According to these sources, the proposed schedule of the seismic program for the early fall corresponds to a time when the Laurentian Channel is coveted by many groundfish species. Since these do not exit the Gulf region until November it is felt that seismic test would cause serious biological disruptions which could be mitigated by postponing the program until the late fall.

The RPPUM stresses the fact that cod, which is now on the COSEWIC endangered list would be exposed to disruptions in their habitat. Because cod would be aggregating on the slopes of the Laurentian Channel at the time of the proposed program the RPPUM is concerned that not taking a precautionary approach in this instance may disrupt a significant link in the gulf ecosystem.

In conclusion, the RPPUM wants the CNLOPB to consider that the Gulf Cod has been under moratoria since 1994 and that fishermen have been governed on the premise of precautionary approach. The RPPUM feels that given these factors the CNLOPB should exercise the same caution and take appropriate steps to adequately study the impacts of seismic waves on critical groundfish stocks.

Regroupement des Pecheurs Palagrier et Petonclier Uniques Madelinots

President,

Pierre Chevrier