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Your file Votre référence

Oct 4, 2017

Our file Notre référence
PATH #16-HNFL-00515

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

Dear Mr. Hicks:

Re: Review of Electromagnetic Geoservices Canada Inc, Western Newfoundland Controlled Source Electromagnetic (CSEM) Survey, 2017 Addendum to Environmental Assessment

As requested, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has completed a review of Section 2.2 of the document entitled "Western Newfoundland Controlled Source Electromagnetic (CSEM) Survey – Addendum to Environmental Assessment" dated September 2017 and offers the following comments for your review and consideration:

- Response to comment: **Section 5.2.6 Species at Risk (Table 5.11 - Roughead Grenadier, American Plaice (Newfoundland and Labrador population), Striped Bass (Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence population), White Hake (Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence population), Spiny Dogfish (Atlantic population), and Northern Bottlenose Whale (Davis Strait-Baffin Bay-Labrador Sea population)**, page 18-19 – The population given for Spiny dogfish is incorrect and should be "Atlantic", not "Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence" population.
- Response to comment: **Section 5.2.7 Sensitive Areas (pages 5.53-5.54)**, pages 20-21 – Figure 32 in Kenchington et al. (2016) appears to show at least one significant sea pen location (indicated as a brown polygon for 2015) in the Project Area. Significant sea pen areas should be rechecked against the Project Area and text revised accordingly.
- Response to comment: **Section 5.2.7.1 Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (page 5.54)**, pages 21-22 – The edited wording of this paragraph is missing text. Sentence 3 should be changed from "*Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) are areas that have particularly high ecological or biological significance which may facilitate provision of a greater than usual degree of risk aversion in the management of an important design feature of MPA Networks.*" to "*Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) are areas that have particularly high ecological or biological significance which may facilitate provision of a greater than usual degree of risk aversion in the management of activities in these areas. EBSAs have been identified as priority areas for protection and an important design feature of MPA Networks.*".
- Response to comment: **Section 5.3.1.3 Aboriginal Fisheries (2nd and 3rd paragraph, pages 5.72-5.73)**, page 23 – In the 4th sentence, "(MAMKA)" should be added following "Mi'kmaq Alsumk Mowimsikik Koqoey Association".



- Response to comment: **Section 6.2.2 Project Interactions (paragraph 3, page 6.3)**, pages 24-26 – Part of original comment is missing. First sentence should read “*Please provide a description of the disturbance to benthic habitat and species (e.g., dimensions of receivers, total area affected, depth of disturbance, affected species)*” instead of “*Please provide a description affected, depth of disturbance, affected species)*”.
- Response to comment: **Section 6.2.3 Mitigation (2nd bullet, page 6.3)**, page 26 – Addition should also be made to Section 6.3.3 Mitigation (1st bullet, page 6.7).
- Response to comment: **Section 6.5 SPECIES AT RISK (2nd sentence, paragraph 3, page 6.15)**, page 30 – Sentence still needs to be revised to reflect 23 species populations listed on Schedule 1 of SARA, instead of 22.
- Response to comment: **Section 6.6.4 Assessment of Residual Environmental Effects (Receiver Deployment and Retrieval, page 6.29)**, pages 33-34 – Figure 32 in Kenchington et al. (2016) appears to show at least one sea pen location (indicated as a brown polygon for 2015) in the Project Area. Significant sea pen areas should be rechecked against the Project Area and text revised accordingly.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to review and provide comment on this project Addendum to EA Report. If you have any questions or comments with respect to the above or if you require anything further please contact me by phone (709.772.6105) or email (catherine.andrews@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.).

Sincerely,

Catherine Andrews
A/ Senior Biologist – Marine, Coastal, Oil and Gas Development
Fisheries Protection and Regulatory Reviews
Ecosystems Management Branch