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Your file    Votre référence

November 25, 2016

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:

*Darren:*  
**Re:    Review of Draft Scoping Document Electromagnetic Services Canada Western  
Newfoundland Controlled Source Electromagnetic (CSEM) Survey 2017**

I am writing further to your November 10, 2016 email and letter requesting review of the draft scoping document for the above noted CSEM survey planned for 2017 in an area offshore western Newfoundland.

Please be advised that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is in possession of expert knowledge and advice related to fish, fish habitat, marine mammals, species at risk, sensitive marine areas, and commercial fisheries that may inform the project environmental assessment.

Based on review of the draft Scoping Document the following comments are offered for consideration in terms of focusing the project EA report.

- Section 3.1 Scope of Project (page 1) – the total anticipated number and dimensions of the CSEM seabed nodes should be described and provided in the project EA.
- Section 5.1.2 Temporal Boundaries (page 4) – the scheduling of project activities should also consider the timing (and location) of active commercial fishing activities and other marine users.
- Section 5.2.2 Biological Environment (page 4) – this section of the Scoping Document should indicate; that the project EA will note/acknowledge data gaps identified in the Western NL Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) relative to marine fish/fish habitat, species at risk, sensitive areas, and marine fisheries, and how the project EA will describe the relevance of such gaps for the conduct of the project EA.
- Section 5.2.14 Biological and Follow-up Monitoring (page 7) - it is not clear how (or if) monitoring and/or auditing of adherence to applicable mitigations committed to in the project EA will be undertaken. This section of the scoping document should be clarified to indicate how such monitoring will be accomplished either as part of or separate from the project EA.

Future correspondence in relation to the environmental assessment for this proposed survey can be addressed to me by regular mail or by email [darrin.sooley@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:darrin.sooley@dfo-mpo.gc.ca). If you have any questions in this regard please do not hesitate to contact me at 709.772.3521.



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Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist – Marine, Coastal, Oil and Gas Development  
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