

**Environment Canada**

The proponent should be reminded that results from the onboard seabird observation program should be sent to EC-CWS on an annual basis.

**FFAW**

*Original Comment:* Overall the report provides a perspective of the commercial fishery of the inshore fleet. However, as half of the Study Area and the majority of the 2014 proposal survey block is outside Canadian jurisdiction, harvesting data from NAFO would more accurately portray commercial fishing (harvesting) locations outside of the 200 mile limit, particularly for shrimp, turbot, redfish and cod

*EMGS Response:* As stated in the first paragraph in Section 4.3.1.1 Data Sets, p.50, NAFO harvesting data in areas outside the Canadian 200 nautical mile limit is derived from STATLANT data, which is not geo-referenced but rather geographically resolved at the NAFO Division level only. Therefore, it is not possible to create a map portraying specific commercial harvesting locations outside the 200 nautical mile limit. Section 4.3.2 Regional NAFO Fisheries, page 51-52, however, provides total catch weight percentages for some of the dominant species captured in NAFO Divisions outside of the Canadian EEZ.

*FFAW Response:* As the proponent suggests that the NAFO data cannot be mapped due to not being geo-referenced, they need to be mindful that there will likely be harvesting activity outside the 200 nautical mile limit. This will include both large Canadian and foreign vessels.

*Original Comment:* The FFAW were engaged in a consultation with EMGS in January 2014 regarding their project however they have heard nothing from EMGS since that time. Pre-planning is important to minimize potential conflicts and any negative impacts on fishing activity, particularly as it appears that activity in the offshore in 2014 will be quite busy.

*EMGS Response:* It is agreed that pre-planning is important for minimizing potential conflicts and negative impacts on offshore fishing activities. Section 6.3 of the EA describes mitigation and follow-up strategies related to the fisheries. Pre-planning at an early stage was not possible as the land tenure system that allows identification of the final survey locations was not finalized before May 2014. Selection of other survey areas associated with the program is still waiting on client input.

*FFAW Response:* In the context of the comment on lack of communication, it is now June and there has not been any further communication from the proponent directly other than the meeting in January. The problem with the shortage of communication is that it leaves stakeholders wondering if proposed projects are still progressing. Further, communication and pre-planning is the manner to minimize potential conflicts and any negative impacts between industries and projects.