

From: EC
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 11:46 AM
To: Hicks, Darren
Cc: EC
Subject: EC Response 2014-032: EA Report_Electromagnetic Geoservices Canada, Inc., East Canada Controlled Source Electromagnetic Survey, 2014 to 2018

Darren,

As requested in your letter of 18 March 2014, Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the environmental assessment (EA) report “Environmental Assessment East Canada CSEM Survey, 2014-2018” (LGL March 2014). The report describes a proposal by Electromagnetic Geoservices Canada Inc. (EMGS) to conduct activities with regard to a controlled source electromagnetic (CSEM) data acquisition program in the southern and eastern portions of the Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area from 2014 until 2018.

Please note that EC’s previous comments on the scoping document and project description (submitted to you on 17 January 2014) are still applicable to the project as described in the EA report. In addition, the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada (EC-CWS) offers the following additional comments:

The Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada (EC-CWS) has reviewed the above document and offers the following comments.

EC-01: Section 2.12. Helicopters

Aircraft, particularly helicopters, have been known to cause significant negative impacts to migratory birds during various life stages (i.e. chick rearing, moulting). Mitigation measures such as timing and adjusting the altitude and pattern of helicopter flight lines can minimize disturbance. Helicopter use near seabird breeding colonies should be avoided from May 1st – August 31st (with an end-date of September 30th for Northern Gannet Colonies).

EC-02: Section 4.5.1 Information Sources

It should be noted in this section that the ECSAS program is ongoing. Updated information in the region that have been collected since the publication of Fifield et al. (2009) can be obtained by contacting Carina Gjerdrum, EC-CWS pelagic seabird biologist, at Carina.gjerdrum@ec.gc.ca.

EC-03: Section 4.6 Species at Risk

The Ivory Gull is listed as Endangered under the Species at Risk Act. The Ivory Gull recovery strategy has been finalized and is currently available at the Species at Risk Registry (see http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/species/speciesDetails_e.cfm?sid=50).

EC-04: Section 4.7.4 Important Bird Areas

The Cape St. Francis (NF021), Cape Pine and St. Shotts Barren (NF015) and the Mistaken Point (NF024) Important Bird Areas should be added to this section.

EC-05: Section 5.7.7.5 Light Attraction

Quote: “EMGS acknowledges that a CWS Bird Handling Permit will be required.”

The permit should be referred to as a Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA) permit, not a Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) permit.

EC-06: Section 6.2 Seabirds

See EC-05

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding our comments.

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