

From: Sooley, Darrin  
Sent: Friday, June 29, 2018 3:11 PM  
To: Hicks, Darren  
Cc: Keats, Kimberley F  
Subject: RE: Fugro GeoSurveys Offshore Seafloor and Seep Sampling Program, 2017-2027

Hello Darren:

We have reviewed the response provided by Fugro and offer the following.

- It is acknowledged that the intent of the sea bed survey is not to detect corals and sponge aggregations.
- As we noted there are some important habitat forming corals (e.g. bamboo coral) and sponges (*Geodia* and some glass sponges) that are more prevalent on soft substrates and they may not be detected using MBES and SSS. As we noted the commitment to not sample hard bottom areas will not fully mitigate potential interaction with coral and sponge aggregations especially those that may occur on soft bottom substrates.
- Given this and given the fact that sea bed sampling will occur within NAFO coral and sponge vulnerable marine ecosystems (VME's) that are currently closed to bottom contact fishing it is expected that a greater level of scrutiny and associated protection/mitigation would be employed within such areas. Our expectation is still that visual confirmation (if ROV is not possible then by drop camera photos or footage) of the benthic character / presence of coral or sponge aggregations at planned sea bed survey locations within NAFO VMEs would be obtained prior to employing the sea bed corer to ensure that relevant CNLOPB mitigation / avoidance measures with respect to setbacks from any identified coral and sponge aggregations would be followed. This is has not been reflected in the response provided by Fugro.

I trust this is helpful.

Regards,

Darrin

From: Hicks, Darren  
Sent: June-26-18 12:12 PM  
To: Sooley, Darrin  
Cc: Burley, Dave; Young, Elizabeth; Keats, Kimberley F; Kelly, Jason  
Subject: RE: Fugro GeoSurveys Offshore Seafloor and Seep Sampling Program, 2017-2027

Darrin: please see the attached responses from Fugro GeoSurveys on their proposed amendment. The C-NLOPB requests a reply by close of business on July 3, 2018, however an earlier reply is welcomed.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Regards  
Darren

Darren Hicks, M. Env. Sci.  
Environmental Analyst  
t. 709 778 1431

twitter@CNLOPB  
www.cnlopb.ca

The C-NLOPB offers a fragrance-free workplace so we ask that all visitors refrain from wearing scented products. Thank you.

-----

The information, including attachments, transmitted in this communication is intended solely for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential information and/or privileged material. Any review, retransmission, printing, copying, disclosure or other use of, or taking any action in reliance upon this information, by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited.

If you have received this communication in error, please contact the sender and delete/destroy the entire communication received by e-mail.

Please note that any e-mails and attached files have been scanned for the presence of computer viruses. However, you are advised to check for the presence of viruses. The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus so transmitted by e-mail.

-----