

From: DFO  
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2016 3:02 PM  
To: Hicks, Darren  
Subject: RE: GX Technology Canada Ltd. GrandSPAN Marine 2D Seismic, Gravity and Magnetic Survey, 2014 to 2018 AMENDMENT

Hello Darren:

Further to your December 15, 2015 email please note that review of the above noted GXT GrandSPAN 2D Seismic, Gravity and Magnetic Survey , 2014-2018 Environmental Assessment Amendment has been completed and the following comments are offered for your review and consideration.

\* Section 2.2.2 Option 2: 3D Seismic Survey in a Portion of the GrandSPAN Area (Page 7) – given the inability to complete the planned 2D seismic program in 2014 and 2015 due to unavailability of a seismic vessel it is possible that there will be similar uncertainty for 2015 and 2016 given that the services of up to 5 vessels may be needed to carry out the potential 3D survey. Given this uncertainty it is assumed that confirmation and/or notification of the exact nature of the seismic survey – either 2 vessel 2D or multi-vessel 3D survey - will be received prior to initiation of the survey.

\* Table 3.15 EBSA Characteristics (page 66) – the description provided for the Northeast Shelf and Slope EBSA should also note (as per the cited reference) the area is an important feeding area for marine mammals.

\* Section 5.1.3 Implications of Amendment Option 2: 3D Data Acquisition (Page 81-83) and Section 5.6.3 Implications of Amendment Option 2: 3D Data Acquisition (page 103-106) – given the overlap with the potential 3D survey area and a portion of the Northeast Shelf and Slope area there is a likelihood of wolfish (e.g. spotted wolfish) being present in the Northeast Shelf and Slope portion of the survey area during the spring season. Although the EA and EA Amendment predict no significant adverse effects on marine fish and marine fish species at risk it should be indicated whether efforts will be made to survey this area during the summer / fall to further reduce possible interaction with (and risk to) marine fish – wolfish species in particular. This type of mitigation is consistent with provisions of the Statement of Canadian Practice to which the proponent has committed to implement and follow.

\* Section 5.4.1 (d) Environmental monitoring and Follow up (Page 96 and possibly other similar parts of Chapter 5 that reference Environmental Monitoring and Follow up) – Could / should the noted monitoring plan and related reporting on same also include monitoring to confirm compliance / implementation of the various measures outlined within the Statement of Canadian Practice with respect to the Mitigation of Seismic Sound in the Marine Environment and other mitigations committed to within the EA and EA Amendment.

I trust this will be helpful, if any questions please let me know.

Regards,

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From: Hicks, Darren [mailto:DHicks@cnlopb.ca]  
Sent: December-15-15 3:49 PM  
To: DFO; EC; DND; NL DEOC; NL DNR; NL DFA  
Cc: C-NLOPB  
Subject: RE: GX Technology Canada Ltd. GrandSPAN Marine 2D Seismic, Gravity and Magnetic Survey, 2014 to 2018 AMENDMENT

Hello all: please see the attached letter from the C-NLOPB and Amendment Report from GXT. The C-NLOPB requests comments be submitted by January 12, 2016, which accounts for time out of the office during the Holidays. Further details on the initial assessment may be found at <http://www.cnlopb.ca/assessments/gxtgpm2ds.php>

Also, I will be sending an additional 3 emails with respect to this Amendment that contain the Appendices. They have to be sent in multiple emails because of file sizes and email limitations.

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

Regards  
Darren

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