

Revised Amendment to the Environmental Assessment of HMDC's 2D/3D/4D Seismic Projects, 2013-Life of Field (LGL Limited September 2015)

GENERAL COMMENTS

Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board

Original Comment:

Clarification is needed that the running of the ScanFish Konia ROTV will not interfere with the regular duties of the picket vessel.

HMDC Reply:

"The ROTV/sound velocity sensor will be deployed from either a picket vessel or a supply vessel when it is not performing primary duties and weather is suitable."

And

"A key role of the picket vessel, which would likely tow the ROTV, is to minimize the potential for conflict between fishing gear and seismic operations. The presence of the ROTV will not interfere with the primary duties of either a picket vessel or a supply vessel."

C-NLOPB Response:

As stated above, the purpose of the picket vessel is to minimize the potential conflict between fishing gear and seismic operations, therefore, implying that the two vessels would be working the same time. When will the picket vessel not be performing its primary duties?

FFAW/Unifor

Original Comment:

The main concern is with the addition to this project is that the profiler will be towed behind the chase boat while the FLO will be on the seismic vessel quite a distance behind. Depending on the timing of the usage of the profiler (and associated fisheries in the area) it may be worthwhile for the company to consider an additional FLO be deployed on the chase boat to mitigate any potential for fishing gear damage.

HMDC Reply:

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ROTV will not interfere with the primary duties of either a picket vessel or a supply vessel.”

FFAW/Unifor Response:

The changes to the document do not address the concerns expressed related to the towing of gear ahead of the seismic vessel.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

FFAW/Unifor

As this addition to the program was introduced late in the fishing season our comments were focused on fishing activities that would occur at that point in 2015.

We recommend direct consultation with the proponent on this added scope if the company is still planning on towing the profiler behind a chase boat in future years. It is our understanding that this component did not occur in 2015. Therefore it would be prudent to consider the full context of the fishery going forward. Consultations with fishing interests should be planned before or within the first quarter of the year, prior to the start of the typical fishing year.