



Environmental Protection Operations  
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File No.: 4194-10

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**RE: Husky Energy Sydney Basin Area Seismic Survey Program  
2010-2017 Environmental Assessment (CEAR 09-01-49518)**

**EAS 2009-230B**

Dear Mr. Hicks:

As requested in your letter dated 9 March 2010, Environment Canada (EC) has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above-noted project.

From the information provided, it is understood that the proponent, Husky Energy, proposes to undertake 2-D and 3-D seismic, geo-hazard, and vertical seismic profiling (VSP) surveys on its exploration acreage (Exploration Licenses 1115) in the Sydney Basin Offshore Area. It is likely that the 2-D seismic survey will be conducted in June 2010, while the other surveys (3-D, geo-hazard, and VSP) may occur at various times between 2010 and 2018.

Overall, the EA is very comprehensive and we are pleased to see that the recommendations made in our initial Federal Coordination Regulations (FCR) response are incorporated in the document. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), however, has the following comments related to Section 5.5.3 – Marine and Migratory Birds (pages 5-46 to 5-55):

***Figures 5-41 to 5-44: Vulnerable Pelagic Seabirds***

These figures show the distribution of vulnerable pelagic seabirds over the year. The figures have grouped all "pelagic seabirds" together and do not indicate specifically which species have been included. It would be more useful to present separate maps for individual species (or species groups) showing distribution during different seasons. This would better indicate which species can be expected in the study area during a given season.

Also, there is no source listed for these figures. Environment Canada's Eastern Canadian Seabirds at Sea (ECSAS) program has conducted over 4000 surveys covering 7800 km of ocean track in the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore area since 2006. The most up-to-date data for the Sydney Basin should be included in the EA. This information is available by contacting Carina Gjerdrum at [carina.gjerdrum@ec.gc.ca](mailto:carina.gjerdrum@ec.gc.ca) or (902) 426-9641.



**Figure 5-45: Nesting Sites and Wintering Locations**

The title of this figure indicates wintering locations, but it appears that only breeding colonies are shown. This should be clarified. It would be useful if the Important Bird Areas were identified on the map as well.

**Table 5.9 (page 5-54)**

It appears that the total number of nesting pairs for Basque Island and Michaud Point does not correspond with the information presented in the table.

**Page 5-54**

It should also be noted in this section that the Ivory Gull has been uplisted and is now listed as Endangered on SARA's Schedule 1. The prohibitions of SARA now apply for the Ivory Gull.

**Seabird Data Collection**

This survey provides a good opportunity to collect additional seabird data from the area, and the document indicates that the proponent intends to carry out a seabird observation program according to CWS protocols.

In an effort to expedite the process of data exchange, the Canadian Wildlife Service would appreciate that the data (as it relates to migratory birds or species at risk) collected from these surveys be forwarded in digital format to our office following completion of the study. These data will be centralized for our internal use to help ensure that the best possible natural resource management decisions are made for these species in Newfoundland and Labrador. Metadata will be retained to identify source of data and will not be used for the purpose of publication. The Canadian Wildlife Service will not copy, distribute, loan, lease, sell, or use of this data as part of a value added product or otherwise make the DATA available to any other party without the prior express written consent.

I trust that this information will be of assistance in reviewing this EA. If you wish to discuss these comments or have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 709-256-6617 or via email at [Daniel.Ingram@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Daniel.Ingram@ec.gc.ca) at your convenience.

Yours truly,



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cc: G. Troke  
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