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Your File Votre référence

July 8, 2015

Our File Notre référence
15-HNFL-00114

Darren Hicks
Environmental Analyst
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
140 Water St., 4th Floor
St. John's, NL
A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Hicks:

Darren's

Re: Review of MG3 (Survey) UK Limited offshore Labrador Geochemical and Seabed Sampling Program, 2015-2024 Environmental Assessment.

As requested, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has reviewed the document "*Data Acquisition and Seabed Sampling for Basin Modelling, Labrador Offshore to the Jeanne d'Arc Basin (2015 to 2024) – Environmental Assessment*" dated June 3, 2015 and offers the following comments:

Section 2.7 Key Mitigation Measures (page 11)

- The statement "*At no time will a survey vessel enter or attempt to conduct any survey work in restricted or protected areas.....*" is mentioned throughout the Report. We recommend that the document clarify more precisely the nature of areas that will be avoided.

Section 3.2 Species at Risk (page 14)

- Names of SARA-listed species should include the populations, as follows:
 - Blue Whale - Atlantic population
 - Leatherback Sea Turtle - Atlantic population
 - White Shark - Atlantic population
- The COSEWIC assessment level should be corrected for the following species as follows:
 - American Eel - Threatened
 - Cusk - Endangered
 - Atlantic Bluefin Tuna - Endangered
- The correct population name for Smooth Skate is Funk Island Deep population.
- Names of COSEWIC-assessed species should specify populations, as follows:
 - Acadian Redfish - Atlantic population
 - Deepwater Redfish - Northern population
 - Shortfin Mako Shark - Atlantic population
 - Harbour Porpoise - Northwest Atlantic population
 - Spiny Dogfish - Atlantic population

- Killer Whale - Northwest Atlantic/Eastern Arctic population
- For completeness, White Hake (Atlantic and Northern Gulf of St. Lawrence population) should be included in this list as it has been assessed by COSEWIC as Threatened.

Section 3.7 Sensitive Areas (page 35)

- In the description and listing of sensitive areas, we recommend distinguishing between Marine Protected Areas that have been established formally under the *Oceans Act* (such as Gilbert Bay), and other areas protected under other legislation.
- There are only 10 established areas of important coral and sponge concentrations in the Study Area; 1 is outside (south of) the Study Area.

Section 6.0 Environmental Effects Assessment (page 43)

- Any incident that involves a dead or distressed SARA-listed species should be recorded and reported to the local DFO office immediately.

Thank you for providing DFO the opportunity to comment on this document. Should you have any questions or comments regarding the above please feel to contact [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
A Senior Biologist– Marine, Coastal, Oil and Gas Development
Fisheries Protection Program
Ecosystems Management Branch