

## **FISH, FOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS**

It should be noted while the “productive (harvesting) months” in the EA are listed as May to September (page 153), April can also be a busy month on the water. Furthermore, the industry postseason crab season is carried out from September to November. This is important as the timing of surveys in subsequent years is unknown at this point in time (Page 184).

### MKI Response

We recognise that there are other important fisheries taking place outside the window of the survey period from May to November, however, the EA covered only those seasons where there could be a potential interaction.

The term post-season crab season is not understood. That implies there is crab fishing outside the season which is dictated by quota. Seasonal fishing was discussed at length with the FFAW to provide mitigation to fisheries catch and the agreed avoidance periods for crab and shrimp, temporally and spatially, by MKI were on the advice by FFAW as noted in the EA.

### FFAW Response

*The issue here relates to the DFO Industry Post Season Snow Crab survey. This survey is a collaborative scientific survey that provides data for assessing the snow crab resource. If this survey is affected by seismic activity the potential for negative impacts affecting the assessment of the resource and future commercial activity are of great concern for the FFAW. The Survey is conducted from September to November as mentioned on pages 167-8 in the Environmental Assessment. The FFAW asks that there be no seismic activity in the vicinity the post season snow crab survey set coordinates until after the post season survey has been completed.*

## **FFAW**

It is therefore important that MKI maintain regular communication with the FFAW to keep apprised of ongoing developments and activities with respect to commercial fisheries in the project area.

### MKI Response

MKI has discussed with FFAW their intention to be in regular consultation throughout the program.

### FFAW Response

*The intent of continual communication is appreciated.*

## **FFAW**

Finally, one of the fishing industry’s concerns with a multi-year seismic program is the need for frequent communication between the industry and the oil and gas company, in this case MKI. Harvesters are spread out over a wide geographic area and communication is vital to the safety of all involved. There is a need for good planning and further consultation directly with the fishing industry several months prior to the start of the various components of the seismic program to avoid potential conflict(s) at sea each year. This should be coordinated with the FFAW.

### MKI Response

MKI recognises this situation of changing fishing effort and has committed in the EA to continue the dialogue.

### FFAW Response

*Although dialogue may appear to be sufficient, consultations may be necessary if the circumstances for the fishing industry change significantly.*