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Your file    Votre référence

January 4, 2017

Our file    Notre référence  
PATH #16-HNFL-00560

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

Dear Mr. Hicks:

**Re:    *Review of Draft Scoping Document Multi Klient Invest AS Newfoundland Offshore Seismic Program 2017-2026***

I am writing further to your December 20, 2016 email and letter requesting review of the draft scoping document for the above noted seismic survey program proposed for the Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore area for 2017 – 2026.

Please be advised that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is in possession of expert knowledge and advice related to fish, fish habitat, marine mammals, species at risk, sensitive marine areas, and commercial fisheries that may be relevant to the project environmental assessment.

Based on review of the draft Scoping Document the following comments are offered for consideration in terms of focusing the project EA report.

- Section 5.1.1 Spatial Boundaries (page 4) – is the vastness of the spatial area and the temporal scope reasonable, is it possible to narrow the spatial scale from the entire east coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, and 10 year temporal boundary, to smaller more realistic or manageable scales.
- Section 5.2.4 Marine Fish and Shellfish (page 5), Section 5.2.5 Marine Mammals (page 6), Section 5.2.6 Sea Turtles (page 6), Section 5.2.7 Species at Risk (page 6), and Section 5.2.8 Sensitive Areas (page 7) – it is suggested that the first sentence in each of the above noted sections should read "...changes to the following and any data and/or information gaps noted with respect to (*marine fish and shellfish, marine mammals and sea turtles, Species at Risk, sensitive areas as appropriate for each section*) within the applicable SEAs."
- Section 5.2.9 Noise/Acoustic Environment (page 7) – this section of the project EA should include a description of sound levels that may be expected at distances from the source throughout the water column and how these may affect pelagic and benthic fish, shellfish, species at risk, and marine mammals.
- Section 5.2.14 Biological and Follow-up Monitoring (2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph page 9) – it is felt that the first sentence of this paragraph should also make reference to "...incorporating new and/or existing techniques..." with respect to mitigation practices. This is particularly



relevant to the use of measures (e.g. passive acoustic monitoring) to monitor marine mammal presence within the 500 m safety zone during periods of darkness and/or reduced visibility in areas that are frequented by marine mammal species at risk.

Future correspondence in relation to the environmental assessment for this proposed survey can be addressed to me by regular mail or by email [REDACTED] If you have any questions in this regard please do not hesitate to contact me [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist – Marine, Coastal, Oil and Gas Development  
Fisheries Protection and Regulatory Reviews  
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[REDACTED]