



October 3, 2024

File No. 45006-020-008/001

Distribution:

MKI Newfoundland Offshore Seismic and Data Collection Program, 2025–2029

On September 19, 2024, Multiklient Invest AS (MKI) (the Proponent) submitted to the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) a project description for a proposed seismic and environmental data collection program offshore eastern and southern Newfoundland within the 2025-2029 timeframe. The C-NLOPB has determined that the Project would require an authorization pursuant to Section 138(1)(a) of the *Canada-Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation Act* and Section 134(1)(a) of the *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Newfoundland and Labrador Act*.

The attached project description outlines the activities proposed for the program. Also attached is a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Scoping Document.

The C-NLOPB has determined that your organization may be in the possession of environmental or fishery related experts that are required in the completion of this assessment.

This letter seeks, pursuant to the Accord Acts, to: identify the organizations that may have relevant expertise and establish the parties that will participate as reviewers through the EA process; set a timetable for conducting the EA; and seek comments on the attached draft EA scoping document.

Timing of Assessment

The C-NLOPB requests that the determination be carried out in as timely a manner as possible, and proposes the following schedule:

Expertise Request	Response by October 18, 2024
Review of EA Report	Response approximately 6 weeks after receipt of document.
Review of revised EA or addendum, if required	Response approximately 2 weeks after receipt of document.
Preparation of EA determination	3 weeks for completion (may commence during review of final EA or addendum); includes review of all drafts.

Pursuant to the Accord Acts, the C-NLOPB requests that you review the attached information to determine whether your organization is in possession of relevant specialist or expert information or knowledge for this EA and provide a response by **October 18, 2024**. If it is determined that your organization does have relevant specialist or expert information or knowledge please advise the C-NLOPB of the nature of that information or knowledge and identify the appropriate contact person for future communication about this EA.

If no response is received **by October 18, 2024**, the C-NLOPB will assume that your organization will not participate further as reviewers for this EA.

Species at Risk - Section 79(1) Notification of Competent Minister

Pursuant to Section 79(1) of the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*, the C-NLOPB hereby informs the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (the Competent Ministers) that the following Schedule 1 Species are likely to be in the project area under the jurisdiction of the C-NLOPB. A determination of the likelihood of adverse affects on these species will be undertaken during the determination process.

- Endangered:
 - Turtle, Leatherback Sea (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
 - Turtle, Loggerhead Sea (*Caretta caretta*)
 - Whale, Blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*) – Atlantic population
 - Whale, North Atlantic Right (*Eubalaena glacialis*)
 - Gull, Ivory (*Pagophila eburnea*)
 - Shark, White (*Carcharodon carcharias*)
 - Whale, Northern Bottlenose (*Hyperoodon ampullatus*) - Scotian Shelf population

- Threatened:
 - Wolffish, Northern (*Anarhichas denticulatus*)
 - Wolffish, Spotted (*Anarhichas minor*)

- Special Concern:
 - Wolffish, Atlantic (*Anarhichas lupus*)
 - Whale, Fin (*Balaenoptera physalus*) – Atlantic population
 - Whale, Sowerby's beaked (*Mesoplodon bidens*)

If you have any questions on the attached, or wish to discuss the above, please contact Ian Murphy at 709-778-1482 or via email at imurphy@cnlopb.ca.

Yours truly,

Original Signed by Ian Murphy

Ian Murphy
Environmental Assessment Officer

Attachments

cc E. Young
K. Taylor

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