

Public Consultations April 11 - 15, 2011

To support

Offshore Seismic Environmental Assessment
Labrador Offshore Shelf 2011

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Environmental Assessment Labrador Offshore Shelf

Summary of Consultations Meetings April 11 - 15, 2011

The public consultation meetings were held in seven communities from Nain to Port Hope Simpson during April 11– April 15, 2011. A meeting was also held with the management of the Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society Ltd. in Happy Valley – Goose Bay on April 11 before traveling to Nain to begin the public meetings.

The meetings were held on behalf of TGS Nopec Geophysical ASA and Petroleum GeoServices (PGS), the Operator Multi Klient Invest AS (an association of PGS) by Darlene Davis, Project Manager, RPS Energy and Harold Murphy of Sikumiut Environmental Management Ltd. The PGS operations manager, Gary Morrow, was present for meetings in Happy Valley – Goose Bay and Port Hope Simpson.

These consultations were a follow-up of previous consultation efforts that were conducted by Sikumiut in February, 2011 when introductory correspondence and information about the proposed project was e-mailed and faxed to over 100 stakeholders in the area and subsequent discussions were held with each of these stakeholders by telephone. Based on the various requests for meetings and other comments during this process, it was decided to hold these consultation meetings.

The notice of meetings was advertised as follows:

- Notice of meetings were e-mailed to community leaders and other residents that were contacted in the February mail out and telephone consultations;
- The town council staff in Port Hope Simpson advised other town councils and fishers committees in the Labrador South Coast area;
- A CBC announcement was made on the Labrador morning program;
- An announcement was made in English and Inuktitut Languages on two separate days on the Okalakatigêt Society Radio (OK Radio) in Nain that covers the North coast and Lake Melville areas;
- Announcements were made on community radio stations in some of the North coast communities; and

- Notice of Meeting posters were posted in public places in each community by the Nunatsiavut government Community Liaison Officers and Sikumiut staff in Happy Valley – Goose Bay and Nain.

In addition, upon arrival in each community, follow-up contacts were made by phone to a number of residents to confirm arrival and meeting schedule in the respective community.

Attendance at the individual meetings ranged from two to nine people for a total of 37 people in attendance at all meetings.

Each meeting was opened with a brief introduction and an explanation for the consultations. The attendees were provided with the Project Information Brochure and a copy of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' (DFO) Statement of the Canadian Code of practice with respect to the Mitigation of Seismic Sound in the Marine Environment.

This was followed by a power point presentation that explained the proposed seismic project, the details of seismic technology and the environmental process. The meeting was open to questions and discussion during and after this presentation.

Notes from each meeting are contained herein while the following summarizes the main discussions and concerns:

1. The sensitivity of the area in relation to the commercial fishery resources such as crab, shrimp and turbot was raised at several of the meetings;
2. The effect of seismic on fish and other animal populations is a concern;
3. Compensation for damage to the environment and the fishery was raised;
4. More effective communications between fishing operations and seismic operations are needed;
5. Community benefits particularly in the context of employment were raised as important issues in most communities;
6. All persons who attended the meetings were very interested in the project and posed various questions and comments. There will be some follow-up by the consultants in providing additional information as requested by some stakeholders; and
7. The vice-chairman of the Combined Community Councils of Labrador indicated that Labradorians want to be involved in any such projects activities that are conducted in Labrador (particularly in regards to employment opportunities).

Environmental Assessment

Consultations Meeting Notes

Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society Ltd.

Happy Valley – Goose Bay

April 11, 2011; 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

In Attendance:

Name	Address	Telephone E-Mail	Affiliation
Keith Watts	P.O. Box 839, Stn. B Happy Valley- Goose Bay NL A0P 1E0	Tel: (709) 896-3992 gm@torngatfishcoop.com	General Manager
Ron Johnson	P.O. Box 839, Stn. B Happy Valley- Goose Bay NL A0P 1E0	Tel: (709) 896-3992 sales@torngatfishcoop.com	Assistant General Manager

The meeting was held at the Torngat Fish Producers Co-operative Society Ltd. (the Torngat Coop) head office in Happy Valley- Goose Bay.

1. **Introduction:** An introduction and the basis for the consultations were outlined. The attendees were provided with the Project Information brochure and a copy of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' (DFO) Statement of the Canadian Code of practice with respect to the Mitigation of Seismic Sound in the Marine Environment.
2. **RPS Energy Presentation:** The proponent companies, and the Seismic project were explained with the aid of the power point presentation. The survey lines were presented and explained in reference to the fishery with the aid of a map. Attendees were informed that the proposed operations program extends into Baffin Bay and that the survey lines are widely spaced and the wide area will provide for operations to be scheduled away from the fishing zones, especially during the fishing operations.
3. **Issues, Questions and Concerns:** These were made during and after the presentation.
 - The main concern of the Torngat Coop is for the seismic operations to avoid any conflict with the fishery. The main crab fishing area for the coop fishers is north of Lake Melville/Groswater Bay in the management area between latitudes of 54° 40" North to 55° 55" N. The crab fishing effort is about one month between June 15 to August 15 depending on weather and fishing conditions. The crab fishery is followed by a turbot

fishery located about 30 miles off the Makkovik coast during the period of August to the end of October.

The issues as reported by fishers to the coop during last year's encounter with a seismic vessel involved having to remove their fishing gear. They also reported reduced catch rates of crab after the seismic vessel left the area. In response it was explained to the attendees that fishers are not required to move their gear or stop fishing, and it is unclear whether this incident was a miscommunication or otherwise, such incidents are not within the guidelines set out by DFO or the C-NLOPB. Seismic vessel operations must stay clear of fishing operations. The fishers are advised to keep in contact with the Fisheries Liaison Observers (FLO) onboard the seismic vessel.

The reduced catch rates could be the result of fishing pressure and coincidental with the presence of the seismic vessel or actually caused by seismic operations. The related studies conducted on this issue in the past have been inconclusive, although it is known that animals such as marine mammals will avoid an area during seismic operations. DFO has set out a code of practice to mitigate any impact on marine life. The safest approach is for the seismic vessel to know the areas being fished and to keep a safe distance by moving to their other survey areas. For this specific project the area is large enough to schedule in this manner.

The importance for the seismic operators to know the location of the fishing vessels at all times was discussed and the Torngat Coop head office advised that they can be involved in providing this information on a regular basis. It was noted that this office would be more available for this purpose as opposed to their fish plant manager in Makkovik who may be more occupied with the in plant operations.

The other fishery topic mentioned was the observation that last year turbot seemed to be more plentiful in the southern areas as opposed to the northern grounds and fishers question if this was caused by the seismic operations or the vagaries of the seasons.

- During the discussion on seismic operations and results, the coop inquired if any information is collected on the seabed surface and if this could be available to them. Their interest in the sea floor is to determine the best habitat areas for each fish species.

The **meeting closed** at 11:15 AM. The coop officials expressed appreciation for the discussions and offered any assistance that would benefit the operations and their fisher members in future operations.

Notes compiled by
Harold Murphy

Environmental Assessment
Public Consultations Meeting Notes

Nain
April 11, 2011 - 7:00 – 8:30 PM

In Attendance:

Name	Address	Telephone E-Mail	Affiliation
Ernie Ford	Nunatsiavut Government Nain	Tel: 922-2942 Ernie_ford@nunatsiavut.com	Environmental Enforcement Officer
William Barbour	Nunatsiavut Government Nain	Tel: 922-2942 william.barbour@nunatsiavut.com	Nunatsiavut Government, Nain Representative
Gus A. Dicker	Nain	Tel: 922-1999 Gus.dicker@sikumiut.ca	Sikumiut
Ron Webb	Nain	Tel: 922-2895	Sikumiut

The meeting was held at the Nain Community Council office Boardroom.

1. **Introduction:** The attendees were provided with a copy of the Information brochure and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Code of Practice in English and Inuktitut Languages. An introduction of attendees was conducted and the basis for the consultations was outlined. An attendance sheet was passed around and explained that each person had the option of listing their name, affiliation and contact information.
2. **RPS Energy Presentation:** The Seismic project was explained with the aid of a power point presentation.
3. **Issues, Questions and Concerns:** These were made during and after the power point presentation.
 - It was commented that the reason for the low attendance may be that the caribou have migrated close to the community and that the fine weather is creating ideal hunting opportunities.
 - One attendee asked clarification on the role of RPS Energy and whether or not it could provide any information on when any of the companies are planning to drill a

well. The role of RPS and Sikimiut was explained that their purpose, as consultants, was to conduct consultations, on behalf of TGS/PGS (the proponent companies of this specific project), to explain the project, to answer any related questions, and to discuss and record any concerns or comments expressed at the meetings.

- Question: Were there any mammal mortalities ever registered as being caused by seismic? It was responded that we are not aware of any such report. It was also explained that the background for the Code of Practice as outlined by Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) involved a literature review of related research. This was carried out by a scientific panel of scientists and it was concluded that there was insufficient information to determine the extent, if any, on marine life. The Code of Practice was established by DFO for seismic operators to conduct best practices to prevent any impact in the marine environment.
- It was discussed that local benefits could involve hiring observers and other support services.
- The biggest concern expressed at this meeting was the impact that seismic may have on marine mammals and any further information on research and/or recorded operational impacts would be appreciated.
- The issue of dead seals wash up onshore in several locations last fall was raised and it was indicated that some residents feel that the 2010 seismic operations might be the cause. It was reported that DFO conducted autopsies on some of these animals but were not able to find any cause of mortality. However this does not lessen the concern by local residents about seismic operations and its possible impact on marine life.
- There were no fishers at the meeting, however the fishery was generally raised as an important industry in the area and no specific fishery details were discussed by the attendees.

The **meeting closed** at 8:30 PM

Notes compiled by:
Harold Murphy

Environmental Assessment
Public Consultations Meeting Notes
Hopedale
April 12, 2011; 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

In Attendance:

Name	Address	Telephone E-Mail	Affiliation
Susan Nochasak	Nunatsiavut Assembly P.O. Box 189 Hopedale, NL A0P 1G0	E-mail: susan.nochasak@nunatsiavut.com	Minister, Education and Economic Development
Wayne Piercy	Hopedale Inuit Community Government P.O. Box 189 Hopedale, NL, A0P 1G0	Tel: (709) 933-3864 wayne.piercy@nunatsiavut.com	AngajuKâk [Mayor]
Ketura Abel	Hopedale Inuit Community Government P.O. Box 189 Hopedale, NL, A0P 1G0	Tel: (709) 933-3864 towncouncilhopedale@nf.aibn.com	Town Clerk
Daryl Flowers	3 Carpenter Drive Hopedale, NL, A0P 1G0	Tel: 933-3810	Resident... Interested in the Observer Program
Ian Winters	P.O. Box 189 Hopedale, NL, A0P 1G0	Tel: 933-3733 ian_winters@nunatsiavut.com	Conservation Officer

The meeting was held at the Hopedale Inuit Community Government Boardroom.

- 1. Introduction:** The attendees were provided with a copy of the Information brochure and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Code of Practice in English and Inuktitut Languages. An introduction of all participants was conducted and the basis for the consultations was outlined. An attendance sheet was passed around and explained that each person had the option of listing their name, affiliation and contact information.
- 2. RPS Energy Presentation:** The Seismic project was explained with the aid of a power point presentation.

The role of RPS Energy and Sikimiut was explained that their purpose was to conduct consultations on behalf of TGS/PGS, the proponents of this specific project and to explain

the project and to answer any related questions; also to discuss and record any concerns or comments expressed at the meetings.

3. Issues, Questions and Concerns: These were made during and after the presentation.

- It was commented that an evening meeting may be a better schedule in order to have a greater number of people attend especially those who are working during the day.
- Although no fishers were in attendance it was raised that the fishers had issues from last year's seismic operations in that they were "told" by the seismic vessel captain to take up their gear as the seismic vessel approached; also there was a reported reduction in catch rates of crab after the seismic vessel operated in the area. In response, the meeting participants were assured that fishers do not have to take up their fishing gear and that the seismic vessel has to give right-of-way to fishing operations and keep a safe distance from their fishing operations. The importance of communications between the Fishers and the Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) onboard the seismic vessel was stressed. The reduction in catch rates was discussed as whether this was coincidental with seismic operations, i.e. the fish left the area, or a direct cause of fishing factors. The Canadian Code of Practice was referenced as operations practices as required by government to ensure there are no impacts to marine life. In any case, the crew on the seismic vessel for this specific project intends to know the positions of the fishing vessels and will operate on the survey lines that are away from any fishing operations that are being conducted at that time.
- In regards to local benefits it was discussed that local benefits could involve hiring observers and other support services; however any possible development in the future could offer a wider range of activity and local opportunity.
- One person at the meeting indicated that he was interested in the observer positions on board and this was supported by others in attendance. The training aspects were discussed and that Sikumiut had an updated list of interested and qualified persons.

4. The meeting closed at 1:30 PM

Notes compiled by: Harold Murphy

Environmental Assessment
Public Consultations Meeting Notes

Makkovik

April 12, 2011; 7:00 – 8:30 PM

In Attendance:

Name	Address	Telephone E-Mail	Affiliation
Herb Jacque	Makkovik Community Council, P.O. 85 Makkovik ,NL, A0P 1J0	Tel: 923-2455 herbert.jacque@nunatsiavut.com	AngajuKâk [Mayor]
Rick Plowman	Makkovik ,NL, A0P 1J0	Tel: 923-2145 rplowman@hotmail.com	K- 12 School Principal
Denise Lane	Makkovik ,NL, A0P 1J0	Tel: (709) 923-2494 denise.lane@nunatsiavut.com	Economic Development Officer
Denley Jacque	Makkovik ,NL, A0P 1J0	Tel: (709) 923-2351	DFO Fishery Officer
Errol Anderson	Makkovik ,NL, A0P 1J0	Tel: (709) 923-2241 errolanderson@hotmail.com	Conservation Officer
Dion Voisey	Makkovik ,NL, A0P 1J0	Tel: (709) 923.2210 dionvoisey@hotmail.com	Resident
Travis Winters	Makkovik ,NL, A0P 1J0	Tel: (709) 923-2173	Fisher
Samuel Jacque	Makkovik ,NL, A0P 1J0	Tel: (709) 923-2459	Experienced Seismic operations Mammal Observer
Randy Winters	Makkovik ,NL, A0P 1J0	Tel: (709) 923-2243	Experienced Seismic operations Mammal Observer

The meeting was held at the Makkovik Community Hall.

- 1. Introduction:** The attendees were provided with a copy of the Information brochure and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Code of Practice in English and Inuktitut Languages. An introduction of all participants was conducted and the basis for the consultations was outlined. An attendance sheet was passed around and explained that each person had the option of listing their name, affiliation and contact information.
- 2. RPS Energy Presentation:** The proposed Seismic project was explained with the aid of the power point presentation.

- 3. Issues, Questions and Concerns:** These were discussed during and after the presentation.
- Job opportunity and job training was discussed. In regards to marine observers there is a requirement to have Marine Emergency Duty (MED) certification and capabilities that are specific to the duties. It was noted that Sikumiut was maintaining a list of trained and interested persons. An expression of interest was also made for employment opportunities for any other on vessel jobs (e.g., deck crew/hands, cleaning and stewards etc.) and it was asked if the town council office could be aware of these jobs when they become open. There was much discussion on jobs and required training.
 - A question of the crew complement was asked, which was previously explained in the presentation. The number of crew was noted at approximately 45 -50 persons in total.
 - The impact of the seismic operations to marine mammals was questioned and this was explained in the context of studies that have been inconclusive or found no evidence of damage. Also it was explained that the operations are regulated by a code of practice to mitigate against impacts to marine life. These mitigation measures are outlined in the DFO Code of Practice that was distributed and discussed. The Joint Nature Conservation (JNCC) globally accepted guidelines for minimizing physical disturbances to Marine mammals are also applied.
 - There was a question on how waste is managed and potential of oil spill possibilities. The participants were advised that the ship has a safety management plan, a waste management plan and a ship oil emergency plan. These are consistent with company policy as well as all regulation requirements under the Canadian Shipping Act and other related environmental laws. This was also referenced in the power point presentation.
 - A question was raised as to what impact the operation will have on birds and fish in the area. The attendees were advised that the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) regulations will apply and that includes a bird handling permit, record keeping, trained crew in the handling / release of sea birds and a final report will be provided to the CWS.
 - Considerable discussion was held on the impact on mammal (e.g., whale) migrations and if any migration studies were or are being conducted that would apply to this area. It

was stated that this is very important to local people, for example the harbor porpoise or in local terms, the jumpers are hunted for food and there is a migration pattern that occur in the area each summer. In conclusion, one person made a point of concern about the lack of knowledge regarding whale and dolphin migrations and what effect operations, such as seismic, are having on these migrations. It was also asked if there is any research being done for this area or elsewhere. In addition to the discussion a follow-up commitment was made to provide a list of research information literature and a copy of the seismic map to this individual.

- The commercial fishery was discussed and attendees indicated the importance of that industry to Makkovik. The protection of the fishing grounds that are adjacent and located in the study area is a concern.
- The meeting closed with the Mayor thanking the residents for their participation and complimented the presenters for the information provided. He asked if he could receive a copy of our report/notes on the meeting.

4. The **meeting closed** at 8:30 PM

Notes compiled by
Harold Murphy

Environmental Assessment

Public Consultations Meeting Notes

Postville

April 13, 2011; 10:00 – 11:30 AM

In Attendance:

Name	Address	Telephone E-Mail	Affiliation
Glen Sheppard	Nunatsiavut Government P.O. Box 59, Postville NL A0P 1L0	Tel: (709) 479-1014 glensheppard@hotmail.com	Nunatsiavut Government Minister, Lands and Resources
Morris Jacque	P.O. Box 50 Postville NL A0P 1L0	Tel: (709) 479-9825 morrismjacque@hotmail.com	Fisher with a crab quota
Shirley Goudie	P.O. Box 74 Postville NL A0P 1L0	Tel: (709) 479-9930 communitycouncil@nf.aibn.com	Town Manager

The meeting was held at the Postville Community Recreation Center.

1. **Introduction:** The attendees were provided with a copy of the Project Information brochure and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Code of Practice. An introduction of the participants was conducted and the basis for the consultations was outlined. An attendance sheet was passed around and explained that each person had the option of listing their name, affiliation and contact information. Refreshments were made available.
2. **RPS Energy Presentation:** The proponent Company and the Seismic project were explained with the aid of the power point presentation.
3. **Issues, Questions and Concerns:**
 - The discussion mostly centered on the fishery. The fisher in attendance indicated that he is partnered with a fisher from Newfoundland for the use of his vessel to catch crab. They fish for about a month to catch the quota over the period June to September depending on the season. The area fished can be up to 180 miles offshore or further offshore depending on the crab abundance. He indicated that last year they were told by the seismic vessel to take up their fishing gear to make way for the seismic operations. In response the attendees were advised that seismic vessels do not have the authority to demand this. Fishing operations has the right of way and do not have to stop fishing. Seismic are required to keep clear of

fishing operations. Good communications between both operations are essential to prevent conflict. The Fisheries Liaison Officer onboard is responsible to maintain contact with any fishing operations in the area so that the seismic operation does not interfere.

It was reported that the crab catch rates were reduced by an estimated 50 % after the seismic vessel was in the area. Another vessel just south of their vessel experienced the same situation and the size of crab caught was smaller in size. It was noted that whether this was a result of the fishing conditions and coincidental with seismic or directly related to seismic is a question that need to be answered.

The fisher also indicated that he is aware that the seismic exploration and oil production on the Grand Banks has not appeared to impact the fishery in that area specifically in regards to crab abundance.

The fisher indicated that Turbot is a species that were scarce in the area this past season compared to other years. It is unknown if this phenomena is linked to seismic operations or it may be the type of year.

- The question was raised on how you can tell the [seismic] impact on crab. It was discussed in reference to research conducted that did not show any impact but was considered scientifically inconclusive. A project ongoing in Norway was also explained. The participants asked if they could be supplied with related snow crab studies and they were advised that it would be provided.
- The participants summarized by restating their concern about impacts on marine life and their fishery. They indicated that the seismic should keep at least 10 miles from fishing operations. It was stated that the land and sea are starting to become congested and it is too bad if the (impact) research is not completed.

4. The **meeting closed** at 11:30 AM

Notes compiled by
Harold Murphy

Environmental Assessment
Public Consultations Meeting Notes

Rigolet

April 13, 2011; 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

In Attendance:

Name	Address	Telephone E-Mail	Affiliation
Charlette Wolfrey	P.O. Box 69 Rigolet, NL, A0P 1P0	Tel: (709) 947-3382 charlotte.wolfrey@nunatsiavut.com	AngajuKâk [Mayor]
Daryl Shiwak	Rigolet, NL, A0P 1P0	Tel: (709) 947-3363 daryl.shiwak@nunatsiavut.com	Nunatsiavut Government 1st. Minister and Rigolet Representative
Richard Rich	Rigolet, NL, A0P 1P0	Tel: (709) 947-3312	Fisher Representative

The meeting was held at the Rigolet Inuit Community Government Boardroom.

1. **Introduction:** All attendees were provided with the Information brochure and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Code of Practice. An introduction of the participants was conducted and the basis for the consultations was outlined. An attendance sheet was passed around and explained that each person had the option of listing their name, affiliation and contact information.
2. **RPS Energy Presentation:** The Company and the Seismic project were explained with the aid of the power point presentation.
3. **Issues, Questions and Concerns:** These were discussed after the presentation.
 - The topic of impact studies was raised and discussed and it was questioned if there have been any offshore exploratory operations over the years without causing damage to marine life. It was advised that some studies demonstrate that animals will avoid seismic sounds. A review of the scientific literature was conducted for DFO by an independent scientific review panel and reported that basically the studies have not shown evidence of impacts but are considered to be inconclusive. Subsequently, a Code of Practice for seismic operations was established by DFO as a precautionary measure to mitigate against impacts to marine life.

- A discussion was held on the number and type of observers employed on the vessel. It was stated that there is a list of trained observers from this area and Sikumiut has been actively involved in this aspect.
- A question was raised about the information received from seismic and if the presence of gas or oil can be determined. It was explained that the 2D seismic is a preliminary survey to map the geology of the ocean floor and depending on results, a more intensive 3D seismic survey and exploratory well drilling would follow. This process takes several years to complete.

4. The **meeting closed** at 8:00 PM

Notes compiled by
Harold Murphy

Environmental Assessment
Public Consultations Meeting Notes
Happy Valley – Goose Bay
April 14, 2011; 7:00 PM – 8:45 PM

In Attendance:

Name	Address	Telephone E-Mail	Affiliation
Carol Best	P.O. Box 2143 Stn. B Happy Valley Goose Bay NL, A0P 1E0	Tel: (709) 896-8506 cbest@cledb.ca	Executive Director Central Labrador Economic Development Board
Karen Wheeler	P.O. Box 40 Stn. B Happy Valley Goose Bay NL, A0P 1E0	Tel: (709) 896 – 3321 development@happyvalley- goosebay.com	Director of Economic Development Town of HV-Goose Bay
Ralph Tooktoshina	P.O. Box 1419 Stn. B Happy Valley Goose Bay NL, A0P 1E0	Tel: (709) 896 - 9039	Fisher
Sam Tooktoshina	Happy Valley Goose Bay NL, A0P 1E0	Tel: (709) 896 - 3467	Fisher
Jenny McCarthy	P.O. Box 804 Stn. C Happy Valley Goose Bay NL, A0P 1E0	Tel: (709) 896 – 3341 editor@thelabradorian.ca	Editor The Labradorian Newspaper

The meeting was held at the Labrador Friendship Center.

1. **Introduction:** All attendees were provided with the Information brochure and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Code of Practice. An introduction of the participants was conducted and the basis for the consultations was outlined. An attendance sheet was passed around and explained that each person had the option of listing their name, affiliation and contact information.
2. **RPS Energy Presentation:** The Seismic project was explained with the aid of the power point presentation.
3. **Issues, Questions and Concerns:** These were made during and after the presentation.

- The main discussion at the meeting was the fishery. The fishermen at the meeting questioned the effects that seismic sounds had on fish, especially crab. In response it was explained that seismic has been used in Newfoundland and Labrador waters in the past and there has been no obvious negative impacts on fish stocks. It has been reported that fish, especially the free swimming fin fish, tend to move away from the area. The fishermen questioned if enough studies were being done to determine the impacts. They indicated that such a study on crab should accompany this specific project.
- The fishermen raised the issue about having the right to fish and not remove their fishing gear to accommodate seismic operations. They indicated that they were advised in previous consultations that they did not have to move or take up their fishing gear however during the 2010 fishing season, the fishers were told to move. They were assured that this may have been an isolated incident or miscommunication and the fishers have the right of way and seismic vessels have to stay clear of fishing areas. For this specific project the vessel can operate on the outside lines while the fishery is conducted. A map showing the proposed lines was used to illustrate.
- The fishermen also stated that they experienced reduced crab catch rates in 2010 after a seismic vessel was in the area and they were unable to catch their complete quotas of crab and shrimp, and consequently lost much needed revenue. They asked for assurance in writing that this would not happen again and any future loss of revenue would be compensated. This request was stated to be unwarranted and unpractical to assess such claims. It was explained that the seismic plan would take into consideration all fishing operations and take measures to avoid conflicts. The codes of practice to mitigate impacts were explained.
- The fishermen indicated that they are not against exploration but want to ensure that their fishing livelihood is not negatively affected. They remain skeptical that their protection in this regard is assured.

- The scheduling of the seismic in relation to the fishery and the need for effective communications to identify locations of fishing gear and the seismic operations is considered essential.
- The need for fishery observer(s) on duty 24/7 on the seismic vessel was stressed by the fisherman. They wanted to know who to contact if a seismic vessel comes in their fishing area and they were advised that the contact on the seismic vessels is the Fishing Liaison Officer. In addition, they were advised that the Torngat Fisheries Co-op head office in Happy Valley – Goose Bay stated that they can provide the fishing vessel locations and assist with communications.

4. The **meeting closed** at 8:45 PM

Notes compiled by
Harold Murphy

Environmental Assessment
Public Consultations Meeting Notes
Port Hope Simpson
April 15, 2011; 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

In Attendance:

Name	Address	Telephone E-mail	Affiliation
Alton Rumbolt	Mary's Harbour NL A0K 3P0	Tel: (709) 921-6301 alton@nf.sympatico.ca	Fisher; Director on the Inshore Fishers Council of FFAW; Vice Chair of the Combined Community councils of Labrador
Roxanne Notley	Port Hope Simpson, NL A0K 4E0	Tel: (709) 960-0470 roxanne.notley@nf.aibn.com	Executive Director Southeastern Aurora Development Corporation
Margaret Burden	Port Hope Simpson, NL A0K 4E0	Tel: (709) 960-0222 Mburden38@yaho.ca	Mayor
Jerry Penney	Port Hope Simpson, NL A0K 4E0	Tel: (709) 960-0397	Fisher
Barbara Cambell	Port Hope Simpson, NL A0K 4E0	Tel: (709) 960-0269 Barbara.campbell@live.ca	Town Councilor
Michelle Clarke	Port Hope Simpson, NL A0K 4E0	Tel: (709) 960-0236 porthopesimpson@nf.aibn.com	Town Clerk

The meeting was held in the Alexis Hotel Meeting Room

1. **Introduction:** All attendees were provided with a copy the Project Information brochure and the DFO Canadian Code of Practice with respect to the mitigation of seismic sound in the Marine Environment. An introduction of all in attendance was made and the basis for the consultations was outlined. An attendance sheet was passed around and explained that each person had the option of listing their name, affiliation and contact information.
2. **RPS Energy Presentation:** The operating company and the seismic project were explained with the aid of the power point presentation.

3. **Issues, Questions and Concerns:** These were made during and after the presentation.
- The participants were interested in discussing economic opportunities and indicated that they would like to see the exploratory companies hire locally for the fishery and other observers and other available job requirements. They stressed the need to be kept informed and one person, representing the Combined Councils of Labrador indicated that development projects such as the offshore would have to involve Labrador in regards to workers and services. They inquired about the number of crew members on the seismic vessel and the supply vessel; the number of observers required, the required training, and if the supply vessel comes to port for services, crew changes etc.
 - Questions were raised about the difference between 2D and 3D survey and this was explained by the PGS operations manager who was in attendance.
 - In regards to the fishery, the participants were interested and pleased that the Hawke Channel fishery management area is not included in the project.
 - The impacts on marine life, in general, are a concern and were discussed. It was understood that the studies that were conducted did not show any major impacts but were considered inconclusive and that codes of practices are in place as precautionary mitigation measures. However, it is considered necessary for research to continue to ease the concern of fishers. It was also stated that both industries should be able to operate without negative impacts.
 - The overall response was positive about the project in regards to possible economic and social benefits and any future developments to the area. They requested that avoiding possible conflicts with the fishery need to be an ongoing consideration.

Notes compiled by
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