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St. John's, NL A1C 5X1

Your file    Votre référence

August 26, 2013

Our file    Notre référence  
BAB 3990-5

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

Dear Mr. Hicks:

**Re:    Nalcor Energy Oil and Gas Geochemical Data Acquisition and Seabed Sampling Survey, Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area, 2013-2018 Commencement on Environmental Assessment**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has completed a review of Nalcor Energy Oil and Gas Geochemical Data Acquisition and Seabed Sampling Survey, Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area 2013-2018. DFO does not have any concerns with respect to the activities, as described in the project description, impacting fish, fish habitat, marine mammals or species at risk.

However DFO does recommend that Nalcor Energy Oil and Gas avoid areas of known coral and sponge concentrations when conducting shallow core collection. Information on known coral and sponge concentrations can be obtained in the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat Research Document 2010/041 "*Delineating Coral and Sponge Concentrations in the Biogeographic Regions of the East Coast of Canada Using Spatial Analyses.*" See link below.

[http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Csas-sccs/publications/resdocs-docrech/2010/2010\\_041-eng.pdf](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Csas-sccs/publications/resdocs-docrech/2010/2010_041-eng.pdf)

Also in order to avoid potential interactions with DFO research vessel surveys, please contact George Sheppard at [george.sheppard@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:george.sheppard@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) or (709) 772-0077 prior to initiating activities to obtain the most up to date research vessel schedule.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at (709) 772-8889 or [jason.kelly@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:jason.kelly@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) .

Sincerely,

  
Jason Kelly  
Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist  
Mining, Oil and Gas  
Fisheries Protection Program