

From: DFO
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2016 11:09 AM
To: Hicks, Darren
Subject: 2016 Amendment Statoil Drilling Program EA 2008-2016

Darren:

Further to your June 30, 2016 request and my July 22, 2016 email please note that review of the above noted EA Amendment has been completed and I offer the following comments.

- Section 1.2 Proposed Project modifications (page 5) Section 2.2 Planned Activities for 2016 (page 8) and Section 2.3.2 Increased Number of Wells (page 10) – Further to comments provided on January 15, 2015 arising from review of the Statoil EA Update for 2016 the proponent should indicate the probable drilling / well locations planned for 2016 – 2019 especially whether or not any such wells will be located within or near any of the NAFO Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME) areas or other sensitive marine areas depicted in Appendix A – Figure 1.
- Section 2.3.4 Well Decommissioning Page 12) – based on the proposed well head decommissioning plan information should be provided (either now or in subsequent EA annual updates) on the location and number of well heads that will fall into each of the three categories noted - i.e. water depths less than 500 m, depth between 500 and 1500 m and depths greater than 1500 m.
- Section 3.5 Species at Risk - Table 3 (page 18) – with respect to Atlantic salmon the population assessed as threatened by COSEWIC is the south Newfoundland population rather than the “Newfoundland Population”. This element of Table 3 should be amended accordingly.
- Section 4.1 Focus and Findings of the Original Environmental Assessment (page 20) – this section should provide; a summary description of VMEs and sensitive marine areas within the project area, an indication whether drilling activities have / or will occur within or near such areas, and mitigation measures that will be implemented to protect such areas;
- Section 4.1 Focus and Findings of the Original Environmental Assessment (page 20) – 2nd bullet Last paragraph indicates that project mitigation procedures include “pre and post drilling ROV surveys” it should be noted what the results of such surveys have been, and whether they provide information to validate impact predictions made within the original EA and the assessment of effects relative to the expansion of drilling activity by Statoil presented within the 2016 EA Amendment.

- Section 4.2.2 Increased Number of Wells (page 22) – the first sentence of this section which notes “...a total of 15 well having been drilled as of the end of 2015...” is somewhat at odds with information presented in Section 2.1 that “..17 wells have been drilled as of the end of the 1st quarter of 2016...”.

If any questions or if anything further is required in this respect please let me know.

Regards,
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