

The following is a few comments on the Environmental Assessment of StatoilHydro's Jeanne d'Arc Basin Area Seismic and Geohazard Program, 2008-2016.

First of all, due to the temporal and spatial boundaries of this seismic program, the value of the Fisheries Liaison Officer's Role is immense. FLOs have been utilized on seismic vessels in the past, but the timing, area and duration of this seismic program will require FLO coverage, more than ever. From our consultations, the proponents intend to commence in early May and possibly continue until October. Therefore, the seismic program will be conducted in the same time period, and adjacent to the 2008 commercial fishery.

The FLO's role will be very important because of the potential for interaction with fishing gear and vessels transiting to, and from, the fishing grounds. It is important to keep in mind that harvesting locations for each species can vary over the years, as well as within the same season. This can occur due to migration patterns, catch rates, quotas, resource issues, weather, technology, fuel costs, etc. Effective communication of all operations in the Study Area is imperative. In addition to other notices on this program, we expect to have a new issue of the Union Forum out by late May. This would be a good opportunity for proponents to illustrate their seismic program (timing/location) for the season.

In the rare occurrence of damaged or destroyed fishing gear, the FFAW should be responsible for the role of dealing with compensating the fish harvesters for their individual financial losses. After all, it is the FFAW that represents the fish harvesters of this Province on all other matters. This compensation should be carried out in a timely and adequate manner.

Industry Research Programs for 2008 are expected to follow the same trends as recent years. There also may be more new research initiatives begin this year, and will be communicated to all oil and gas and seismic proponents as they arise. The Industry Snow Crab Survey is fully intended to continue for this year. However, drastic increases in fuel prices this year could jeopardize the survey for 2008. With fuel prices up by as much as 25% already from last year's fuel prices, it could be very challenging to charter vessels to conduct the surveys from the limited funds available for this vital Snow Crab Survey. Many of the survey locations are a long distance offshore, and may no longer be economically viable for enterprises to participate in this valuable fisheries management program.

As Newfoundland and Labrador's offshore oil and gas industry continues to explore, extract and expand to cover more and more area in the offshore, monitoring of the potential effects of all of the associated activity has never been more pertinent. From the effects of specific operations of one operation such as drilling an exploration well, to the overall cumulative effects of the whole industry is very important to monitor the potential for negative effects on the ocean's fish resources. There is still so many unknowns about the effects of seismic on many species, both short-term and long-term, especially on the lucrative shellfish. Proponents of oil and gas exploration must continue to contribute to

scientific research of our valuable commercial species. We need more investment into scientific research programs on our resources to achieve sustainability for the future.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this seismic program.

Best Regards,

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