

General Comment

- In future assessment documents, it is important from a scientific viewpoint that literature examining concerns regarding the unknown effects of seismic activities on fish and shellfish, as well as the major drawback of simply relying on mathematical models for sound exposures, be reviewed and evaluated. For instance, the potential for cumulative effects (e.g. effects on internal development of reproductive products) in the study area where animals may be chronically exposed to relatively high levels of sound for 5-6 weeks are completely unknown. This is not to say that there will be serious effects, but in the absence of at least some scientific information, it should not be simply stated that there will be no effects.

Specific Comments

- **Page 10 of the Addendum (page 124 Sentinel Survey).** Please note that the DFO coordinator for this survey is Alain Fréchet (418 775-0628).
- **Page 10 of the Addendum (page 125 Research Vessel Surveys).** The date of the 2008 survey should be modified for the statement provided as follows: "*The 2008 survey will start during the fourth week of July and extend to mid-August along the western coast of Newfoundland.*" Also, note that the DFO coordinator for the Research Vessel survey is Diane Archambault (418 775-0705), not Charlie Cyr as mentioned.

Migratory Birds

- **Page 90, Section 5.2.7 Species at Risk - Ivory Gull**
CWS agrees with the proponent's response that "This project will not interact with this species critical habitat requirements in the Arctic and its presence is incidental at best". However, the statement "It is noted that the Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*) is listed as 'special concern' on Schedule 1 of SARA. Status re-examined and designated endangered in April 2006" is slightly misleading. The Ivory Gull has been assessed by COSEWIC as endangered, but its SARA designation on Schedule 1 as a species of special concern has not yet been changed.

Meteorology and Climate

- **5.1.5 Meteorology and Climate, and 5.1.6.2 Waves**
The EA addendum states an intention to use the MSC50 wind and wave hindcast database for possible future EAs related to drilling. This is encouraged. MSC50 hindcast data for selected grid points are available from Environment Canada's Atlantic Climate Centre in Fredericton, NB at a nominal cost. They can also provide assistance with extremal analysis. The following recommendations are provided for consideration in any

future environmental assessments. It should be noted that hindcast wind speeds are equivalent to a one-hour mean wind speed at 10 m elevation above sea level. Adjustments are required to make these winds equivalent to the 10 minute mean wind speed reported by Environment Canada weather stations. It is also recommended to use available climate data from coastal stations in the area of interest, including Rocky Harbour and Daniel's Harbour. Data for these stations are available online from the National Climate Data and Information Archive of Environment Canada, with assistance possible from the Atlantic Climate Centre. These higher frequency (hourly) observations can augment the hindcast data and give information about local conditions, including visibility. Wind speeds need to be adjusted to a standard reference height. Some consideration of local wind effects near the coast is recommended. Analyses that describe climatological frequencies of sensitive operating thresholds as well as of extremes, by month and direction, are recommended, along with description of how those conditions will affect the project.