

April 29, 2008

Ms. Elizabeth Young, Environmental Analyst
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
5th floor, TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John's NL A1C 6H6

Re: NWest Energy Inc. Geophysical Survey Program, 2008-2015, Environmental Assessment

Dear Ms. Young:

We have reviewed the *Environmental Assessment (EA) of Geophysical Surveys for Exploration Licences 1097, 1098, 1103 and 1104* report. The EA satisfies the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture's concerns with respect to fish, fish habitat and commercial fisheries.

We are pleased to see the consideration of invertebrates and associated habitat, marine fish and fish habitat, and commercial fisheries as valued ecosystem components (VECs) in the EA. The consideration of species at risk, sensitive areas, cumulative environmental effects and mitigation measures associated with various aspects of seismic add value to this EA report.

In particular, we are pleased that mitigation measures are proposed to minimize conflict with regional harvesting activities such as conflict with fishing vessels. We are also pleased to see that consultation with regional harvesters will occur prior to future seismic activities.

The Department would like to provide the following comments/questions:

- In Section 5.3.3 the blue mussel farm identified in Goose Arm and the three Atlantic cod sites identified in Bonne Bay are not currently active. The Atlantic salmon farm identified in Daniel's Harbour is a land-based salmon hatchery.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the NWest Energy Inc. Environmental Assessment. We look forward to future collaborations.

Regards,



Rhonda Brennan
Fisheries Planning Analyst
Sustainable Fisheries and Oceans Policy Division
Tom Dooley
Director
Sustainable Fisheries and Oceans Policy Division

