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Your file

Votre référence

JUL 27 2018

Our file

Notre référence
16-HNFL-00006

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

Dear Mr. Hicks:

***Re: Review of the Polarcus UK Ltd. Environmental Assessment Eastern
Newfoundland 2D/3D/4D Seismic Survey Program 2016-2022 Addendum 2:
Responses to comments received on 06.04.18***

I am writing further to your July 16, 2018 email requesting review of the June 2018 Environmental Assessment (EA) Report Addendum 2 prepared in relation to the above noted seismic program proposed by Polarcus UK Ltd.

Based on review of the above noted Addendum, the following comments are offered for your review and consideration.

- Response to "Pages 3-17 and 3-20 of Addendum" (page 13 of Addendum 2) – Figure 3.5 in the Addendum includes "Frequency of Tropical Storm Systems" on the y-axis. Based on the proponent's response, this label is incorrect. An appropriate y-axis label for Figure 3.5 should be provided.
- Appropriate designations/listings should be provided throughout the document (see examples below):
 - Harbour Porpoise (Northwest Atlantic population) should be described as Special Concern under COSEWIC (Response to "Pages 3-32 to 3-39 of Addendum" (page 38 of Addendum 2)); because this population of Harbour Porpoise is not listed under SARA, it should be removed from the list of SARA species of relevance (Response to "Page 3-52 of the Addendum" (bullet 3, page 47 of Addendum 2)).
 - Loggerhead Sea Turtle is listed as Endangered under Schedule 1 of SARA, and should be included in the list of federally listed species on page 42 of Addendum 2 (paragraph 1) and page 47 of Addendum 2 (bullet 4). Its listing should also be corrected to Schedule 1 (paragraph 4, page 50 of Addendum 2).



- Accurate population names should be provided when describing species at risk throughout the document (see examples below):
 - Northern Bottlenose whale: Davis Strait-Baffin Bay-Labrador Sea population (paragraph 2, page 42 of Addendum 2).
 - Fin Whale: Atlantic population (paragraph 1, page 43 of Addendum 2; bullet 3, page 47 of Addendum 2).
 - Leatherback Sea Turtle: Atlantic population (paragraph 2, page 43 of Addendum 2; bullet 4, page 47 of Addendum 2).
 - Northern Bottlenose Whale: Scotian Shelf population (bullet 3, page 47 of Addendum 2).
 - Blue Whale: Atlantic population (bullet 3, page 47 of Addendum 2).
 - White Shark: Atlantic population (bullet 1, page 47 of Addendum 2; paragraph 5, page 47 of Addendum 2).
- Response to “Page 3-40 of Addendum” (pages 42-43 of Addendum 2) – Recovery Strategies are available for the North Atlantic Right Whale, Northern Bottlenose Whale (Scotian Shelf population), and Blue Whale (Atlantic population), and should be described.
- Response to “Page 3-52 of the Addendum” (Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles VEC, pages 49-50 of Addendum 2) – Leatherback Sea Turtle (Atlantic population) should be described as it is listed as Endangered under Schedule 1 of SARA.

Points of information (no response required):

- Response to “Pages 3-21 and 3-22 of Addendum” (page 13 of Addendum 2) – It is assumed that the significant wave height corresponds to the traditional definition by Holthuijsen et al. 2007. If this assumption is correct, no response is required.
- Response to “Page 3-26 of Addendum” (page 15 of Addendum 2) – Figure 3.7 is located in the original EA Report and not the Addendum.
- Response to “Page 3-31 of Addendum” (paragraph 2, page 18 of Addendum 2) – Incorrect page numbers are provided in reference to a previous response. Although the referenced response lists data gaps and indicates that they are considered for level of confidence, additional details on data gaps and how they were considered could have been provided. These comments also apply to the Response to “Page 3-31 of Addendum” (page 28 of Addendum 2) and Response to “Page 3-40 of Addendum” (page 43 of Addendum 2).
- Response to “Page 3-45 of Addendum” (page 44 of Addendum 2) – Information pertaining to Traditional and Aboriginal Fisheries is not entirely accurate. No response is required, as adequate information is provided in DFO’s initial comment.



Thank you for providing the opportunity to review and provide comments on this project EA Report Addendum. If you have any questions or comments with respect to the above or if you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (709.772.2583) or email (Kimberley.Keats@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.).

Sincerely,



Kimberley Keats
A/Senior Biologist – Marine, Coastal, Oil & Gas Development
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