

2016 Amendment to the Environmental Assessment of Statoil's Geophysical Program for the Jeanne d'Arc and Central Ridge / Flemish Pass Basins, 2011-2019 (Statoil Canada Ltd. March 2016)

General Comments

Canada – Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB)

There are multiple references to “amendments” in the “2016 Amendment to the Environmental Assessment of Statoil's Geophysical Program for the Jeanne d'Arc and Central Ridge / Flemish Pass Basins, 2011-2019(Statoil Canada Ltd. March 2016).” For clarity, the C-NLOPB reviewed and assessed one (1) amendment, in 2012.

There are multiple references to “Addenda” in the “2016 Amendment to the Environmental Assessment of Statoil's Geophysical Program for the Jeanne d'Arc and Central Ridge / Flemish Pass Basins, 2011-2019(Statoil Canada Ltd. March 2016).” For clarity, the C-NLOPB reviewed and assessed one (1) addendum in 2011.

Department of National Defence (DND)

- Please identify a specific individual or office to serve as a Point of Contact (POC) for MARLANT queries and concerns;
- Please ensure the appropriate Notice to Mariners will be issued for all underwater activities and any significant surface ventures, such as use of flares, buoys, and unconventional lighting;
- Please ensure the appropriate Notice to Airmen will be issued for all activities that could affect air safety, such as use of balloons, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or tethered airborne devices; and
- Please ensure engagement of CTF 84, through Director General Naval Strategic Readiness (DGNSR), to ensure de-confliction with possible Allied submarine activities.

Due to the inherent dangers associated with UXO and the fact that the Northwest Atlantic Ocean was exposed to many naval engagements during WWII, should any suspected UXO be encountered during the course of the operations, the Proponent should not disturb/manipulate it. The Proponent should mark the location and immediately inform the Coast Guard. Additional information is available in the 2010 Annual Edition - Notices to Mariners, Section 37. Further UXO general information is available at our website at www.uxocanada.forces.gc.ca.

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Specific Comments

Canada – Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB)

§ 1 Introduction, page 4 – please include *Labrador* to the *Canada-Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation Act*.

§ 1.1 Previous Environmental Assessment Review and Approval, page 4 – In May 2012, Statoil submitted an *Amendment*, not an Addendum, to address a change in the spatial (geographic) scope to accommodate the extension to the survey lines outside the project area boundary during the 2012 program. This section will need to be rewritten to properly reflect the Amendment of 2012.

§ 1.3 Purpose and Structure of the EA Amendment, page 5, 1st sentence – some clarity is required with respect to the reference to amendments. The C-NLOPB reviewed and assessed one (1) amendment, in 2012.

§ 4.2 Commercial Fisheries, page 13, paragraph 3 – As of February 2016, fish data for commercial fishing activity in 2014 was and still is, available.

§ 5.1 Consultation, page 17 – The correct name for Once Ocean is One Ocean.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

§ 2.2.1, page 8 – the document provides the Exploration Licenses (EL) held totally or partially by Statoil that fall within the amended project/ study area (i.e. EL 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143 and 1138 (Statoil in partnership with Chevron) for clarity these ELs should be numbered on Figures 1, 2, and 3 which show the expanded Study/project areas relative to Statoil ELs.

§ 5.2.5 Species at Risk, page 20, 2nd paragraph, last sentence – it is accurately noted that “No designated critical habitat for these SARA – listed species occurs in the Project and Study Areas”. Given that the proposed geophysical program is planned to extend to 2019 the status of designation of critical habitat for SARA listed species may (or may not) change, as such any future EA Updates should bear this in mind and ensure that they reflect the most current and accurate information vis a vis SARA species critical habitat designations.

Appendices – similar to above comment since the planned geophysical program is planned to continue into 2019 any subsequent EA Updates should also present the most current information on existing commercial fishing activity within the Project and Study Areas.