

From: Hicks, Darren
To: 'ders@statoil.com'
Cc: Young, Elizabeth
Subject: DFO Review of Addendum to the Environmental Assessment of Statoil's Geophysical Program for the Jeanne d'Arc and Central Ridge/Flemish Pass Basins, 2011-2019.

Sent: Fri 6/17/2011 3:26 PM

Derek: We have been informed by DFO that they will have their complete review of the Addendum concluded by the middle of next week. They have not been able to completely review the Addendum because of the addition of the electromagnetic assessment that was absent from the original EA Report. Those comments will be forwarded to you promptly. Also, all other reviewers were satisfied with the Addendum.

Below are some comments that we have received from DFO, please address so the C-NLOPB may complete the environmental assessment of your proposed program.

Cheers
Darren

General Comments:

The LGL Report dated 2006 (SA899) is referenced several times throughout the document. One mitigation that is listed in the 2006 report does not seem to appear in the above noted EA. On page 10 of the 2006 report one of the mitigations listed details that the electromagnetic source will not operate in shallow water and during turns. If this mitigation is still relevant for the above noted project, then it may be added.

The LGL Report dated 2006 also notes (on page 11) that data would be collected to verify EA predictions, due to the fact that the electromagnetic survey was a fairly new type of operation. This may not have been accomplished for various reasons, but if so, incorporation of such data may enhance the above noted EA report.

Specific Comments:

Page 5 of Addendum:

Comment (Section 4.3.4.2, Page 58, 2nd sentence): This sentence is confusing and should be rewritten

Response: The missing section (4.3.5 Fishing Gear) should read as follows.....

DFO Suggestion: Page 6 of the Addendum (first paragraph on the page, 2nd last sentence of paragraph), is still confusing to read. Thus, allowing slack for the anchor ropes on either send of the string.....approximately 1.8 km to 2.3 km. Please revise.

Page 7 of Addendum:

Comment (Section 4.5.1.3, Page 92, 1st paragraph): Based on aerial searches and acoustic recordings, the south eastern edge of the Grand Banks remains an area populated by cetaceans during the winter. Therefore, the statement “although some individual baleen whales may be present in offshore waters of NL...” is not necessarily accurate.

Response: DFO has placed autonomous acoustic recorders at the east and southeast edges of the Grand Banks and have recorded mysticete and odontocete calls throughout the winter (J. Lawson, Research Scientist, DFO, pers. comm.). PAL surveillance imagery, records, and observations by DFO staff have also shown there to be quite a few humpbacks and other large whales out in this area through the winter. Based on these observations, change the sentence referenced above to “Some baleen whales are present in offshore waters of Newfoundland year-round but most species presumably migrate to lower latitudes during winter months.”

DFO Suggestion: It seems the comment and response are in agreement. It is suggested to simply remove the word “some” from the sentence above.