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Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Darren Hicks
Environmental Analyst
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
140 Water Street, 5th Floor, TD Place
St. John's, NL A1C 6H6

Re: Seafloor and Seep Sampling Program – Labrador Offshore to Jeanne d’Arc Basin (2014 to 2019)
Environmental Assessment

Dear Darren,

Thank you for providing the Fish, Food and Allied Workers (FFAW | UNIFOR) with the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for TGS-NOPEC’s Seafloor and Seep Sampling Program – Labrador Offshore to Jeanne d’Arc Basin (2014 to 2019).

Overall the report is concise and provides adequate information regarding the program. I would however appreciate clarification on a couple of points.

In Table 5.1 it is presented that the collection of sediment cores and rock samples could interact with fish habitat and fisheries and other ocean users. Please provide reasoning why the operation of the research vessel would interact with fish habitat but not fisheries and other ocean users.

In Section 5.5 please provide clarification on the statement “...and a fishing gear damage compensation program (as per C-NLOPB and C-NSOPB 2002)..., in the event of an oil spill.”

Also, the crab survey information that is presented in Figure B-1 is misleading. The Industry-DFO Post Season Trap Survey takes place from specified survey stations as depicted in Figure 3-10. The end point for gear that is set from these survey stations is not recorded. Therefore, displaying the information as transect data (in Figure B-1) is incorrect.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this environmental assessment. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you require further information.

Sincerely,

Robyn Saunders Lee
Industry Liaison
FFAW | UNIFOR