



P.O. Box 5667  
St. John's, NL A1C 5X1

Your file    Votre référence

February 10, 2015

Our file    Notre référence  
PATH #15-HNFL-00024

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

*Darren:*  
Dear Mr. Hicks:

**Re:    Review of Project Description and Draft Scoping Document Western GECO Eastern  
Newfoundland Offshore Seismic Survey 2015-2019**

I am writing further to your February 3, 2015 email requesting review of the project description and draft scoping document for the above noted seismic survey proposed for Eastern Newfoundland offshore area for 2015 to 2019.

Please be advised that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is in possession of expert knowledge and advice related to fish, fish habitat, marine mammals, species at risk and fisheries that may inform the project environmental assessment.

Based on review of the above noted Project Description it is apparent that the proposed project includes a planned 3D seismic survey in an area (see green box labelled "2015 3D Seismic Survey Area" Figure 1 page 2) nested within the larger project area / study area. It is noted, however, that Section 5.1 Boundaries (page 3) of the Draft Scoping Document does not make reference to this smaller survey area. Similar to the "Project Area", "Study Area" and "Regional Area" it is felt that Section 5.1 of the Scoping Document (and the subsequent project environmental assessment report) should also include a description of the boundaries for the 2015 3D survey area noted on page 2 of the project description.

Future correspondence on this environmental assessment can be addressed to me by regular mail or by email [REDACTED]. If you have any questions in this regard please do not hesitate to contact me [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist – Marine, Coastal, Oil and Gas Development  
Fisheries Protection and Regulatory Reviews  
Ecosystems Management Branch