

From: Christine Koch
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 11:11 AM
To: Information
Subject: re: Western NL Offshore area Strategic Environmental Assessment

To the Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board:

I am writing to add my voice to those expressing concern about the future presence of an oil and gas industry in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

An offshore oil and gas industry will have a direct and indirect negative impact on both the physical environment and the socio-economic-cultural environment of western Newfoundland.

The Western Newfoundland Offshore Strategic Environmental Assessment makes clear the following points:

- the biological importance and sensitivity of Newfoundland's offshore area in the Gulf;
 - the importance of fisheries and tourism;
 - huge gaps concerning biological knowledge and impact of oil and gas activities;
 - real and far-reaching impacts of any oil spill;
 - very little social acceptability in all five Gulf provinces.
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- The liability limit for oil companies is currently limited at \$30 million dollars, and even if this amount is raised it is insufficient to repair the damage of a major oil spill. (Note that the cost of mitigation in the Gulf of St. Lawrence surpassed \$42 billion dollars).
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- A major oil spill could be devastating to all five Gulf provinces, environmentally and socio-economically.
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- An integrated environmental review of oil activities in the complete Gulf of St. Lawrence has not yet been performed.

Therefore, I would like to suggest:

- that the C-NLOPB defers issuing any new exploration licenses in the Newfoundland offshore area;
- that the C-NLOPB cancels the call for bids for four parcels in the Newfoundland offshore area;
- that the C-NLOPB refrains from giving authorizations to projects currently submitted in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, including Corridor Resources' Old Harry project or Shoal Point Energy and Black Spruce Exploration's Western Newfoundland drilling programme; and

--that the C-NLOPB submit to public scrutiny the recommendations and conclusions of the final SEA report.

Thank you for your consideration of the above concerns regarding this controversial issue.

Sincerely,
Christine Koch

Christine Koch Studio
Painting and Printmaking
<http://www.christinekoch.com>