

Norris, Sara

From: erika [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 8:46 PM
To: Information
Subject: Comments on the draft SEA Report

I am writing to respond to the draft report regarding exploration in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The AMEC report is severely lacking in information, however what is contained within does lead me to conclude that oil and gas activities should not be undertaken in NL's section of the Gulf of St. Lawrence at this time.

There are many knowledge gaps for biophysical information, and the EBSAs are based on incomplete data. We have limited information on migration patterns of cod, redfish, salmon, halibut, etc., as well as the coral occurring zones, knowledge on zooplankton is incomplete, knowledge of bird populations on the west coast of NL is outdated and an understanding of the effects of seismic activity on marine life is lacking.

This area of the Gulf has many sensitive and unique ecosystems, on which fisheries and tourism rely heavily.

- Huge sectors of importance for marine mammals (sect. 5.3.3.2)
- Sectors unique and essential for cod, redfish, plaice (spawning, juveniles, migration) (sect. 4.2.1.7)
- Unique winter refuges for herring and capelin (sect. 4.2.1.7)
- Important sites for lobster, krill, etc. (sect. 4.2.1.8)
- West Coast Atlas of sensitive zones show that the vast majority of the Newfoundland West Coast could be qualified as sensitive (sect. 4.2.1.1).

The proposed oil and gas activities are incompatible with more environmentally sustainable industries which are an important part of the economy. The report does recognize that fisheries and tourism could be affected directly and indirectly by these activities, but I suggest that the report minimizes the impact this development and possible leakage and/or spills would have on these industries.

The draft report says that the efficiency of proposed mitigation measures is not proven - even with 'effective' mitigation measures, requiring mitigation measures at all means an incredible loss to livelihoods reliant on clean water, healthy marine life and the integrity of coastal and marine areas. The mitigation measures proposed by AMEC are less than effective - intervention capacity in case of an oil spill is clearly inadequate.

I am deeply concerned about the proposed oil and gas in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, particularly the onshore to offshore hydraulic fracturing. I would like to join others in making the following the following recommendations as first steps:

- To defer the issuing of any new exploration licenses in the Newfoundland offshore area;
- To cancel the call for bids issued on May 16th 2013 for four parcels in the Newfoundland offshore area;
- To refrain 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 program; and
- To submit to public scrutiny the recommendations and conclusions of the final SEA report.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Erika Pittman