

From: Karen Wristen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2013 08:57 PM
To: Tessier, Scott
Cc: Young, Elizabeth
Subject: Oil Spill Response Gap Study for the Gulf



September 25, 2013

Mr. Scott Tessier
Chair and CEO
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
Fifth Floor, TD Place
140 Water St.
St. John's, NL A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Tessier:

Re: **WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR OFFSHORE AREA
Strategic Environmental Assessment Update 2013**

I have reviewed the oil spill response and preparedness section of the consultant's draft report for the above-noted Update and find little information relating to Tier 2 and 3 physical response capacity or to training and general preparedness levels. In particular, the report would benefit from:

- a comprehensive assessment of the capacity and location of spill response equipment;
- response time and response volume estimates;
- a response gap analysis that takes into account local wind, wave, current and tide data and details the limitations of available spill response equipment;
- specifies whether and to what extent spill response plans may rely on the use of dispersants; where and under what circumstances the use of such chemicals would be considered

As it seems that all of the mitigation measures for identified potential impacts refer back to section 3.2.6.3, it would appear that this section should be significantly expanded to detail precisely how the response measures that are planned would work to mitigate the identified risks to species. As it stands, the report is virtually devoid of information as to how species would be protected in the event of a significant spill.

Respectfully,

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Karen G. Wristen
Executive Director
Living Oceans Society
204-343 Railway St.
Vancouver BC, V6A 1A4



www.livingoceans.org

