

Terry Decker


September 27, 2013

Scott Tessier, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
5th Floor, TD Place
140 Water Street
St. John's NL A1C 6H6
information@cnlopb.nl.ca

Re: Western NL SEA Update


Dear Mr. Tessier,

I am a commercial fisherman and fish out of Rocky Harbour and Bakers Brook for the past 35 years. I think we need more studies and more assessment till they know more about oil drilling and fracking, and what damage they might cause. Oil and gas activity on the ocean floor could have a big impact on inshore spawning, like on lobster and lumpfish, and migration patterns. If there is any damage from spills or drilling it could be devastating to the whole Gulf of St. Lawrence. It could cause changes in the migration and feeding patterns of capelin and herring and other species, and make it more difficult for us fishermen. It's very easy to change the migratory patterns of fish and animals. They have been migrating for thousands and thousands of years, and oil and gas activity could change their patterns and they would never come back.

In Nova Scotia they got protective zones due to drilling, where you can't drill, close to the shoreline to protect it and the fishery. There should be a zone like that here, for at least 10 – 12 miles off the coast, along the western Northern Peninsula, that would protect pretty much all the inshore fishermen and the inshore fishing banks, shoals, and spawning areas.

It's not only the fishery we're concerned about, it's also our beautiful coastline that our children and grandchildren are going to enjoy in years to come. Our parents and grandparents gave up their land and rights so this would be a National Park, and we finally got a beautiful park. It would be a big impact of interfering with our tourist business, tearing up the roads with big equipment. It's the natural habitat that tourists want to see, not some big drilling company.

If the government is going to get involved they should put more into getting our fishery back on track so it's stable and more people can get involved. The fishery should go on and on for years and years.


Mr. Terry Decker