

Elizabeth MacDonald

From: Catherine J. Boyd <CJBoyd@clearwater.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2013 3:43 PM
To: Elizabeth MacDonald
Subject: RE: Strategic Environmental Assessment available for public comment

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Hello Elizabeth,

Thank you for providing the link to the draft SEA.

I notice on page 59 of the PDF (document page 3.45) there is a table that outlines the commercial fishing licences and whether they were active in 2011. I note with some surprise that the table indicates that the Offshore Surf Clam fishery has only 1 licence and that it was not active in 2011. This is not the case. DFO issues 3 licences for offshore clam authorizing up to 4 vessels to fish on Banquereau Bank. Two vessels were operational in 2011 with all landings recorded in DFO Newfoundland and Labrador region.

I suspect that the report authors may have only checked with DFO Maritimes Region when investigating this aspect of the report. Maritimes Region and Newfoundland and Labrador Region of DFO do not yet have integrated licencing and landings databases. Two of the three licences are issued out of NL region and one out of Maritimes Region but all have the authority to fish within the area under study in the SEA. Additionally, since our vessels land and offload the catch in Newfoundland, Maritimes Region does not have the records of landings from Banquereau Bank. I request that you ask the report authors to contact DFO NL Region for the full picture of fishing activity in this area.

Although I raise this within the context of Surf Clam, the other species should also be investigated, especially groundfish where a similar situation may arise.

Best,
Catherine

From: Elizabeth MacDonald [mailto:EMacDonald@cnsopb.ns.ca]
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2013 11:10 AM
To: Humphrey, Donald; 'Ross.Alexander@dfo-mpo.gc.ca'; Hingston, Michael [Dartmouth]; Amy Moulton; Basil MacLean; Catherine J. Boyd; Charlie Dennis; Clary Reardon; Cory Francis (E-mail); Dick Stewart; Document Control; Elizabeth MacDonald; Eric Theriault; Eugene O'Leary; Glen Herbert; Gordon MacDonald; Hubert Nicholas; John Salsbury; Kristian Curran; Marc Surette (fishpackers@ns.aliantzinc.ca); Nellie Baker-Stevens; Norma Richardson; Norma Richardson; Peter Connors; Rick Simon; Robert Anderson; Roger Hunka; Roger Stirling (E-mail); Ross Alexander; Sandy MacMullin (macmulsa@gov.ns.ca); Scott Weldon; Sean Roberts; Troy Atkinson
Cc: Himmelman, Kim A; Derek McDonald; Curran, Kristian; Tanya T. White
Subject: Strategic Environmental Assessment available for public comment

Good morning,

The CNSOPB has initiated two Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), for the Misaine and Banquereau Banks, and the Eastern Scotian Slope (Eastern Portion) and Laurentian Fan (Western Portion). These SEAs are available on the CNSOPB website for a 6 week public comment period, ending on **February 28, 2013**.

Please click here to access the SEAs: <http://www.cnsopb.ns.ca/environment/environmental-assessments/sea-public-registry>

SEA typically involves a broader-scale environmental assessment that considers the larger ecological setting, rather than a project-specific environmental assessment that focuses on site-specific issues within defined boundaries. Potential

future exploration projects addressed within the SEAs include 2D/3D and wide azimuth (WAZ) seismic programs and other geophysical surveys and the drilling of wells (either exploration wells or delineation wells). These activities require the specific approval of the CNSOPB, and each require a project-specific environmental assessment.

SEA allows for the incorporation of environmental considerations at the earliest stages of program planning. Once complete, the SEAs will provide regulators and operators with a better understanding of the existing environmental conditions and biological species composition within this area. Information from the SEAs will assist the Board in its determination with respect to the potential issuance of future exploration rights within the SEA areas, and may identify general restrictive or mitigative measures that should be considered for application to consequent exploration activities.

The SEAs provide an overview of the existing environment, discusses in broader terms the potential environmental effects associated with offshore oil and gas exploration activities in the study area, identify knowledge and data gaps, highlight issues of concern, and make recommendations for mitigation and planning.

Comments on the SEAs may be addressed to:

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