Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Pêches et Océans Canada

P.O. Box 5667
St. John's, NL A1C 5X1

Your file *Votre référence*

November 4, 2015

Our file *Notre référence*
PATH #15-HNFL-00546

Darren Hicks
Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
140 Water St., 4th Floor
St. John's, NL A1C 6H6

Dear Mr. Hicks:

Re: Review of Project Description and Draft Scoping Document CGG Services (Canada) Inc. Newfoundland Offshore Seismic Program 2016-2025

I am writing further to your October 22, 2015 email and letter requesting review of the project description and draft scoping document for the above noted seismic survey program proposed for Newfoundland Offshore (Eastern and Southeastern) Areas for 2016 – 2025.

Please be advised that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is in possession of expert knowledge and advice related to fish, fish habitat, marine mammals, species at risk, sensitive marine areas, and fisheries that may inform the project environmental assessment.

Based on review of the Project Description for the above noted program it is not clear what level of seismic survey is planned for 2016 as the project description indicates in Section 2.2.3 (page 7) that *"..In 2016 ~5,000 km2 of 3D seismic data will be acquired..."* and then in Section 2.2.6 (page 7) it is noted that *"...in 2016 the proposed 2D/3D/4D seismic survey sound source..."* It should be clear within the subsequent project Environmental Assessment (EA) what type of seismic surveys will be proposed for 2016 and for which the EA will be based.

Based on review of the Project Description (Section 2.3 page 9) and the Draft Scoping Document (Section 5.2.12 page 7) it is not clear how (or if) monitoring and/or auditing of adherence to applicable mitigations committed to in the project EA will be undertaken. It is felt that this should be addressed within the project EA.

Future correspondence in relation to the environmental assessment for this proposed survey can be addressed to me by regular mail or [redacted]

Canada



If you have any questions in this regard please do not hesitate to contact me at 709.772.3521.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist – Marine, Coastal, Oil and Gas Development
Fisheries Protection and Regulatory Reviews
Ecosystems Management Branch