## Moss, Melissa

**From:** Pulchan,Jerry (ECCC) <Jerry.Pulchan@ec.gc.ca>
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2024 2:44 PM
**To:** Moss, Melissa
**Subject:** FW: Hibernia Management Development Company Seismic Activity - EA Update 2024 (Email 2 of 2)
**Attachments:** Appendix 2 Guidance procedures infographic.pdf; Appendix 3 Seabird Identification Photo Card 2017.pdf; Best practices for stranded birds_CWS_2017.pdf; ECCC_StrandedBirds_DataEntryForm_V1.3.xlsx

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**From:** Roberts,Sydney (elle | she, her) (ECCC) <sydney.roberts@ec.gc.ca>
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2024 1:21 PM
**To:** Pulchan,Jerry (ECCC) <Jerry.Pulchan@ec.gc.ca>
**Cc:** SCF-ATL Marin / CWS-ATL Marine <SCF-ATLMarin-CWS-ATLMarine@ec.gc.ca>; Mailhiot,Joshua (il | he, him) (ECCC) <Joshua.Mailhiot@ec.gc.ca>
**Subject:** Hibernia Management Development Company Seismic Activity - EA Update 2024

Hi Jerry,

Please send the following comments to Melissa Moss (MMoss@cnlopb.ca) at your earliest convenience. I have attached the original request for your information (noting that it also includes the ExxonMobil 2024 Update that was sent simultaneously).

Environment and Climate Change Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service (ECCC-CWS) has reviewed the *Hibernia Management and Development Company 2D/3D/4D Seismic Projects (2013-Life of Field) Newfoundland Offshore Area – 2024 Environmental Assessment Update*, and offers the following recommendations.

1. ECCC-CWS notes that Section 3.1.2 – Marine Birds includes "marine bird species of conservation concern with updated conservation status since the previous EA update" but has only included Ivory Gull and Leach's Storm-petrel. ECCC-CWS notes that the EA Update should also reference Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*), which were added to Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* as "Special Concern" in May 2019, and Ross' Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*), whose Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) status changed from Threatened to Endangered in October 2021.

2. ECCC-CWS notes that the project is located relative to known foraging habitats of Leach's Storm-petrel (COSEWIC-assessed as "Threatened" in November 2020), particularly from important breeding colonies at Gull Island and Baccalieu Island. As a result, the project has the potential for increased interactions with Leach's Storm-petrel and other migratory birds, particularly with respect to attraction to artificial lighting and potential strandings on vessels and project infrastructure (per Gjerdrum et al., 2021), storm-petrels are the most commonly stranded species in NL (93%) based on reports from 1998-2018). The location and proposed timing of activities overlap with peak storm-petrel stranding period (mid-September to mid-November) when young Leach's Storm-petrel fledge and make their first flight offshore.

   The prompt location of stranded birds through daily, systematic searches of vessel(s) increases the potential of reducing harm and/or mortality of stranded birds Gjerdrum er al., 2018 states per reports that 98% of storm-petrels found alive were successfully released back to the ocean.

ECCC-CWS recommends that the proponent should develop and implement vessel-specific systematic search protocols for stranded birds that will be undertaken by trained, experienced observers. ECCC-CWS provides the following guidance (attached) regarding the development and implementation of systematic stranded bird protocols, for the proponent's consideration, and is available to review draft protocols prior to their implementation (please contact scf-atlmarin-cws-atlmarine@ec.gc.ca).

- ECCC-CWS Guidance for Developing Systematic Stranded Bird Survey Protocols for Vessels and Platforms.
- Appendix 1 – Stranded Bird Encounter Datasheet
- Appendix 2 – Infographic and Reference Card – *What to do when you find a stranded bird?*
- Appendix 3 – Seabird Identification Photo Card
- *Procedures for handling and documenting stranded birds encountered on infrastructure offshore Atlantic Canada*
- MS Excel Stranded seabird datasheet

Additionally, given the high potential for migratory bird strandings, particularly Leach's Storm-petrel in mid-September to mid-November, ECCC-CWS recommends that the proponent consider including stranded seabird awareness training for all members on the vessel, to ensure that individuals are adequately informed of potential impacts to migratory birds. ECCC-CWS is able to provide awareness materials for the proponent's consideration, if desired.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks

Sydney

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