February 5, 2015

Distribution:

ExxonMobil Canada Ltd. Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Geophysical, Geochemical, Environmental and Geotechnical Survey Programs, 2015-2024 Commencement on Environmental Assessment

On February 2, 2015, ExxonMobil Canada Ltd. (ExxonMobil) submitted to the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) a project description for geophysical, geochemical, environmental and geotechnical survey programs. The C-NLOPB determined that the Project would require an authorization pursuant to Section 138(1) (b) of the *Canada-Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation Act* and Section 134(1) (b) of the *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Newfoundland and Labrador Act*, referred to herein as the *Accord Acts*.

The attached project description outlines the activities proposed for the program. A seismic survey is proposed for 2015 with subsequent surveys proposed for following years until 2024.

The C-NLOPB has determined that your agency is in the possession of environmental or fishery related experts that are required in the completion of this assessment.

This letter seeks, pursuant to the *Accord Acts*, to: identify the departments or agencies that may have expertise; set a timetable for conducting the determination; and seek comments on the attached draft scoping document.

Timing of Assessment

The C-NLOPB requests that the determination be carried out in as timely a manner as possible, and propose the following schedule:

Expertise Request	**Response by February 20, 2015**
Review of draft EA	Response approximately 6 weeks after receipt of document.
Review of revised EA or addendum, if required	Response approximately 3 weeks after receipt of document.
Preparation of EA determination	3 weeks for completion (may commence during review of final EA or addendum); includes review of all drafts.

Pursuant to the *Accord Acts*, the C-NLOPB requests that you review the attached information and inform the C-NLOPB by **February 20, 2015** of your determination. If you determine that you are in possession of any specialist or expert information or knowledge please advise the C-NLOPB of the nature of that information or knowledge and the person to contact for assistance by **February 20, 2015**.

If no response is received from you by the date indicated above, the C-NLOPB will assume that your department or agency is not in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge.

Species at Risk - Section 79(1) Notification of Competent Minister

Pursuant to Section 79(1) of the *Species at Risk Act (SARA)*, the C-NLOPB hereby informs the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (the Competent Ministers) that the following Schedule 1 Species are likely to be in the project area under the jurisdiction of the C-NLOPB. A determination of the likelihood of adverse affects on these species will be undertaken during the determination process.

• Endangered:	Turtle, Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
	Whale, Blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*)
	Whale, North Atlantic right (*Eubalaena glacialis*)
	Gull, Ivory (*Pagophila eburnea)*
	Shark, White (*Carcharodon carcharias*)
• Threatened:	Wolffish, Northern (*Anarhichas denticulatus*)
	Wolffish, Spotted (*Anarhichas minor*)
• Special Concern:	Wolffish, Atlantic (*Anarhichas lupus*)
	Whale, Fin (*Balenoptera physalus*)
	Whale, Sowerby's beaked (*Mesoplodon bidens*)

If you have any questions on the attached, or wish to discuss the above, I may be reached at 709-778-1431 or via email at <dhicks@cnlopb.ca>.

Yours truly,

Original signed by Darren Hicks

Darren Hicks
Environmental Analyst

Attachments

Cc D. Burley
E. Young

DISTRIBUTION:

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