

Area 23 Snow Crab Fishermen's Association

11Beaumont Avenue, Sydney River, N.S. B1S 1J4
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October 9, 2013

Christine Bonnell-Eisnor
Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
18th Floor TD Center
1791 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3K9
callforbids@cnsopb.ns.ca

Dear Ms Bonnell-Eisnor:

RE: Call for Bids ~ Seismic investigations NS 13-1 & other parcels

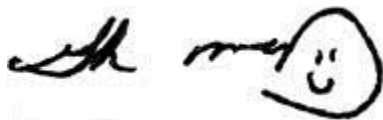
We are extremely concerned about any Seismic investigation of ocean habitat. It is our belief that the seismic exploration has an adverse population level effect on Snow Crab particularly, but the interaction may adversely affect other fish as well.

While our preference would be the exclusion of seismic activity across Snow Crab habitat, we understand this is not likely. We are cognisant of the potential economic value the discovery of oil and gas reserves presents to the province of Nova Scotia. Still, our industry generates over \$100 million in economic value to Nova Scotia and is based on a biological system that is more delicate than one would normally expect. As such, we would ask that any investigation be focused minimizing the amount of seismic interaction to acquire the minimum information required. A critical review of all existing geological and seismic information needs to be completed to focus targeted areas of interest, ensure no duplication of effort and minimize impact. Further we would ask and expect enhanced scientific investigation of Snow Crab to the cellular level at both the raw Science level and through the industry based environmental effects monitoring.

We are looking to minimize and mitigate the damage involved in the seismic investigation of Snow Crab habitat for oil and gas exploration. We are not opposed to oil and gas exploration and appreciate the potential value to the people of Nova Scotia. However, we have developed a valuable renewable resource that has a very delicate nature that is adversely impacted by seismic activity. Like a liver biopsy, some damage is necessary to acquire important information to move forward. We need to ensure that any seismic investigation is managed to develop valuable information with as little damage as possible.

Sincerely,

AREA 23 SNOW CRAB FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon K MacDonal', followed by a simple smiley face drawn in a circle.

Gordon K MacDonal M.Sc.
Managing Director, Area 23 Snow Crab Fishermen's Association