



Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

October 3, 2013

Christine Bonnell-Eisnor
Director, Rights Management & Finance
Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
18th Floor, T.D. Centre
1791 Barrington Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3K9

Ms. Bonnell-Eisnor:

Re: Call for Bids NS13-1

My name is John Couture and I am employed by the Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources in Eskasoni, Nova Scotia. I was asked to attend the FAC meetings held by the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board to provide feedback to these five communities.

As Mi'kmaq, we have an inherent right to access and use our resources and we have a responsibility to use those resources in a sustainable way. The Mi'kmaq way of resource management includes a spiritual element that ties together people, plants, animals, and the environment.

I have read through a large amount of reading scientific publication regarding seismic activity and the long-term sustainability of commercial fisheries after such activity. One document for example was *DFO's Review of Scientific Information on Impacts of Seismic Sound on Fish, Invertebrates, Marine Turtles and Marine Mammals*, which spoke to the significant level of uncertainty. There seems to be a lack of expertise seeking the long term impact particularly on the physiological damage to Snow Crab and other species, which are the most significant species being fished by Unama'ki communities.

I would like to clarify for the record that the comments provided regarding this call for proposals is **NOT** consultation or part of a process of consultation.

The Crown has a constitutional duty to consult with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia when it is considering a decision or matter that may result in the infringement of the constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights of the Mi'kmaq or have some impact on Mi'kmaq rights.

In summary, I would like the Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board to **NOT** permit any seismic activity in these six parcels of ocean (NS13-1), until there is scientific evidence that no risk to species, habitat, and sustainability have been established.

Yours in recognition of
Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and treaty rights,

John Couture
Commercial Fisheries Liaison Coordinator
Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

cc: Phil Drinnan, We'koqma'q Fishery Manager
Charles Doucette, Potlotek Fishery Manager
Preston Bernard, Wagmatcook Fishery Manager
Hubert Nicholas, Membertou Fishery Manager
Leonard Denny, Eskasoni Fishery Manager
Chief Terrance J. Paul, President, UINR
Janice Maloney, KMKNO

