



**Seafood Producers Association of Nova Scotia**  
**Association des Producteurs de Fruits de Mer de la Nouvelle Ecosse**

1801-45 Alderney Dr., Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 2N6 Tel: (902) 463-7790 Fax: (902) 469-8294 E-Mail: spans@ns.sympatico.ca

Via Email ([callforbids@ensopb.ns.ca](mailto:callforbids@ensopb.ns.ca))

June 19, 2015

Christine Bonnell-Eisnor  
Director, Regulatory Affairs & Finance  
Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor TD Centre  
1791 Barrington Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 3K9

Dear Ms. Bonnell-Eisnor:

The Seafood Producers Association of Nova Scotia (SPANS) was made aware of the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) April 28, 2015 Call for Bids NS 15-1 at the meeting of the CNSOPB Fisheries Advisory Committee held on May 13, 2015.

For your information, in previous years, notice of the CNSOPB Call for Bids has been circulated immediately upon release via separate email to members of the Fisheries Advisory Committee. To the best of my knowledge, this did not take place in 2015. We suggest this separate email notice of your Call for Bids be resumed in future years to ensure distribution is as broad as possible.

As you know, the Call for Bids NS15-1 contains a total of nine parcels. Four of these are located in what is referred to as the western Scotian margin. In fact, two of the parcels (one and three) are immediately adjacent to the Georges Bank Moratorium Area (GBMA) - they abut the line. Parcels two and four are close. We estimate parcel two's western border is about 25 kilometres from the GBMA.

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Letter to Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board

June 19, 2015

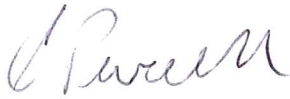
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SPANS has long held the view that the fisheries industry is able to coexist off Nova Scotia with the oil and gas industry other than in prolific fisheries area (for example, Georges Bank). We are on record at the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency vis-à-vis the Shelburne Basin Venture Exploration Drilling Project that we have concern about the potential of Shell's project to impact Georges Bank. Given the location of the four parcels between the Shell acreage and the GBMA, our concern is intensified.

We have concerns about seismic work in these parcels and we have questions and major concerns about the fate of oil spilled in the event of a blowout. Will this spilled oil make its way up and along the fishing banks offshore Nova Scotia (particularly Georges Bank)? The fishing industry is very skeptical about the claims being made that dispersants contribute to a net environmental benefit. Our feeling is that the "benefits" touted ignore or downplay damage to organisms living in the water column and the benthic community as well as the habitat that supports that life and those industries that rely on the stocks of commercially valuable resources among that life. Any oil or dispersed oil that makes its way onto the fishing grounds of Georges Bank is certain to be destructive to the life cycles of the fisheries resources resident there and disruptive of those whose livelihoods is based on those resources. That possibility, regardless of how remote it is, is very troubling.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



for

Roger Stirling  
President