

Elizabeth MacDonald

From: Pulchan, Jerry [St. John's] <Jerry.Pulchan@EC.GC.CA>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2015 4:09 PM
To: Elizabeth MacDonald
Cc: Hingston, Michael [Dartmouth]
Subject: EC Response 2015-032: Strategic Environmental Assessment draft Scoping Document now available for public comment

Ms. MacDonald,

Environment Canada has reviewed the above-mentioned document and offer the following comments. The *Strategic Environmental Assessment-Sydney Basin and Orpheus Graben Areas – Scoping Document (Draft)* which is now out for public review provides confusing direction on how birds should be considered in the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

While birds protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* are included in the Species of Special Status Valued Environmental Component on page 7: “A number of marine fish, bird, mammal and reptile species that are known or likely to occur in the SEA Study Area have been designated as being at risk, and have varying degrees of formal protection under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and/or other legislation.”, other sections of the scoping document continue to list birds as being outside the scope of the EA which could be confusing. In particular, it is stated on page 2 that “The reader will note that Appendix A lists various environmental factors that are considered to be outside of the scope of the SEA, including several physical components (particularly, air and water quality) as well as marine fish, birds, mammals and reptiles that do not currently have special status and/or which are not subject to fishing activity or other human uses.”, and Appendix A – Components, Activities and Issues that are Outside the Scope of the SEA, includes “Marine Fish, Birds, Mammals and Reptiles”. In order to remove confusion we would suggest that the wording on page 2 confirm that special status is as defined in section 6.3.1 and that the wording in Appendix A be consistent as well.

Please refer to our department’s April 30, 2015 letter which identifies the reasons for inclusion of migratory birds in the scope of the SEA, and which includes information which should be included in the SEA/sensitivity maps.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding our comments.

Jerry Pulchan

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From: Elizabeth MacDonald [<mailto:EMacDonald@cnsopb.ns.ca>]
Sent: May 7, 2015 2:42 PM
To: Pulchan, Jerry [St. John's]
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Subject: Strategic Environmental Assessment draft Scoping Document now available for public comment

Good afternoon Jerry,

Thank you for the comments from Environment Canada on the draft Scoping Document for the SEA. I've added information on migratory birds to the document and made some additional changes as well after consideration of the comments from EC.

The document is out for public comment until May 28th. It is available to view or download from the CNSOPB SEA Public Registry: <http://www.cnsopb.ns.ca/environment/environmental-assessments/public-registry-sea/file-no-753458>.

Best regards,

Elizabeth

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