



Newfoundland and Labrador Region
Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre
P.O. Box 5667
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February 2, 2022

Mr. Terence Hubbard
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Vice President, Operations
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

I am writing with regard to the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Bay du Nord Development Project and the related, recently published, Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) Science Response Report.

Early in the EA process, in 2019, at the request of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC), DFO reviewed a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) related to a proposal to develop the Bay du Nord oil field, offshore of eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. As part of this review, a CSAS process was initiated, which is the scientific peer review process used to generate science advice within DFO. The final CSAS report was eventually published in January 2022, after some internal delays. While the report was published in January 2022, it reflects information available in 2019 and does not provide comments on subsequent information provided during the environmental assessment process. Further, the findings of the CSAS process formed part of DFO's initial advice provided to IAAC in spring 2019, and were taken into account throughout the environmental assessment. Consequently, the January 2022 publication of the final CSAS report does not affect any DFO advice on the additional information received during the environmental assessment process after spring 2019. DFO provided its final comments on the draft EA report and potential conditions in November 2021 and indicated that our outstanding concerns had been addressed.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Blanchard
Regional Director General
Newfoundland and Labrador Region

Cc: Alexandra Dostal, Assistant Deputy Minister, Aquatic Ecosystems
Arran McPherson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ecosystems and Oceans Science
Eric Landry, Director General, Operations Sector, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
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