



Memorial

University of Newfoundland

May 7, 2018



TO Dr. David Anderson, Chair - National Advisory Panel on Marine Protected Areas Standards

FR Dr. William Montevecchi, University Research Professor – Memorial University of Newfoundland

RE Panel Mandate and Soliciting Balanced Information from Ocean Stakeholders

Given the Panel's Mandate, it is worrisome that meeting in St. John's has given no room for a presentation on marine birds – the standard global indicators of ocean environmental conditions.

Suffice to say the regulatory regime – the Canada Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board [C-NLOPB] has failed in its mandate to adequately monitor seabird occurrences and mortality at offshore platforms. This despite the fact that commitments for monitoring and protection were made at every public hearing on offshore development projects

During the two decades of offshore regulation, the population the seabird most attracted to and most vulnerable to offshore lighting – the Leach's Storm-Petrel - has exhibited declines of 40 – 50 % at the IUCN species' major colonies in eastern Newfoundland. As background information and documentation, I attach four items for the Panel's consideration: 1) a 1999 Report to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers [CAPP] that includes a straight-forward and very modest protocol for monitoring seabirds at platforms which has never been implemented. 2) a review paper on the influences of artificial nocturnal light on seabirds. 3) a 2018 independent assessment of offshore drilling for the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency [CEAA]. 4) a recent newspaper column that overviews the decline of the eastern Canadian storm-petrel population. Scientific overviews and documents are forthcoming.

I hope that these documents will be of use to you and the panel members in the appraisals that you are seeking. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with the Panel.

Thank you for your attention and consideration in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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