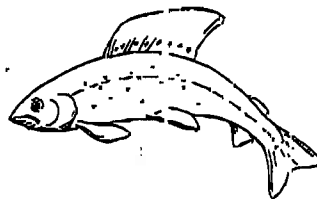




Fisheries
and Oceans

Pêches
et Océans



Fish Habitat Management
P.O. Box 1871
Inuvik, Northwest Territories
X0E 0T0

January 7, 2003

TO/A:

Alan Ehrlich
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact
Review Board

Copy:

Laura Van Ham - NEB

DFO File No. SC02019

MESSAGE

FAX

(867) 766-7074

(403) 292-5876

page 1 of 3



**RE: WesternGeco, Mackenzie River 2D Seismic Program 2003 (Re-Activation) -DFO
Comments on Draft Terms of Reference.**

FROM/DE:

Pete Cott
Area Habitat Biologist
Western Arctic Area

telephone (867) 777-7520
facsimile (867) 777-7501
cottp@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Canada

80

Fisheries
and OceansPêches
et OcéansFish Habitat Management
P.O. Box 1871
Inuvik, Northwest Territories
X0E 0T0Your file *Votre référence*Our file *Notre référence*
SC02019

January 9, 2003

Alan Ehrlich
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Sent by Fax (867) 766-7074**RE: WesternGeco, Mackenzie River 2D Seismic Program 2003 (Re-Activation)
DFO Comments on Draft Terms of Reference.**

Dear Alan,

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Western Arctic Area (DFO) has reviewed the Draft Terms of Reference for the above mentioned project proposal. The following are suggested additions:


- 1) **Page 7, Section 4.5 Alternatives:** A clear rationale should also be given for why WesternGeco is proposing to use the 1500 cubic inch airgun arrays over the 1000 and 1250 cubic inch arrays that were tested along with the 1500 cubic inch during the summer of 2002.
- 2) **Page 7, Section 4.8 Noise:** Additional bullets for this section should be:
 - noise thresholds for fish species likely to be encountered (all life stages)
 - pressure as it relates to noise and the possible effects on fish likely to be encountered (all life stages)
- 3) **Page 8, Section 4.9 Aquatic Resources:** The third bullet should be changed to read: "potential impacts of airguns on all life stages of fish species that are likely to be present in the Liard and Mackenzie rivers at the time of the seismic survey, including physical and behavioural effects;
- 4) **Page 8, Section 4.9 Aquatic Resources:** The fourth bullet should be changed to read: "details of mitigation measures to prevent mortality, injury or adverse behavioural changes to fish (all life stages), including, but not limited to, ramping up procedures;"
- 5) **Page 8, Section 4.9 Aquatic Resources:** Additional bullets for this section should be:
 - potential impacts of airguns on invertebrates
 - effects on subsistence and recreational fisheries in the project area
 - shutdown protocol in the event that fish mortality or stress is detected

Canada

Page 1 of 2

SC02019

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at (867) 777-7520 or Bruce Hanna at (867) 669-4931.



Pete Cott
Area Habitat Biologist
Fish Habitat Management
Department of Fisheries and Oceans- Western Arctic Area

Copy:
Bruce Hanna, Habitat Biologist – DFO
Kathleen Simms, Habitat Biologist – DFO
Laura Van Ham - NEB