



## Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

Box 938 , 5102-50th Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

From: Sherry Sian Fax: (867) 766-7074  
Phone: (867) 766-7063  
Date: Sept. 18, 2003 Pages: 2 including this page  
To: Distribution Fax:  
CC: Bob Wooley  
Re: DFO Critique of Responses to Fisheries Questions (EA-03-002, EA-03-004)

### NOTES:

For your information.

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Todd Burlingame	Chair	(867) 766-7059.....TBurlingame@mveirb.nt.ca
Vern Christensen	Executive Director	(867) 766-7055.....VChristensen@mveirb.nt.ca
Kirsten Berg	Administration Assistant (casual)	(867) 766-7050.....Secretary@mveirb.nt.ca
Bridgette Larocque	Finance & Administration Officer	(867) 766-7054.....BLarocque@mveirb.nt.ca
Karen MacArthur	Traditional Knowledge Coordinator	(867) 766-7060.....KMacArthur@mveirb.nt.ca
Sherry Sian	Environmental Assessment Officer	(867) 766-7063 .....SSian@mveirb.nt.ca
Martin Haefele	Environmental Assessment Officer	(867) 766-7053 .....MHaeefe @mveirb.nt.ca
Alan Ehrlich	Environmental Assessment Officer	(867) 766-7056.....AEhrlich@mveirb.nt.ca
Roland Semjanovs	Communications Officer	(867) 766-7051 .....RSemjanovs@mveirb.nt.ca

URI: [www.mveirb.nt.ca](http://www.mveirb.nt.ca)

**Sherry Sian**

**From:** DahlJ@DFO-MPO.GC.CA  
**Sent:** Friday, September 19, 2003 2:22 PM  
**To:** Istephenson@wascomgt.com; BlaisE@DFO-MPO.GC.CA  
**Cc:** BalintD@DFO-MPO.GC.CA; Sherry Sian; csecap@direct.ca; a\_farrage@v-cgw.com  
**Subject:** RE: DFO concerns

I am appalled at how a few simple questions can be misconstrued and turned into an issue receiving far more attention than is warranted. To top it off, Mr. Stephenson has found it necessary (in his email today) to insert his foot even further into his mouth (if that is at all possible) and question the competency of DFO and the Review Board rather than just simply answering the questions that were asked.

DFO asked for information on water depth to verify statements made in the EA. This is standard practice and if the answers were so obvious we wouldn't have asked. **A simple response telling us that published bathymetric charts were used rather than the consultants own survey data, would have addressed this long ago.**

In DFO's Sept. 2, '03 letter, we asked for a) information on the water depth survey stated to have been conducted by the contractor, and b) depth data to verify that drill sites were in water depths greater than 15m. The response we received on Sept. 8, '03 from Laurence Stephenson was a) that depth information was "preliminary, proprietary and too scattered to be of any meaningful consequence.", and b) that water depth information was "gleaned from existing published data."

DFO then asked again in their Sept. 17. '03 letter that a) depth information be provided to confirm claims that the program will not impact on spawning shoals or rearing areas and b) a reference be provided for the depth data used. Mr. Stephenson responded that same day that no new water depth data were produced and that they basically "confirmed that the current published bathymetric maps over the area we are proposing to drill is correct". This "confirmation" appeared possible despite earlier claims that the depth data were "preliminary, proprietary and too scattered to be of any meaningful consequence." At this point Mr. Stephenson chose to delve into other issues related to fish and fish habitat rather than simply addressing the original questions posed by DFO.

FINALLY on Sept. 18, '03, Mr. Stephenson (see below) gave the reference for the depth data that had been used. As you can see the email goes on in a most inappropriate manner. Of course DFO is aware of bathymetric charts for the area, we only asked that Mr. Stephenson support the statements that he made.

The attached email from today topples into the ridiculous! It is **slanderous** towards DFO and the Review Board, and I will not waste my time responding to it.

I find attacks in Mr. Stephenson's correspondence to be unprofessional, uncalled for and unproductive. He has wasted our time and caused more stress than is warranted. I will not have my staff continue to deal with such unreasonableness, and I am requesting that an alternate contact be identified for DFO to address technical questions to in the future.

**Julie Dahl**

(867)669-4911 | facsimile/ télécopieur (867) 669-4940  
dahlj@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

**Area Chief, Habitat | Chef de Secteur, Habitat**

Fish Habitat Management, Western Arctic Area | Gestion de l'Habitat du Poisson, Secteur de l'Arctique de l'Ouest  
Central and Arctic Region | Région du Centre et de l'Arctique  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada | 101-5204 50th Ave, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 1E2  
Pêches et Océans Canada | 101-5204 50<sup>e</sup> Ave, Yellowknife, T.N.-O, X1A 1E2  
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Laurie Stephenson [mailto:Istephenson@wascomgt.com]

9/19/2003