



Canadian Environmental  
Assessment Agency

Agence canadienne  
d'évaluation environnementale

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August 25, 2015

Agency File No.: 005490

Renny Talbot  
Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist  
Pacific Region  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
3190 Hammond Bay Road  
Nanaimo BC V9T 6N7

Dear Mr. Talbot:

**Subject: Notification Pursuant to the Requirements of Subsection 79(1)  
of the *Species at Risk Act* for the Aurora LNG Project**

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) is writing to inform Fisheries and Oceans Canada that in performing the duties and functions of the responsible authority for the environmental assessment (EA) of the proposed Aurora LNG Project (the Project), the Agency has determined that the Project may affect aquatic species at risk.

### ***The Project***

Aurora Liquefied Natural Gas Ltd. (the proponent) proposes to construct and operate a liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facility at Digby Island, approximately three kilometres southwest of Prince Rupert, British Columbia. As proposed, the Project would convert processed natural gas, delivered by a third party pipeline, into LNG for export to global markets. An onshore LNG facility is being considered for this project, incorporating LNG trains, associated services, and marine facilities. The operational phase of the proposed LNG facility is foreseen to be 25 years, with full build-out capacity expected to be between 20 to 24 million tonnes per year.

On August 21, 2014, the federal Minister of the Environment approved the Government of British Columbia's request to substitute the provincial EA of the Project for the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* process. The

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substituted EA is being conducted by the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (BC EAO). Additional information is available on the Agency's website at [www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca](http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca) (registry reference number 80075). Additional information regarding the provincial process can be found at the BC EAO's Project Information Centre at [www.eao.gov.bc.ca](http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca).

### ***Potential Adverse Environmental Effects***

Listed aquatic species or their critical habitat as defined in the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), and other aquatic species considered candidates for federal listing (i.e., by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)), that may be impacted by the Project are provided in Annex I. Please note that this annex is based on information provided by the proponent, including the Aurora LNG Project Description (available on the Agency's registry website, as noted above) and supplemental information provided to the BC EAO. Additional species at risk may be identified as the EA progresses. In the event that this should occur, the BC EAO will notify the appropriate federal departments of any changes.

The potential adverse environmental effects of the Project on aquatic species at risk, as described by the proponent in the Project Description include:

- Permanent alteration or destruction of marine fish habitat (i.e., marine riparian habitat, intertidal habitat, and/or subtidal habitat, includes marine plants) during construction as a result of dredging, pile driving, and disposal of dredgeate;
- Injury or mortality of marine fish, invertebrates and/or marine mammals due to underwater noise created by in-water construction activities;
- Injury or mortality of marine mammals due to marine vessel strikes;
- Change in marine sediment or water quality due to increased turbidity, resuspension of existing contaminants during in-water construction, and operations (i.e., stormwater/wastewater discharge);
- Behavioural disturbance to marine fish and marine mammals due to underwater noise generated by construction and operation-related activities;
- Permanent alteration or loss of fish habitat from clearing of riparian forest, and construction of the LNG facility, haul road, marine terminal, material offloading ramp, and temporary construction infrastructure and facilities;
- Reduced habitat quality due to changes in surface water quality and sediment quality from sediment releases and introduction of nutrients and metals from blasting (potential effect dependent upon site geology).

Sean Moore is managing the EA process for the Project on behalf of the BC EAO. If Fisheries and Oceans Canada is aware of additional listed or COSEWIC designated aquatic species and/or potential adverse environmental effects to those species and their critical habitat, please contact Mr. Moore prior to September 21, 2015 at (250) 356-5326 or [sean.moore@gov.bc.ca](mailto:sean.moore@gov.bc.ca). Please copy the Agency's Project Liaison, Vivian Au ([Vivian.Au@ceaa-acee.gc.ca](mailto:Vivian.Au@ceaa-acee.gc.ca)), in further correspondence on this matter.

Sincerely,



Lisa Poier  
Team Lead  
Pacific and Yukon Region

Attachment: Annex I: Table of federal listed (SARA Schedule 1) and COSEWIC aquatic species

c.c.: Sean Moore, British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office  
Darcy Janko, Aurora Liquefied Natural Gas Ltd.  
Jeanette Nixon, Aurora Liquefied Natural Gas Ltd.

## Annex I:

**Table of federal listed (SARA Schedule 1) and COSEWIC (SARA Schedule 1 - candidate) aquatic species, as identified by the proponent as being present, or potentially occurring within the Project Region.**

Common Name	Scientific Name	List	Status	Last COSEWIC Assessment
Green Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>	SARA	Special Concern	2013
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	SARA	Endangered	2013
Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	SARA	Endangered	2012
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	SARA	Threatened	2005
Basking Shark	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	SARA	Endangered	2007
Sea Otter	<i>Enhydra lutris</i>	SARA	Special Concern	2007
Grey Whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	SARA	Special Concern	2004
North Pacific Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena japonica</i>	SARA	Endangered	2003
Steller Sea Lion	<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	SARA	Special Concern	2013
Tope	<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	SARA	Special Concern	2007
Northern Abalone	<i>Haliotis kamschatkana</i>	SARA	Threatened	2009
Bluntnose Sixgill Shark	<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>	SARA	Special Concern	2007
Humpback Whale (North Pacific population)	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	SARA	Threatened	2011
Killer Whale (Northeast Pacific transient population)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	SARA	Threatened	2008
Killer Whale (Northeast Pacific northern resident population)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	SARA	Threatened	2008
Killer Whale (Northeast Pacific offshore population)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	SARA	Threatened	2008
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	SARA	Special Concern	2003
Rougheye Rockfish type I	<i>Sebastes sp. type I</i>	SARA	Special Concern	2007
Rougheye Rockfish type II	<i>Sebastes sp. type II</i>	SARA	Special Concern	2007
Yelloweye Rockfish	<i>Sebastes ruberrimus</i>	SARA	Special Concern	2008
Coho Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	COSEWIC	Endangered	2002
Darkblotched Rockfish	<i>Sebastes crameri</i>	COSEWIC	Special Concern	2009
Quillback Rockfish	<i>Sebastes maliger</i>	COSEWIC	Threatened	2009
Bocaccio	<i>Sebastes paucispinis</i>	COSEWIC	Endangered	2013
Canary Rockfish	<i>Sebastes pinniger</i>	COSEWIC	Threatened	2007
Yellowmouth Rockfish	<i>Sebastes reedi</i>	COSEWIC	Threatened	2010
Spiny Dogfish	<i>Squalus suckleyi</i>	COSEWIC	Special Concern	2010
Eulachon	<i>Thaleichthys pacificus</i>	COSEWIC	Special Concern	2013