

ARTIFICIAL REEF SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ANNAPOLIS – HALKETT BAY PROJECT

Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (“CEAA”)
Environmental Assessment (screening level)

Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry
Reference No. 09-01-51994

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(March 19, 2010)

The public is invited to participate in the *CEAA* environmental assessment of the Artificial Reef Society of British Columbia (“ARSBC”) Annapolis-Halkett Bay project.

ARSBC is proposing to sink the decommissioned Canadian warship, the former HMCS Annapolis, at Halkett Bay, Gambier Island, Howe Sound, and place the vessel on the seabed at Halkett Bay for the purpose of creating an artificial reef (the “project”).

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (“DFO”) and Transport Canada (“TC”) are carrying out a screening level environmental assessment of the project as required pursuant to *CEAA*. Under section 5(1) of *CEAA* a federal environmental assessment is required in relation to the project because DFO and TC might take a course of action that would allow the project to be carried out.

ARSBC has advised DFO that the project will result in the harmful alteration, disruption, and or destruction of fish habitat (“HADD”), and has applied to DFO for authorization for that HADD pursuant to section 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act*. Transport Canada is reviewing the project pursuant to section 5(2) of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* (“NWPA”).

Public input will be considered throughout the course of the *CEAA* environmental assessment of the project.

Please direct inquiries, comments, and submissions to:

Bruce Clark
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Oceans, Habitat, and Enhancement
Lower Fraser Area
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Notice of Public Participation

Screening Report and Decision

At the conclusion of the environmental assessment, DFO and TC will describe the assessment in a CEAA environmental assessment screening report for the project. The report will include the screening decision, i.e., whether or not the project is likely to result in adverse environmental effect that cannot be justified under the circumstances.

The final draft of the screening report will be made available to the public for review and comment. Public comment regarding the draft screening report will be considered before the screening report and screening decision are finalized, and before DFO and TC take a course of action that would allow the project to be carried out.

Scope of project and factors to be considered

For the purposes of the CEAA environmental assessment, the scope of the project is all works, undertakings, and activities associated with the project.

In keeping with section 16(1) of CEAA, the environmental assessment of the project will include consideration of the following factors:

- a) the environmental effects of the project, including environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the project, and any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out;
- b) the significance of the effects referred to in paragraph a;
- c) comments from the public that are received in accordance with CEAA and the CEAA regulations;
- d) measures that are technically and economically feasible that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effect of the project; and,
- e) any other matter relevant to the screening that DFO or TC requires to be considered, such as the need for the project, and alternatives to the project.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry

Section 55 of CEAA requires that a public registry be established for all projects being reviewed pursuant to CEAA. To this end, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency has created the Canadian environmental assessment registry ("CEAR"). CEAA requires that all information and documents submitted in relation to the environmental assessment of a project be included in CEAR, and that the public have convenient access to the project CEAR and relevant project records. Consequently, all information and documents provided to DFO in relation to the environmental assessment of the project will be included in CEAR, and will be made available for public review upon request.

Comments received from members of the public will be included in the project CEAR, and will be made available for public review upon request. Interested parties may review any record relating to the project screening by contacting the DFO and TC CEAR co-ordinators through the CEAR internet site ("CEARIS") at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca. The project CEAR reference number is 09-01-51994.