

Proactive Disclosure

The Environmental Studies Research Fund

For the period: April 1, 2015 March 31, 2016

Background

The information and value of six funding agreements within the Environmental Studies Research Fund (ESRF) are listed below. The ESRF Management Board has committed to the proactive disclosure of funding agreements over \$25,000, in line with the broader government initiative to disclose this type of information. As always, the ESRF Annual Report provides ongoing status information on all funded projects.

ESRF Project Information

Proponent: ArcticNet Inc.

Years of agreement: FY 2015/16 to FY2018/19

Total Value: \$1,326,465

Integrated Beaufort Observatory (IBO)

The purpose of this project is to establish a regional ocean/sea ice/atmosphere observing system in the Canadian Beaufort Sea called the integrated Beaufort Observatory (iBO). The primary objectives of iBO are to:

- 1) Enhance the viability and safety of Beaufort oil and gas development through systematic observation of the marine environment and consequent advances in the understanding of Beaufort oceanography;
- 2) Enhance the numerical models required for planning and review of offshore activities throughout the region; and,
- 3) Inform the permitting/approvals process by collecting and analyzing data on ice and ocean conditions, and make this data available to northern residents, industry, regulators, and other stakeholders.

Proponent: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Years of agreement: FY 2015/16 to FY2017/18

Total Value: \$4,225,700

An assessment of the potential risks of seismic surveys to affect snow crab resources

The objective of this project is to examine potential risks of seismic air gun surveys to affect snow crab resources, including commercial catchability, movement, and physiology effects.

Proponent: Huntsman Marine Science Centre
Years of agreement: FY 2014/15 to FY2018/19
Total Value: \$1,629,285

Investigation of effects of east coast Canada Water Accommodated Fraction (WAF) and Chemically Enhanced Water Accommodated Fraction (CEWAF) on early life stages of commercially harvested marine species

The objective of this project is to provide essential ecotoxicology data associated with the response to east coast Canada oil spill of vulnerable early life stages of four commercially harvested species in offshore regions of Newfoundland & Labrador and Nova Scotia.

Proponent: Jasco Applied Sciences (Canada) Ltd.
Years of agreement: FY 2014/15 to FY2018/19
Total Value: \$2,845,889

Accoustic modeling and monitoring on Canada's east coast

The objective of this project is to create new knowledge on the natural soundscape on Canada East Coast, generate accurate models of the effects of seismic surveys through the east coast, and validate particle motion models for seismic airguns.

Proponent: LGL Limited
Years of agreement: FY 2014/15 to FY2018/19
Total Value: \$2,964,801

Assessing the quality of marine mammal detections using three complementary methods

The objectives of this project are to:

1. Optimize and test the use of the Automatic Infrared-based Marine Mammal Monitoring System (AIMMMS) for use in Atlantic Canada;
 2. Compare marine mammal detections made using three different methods (i.e., Marine Mammals Observers (MMOs) making visual observations, MMOs utilizing AIMMMS to make detections, and passive acoustic monitoring (PAM)); and,
 3. Evaluate the quality and accuracy of marine mammal detections made by MMOs and PAM operators with varying degrees of training.
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Proponent: S.L. Ross Environmental Research Limited
Years of agreement: FY 2015/16 to FY2016/17
Total Value: \$150,000

Experimental Spill to Research Spill Treating Agent Use in the Beaufort Sea: Preparation of Detailed Experimental Plan

The objective of this project is to prepare three detailed experimental plans documenting:

1. the supporting rational for arctic oil spill response experiments;

2. a literature review of the available information related to the oil spill response technique in an arctic environment;
3. a comprehensive description of the planned activities for the potential oil spill response experiments;
4. a short list of appropriate sites for the potential experiments;
5. a summary of the permits and community consultations that are required for each of the specific countermeasure experiments; and,
6. anticipated outcomes of the potential oil spill response experiments.