

Canadian Environmental Legislation Impacting to Sonar R&D

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Abstract

Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) Atlantic has a number of projects which require the transmission of acoustic energy. Because of potential adverse environmental affects, a number of Canadian laws and Department of National Defence (DND) policies impact on these research activities. In particular the Fisheries Act, the Oceans Act, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA), the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA), and the Species at Risk Act (SARA) influence the operation of research trials. Under CEAA research activities on CFAV Quest within Canadian waters are exempt from the requirement to carry out an environmental impact assessment; however, DND policy requires that the assessment be carried out. This poster provides an overview of the relevant legislation and policies together with a description of DRDC Atlantic's approach to addressing the various concerns in its EA process.