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May 3, 2023

Your file *Votre référence*

Our file *Notre référence*

23-HNFL-00190

Dr. Ralph Schneider
Institute of Geosciences
Christian-Albrechts-University
Ludewig-Meyn-Str. 10
24118 Kiel
ralph.schneider@ifg.uni-kiel.de

Subject: IGR-1417 - Germany - MSR Clearance Request for the R.V. MARIA S. MERIAN (Aug 15 - Sept 20) – Proposed works, undertakings or activities will not negatively impact fish habitat

Dear Dr. Ralph Schneider:

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program (the Program) of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) received your proposal on May 2, 2023. We understand that you propose to:

- Paleooceanographical and sedimentological investigations in Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait as well as in western Labrador Sea;
- Activities comprise biological and biogeochemical investigations of the plankton and benthic fauna as well as geochemical characterization of sediments, paleooceanographical and paleoclimatological studies;
- Operational methods include water sampling, water properties, hydroacoustic bottom surveys, biological sampling of plankton and benthos, sediment geochemistry;
- Ship will operate in the Hudson Strait, Hudson Bay and Western Labrador Sea, between 66°N and 55°N;
- Date of cruise: from 15.08.2023, St. Johns, Canada to 20.09.2023, Nuuk, Greenland

Our review considered the following information:

- Notification of proposed research cruise received by email

Your proposal has been reviewed to determine whether it is likely to result in:

- The death of fish by means other than fishing and the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat which are prohibited under subsections 34.4(1) and 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act*; and
- Effects to listed aquatic species at risk, any part of their critical habitat or the residences of their individuals in a manner which is prohibited under sections 32, 33 and subsection 58(1) of the *Species at Risk Act*.; and
- The introduction of aquatic species into regions or bodies of water frequented by fish where they are not indigenous, which is prohibited under section 10 of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations*.]

The aforementioned outcomes are prohibited unless authorized under their respective legislation and regulations.

Based on the information provided, we have found that the proposed works, undertakings or activities are of no concern. Consequently, no further review pursuant to the *Fisheries Act*, the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations* or the *Species at Risk Act*, as listed above, is required.

Should your plans change or if you have omitted some information in your proposal, further review by the Program may be required. Consult our website (<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>) or consult with a qualified environmental consultant to determine if further review may be necessary and/or if additional measures to protect fish and fish habitat (such as sediment and erosion control measures) should be implemented. It remains your responsibility to remain in compliance with the *Fisheries Act*, the *Species at Risk Act* and the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations*.

It is also your *Duty to Notify* DFO if you have caused, or are about to cause, the death of fish by means other than fishing and/or the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. Such notifications should be directed to (<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/contact-eng.html>). It remains your responsibility to meet all other federal, territorial, provincial and municipal requirements that apply to your proposal.

For future projects, you are asked to submit a Request for Review to the NL Region-FFHPP at FPP-NL@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

If you have any questions with the content of this letter, please contact Melanie Irvine at our St. John's office at Melanie.Irvine@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. Please refer to the file number referenced above when corresponding with the Program.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Johnson
Team Lead – Regulatory Review

Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program

Cc: Jason Kelly, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
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