

of Fisheries and Oceans Regional Office in Prince Rupert of the commencement and duration of submarine operations at the SEAFAC facility.

MITIGATION AND MONITORING

15. The possibilities for close monitoring of transits will be few, given that they will take place submerged. Reports of alleged damage from submarine-fishing boat encounters will need to be documented and provided to the U.S. Navy, which has undertaken to deal expeditiously and fairly with claims. U.S. assurances on liability and compensation are public, and can be obtained from the Department of External Affairs and International Trade.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

16. The considerations set forth in this assessment lead to the conclusion that the environmental consequences from consenting to the passage of submarines through Dixon Entrance are not considered significant. The possibility of submarine-fishing boat accidental encounters is the only area of potential increase in existing risk, albeit it is a small one. This is not an environmental concern but one of safety, that can be alleviated through practices and arrangements already in place.

Given the profusion of aquatic life in the Dixon Entrance, it is recommended that research on discharges and on related biological matters be continued.