

JUN 19 2020

Reg. #1834

Mr. Knut Skeidsvoll
Grieg Seafood Newfoundland Ltd.
PO Box 457
Marystown NL A0E 2M0

Dear Mr. Skeidsvoll:

RE: Environmental Effects Monitoring Plan for Groundwater Quantity and Quality at the Hatchery

On September 5, 2018, the Placentia Bay Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture Project was released from environmental assessment, subject to conditions. One of those conditions requires Grieg NL to “*submit Environmental Effects Monitoring Plans (EEMPs) to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment, and receive the Minister’s approval for the EEMPs, prior to the start of hatchery operations. The EEMPs will be developed to monitor effects as a result of the Project and to ensure that effects are documented and mitigated. The EEMPs will cover the following components:*

- i. Performance of sea cages;*
- ii. Genetic and ecological interactions of escaped farmed salmon on wild salmon;*
- iii. Genetic and ecological interactions of escaped farmed lumpfish on lumpfish;*
- iv. Performance of European-strain triploid fish;*
- v. Fish, marine mammals, and seabird;*
- vi. Benthic habitat health;*
- vii. Groundwater quantity and quality at the hatchery; and*
- viii. Climate and Weather.”*

On January 28, 2020, the Environmental Assessment Division received a draft copy of the Grieg NL EEMP for Groundwater Quantity and Quality at the Hatchery (Groundwater EEMP). The Groundwater EEMP was distributed to the intergovernmental committee for review, and Grieg NL worked with the reviewing committee to provide a Groundwater EEMP that was satisfactory. The final version of the Groundwater EEMP submitted by Grieg NL on June 16, 2020 is acceptable to the committee and is therefore approved, subject to the following:

- Grieg NL shall submit an updated Environmental Protection Plan for Hatchery Operations by July 30, 2020, for my approval; and
- The Water Resources Management Division of my department advises that water quality parameters (fluoride, chloride, arsenic, silver and mercury) that are at or marginally below the maximum concentrations recommended by the CCME Guidelines for Aquatic Life (Freshwater) will be closely monitored during the production stage of the wells. If these parameters continue to show increasing trends, WRMD may require Grieg NL to explore corrective measures in order to lower the values to the acceptable levels.

Please be aware that you must abide by all commitments made in the Groundwater EEMP, and that any significant changes will be subject to additional review and approval. Although final, the EEMPs are considered living documents that can be updated as required, should environmental conditions or circumstances change.

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact Ms. Joanne Sweeney, Director (A) of the Environmental Assessment Division at (709) 729-0673, or by email at joannesweeney@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,



DERRICK BRAGG, MHA
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Environment
District of Fogo Island-Cape Freels

cc: Jeff Dwyer, MHA
Placentia West-Bellevue