

**From:** Obee, Nicole C ENV:EX <Nicole.Obee@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 9, 2008 8:31 AM  
**To:** Hoyseth, Kerra <Kerra.Hoyseth@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Walde, Kirsty <Kirsty.Walde@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Klaver, March <March.Klaver@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Thomson, Andrew <Andrew.Thomson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Leone, Nick <Nick.Leone@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Taekema, Bernie ENV:EX <Bernie.Taekema@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Cecil Island - MOE Sampling

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Hi Kerra,

We have a tentative trip planned to do some ROV work at Cecil Island, the first week in November. Have you talked with MAL about this? Do you want to participate in the trip?

The two stations we want to check out are quite deep. The pipe was found at 100m, and the objects on our depth sounder were at 80m. The MAL ROV can only go to 80m, so we will likely have to use a drop camera for one or both of the stations. Is there any interest on DFO's part in using your ROV (and an ROV operator) so that we can obtain ROV video of both sites?

I'm not completely sure yet how many people we can accommodate, but I do need to know (a) if you want to attend and (b) if you want to use the DFO ROV and an operator.

Hope you are doing well,

Nicole

**Nicole Obee, B.I.T.**

Aquaculture Impact Assessment Biologist  
Ministry of Environment  
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**From:** Hoyseth, Kerra [mailto:Kerra.Hoyseth@dfo-mpo.gc.ca]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 24, 2008 10:39 AM  
**To:** Obee, Nicole C ENV:EX; Walde, Kirsty; Klaver, March; Thomson, Andrew; Leone, Nick  
**Cc:** Taekema, Bernie ENV:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Cecil Island - MOE Sampling

Very interesting indeed! Thank you very much for your email, Nicole.

We will have an internal DFO discussion regarding this latest development and get back to you. However, for my sake, I highly support timely ROV data to be collected throughout the tenure.

Thanks again,

***Kerra Hoyseth***

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**From:** Obee, Nicole C ENV:EX [mailto:Nicole.Obee@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** September 24, 2008 9:21 AM  
**To:** Hoyseth, Kerra  
**Cc:** Taekema, Bernie ENV:EX  
**Subject:** Cecil Island - MOE Sampling

Hi Kerra,

I just wanted to give you a quick summary of some sampling that MOE did at the Cecil Island fish farm in early September, because it may be of interest to you from a habitat perspective.

We were sampling the farm due to some concerns raised by a community member about some oil and bubbles seen rising to the surface, and concerns that there were dead fish being disposed of. Peak biomass was in February 2008, fish were still on site in April/May when there was a series of fish kills, and the community members' concerns were from observations in July. We did a regular benthic sediment survey, and did not find anything unusual in the samples. Sulphide levels were moderate. In nearly every grab, we pulled up large sponge fragments. I haven't identified the sponge, but can provide more info if needed.

In one location, where the community member expressed some concern, our vessel's sonar showed three large "blobs" just above the ocean floor. It's unclear what these were.

In another sampling location, at the edge of the feed shed, near where the community member had reported bubbles at the surface, our grab became entangled and we pulled up a mort uplift pipe full of dead fish. The Operations Manager for Mainstream Canada arrived and dealt with the pipe. He was unable to explain how it got to that location, especially full of fish. The pipes are normally inside the net pens and they suck the morts up from the bottom of the pens. Nets were removed in July, so the mort uplift pipes would have been removed as well, and loaded onto a boat in the same place where we were sampling. It's possible the pipe was dropped off the system by mistake.

We have turned this issue over to MAL to investigate with Mainstream Canada. Depending on what action MAL takes, we at MOE may also require Mainstream Canada to do some ROV surveys to determine whether there are other items on the seafloor.

If you would like any more info, or would like to know how MAL/we proceed with this issue, please let me know.

Nicole

**Nicole Obee, B.I.T.**

Aquaculture Impact Assessment Biologist

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