

To / À: Dario Stucchi
 Oceans Science and Productivity

From / De: Kevin Conley
 Oceans, Habitat and Enhancement Branch

Security Classification - Classification de sécurité <p style="text-align: center;">UNCLASSIFIED</p>
Our file - Notre référence
Your File - Votre référence
Date <p style="text-align: center;">August 4, 2009</p>

Subject / Object: **VESSEL CLEARANCE REQUEST RV MARCUS G. LANGSETH AUGUST 17 – SEPTEMBER 22, 2009 (FILE IDR-0623)**

Thank you for forwarding the above mentioned vessel clearance request. The Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents (EHV) area was designated in 2003 as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) under Canada’s *Oceans Act* (see map **Figure 1**). For details on the regulations of the Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents, you may view them online at <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/showtdm/cr/SOR-2003-87>. Further comments provided here are intended to assist the proponent in minimizing their likelihood of contravening those regulations. However, it is the responsibility of the researcher(s) to be aware of the regulations.

Please be advised that the proposed cruise dates overlap with two other cruises, as outlined below:

- R/V Thomas G. Thompson operated by the University of Washington during the period August 22 – September 19, 2009.
- R/V Atlantis operated by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute during the period August 20 – September 6, 2009.

Since regulatory designation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has been working with the EHV MPA Technical Advisory Committee towards developing a Management Plan including several objectives and, as you may be aware, identifying specific management areas (**Figure 1**):

- Main and Mothra vent fields are to be managed so as to reserve them for research projects, including those involving moderate sampling (Main vent field is defined as the area bounded by 47° 56.85’N, 129°05.50’W; 47° 56.85’N, 129°05.90’W; 47° 57.30’, 129°05.50’W; and 47° 57.30’, 129°05.90’W; Mothra vent field is defined as the area

bounded by 47°55.25'N, 129°06.40'W; 47°55.25'N, 129°06.70'W; 47°55.60'N, 129°06.40'W; and 47°55.60'N, 129°06.70'W.)

- High Rise vent field is to be managed so as to reserve it for projects focused on education/outreach– deterring more intrusive activities (High Rise is defined as the area bound by the following co-ordinates: 47°58.00'N, 129°05.00'W; 47°58.00'N, 129°05.20'W; 47°58.30'N, 129°05.00'W; and 47°58.30'N, 129°05.20'W).
- Salty Dawg vent field is to be managed so as to reserve it as an observational research site – deterring intrusive activities (Salty Dawg is defined as the area bound by the following coordinates: 47°58.75'N, 129°04.50'W; 47°58.75'N, 129°04.80'W; 47°59.00'N, 129°04.50'W; and 47°59.00'N, 129°04.80'W)

Monitoring and Reporting

Considering the activities of this cruise, DFO is pursuing information regarding Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents to meet various needs including:

- To determine human activities and impacts through use (monitoring of activities/stressors).
- To accumulate data for overall ecosystem understanding and measurable objectives.
- To understand how the system is changing over time and enable the distinction of human impacts from natural variation.
- To measure the success of MPA management.
- To ensure enforcement and compliance.

As such, DFO would appreciate receiving the following information:

- Cruise reports submitted in a timely fashion that account for all time spent at sea and which describe the activities and procedures undertaken. This request is consistent with current requirements under the foreign vessel clearance request process administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT).
- Unnecessary introductions of materials in the MPA are discouraged, and may be in violation of the regulations, particularly the disposal of garbage. We request documentation of any introductions of materials, intentional or otherwise, including locations and expected recovery as appropriate.
- Appropriate documentation of sampling activities that include before and after images of a sample site, submitted with cruise reports.
- Submersible and dive operations (be they for research, education or tourism), are requested to record and document complete, continuous geo-referenced video of the entire period near the seafloor.
- Video, as well as other data collected during the cruise be archived and remain available upon request should DFO deem it necessary to obtain copies for auditing or other MPA management purposes.

Note: Where information listed above is recorded on standardized metadata forms, such as the Ridge 2000 DMAS data sheets, we request the inclusion of copies of those data sheets in post cruise reporting.

Sound Environmental Stewardship

Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents area provides a wonderful opportunity for scientific observation and research. DFO encourages all researchers to retrieve materials not readily biodegradable, such as plastics, from this and previous surveys for proper disposal. Compliance with this request will help keep the Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents area clear and clean for future use.

The Internet site http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/Endeavour/Endeavour_e.htm contains links to background information regarding the Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents Marine Protected Area, including the management plan and regulations. Please review these documents for further information regarding conducting activities in the area. Paper copies of these can also be made available.

Please feel free to contact me further.

Regards,

Kevin Conley

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Figure 1: Chart of Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents Marine Protected Area including the main hydrothermal vent areas that have been identified as Management Areas.

