

## **Harbour Improvements**

**La Scie, La Scie Harbour, NL**

### **Environmental Registration Document**

**Submitted to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador**

**Department of Environment and Conservation**

**Environmental Assessment Division**

**Prepared For:** **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**  
**Small Craft Harbours Branch - Central Area**

**Prepared By:** **Public Works and Government Services Canada**

**Date:** **June 3, 2009**

**Project No.:** **R.001173.001**

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## **1.0 NAME OF UNDERTAKING:**

La Scie, NL, Harbour Improvements (P/N R.001173.001)

## **2.0 PROPOSER:**

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## **3.0 THE UNDERTAKING:**

### **3.1 Nature of the Undertaking:**

The proposed undertaking represents an enhancement of the existing DFO SCH facilities in La Scie, Newfoundland and Labrador. It involves the installation of a 40 m rubble mound breakwater, 20 m extension to an existing finger pier wharf, and construction of a 6.1 m by 60.6 m marginal wharf.

### **3.2 Purpose/Rationale/Need for the Undertaking:**

The proposed new harbour improvements will increase berthage capacity and offer additional protection for fishing vessels, upgrade the facility, and provide an estimated useful life of at least thirty (30) years. The proposed project complies with DFO SCH's mandate to keep harbours critical to the fishing industry open and in good repair.

## **4.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

### **4.1 Geographical Location:**

The proposed project site is located along the northern shoreline of La Scie Harbour. Project coordinates are approximately 49° 57' 47" N, 55° 36' 06" W. Access to the site is provided by municipal roads which may be accessed from the southeast via Provincial Route 414.

### **4.2 Physical Features:**

The proposed project may be considered in three (3) components:

*Component 1* involves extending an existing breakwater by approximately 40 m. The final structure will measure approximately 60 m wide by 100 m long. Placement of approximately 4000 m<sup>3</sup> of 1-2 tonne armourstone, 1350 m<sup>3</sup> of 2-4 tonne armourstone, 3400 m<sup>3</sup> of 4-6 tonne armourstone, 3600 m<sup>3</sup> of 200-600 kg filter stone, and 11,300 m<sup>3</sup> of 0.1-200 kg core stone will be required. The armourstone material will likely be trucked to the site where it will be placed using an excavator(s) working in the dry from atop the existing breakwater structure. The successful contractor will determine the source for the armourstone.

*Component 2* involves extending an existing finger pier wharf by approximately 20 m. The completed finger pier wharf will measure approximately 7.62 m by 56.7 m. Treated timber cribs will be used to construct the extension. Minor excavation may be required to properly seat the cribbing. Subject to regulatory approval, the excavated material will be used on-site as infill.

*Component 3* consists of the construction of a new treated timber crib marginal wharf measuring approximately 6.1 m by 60.6 m. The proposed marginal wharf will be constructed adjacent to the community stage and require infilling of approximately 400 m<sup>2</sup> area to level the approach. The associated cribbing will be seated to a depth of approximately -3.0 m, resulting in the excavation of approximately 1000 m<sup>3</sup> of material. Subject to regulatory approval, the excavated material will be used on-site as infill.

#### *Physical and Biological Environment*

The immediate project site is situated at the base of a steep, sparsely vegetated cliff. There are no permanent residences in the immediate vicinity of the project site. Limited small craft harbour infrastructure currently characterizes the general area.

The general surrounding area is characterized largely by exposed bedrock outcrops with intermittent areas of predominantly gravel, cobble, and boulder, sediments. Faunal species within the project area are likely limited to near shore fish species such as cunner, tomcod, sculpin, lobsters, and winter flounder. Marine mammals such as seals and whales likely frequent the general area. There are a variety of large and small terrestrial mammals and birds found in the

general area including moose, caribou, and several species of songbirds, fox, snowshoe hare, beaver, shrews, mice, and rats. Gulls, crows, turrs, puffins, eagles, hawks, and osprey are common throughout the general project area.

La Scie is included in the North Shore Ecoregion of Newfoundland. This ecoregion represents a narrow coastal zone 20-25km in width extending from Bonavista Bay to the Baie Verte Peninsula. Black Spruce and Balsam Fir form a continuous forest except where barrens dominate on the coastal headlands. White Spruce is more common than in Central Newfoundland, but Trembling Aspen is sporadic and rarely forms pure stands. *Alnus crispa* replaces *Alnus rugosa* as the dominant alder on both upland and lowland sites. The vegetation season is shorter and cooler than in Central Newfoundland but the frost-free period is several weeks longer. The summers are relatively dry and warm and soil moisture deficiencies may occur. As with the Central Newfoundland ecoregion, encroachment of ericaceous shrubs on dry nutrient-poor sites after cutting and fire is a serious silvicultural problem. Also, the quality of growth diminishes with proximity to the coastline. There are no subregions in this ecoregion. The land types are similar to those for the Central Newfoundland Ecoregion.

The La Scie area is within the distribution range of the Blue Whale, North Atlantic Right Whale, and Red Crossbill placed on Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife In Canada (COSEWIC). It is unlikely that the proposed project site contains any critical, limiting, or sensitive habitat for any of the abovenoted species.

#### **4.3 Construction:**

Commencement of this project is subject to DFO SCH operational priorities and funding.

The project will be constructed in a least two (2) phases. Phase 1 of the project will consist of the breakwater extension. Construction of the breakwater extension is expected to require 3.5 – 4 months to complete. Commencement of Phase 1 of the proposed project is tentatively scheduled for July 15, 2009. Construction of the finger pier wharf extension and marginal wharf will occur during later phase(s) of the project, the date of which have yet to be determined.

The most probable sources of potential pollutants are related to the use of heavy equipment. Accidental spills of cement, heavy equipment fuel, engine oil, and hydraulic fluids are a possibility. Excavation of benthic material may result in sedimentation and the release of toxic elements into the overlying water column.

An active seasonal fishery is executed from the project area. The duration of the construction phase of the proposed project is likely to extend into the fishing season. As a result, minor disruptions to harbour and nearby fish plant operations can be anticipated.

#### **4.4 Operation:**

Routine maintenance and repair projects, including repairs or replacement of damaged or deteriorated fenders, wales, wheel guard, chocks, and ladders, will be carried out on an as required basis over the life of the structure. There is no annual or regular dredging program proposed for this Small Craft Harbours site. Minor dredging may be proposed on an as required basis.

The proposed undertaking represents an enhancement of the existing DFO SCH facilities in La Scie, Newfoundland and Labrador. The proposed new harbour improvements will increase berthing capacity and offer additional protection for fishing vessels, upgrade the facility, and provide an estimated useful life of at least thirty (30) years. No other projects or alternative sites were evaluated since the users have indicated to DFO this proposal will address current operational requirements.

Reasonably foreseeable pollutants occurring during the operational phase of the proposed project are limited to accidental discharges of vessel fuels and engine oils.

The operation and maintenance of the facility will be under the control of the Harbour Authority of La Scie with the support of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Small Craft Harbours Branch. Potential resource conflicts are not anticipated as a result of the operation of the proposed project.

#### **4.5 Occupations:**

Phase 1 of the project, involving construction of the breakwater extension, will require approximately 3.5 - 4 months to complete. Commencement of later phases of the proposed project are subject to DFO operational priorities and funding.

The following list outlines occupations which may be employed during the design and construction period. Please note that this list represents only an approximation of the number and type of occupations that may be produced as a result of the proposed project. Actual occupations created as a result of the proposed project will ultimately be determined by the successful contractor. Occupations are expected to be comparable to those created for similar breakwater/wharf construction projects throughout the Province.

- 4 – Professional Engineers
- 2 – Engineering Technicians
- 2 – Surveyors
- 1 – Rod and Chainmen
- 1 – Construction Inspector
- 1 – Draftsperson
- 1 – Secretary
- 6 – Laborers
- 2 – Heavy Equipment Operators
- 5 – Truck Drivers
- 2 – Flag People

1 – Office Clerk  
1 – Construction Foremen/Superintendents

**4.6      Project-Related Documents:**

1. Marine Sediment Analysis Report (*Maxxam Job #: A949406, May 08, 2007*)
2. Benthic probes/suvey/wharf inspection Report, Central Diving Ltd.

**5.0      APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

The following is a list of the main permits, licences and approval required for this project.

<b>Approvals/Certificate/Permits</b>	<b>Regulatory Authority</b>
NL Environmental Assessment Registration	NL Department of Environment and Conservation, Environmental Assessment Division
Fish Habitat Approval	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Oceans and Habitat Management Branch
Application to Alter a Body of Water	NL Department of Environment and Conservation, Water Resources Division
Navigable Waters Protection Approval	Transport Canada
Waste Disposal Approval	NL Department of Government Services Site Owner / Operator
Quarry Permit	NL Department of Mines and Energy
Lease / Permit to Occupy Crown Lands	NL Department of Government Services

**6.0      SCHEDULE:**

Phase 1 of the proposed project could commence at the earliest, July 15, 2009. This timeline would allow for completion of a federal environmental assessment prior to initiating a call for tender. Depending on the responses provided by the abovenoted regulators, commencement of the project could be delayed by up to 6 months to a year.

**7.0      FUNDING:**

The total cost estimate for all phases of the proposed project, as provided by the proponent, is approximately \$2.5 million. Funds will be provided by Small Craft Harbours Branch, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

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Date

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Environmental Assessment Representative

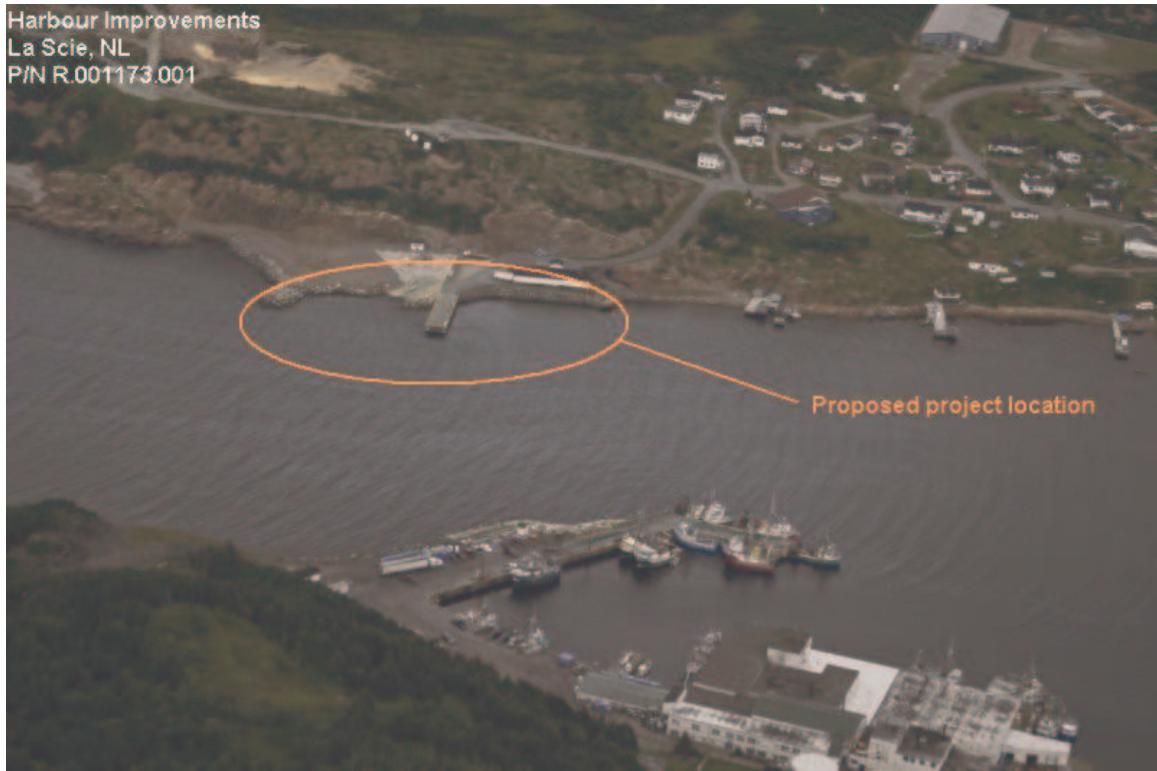
**APPENDIX A**

**PHOTOS**

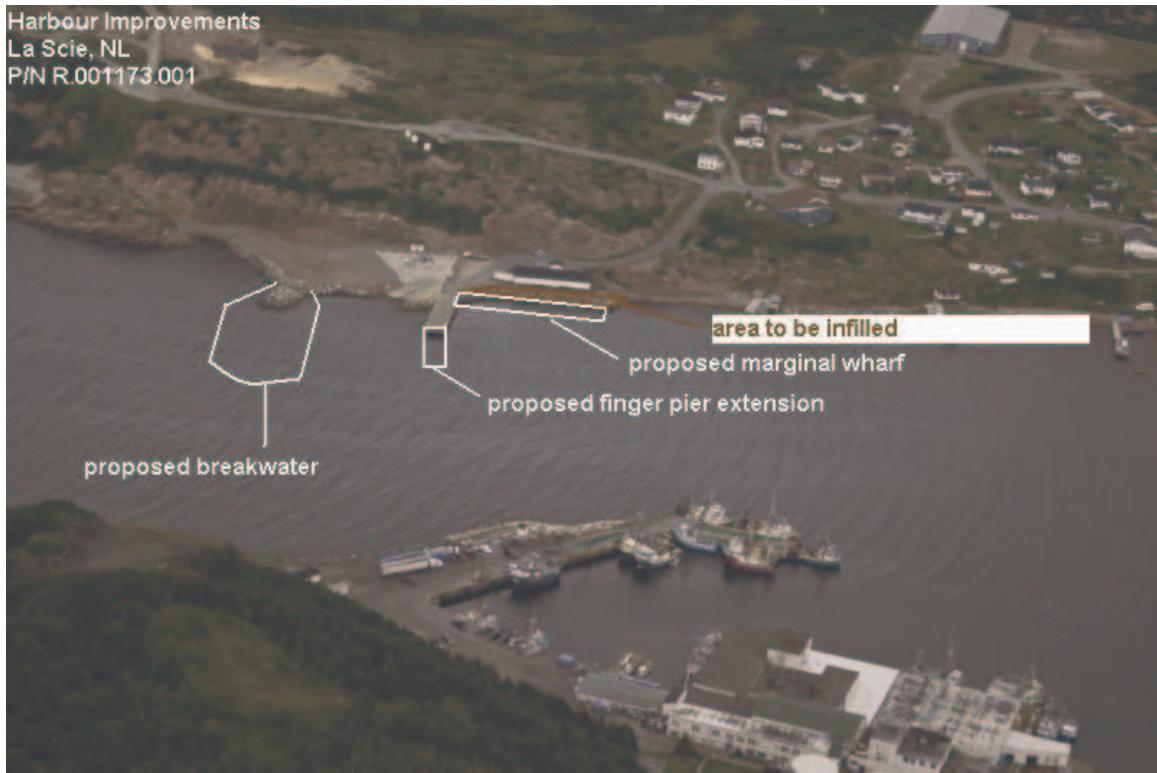
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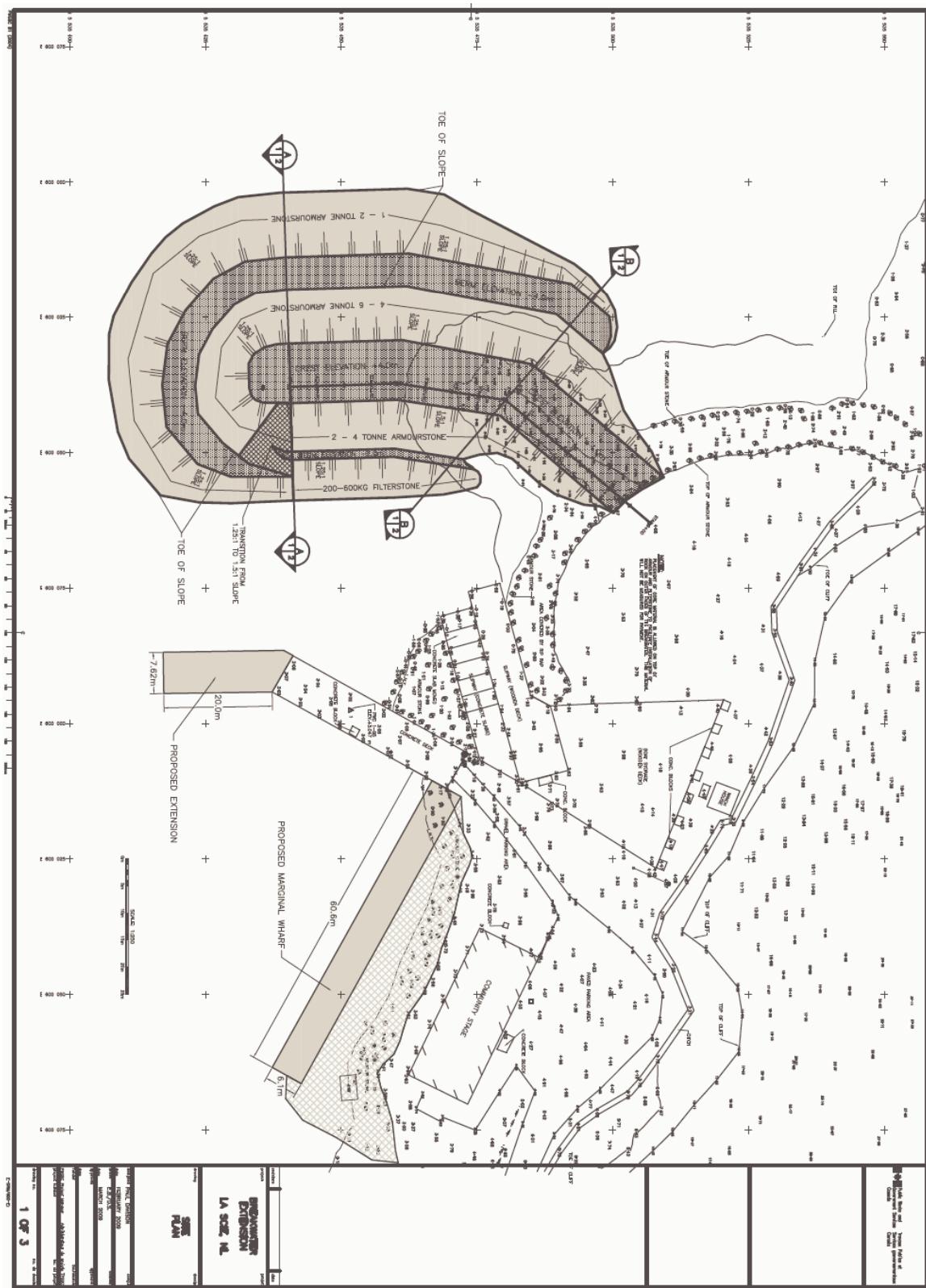


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**APPENDIX B**

**SITE PLAN**



**APPENDIX C**  
**TOPO MAP**

