

## Ross, Jim

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**From:** Stephenson, Robert L  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 12, 2002 6:20 PM  
**To:** Ross, Jim  
**Subject:** RE: Digby quarry blasting plan

Jim,

I apologize that it took me a while to get to this proposal. The following are my comments:

I am not an expert in the impact of blasting - or indeed of noise.

I note that the proposal admits to fisheries in the area, to small whales and seals within one mile of shore, and to an active whale watching activity and the presence of humpback and right whales at 5 miles from shore. The presence of an endangered species within a few miles of the site requires special consideration - and the recommendations of the right whale recovery plan must be considered explicitly. Jerry Conway can provide this context.

The section on marine mammals (p5-6) suggests that the scientific information regarding the impact of noise on marine mammals is inconclusive (the report says 'inclusive' - but I assume it means inconclusive). I argue that this is a misrepresentation. Marine mammals are well known to be acoustic animals that react to and are adversely affected by noise.

The distance of disturbance of marine organisms by sound may well be beyond the 500m suggested in the proposal.

The proposed delay of detonation is in response to the observation of 'threatened or endangered' marine mammals...I would think it more appropriate to be in response to any marine mammals.

I hope these few notes are of use,

Rob

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ross, Jim  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 05, 2002 12:52 PM  
**To:** Stephenson, Robert L  
**Subject:** Digby quarry blasting plan

Robert:

I must respond to the Digby quarry blasting plan ASAP. Have you had an opportunity to look at it yet? Jim

*Jim Ross*  
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