

## If information flowed from the offshore like oil we'd all be better off

Bill Monteverchi - *Psychology Department, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador A1B 3X5, Canada*

Offshore hydrocarbon production and exploration influences marine ecology and exposes oceanic animals to new environmental risks. As exploration and production moves into deep water and more extreme marine environments, the associated risks and influences intensify. Understanding of these influences is required to mitigate and minimize negative environmental and wildlife effects. Robust scientific protocols for the application of independent arm's-length interrogation of environmental effects have been proposed for offshore platforms. Yet the structure of federal – provincial regulatory regime in Canada is, owing to industry influence, inadequate to permit these and to avoid crisis management when errors and accidents occur.

To illustrate, I will draw on recent and ongoing examples from the Newfoundland offshore and from the *Deep Water Horizon* disaster from which so many claims about “lessons learned” have been made. It is obvious that the present situation is flawed, and it is not only foolhardy but also dangerous to ignore it.