



Senior Clerk of Committees
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Date: 09 November 2019

Submission for Senate Inquiry:

Impact of Seismic Testing on Fisheries and the Marine Environment.

The advice you are receiving from your departments about the health of the marine environment is skewed and biased towards granting permission for the development of Oil and Gas rigs in the Ocean. They are not considering the immense costs that will be paid over the long term when the ocean environment has been damaged.

The exploration of the seabeds alone causes enormous damage to sea creatures – both fauna and flora. The extraction of the Gas and Oil causes further damage, and the consumption of Gas and Oil is a major contributor to global warming, more damaging by a scale of 10's than coal, environmental destruction on a grand scale.

Exploration involves the production of seismic explosions which are fired every few seconds for weeks and months at a time. This has been shown to cause deafness to humans swimming in the water, but little consideration is given to the sea creatures who have no choice about where they live.

There is research that demonstrates that these sound blasts kill plankton up to 1 km away. Plankton is the bottom of the food chain, so all creatures are affected that depend on it, including humans. There are many stories by fishermen who's catches have been depleted by seismic explorations in their local area. Seismic testing in New Zealand was banned because of the destruction to fish stocks.

The public servants that the government instructs to create arguments to support is short-sighted short-term benefit policies could be paid to give more balanced advice. It's time for the cynical hypocrisy of this government to end and the government look to the people and not their pockets, to the quality of the life in the global environment, rather than the short-term savings on their savings, from cheap electricity.

Yours sincerely

Clive Salzer