

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The seabed at the King 1 location and across the surrounding site is essentially flat and smooth, and no seabed hazards or protuberances are identified from echo sounder and side scan sonar data.

There is also no visible evidence on the side scan sonar data for other hazards such as gas seeps.

The fine sands overlaying coarser, occasionally clayey, and occasionally consolidated sediments down to 1.9m near the location, should provide adequate anchor holding.

In the absence of any other sub-seabed information it cannot be determined if sediments with adequate anchor holding capacity are similarly thick at all the anchor locations, and it is possible that sediments below the uniform fine sandy layer identified from side scan sonar data may be more consolidated and thus less suitable for reliable anchoring, as may possibly be the case in an area 1200m west northwest of location.

As well, in the absence of sub-bottom data, there is no way of determining the presence or absence of potential sub-bottom drilling hazards such as gas pockets.