

Overview of the Institute for Environmental Monitoring and Research Mitigation Options for a Supersonic Training Program

Dr. Louis LaPierre
Chair, Institute for Environment Monitoring and Research
P.O. Box 1859, Stn. B
Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL
A0P 1E0

Tel: 709-896-3266
lapierl@umoncton.ca
www.iemr.org

Abstract

During the past nine years the Institute for Environmental Monitoring and Research (IEMR) has focused on assessing the impact of noise disturbance associated with the subsonic military training program. The major component of the monitoring program focused on assessing the behavioural response of waterfowl and caribou to the noise generated by the low-level training program.

The results of the IEMR's monitoring activities were integrated with DND's mitigation program leading to the establishment of closures varying from 1 to 5 nautical miles surrounding valued ecosystem components (VEC).

The proposed supersonic training program will require modification to the monitoring and mitigation program as the noise impacts will not be as easily predicted. The IEMR has developed a monitoring program that is structured within an adaptive management framework. This proposed concept will enable the training program to set its operational parameters in association with modelled noise disturbance patterns using PC-Boom as the modelling tool.

The IEMR will collect field data from its monitoring program and using an adaptive management framework will develop a graduate level of mitigation options based on the location of VECs and their aversion to noise disturbance. The mitigation options proposed by the IEMR will be based on a model which will provide the least impact to the VECs.