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SMALL CANADIAN OIL COMPANY MAKES A BIG PLAY

September has been a big month for one small Canadian oil company. Blackbird Energy Inc. (cve:BB1) pulled off a major land acquisition deal, sold off non-core assets, entered into a strategic infrastructure MOU, and is gearing up for drilling operations on a very exciting oil and gas project.

The small company is based in Calgary but its operations focus on the Montney Shale, an oil and gas formation that stretches across parts of British Columbia and Alberta. The Montney Shale potentially holds 450 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Blackbird started out as a company with several sections of unconnected land in the Montney, and a minimal budget but through a steady and prudent land acquisition strategy, Blackbird has succeeded in building up its portfolio of highly prospective land. It got to the high liquids rich Montney corridor ahead of a lot of other companies, and its holdings grew in value as industry leaders moved towards Blackbirds land position proving up the immense resource and valuing up the lands in the corridor.

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While flying below the radar for many months, Blackbird came out swinging in September by issuing a slew of announcements that demonstrated its growing confidence in core play Elmworth / East Wapiti. First the September 2nd news that it had completed several land purchases. It bought 85 net sections of land amounting to 54,400 in acreage. The best part about it was that

the acreage abutted its existing holdings in the Elmworth Project, the company's most promising asset. In total, the purchases increased Blackbird's acreage in the Montney Shale by 366%, a bold move for such a small company.

A week later, the company announced that it had received its crown lease at the site of its first Elmworth well.

It still needs a well license, but the company says that it will receive the remaining permits shortly.

With all the regulatory paperwork completed, Blackbird will begin drilling on its Elmworth Project in Q4 2014 as previously stated by the company, but drilling operations are contingent upon having enough cash on hand. That piece of the puzzle was finalized

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in mid-September when Blackbird closed on a deal to sell its Bigstone project, allowing the company to put \$8.89 million in the bank. The cash infusion is huge relative to the company's size. Bigstone was deemed by Blackbird to be a "non-core asset," and the sale of the acreage will allow the company to redeploy cash to focus on Elmworth.

Finally, on September 22, Blackbird announced that it had secured \$35.5 million in financings that was subsequently increased to over \$37 million in proceeds that will allow the company to grow its operations. Garth Braun, Blackbird's CEO hailed the new capital as a game changer for its operations. "These financings are transformative for the Company and allow Blackbird to reach the next level in its development. Blackbird has captured an exceptional land base in its core Montney area and with these financings the Company is positioned to deliver additional value to its shareholders from an accelerated drilling program, ability to delineate its extensive liquids rich Montney resource and pursue incremental strategic acquisitions in its core area," Braun said.

Why is Blackbird so aggressively building up its position in and around the Elmworth asset? Why is Blackbird so excited about Elmworth?

That is because Blackbird's Montney acreage at Elmworth is located so close to some very productive wells being drilled by some of its competitors. One of the driving factors creating this profound excitement is that Encana Corp. ECA, +0.32% in close proximity to

Blackbird's land position has now drilled over 46 wells. Most interesting though is that each subsequent well moving eastward towards Blackbirds land has yielded high condensate gas ratios effectively meaning the wells are proceeding to become even more economic.

The closest well to Blackbird's land that Encana has drilled is only 5 miles away and produced at 3.3 mmcf/d and 204 barrels per million feet of gas which is approximately 1,100 boe/d - an extremely economic well with a conceivable payout of less than a year.

Encana's wells are arguably some of the most important in the Upper and Middle Montney area, and with it located just next door to Blackbird's Elmworth project, Blackbird's management is confident that its acreage is energy rich as well in the Upper, Middle and Lower Montney.

Elsewhere, another company called NuVista (NVA) has drilled to the east and south of Blackbird's holdings, and the results are also very promising. The outstanding ratio of liquids to gas is also encouraging. NuVista is producing 2,195 boepd from a single well nearby; the economics on this well are world class.

Blackbird's initial strategy was to acquire land in a strategic and deliberate way, building up acreage in a region that holds great potential for oil and gas production. According to the company, it feels that it has succeeded in this phase. With recent land acquisitions nearby from other companies fetching around \$4,500 per acre, or \$2.9 million per

section, Blackbird's assets look more valuable than the market is currently giving them credit for.

Nevertheless, Blackbird's stock has skyrocketed. Since the beginning of the year, shares are up by over 500%. A large part of that is because companies have drilled near to Blackbird's acreage, each one providing more information about the bounty that lies beneath.

The next phase will be to begin drilling, and with the cash needed in hand, Blackbird is gearing up to do just that. In the initial drilling stage,

Blackbird aims to delineate the extent of the upper and lower boundaries of hydrocarbons in the Montney Shale. After it completes a test well it can gather data on the flow rates and move on from there.

One thing that is extremely evident with Blackbird, is the management's tireless pursuit to proactively address the challenges that seem to constantly impede the progress of oil and gas companies. With Blackbirds latest news release on September 25, 2014, it showed the market that is has entered into an Memorandum of

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Understanding which will proceed to a definitive agreement next year with a private, well financed midstream company to develop a gathering system, pipeline and facilities for the processing of Blackbird's and other industry players resources.

A read through of the announcement said that it was committed to supply the facilities with 20 mmcf/d of gas. This extrapolated would mean that Blackbird is expecting to produce approximately 3,333 boe/d of gas - and with the high liquids rich content in the area being greater than 100 bbls/mmcf of gas - Blackbird could exit 2015 with over 5,000 boe/d (3,333 boe/d gas; 2,000 bbls/d of oil/condensate/ngls) to 7,333 boe/d.

By all indications, Blackbird is sitting on some energy-rich acreage. With Drilling and Geological risk greatly removed and a plethora of catalysts to come in the next 12 months it should be without a doubt an exciting ride.

CIVEO TO 'REDOMICILE' IN CANADA AFTER DISCOVERING TAX ADVANTAGE

Stock dives 45% on news it will not become a REIT Civeo Corp., a Houston-based company that provides workplace accommodations in the Alberta oilsands, plans to move its headquarters to Canada after discovering it will gain a tax advantage.

The company had considered becoming a Real Estate Investment Trust in the U.S., but rejected that option because it can expect

a tax rate of approximately 25-26 per cent in Canada, about four to five percentage points lower than the expected rate under the REIT structure.

Its stock dropped 49 percent to \$12.84 US today on the announcement it was abandoning plans for a REIT, which investors had hoped would boost shareholder value.

The Civeo board had spent the past two months reviewing options for the company with tax and legal specialists.

Civeo does more than half its business in Canada, mainly supplying lodgings for workers in the Alberta oilsands. It is doing what is called a "self-directed redomiciling," permitted by the U.S. tax code for companies that do most of their business in a foreign jurisdiction.

This is different from a tax inversion - where one company buys another in a foreign jurisdiction to take advantage of a lower tax rate there. Tax inversions, including Burger King's merger with Tim Hortons, have come under fire in the U.S. by legislators who are seeking ways to block them.

There is fear the U.S. tax base is being eroded as large companies that grew in the U.S. shift their headquarters and their profits elsewhere.

Civeo was originally a Canadian company, formed in the Peace River area in 1977 as PTI Group to rent out mobile offices and dormitories. It later added catering and housekeeping services.

In 2001, PTI Group was acquired by Oil States International, Inc.

of Houston, then this spring, Oil States spun off its accommodation business. Civeo was listed June 2 on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CVEO.

"A redomiciling of the company to Canada will improve operational alignment and expected shareholder returns." Bradley J. Dodson, Civeo's CEO, stated in a press release.

He said there were significant costs to converting to a REIT, but the conversion would not help the company save tax on its operations in Australia and Canada.

Civeo is facing pressure on its profitability by a slowdown in

development in the oil business as the cost of oil drops and the Keystone pipeline, which was to serve the U.S., remains in limbo.

"The company anticipates that reduced customer room demand in Canada in the fourth quarter will negatively impact occupancy and rates at its Canadian lodges," the company said in an earnings outlook today.

Several anticipated large projects, including Total's Joslyn and Statoil's Corner project, have been put on hold until oil prices recover.

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CANADA'S ECONOMY UNEXPECTEDLY STALLED IN JULY ON OIL

Canada's gross domestic product was little changed in July as a drop in oil and gas production offset gains in manufacturing.

Output remained close to an annualized C\$1.63 trillion (\$1.46 trillion) in July following six monthly increases, Statistics Canada said today in Ottawa. The median forecast in a Bloomberg economist survey with 14 responses was for output to expand 0.3 percent.

The report supports Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz, who said this month more time is needed to assess early recovery signs. Poloz held the central bank's benchmark rate on overnight loans between commercial banks at 1 percent and said a recent jump in exports must be sustained before it triggers the business investment needed to bring the economy to full capacity over the next two years.

The report "is bit of a tough pill to swallow" after half a year of gains, said Mazen Issa, senior Canada macro strategist at TD Securities in Toronto. "I still wouldn't want to discount the growth we have had this year," said Issa, who predicts a third-quarter expansion of 2.5 percent at an annualized rate, enough to erode economic slack.

Canada's dollar weakened 0.2 percent to C\$1.1182 per U.S. dollar at 9:43 a.m. Toronto time, and has declined by 5 percent

this year. Government bond yields rose, including the security due in two years, which climbed 1 basis point to 1.12 percent.

Oil and gas extraction fell by 1.6 percent in July, and "support activities" for energy production fell by 0.9 percent. Cooler-than-normal temperatures curbed the output of utilities by 2.3 percent, Statistics Canada said.

Postponing Work

Norway's Statoil ASA said Sept. 25 it would postpone work on its Corner field project in the Canadian oil sands as mounting costs reduce the potential for profit, following a similar delay announced by Total SA in May. Statoil said it plans to push back the project in northern Alberta by at least three years and expects to cut 70 jobs.

The decision "is consistent with our stepwise approach to the oil sands," Statoil Canada President Staale Tunesvik said in a statement.

Manufacturing rose by 1 percent in July led by durable goods such as transportation equipment, electronics and furniture, Statistics Canada said. Output was also boosted by a 0.5 percent gain in the public sector, led by education.

Other parts of the economy are showing mixed signs of slack. Job growth has slowed since the start of 2013 while inflation has quickened this year on gains in energy costs that the central bank says are temporary.

Needed Move

Canada's economy is showing signs of making the needed move to broad-based growth including exports and

business investment, said Stefane Marion, chief economist at Montreal-based National Bank of Canada.

"We are transitioning, but to better quality growth in my view" he said in New York at a Bloomberg Canadian Fixed Income Conference in New York today. Today's report showed that manufacturing, one of the hardest-hit in the global recession, has gained 4.7 percent in the 12 months through July.

The Bank of Canada has frozen its key lending rate since September 2010, the longest pause since the

1950s. The central bank's key interest rate will probably remain at 1 percent until the second half of next year according to economists surveyed by Bloomberg News.

In a separate report, Statistics Canada said the industrial product price index rose 0.2 percent in August, and the raw materials price index dropped 2.2 percent.

The median forecast of economists surveyed by Bloomberg was for industrial prices to fall 0.2 percent and the raw materials index to fall 1.5 percent.

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CANADIAN OIL SANDS CUT TO "HOLD" AT TD SECURITIES (COS)

Canadian Oil Sands (TSE: COS) was downgraded by stock analysts at TD Securities from a "buy" rating to a "hold" rating in a report issued on Monday. They currently have a C\$23.00 target price on the stock, down from their previous target price of C\$27.00. TD Securities' target price would suggest a potential upside of 11.76% from the company's current price.

Canadian Oil Sands (TSE: COS) traded down 0.34% during mid-day trading on Monday, hitting \$20.51. The stock had a trading volume of 1,402,220 shares. Canadian Oil Sands has a 52-week low of \$19.40 and a 52-week high of \$24.68. The stock has a 50-day moving average of \$23.45 and a 200-day moving average of \$22.83. The company has a market cap of \$9.939 billion and a price-to-earnings ratio of 12.70.

Canadian Oil Sands (TSE: COS) last posted its quarterly earnings results on Monday, August 4th. The company reported \$0.36 EPS for the quarter, beating the Thomson Reuters consensus estimate of \$0.21 by \$0.15. Analysts expect that Canadian Oil Sands will post \$1.77 EPS for the current fiscal year.

A number of other analysts have also recently weighed in on COS. Analysts at FirstEnergy Capital downgraded shares of Canadian Oil Sands from an "outperform" rating to a "market perform" rating in a research note on Tuesday, August

12th. They now have a C\$24.50 price target on the stock, up previously from C\$24.00. Separately, analysts at Morgan Stanley initiated coverage on shares of Canadian Oil Sands in a research note on Wednesday, July 23rd. They set an "overweight" rating and a C\$26.00 price target on the stock. Finally, analysts at Barclays raised their price target on shares of Canadian Oil Sands from C\$23.00 to C\$25.00 in a research note on Monday, July 21st. Three investment analysts have rated the stock with a sell rating, six have issued a hold rating and two have given a buy rating to the company. The stock currently has an average rating of "Hold" and an average target price of C\$24.00.

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FRACKING BAN LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN NOVA SCOTIA

High-volume fracking wouldn't be allowed except for research or testing purposes

Nova Scotia is moving ahead with legislation that would ban high-volume hydraulic fracturing for onshore oil and gas, but the proposed law also includes an exemption that would allow fracking for testing and research purposes.

Energy Minister Andrew Younger insists the exemption in the Petroleum Resources Act does not provide a loophole for the shale gas industry.

"Anybody could come to the door and

ask for whatever they want," Younger said. "What this allows is for cabinet to consider a research project only."

Only three test wells have been hydraulically fracked in Nova Scotia since 2007, all of them in the Kennetcook area, where Denver-based Triangle Petroleum failed to make the natural gas there flow.

When asked if Triangle's test wells would qualify as research under the legislation, Younger said that wasn't the intent.

"That wouldn't be a research project," he said. "This only provides the authority for cabinet to consider (research and testing). That would have to come with a number of conditions."

Barbara Pike, CEO of the Maritimes Energy Association, said there is no loophole.

"It doesn't allow fracking through the back door," said Pike, whose organization represents companies that provide goods and services to the oil and gas industry.

"Research is not exploration drilling. High-volume hydraulic fracturing, however that's defined, this legislation prohibits that activity and that does not send a good message to anyone looking to invest in any energy project in the province."

'Closed for business' Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie said the Liberal government has made a huge mistake by banning fracking.

"They're banning new ways of creating jobs in Nova

Scotia," he said. "The government is setting out a big 'closed for business' sign to the whole country."

Baillie said the legislation is flawed because it makes no allowances for exploratory drilling and it says nothing about drafting new regulations that will ensure the industry is safe once it is allowed to set up shop in the province.

Younger announced the government's plans to implement a fracking moratorium Sept. 3, soon after a panel of experts submitted a report to the province saying Nova Scotia wasn't ready for hydraulic fracturing.

At that point, Nova Scotia had already had a moratorium in place for two years.

Younger said the legislation makes it clear that commercial fracking will not be allowed without a public debate in the legislature.

"There is always the opportunity for the minister ... to lift the moratorium in whole or in part. Again, it would be through a legislative process. It would be a public process through the legislature and the members would get to debate that."

The government plans to draft regulations over the next three months to define what high-volume fracking is and describe the process the government will follow before reconsidering the moratorium.

Younger said the government won't consider lifting the ban until it is convinced fracking can be done safely under a set of stringent new rules and regulations.

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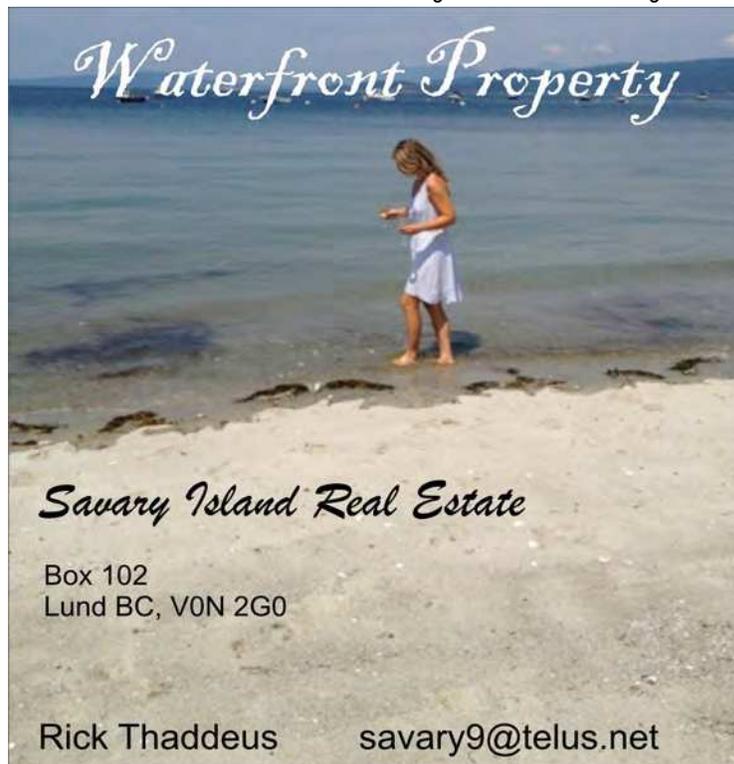
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FRACKING IN WINTRY AREAS LINKED TO HIGH OZONE POLLUTION

Study targets mountain basins with oil and gas developments and cold weather

Emissions wafting out of oil and gas operations can trigger "extreme" ozone pollution events that rival those seen in congested cities such as Los Angeles, according to an international study.

Extraordinary levels of ozone, which can exacerbate asthma and other respiratory problems, have been seen in rural areas of Utah and Wyoming where oil extraction and fracking have taken off.

Scientists say the same phenomena may be occurring near oil and fracking operations in Canada — especially in mountainous regions where winter weather can trap and concentrate the emissions emitted by wells and extraction processes.

"I would expect any mountain basin that has oil and gas development in it and winter weather conditions to be subject to the same phenomenon," Steven Brown, an atmospheric scientist at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, told Postmedia News.

Brown and his colleagues reported Wednesday in the journal *Nature* that emissions from oil and gas operations can trigger "extreme winter ozone pollution events" that exceed national air quality standards.

"It's shocking," co-author Cora Young of Memorial University in Newfoundland said. She initially

didn't believe the results she helped collect in a mountain basin in Utah where oil and gas wells are now operating across the landscape.

"I was like: 'There must be a mistake, there must be a problem with the monitors,'" she said. "But it's real."

Jason Maloney, a spokesman for Alberta Environment, said the study results have little application in Alberta because the geography and climate in Utah are very different from the oilsands area in the northeast.

There is not enough hours of sunlight in northern Alberta in the winter to produce the intense "ozone events" that the study recorded in Utah, he added.

"We will look at the study to see if there is anything useful we can use," Maloney said.

Up until now, winter ozone events have not been reported in Canada, but the scientists say that could be because of a lack of monitoring.

"It's this combination of emissions and cold weather and snow that is causing this," Young said. "And we certainly get snow in Canada, and we have the same emissions, so there is no reason to think it wouldn't happen."

Brown said "there is a lot of potential for this sort of thing to be going without being noticed."

Atmospheric scientist Shoa-Meng Li at Environment Canada was involved with the study but could not be reached for comment. Environment Canada's media office, which insists media requests be routed through its Ottawa operation, did not respond to questions about ozone monitoring near the expanding oil and gas

operations in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Maloney said the province has increased monitoring for air pollution in the past year, adding 20 stations in the northeast. But it is unclear if ozone is tested for specifically.

In the U.S., concern over air quality near oil and gas fields has been mounting since a high school science project in Wyoming turned up high winter ozone levels a few years ago.

The new study confirms the students were on to a very real but "unpredicted" atmospheric phenomenon, Brown said. For the Nature study, the scientists monitored the atmosphere in a mountain basin in northeastern Utah from 2012 to 2014 and found that nitrogen oxides and particularly high levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) can get trapped in the basin by winter weather inversions. And sunlight reflecting off snow accelerates the ozone-forming reaction during "cold, snowy stagnant periods."

In several instances wintertime ozone in the Utah study area spiked well beyond the level deemed safe by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In 2013 they exceeded national air quality standards on 49 days — almost twice as often as they were exceeded in Riverside, California, a part of the Los Angeles area notorious for poor air quality. Ozone pollution can trigger chest pain, coughing and throat irritation, and worsen bronchitis, emphysema and asthma.

"When you have air quality that resembles Houston or Los Angeles in a rural area that's a

serious problem," Young said.

Nitric oxides and VOCs have been known to create summer ozone events in congested cities, but the scientists found that a different chemical process involving much higher levels of VOCs drives the winter ozone formation near the oil and gas fields.

"It's really a combination of winter meteorology in mountain basins and this very unusual atmospheric chemistry," Brown said. "Both are required for these events to occur."

MI'KMAQ GROUPS PROTEST \$100M ALTON GAS STORAGE PROJECT

Ceremonial fire planned near site, traffic slow-down coming Wednesday

Mi'kmaq leaders in Nova Scotia and their supporters are planning to slow down traffic on one of the province's main highways this week in a bid to stop construction of a natural gas storage facility near Alton.

The leaders are not pleased with what they say is a lack of consultation about the proposal to create an underground gas storage facility — and they're upset with the dumping of brine waste in the Shubenacadie and Stewiacke rivers.

"The Shubenacadie River has significance for the Mi'kmaq as a food source with cultural and political importance," Cheryl Maloney, president of the Nova Scotia Native Women's Association, said in a statement.

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both are concerned with water quantity and water quality issues and recognizes the need for protection of local watersheds.”

Cheryl Maloney says the protesters plan to light a ceremonial fire and set up a teepee Monday near Highway 102 north of Stewiacke. (CBC)

Maloney said the protesters planned to light a ceremonial fire and set up a teepee Monday near Highway 102 north of Stewiacke. The traffic slow-down won't happen until Wednesday morning.

Mi'kmaq communities have already set up signs along the highway between Stewiacke and Brookfield.

Brine is a solution of salt and water. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans gave permission to the Alton Gas Storage Project to dispose millions of litres of it into the river.

Maloney said the government has a higher legal obligation to get permission to do this from First Nations.

“The governments, it must have gone under the radar for them,” she said.

“There was an environmental assessment, an initial one, but construction didn't start within the two-year period. We're asserting another environmental assessment should be done.”

A crew of 70 people is currently working on a huge site where a rig is drilling holes for pipes that will carry water from the Shubenacadie River 12 kilometres away to dissolve salt caverns. Another set of pipes will carry the salty water back to the same river to be flushed away with the powerful current.

A crew of 70 people is currently working on a huge site where a rig is drilling holes for pipes that will carry water from the Shubenacadie River 12 kilometres away to dissolve salt caverns. Another set of pipes will carry the salty wastewater back to the same river to be flushed away with the powerful current.

Alton Natural Gas Storage, a subsidiary of Calgary-based AltaGas, wants to store natural gas in three underground salt caverns that will be about 1,000 metres

underground. AltaGas is the same Canadian company that owns the Heritage Gas distribution business.

Each of the caverns is expected to measure about 80 metres high by 50 metres wide, about the size of an average office building.

David Birkett, the president of Alton Natural Gas Storage, said in a statement that the company has been in “regular contact” with Mi'kmaq communities for the past eight years.

“We have met with Mi'kmaq about Alton Natural Gas Storage and will continue to do so in the days, weeks,

months and years to come,” he said.

“The Alton Gas Project is safe, regulated and sustainable and we want to make sure that there continues to be meaningful consultation and open dialogue with the community.”

Bob Haggie, who grew up around the Shubenacadie River, said he first became aware of the project a few weeks ago.

“My concern is what is on the fish and all the other marine life and marine vegetation that exist in those river systems,” he said.

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BC	43	23	66	65%
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