



2022 WORK PLAN

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA

AND

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) will collaborate on the projects outlined below, with the objective of enhancing current mechanisms and practices for delivering environmental protection and conservation measures in the Nova Scotia offshore area. The Work Plan does not preclude DFO, ECCC and the CNSOPB from working on other priority issues or projects identified in 2022.

Decommissioning and abandonment of the oil and gas facilities in the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Area was completed in 2020 and no oil and gas exploration is planned for 2022. Therefore, the 2022 Work Plan is reflective of the low level of offshore activity and some MOU projects are deferred for consideration in future work plans should the level of offshore activity increase.

Project 1 – Joint Priority Setting, Planning and Coordination

Project Description:

The CNSOPB, DFO and ECCC all have legislative and regulatory responsibilities related to petroleum activities offshore Nova Scotia. As such, it is desirable that the agencies develop a set of focus areas for collaborative work and develop strategies to ensure resources are available to carry out this work.

To achieve this outcome, the three parties have agreed to meet as required, and at least annually, to discuss and plan for anticipated workloads and to identify priorities. These meetings will be led by the Implementation Committee Chair.

Deliverables:

- Discussion of issues/areas requiring collaborative work, and an estimate of associated workloads.
- Development of a joint 2022 Annual Work Plan, coordinated by the CNSOPB with DFO and ECCC.
- Implementation Committee members will continue to identify the lead individuals from their agencies who will coordinate Work Plan projects.

- The CNSOPB will proactively collaborate with DFO and ECCC on the development of external communications materials related to process changes, projects, emergency response and other initiatives where there is potential for overlap in jurisdiction and responsibilities. The three organizations will work together to meet shared goals and ensure timely and effective communication with the general public.

Timing: Ongoing

Project Team Leaders:

Dena Murphy (CNSOPB)
 Philson Kempton (ECCC)
 Wendy Williams (DFO Maritimes)
 Alain Hebert (DFO Gulf)

Coordination Team:

Janice Ray (CNSOPB)
 Glen Herbert (DFO Maritimes)
 Jaclyn Poole (ECCC)
 Jean-Francois Mallet (DFO Gulf)

Project 2 – Regulatory Activities

Project Description:

There are several ongoing activities that require regular collaborative work by the CNSOPB, ECCC and DFO in 2022 and in years to follow.

Deliverables:

- The CNSOPB will continue to participate in the development of Recovery Strategies, Action Plans and Management Plans, as well as listings, for Species at Risk through participation in workshops, meetings and responses to consultation requests.
 - Team co-leads: Heidi Schaefer (DFO Maritimes), Diane Amirault-Langlais (DFO Gulf), Josh Mailhiot (ECCC), Janice Ray (CNSOPB)
- In order to be prepared should exploration or other activities commence, ECCC and the CNSOPB will collaborate on development of advice regarding avoidance and enhanced mitigation of impacts on migratory birds, e.g. Leach's Storm Petrel (COSEWIC assessed as Threatened in November 2020). Specifically, ECCC will provide general guidelines for systematic monitoring protocols that will need to be implemented during any offshore activities. The CNSOPB will develop protocols, in consultation with ECCC, if offshore activities are planned. Protocols will be implemented by trained and experienced observers to search for, collect and document the occurrence of stranded birds during any offshore activities.
 - Team co-leads: Sue Abbott (ECCC), Janice Ray (CNSOPB)
- DFO will collaborate with the CNSOPB regarding the ongoing review and potential update to the Statement of Canadian Practice with Respect to the Mitigation of Seismic Sound in the Marine Environment.
 - Team co-leads: Glen Herbert (DFO Maritimes), Janice Ray (CNSOPB)

- The CNSOPB will collaborate with ECCC and DFO on post abandonment monitoring as needed.
 - Team co-leads: Janice Ray (CNSOPB), Rita Mroz (ECCC) and Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes)
- Continued collaboration and input into research objectives of various funding groups, such as Environmental Studies Research Funds (ESRF) and the Program of Energy and Research Development (PERD).
 - Team co-leads: Glen Herbert (DFO Maritimes), Dena Murphy (CNSOPB) and Jean-Francois Mallet (DFO Gulf)

Timing: Ongoing

Project 3 – Marine Planning and Conservation

Project Description:

Under the *Oceans Act*, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, on behalf of the Government of Canada, has the responsibility to lead and facilitate the development and implementation of integrated management plans for all marine waters and a national system of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). To achieve this, the Government of Canada is advancing Marine Spatial Planning and Marine Conservation Networks in priority marine bioregions, including the Scotian Shelf/Bay of Fundy bioregion, as well as commitments under Canada's Marine Conservation Targets for 25% marine protection by 2025 and 30% by 2030. The Minister may also establish marine environmental quality guidelines, objectives and criteria. Within the Maritimes and Gulf Regions of DFO, there are a number of marine planning and conservation initiatives that require CNSOPB awareness, involvement and/or collaboration.

Deliverables:

- The CNSOPB and DFO will collaborate on initiatives and governance structures developed under the Oceans Act.
- The CNSOPB and DFO will collaborate in support of the planning, management and conservation of the Gully MPA and the St. Anns Bank MPA, the Fundian Channel - Browns Bank Area of Interest (AOI), and the Gulf Region Area of Interest (exact location to be determined). ECCC will actively participate in MPA and AOI Advisory Committee meetings.
- The CNSOPB, DFO and ECCC will continue to participate in the federal bioregional Marine Conservation Network development processes, including processes for new AOIs and "Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures", with focus on identified areas.
- ECCC is committed to ongoing participation in migratory bird monitoring within MPAs and more broadly within the bioregion, by way of at-sea surveys (i.e. air and vessel-based) and telemetry data in support of evidence-based planning.

Timing: Ongoing

Project Team Leaders:

Donald Humphrey (DFO Maritimes)
 Richard Ruest (DFO Gulf)
 Janice Ray (CNSOPB)
 Helen Kerr (ECCC)

Project Team Resources:

Glen Herbert (DFO Maritimes)
 Carole Godin (DFO Gulf)
 Andrew Boyne (ECCC)
 Karel Allard (ECCC)

Project 4 – Spill Preparedness and Oversight**Project Description:**

ECCC, DFO and CNSOPB have independent but related mandates regarding preparedness and oversight to environmental emergencies related to offshore activities. This project facilitates the exchange of information to ensure a coordinated approach.

Deliverables:

- Finalize the update to the ECCC-CNSOPB MOU Annex A: Cooperation Concerning Environmental Emergencies to account for the Spill Treating Agents Offshore Regime and other coordination activities as necessary.

Timing: Q2 2022

Project Team Leaders:

Dena Murphy (CNSOPB)
 Matthieu Dussault (ECCC)

Project Team Resources:

James Porter (ECCC)
 Janice Ray (CNSOPB)

Project 5 - Reporting on Progress**Project Description:**

The Implementation Committee Members will keep the MOU Executive Committee signatories advised of the status of projects. An annual report will be finalized by December 15, 2022 on the previous year's progress under the MOU.

Deliverables:

- Mid-year meeting for operations staff of DFO, ECCC, and CNSOPB to discuss each deliverable and provide updates regarding progress and resourcing.
- Annual report to the Executive Committee.

Timing: Mid-Year Meeting - July 15, 2022
 Annual Report - December 15, 2022

Project Team Leader:

Dena Murphy (CNSOPB)

Project Team Resources:

Janice Ray (CNSOPB)

Philson Kempton (ECCC)

Wendy Williams (DFO Maritimes)

Alain Hebert (DFO Gulf)

Approvals:

Whereas the parties have signed this MOU on the dates indicated below.

for: **Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board**

Christine Bonnell-Eisnor

December 13, 2021

Ms. Christine Bonnell-Eisnor
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Date

for: **Environment and Climate Change Canada**

Mr. I.R. Geoffrey Mercer
Regional Director General
Atlantic and Quebec Regions

Date

for: **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

[Signature]

Mr. Serge Doucet
Regional Director-General (Gulf Region)

DEC 22 2021

Date

and

[Signature]

Mr. Doug Wentzell
Regional Director-General (Maritimes Region)

DEC 13 2021

Date