

CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 - 2029

CNSOPB



CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA
OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD



MISSION

Independent regulatory oversight of offshore energy development.

VISION

A trusted regulator for the safe and environmentally responsible lifecycle development of offshore energy.

VALUES



INTEGRITY

We follow the principles of fairness, trust, and accountability.



INCLUSIVITY

We recognize the importance of equity, diversity, and inclusion.



TRANSPARENCY

We will provide clear information on risk-based decisions, operations, and actions.



INNOVATION

We continue to learn, adapt, and transform.



EXCELLENCE

We are an efficient regulator who recognizes the importance of engagement, effective teamwork, and professional development.



COLLABORATION

We engage with Indigenous groups, fishers, stakeholders, communities, and the offshore workforce to foster trust and confidence in decision making.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

MANAGING CHANGE

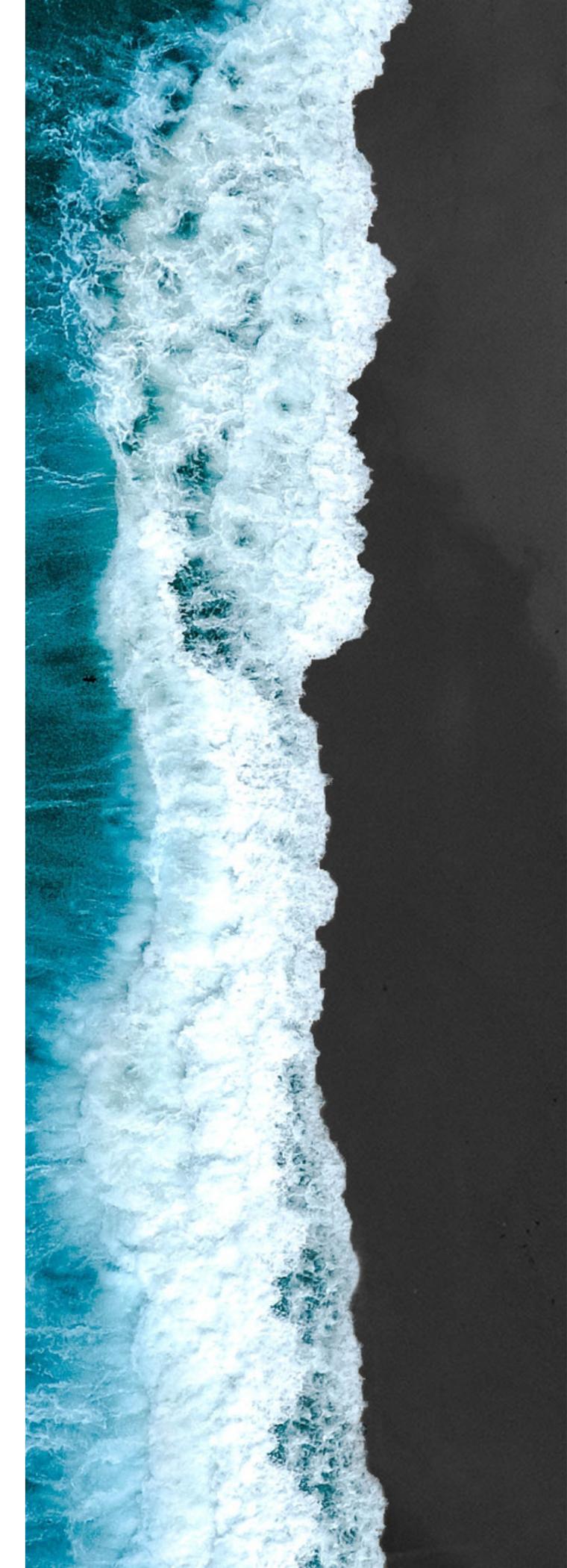
Predicting, preparing for, adapting to, and embracing change in our legislative mandate, regulatory activities, and organizational practices to innovate and keep pace with the evolving global landscape.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Promote a culture of learning, engagement, and collaboration with a focus on continual improvement. Provide access to the necessary information, tools, and systems required for informed decision-making and regulatory oversight.

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION

Developing and enhancing a framework for managing information and technology in a way that aligns with our mission, legal requirements, and regulatory obligations. This transformation will encompass people, processes, and technology to ensure that information is accurate, reliable, accessible, and secure.

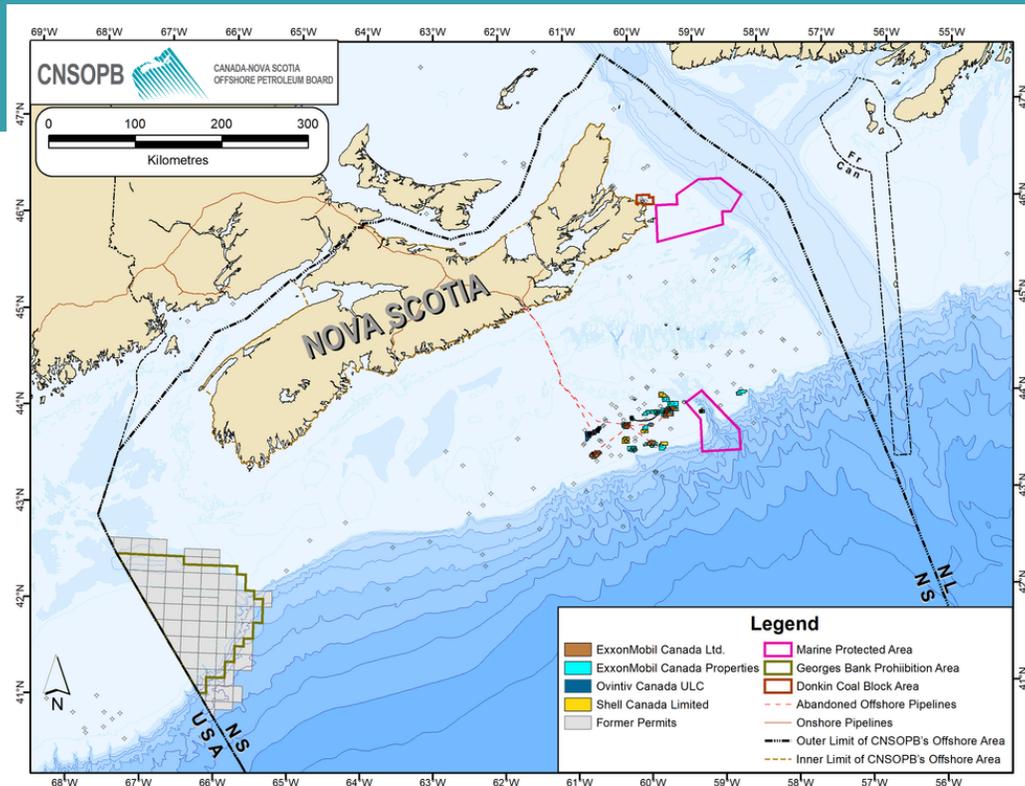


INTRODUCTION

Established in 1990, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) is an independent joint agency created by the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia pursuant to the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act, S.C. 1988, c.28*, and the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation (Nova Scotia) Act, S.N.S. 1987, c.3 (Accord Acts)*. Currently, the CNSOPB is the lifecycle regulator responsible for the regulation of petroleum activities in the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore area, including:

- Health and safety of offshore workers;
- Protection of the environment;
- Management and conservation of offshore petroleum resources;
- Compliance with the provisions of the *Accord Acts* that deal with Canada-Nova Scotia employment and industrial benefits;
- Issuance of licences for exploration and development; and
- Resource evaluation, data collection, curation, and distribution.

Our core regulatory responsibilities span the full lifecycle of offshore energy activities ranging from land tenure, geoscience and resource management studies, resource assessments, exploration, development, and production through to decommissioning and abandonment. We apply our extensive expertise to ensure that operators take all reasonable precautions to protect the health and safety of workers and the environment.



Building trust and confidence in how we regulate energy activities in the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore area is priority for us. We recognize and understand the importance of engaging with Indigenous communities, the fishing sector, the public, and other stakeholders as we believe that they have unique and specific insights that should be taken into consideration prior to making decisions. We also work closely with other government departments at federal and provincial levels through our established relationships and Memoranda of Understanding.

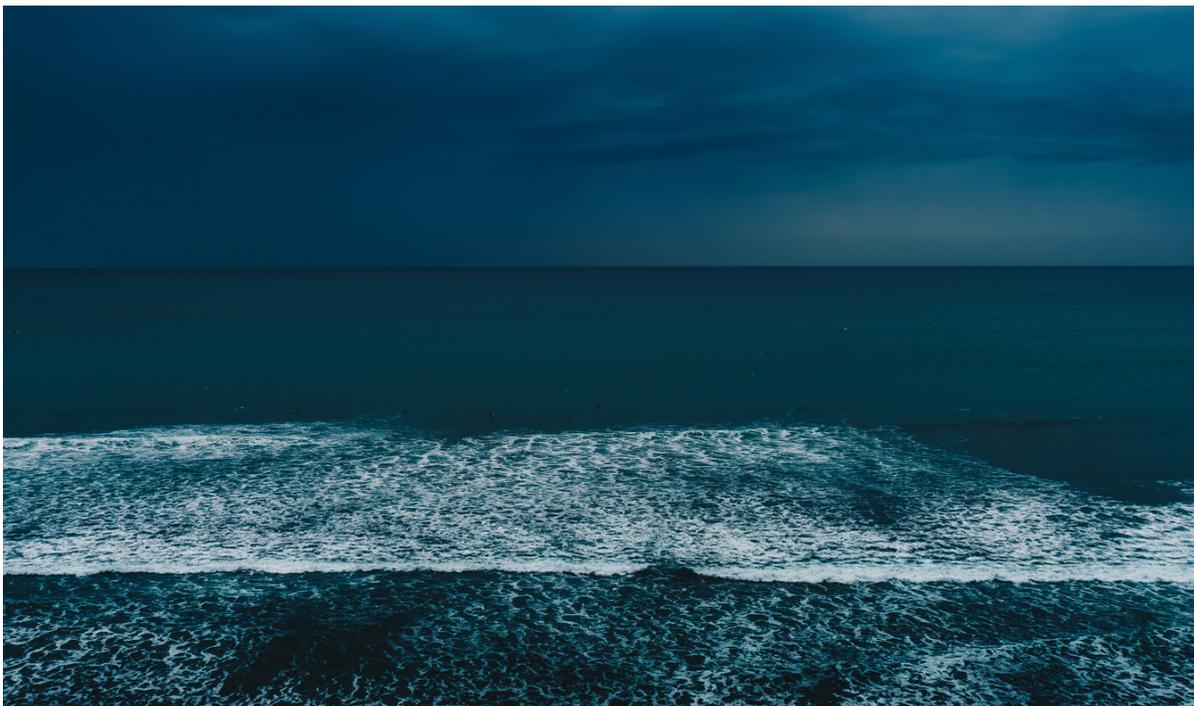
On April 11, 2022, the Governments announced their intention to expand our mandate to include offshore renewable energy development. On May 30, 2023, Bill C-49, an Act to amend the *Canada–Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Act* and the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act* and to make consequential amendments to other Acts, was introduced in the House of Commons by Energy and Natural Resources Canada Minister, Jonathan Wilkinson, and is currently undergoing the legislative review process. In preparation for taking on these important future regulatory responsibilities, our mission, vision, and values were reviewed and updated to reflect our upcoming role as an offshore energy regulator. Once the *Accord Acts* are amended to expand our mandate, our new name will become the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator (CNSOER).

We welcome this expansion to our mandate as we have the technical and regulatory experience and expertise necessary to regulate offshore renewable energy and look forward to these regulatory changes. Transitioning to become the offshore energy regulator is in line with what other Canadian and international regulators are doing.

Our mission and vision now emphasize our important role as an offshore energy regulator in the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore area. Our values reflect the principles that guide the CNSOPB's actions and how staff conduct themselves in the workplace as individuals, as a team, and as an organization.

Current timelines indicate that the *Accord Acts* amendments will come into force during the 2024-2025 fiscal year with the first offshore wind Call for Bids in 2025. Within the next five fiscal years (2024-2029), it is anticipated that the CNSOPB will become the CNSOER, administer offshore wind Calls for Bids cycles, issue submerged land licences, authorize and regulate site assessment survey work and activities, participate in *Impact Assessment Act* processes, and prepare to authorize offshore wind project(s) construction and installation activities in the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore area. These activities are in addition to the CNSOPB's current offshore petroleum mandate and related future activities.

It is these assumptions about future work activities that were assessed when determining the strategic priorities for the next five years (2024-2029).



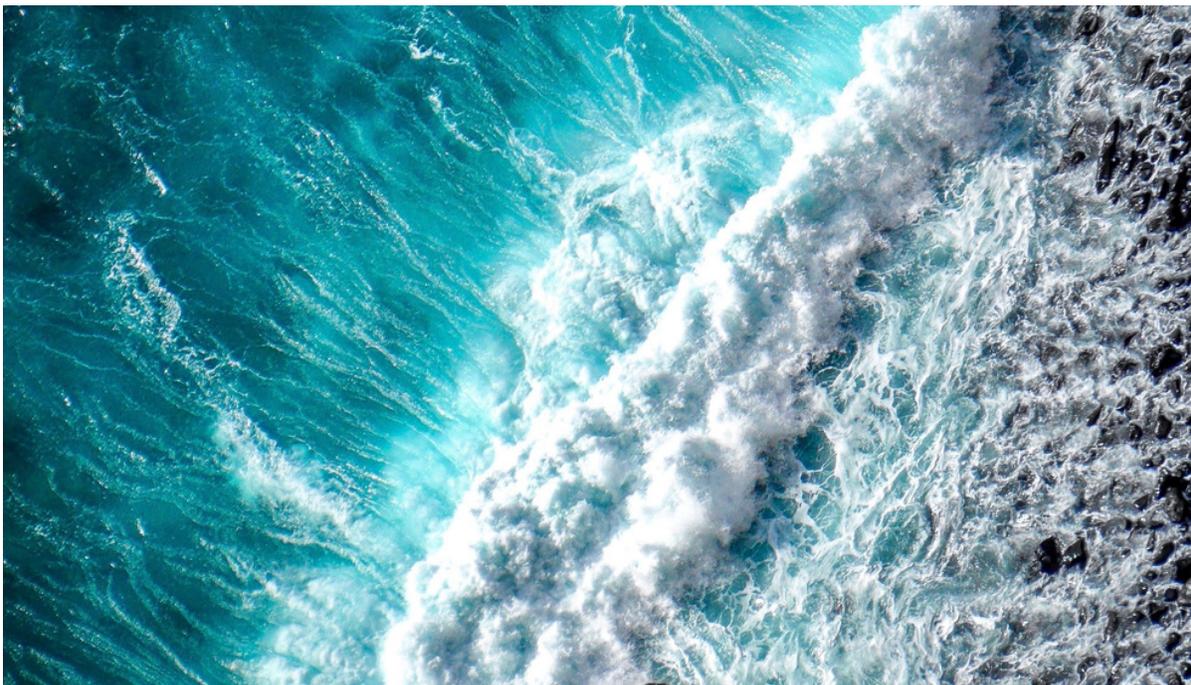
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Three strategic priorities were developed to help the CNSOPB achieve its mission and vision:

- Managing Change;
- Organizational Excellence; and
- Information and Technology Transformation.

These three strategic priorities are intended to ensure that we continue to deliver our current mandate as well as properly prepare for our expanded mandate as the offshore energy regulator. Our focus will continue to be on fulfilling our regulatory mandate as set out in the *Accord Acts* and preparing for the work activities associated with the expansion of our mandate. We are an efficient and effective regulator that embraces change and we will successfully adapt to regulate new types of offshore energy and evolving technology.

We will continue to actively engage with Indigenous groups, the fishing sector, the public, and other stakeholders and to support the many Government-led initiatives currently underway to refine and modernize the regulatory regime.



CNSOPB STRATEGIC PRIORITY - MANAGING CHANGE

OBJECTIVE:

Predicting, preparing for, adapting to, and embracing change in our legislative mandate, regulatory activities, and organizational practices to innovate and keep pace with the evolving global landscape.

THIS OBJECTIVE WILL BE ACHIEVED BY:

- Assessing the landscape around us and within our organization to identify the need for change and a vision for our future which will include the regulation of offshore renewable energy.
- Translating our vision for the organization into action through the development and implementation of transition and transformation plans.
- Staying informed of innovation and advancements in human resource management, information technology and management, and regulatory practices.
- Ensuring our approach has as its foundation, clarity, commitment, collaboration, communication, and consistency.
- Assessing internal resources to ensure appropriate capacity is in place for effective organizational change management.
- Identifying any challenges or barriers to change and ways to effectively mitigate them.
- Building support for the changes internally and externally through proactive and meaningful communications with our staff and a broad spectrum of Indigenous groups, the fishing sector, the public, and other stakeholders.
- Evaluating the changes within our organization to ensure they are effectively managed to withstand the test of time.
- Creating a culture of resiliency, flexibility, innovation, and continuous improvement.

CNSOPB STRATEGIC PRIORITY - ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

OBJECTIVE:

Promote a culture of learning, engagement and collaboration with a focus on continual improvement. Provide access to the necessary information, tools and systems required for informed decision-making, and regulatory oversight.

THIS OBJECTIVE WILL BE ACHIEVED BY:

- Leaders in all roles who uphold the highest standards of professionalism and ethics.
- An engaged, competent, and diverse team of technical experts and professionals committed to delivering our regulatory mandate with the safety of workers and protection of the environment being paramount.
- Continuously striving to maintain and advance our understanding of the safety, environmental, operational, land tenure, geoscience and resource management considerations associated with the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore area, recognizing the importance of actively engaging with Indigenous groups, the fishing sector, the public, and other stakeholders.
- Collaborating with other experts, specialists, government departments, and regulatory bodies to stay current on new research, technology innovations, changes in global industry standards and regulatory practices. Learning and sharing knowledge and best practices by participating in local and international committees, conferences, forums, and symposiums.
- Having access to necessary data, tools, and systems to facilitate informed decision-making, planning, oversight, and continuous improvement in support of our regulatory mandate.
- Effective Board and organizational governance and management systems to foster integrity, consistency, and quality of our regulatory practices, both internally and externally.
- Taking care to apply a holistically informed, transparent, and risk-based approach when undertaking all aspects of regulatory decisions.
- Having employee engagement plans, competitive compensation, robust performance management systems and professional development plans in place.

CNSOPB STRATEGIC PRIORITY - INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION

OBJECTIVE:

Developing and enhancing a framework for managing information and technology in a way that aligns with our mission, legal requirements, and regulatory obligations. This transformation will encompass people, processes, and technology to ensure that information is accurate, reliable, accessible, and secure.

THIS OBJECTIVE WILL BE ACHIEVED BY:

- Maintaining information management lifecycle policies that govern the creation, use, retention, and disposition of information within our organization. These policies will ensure that information is managed consistently and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Enhancing security best practices to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information against unauthorized access, disclosure, and modification.
- Improving information quality management processes to ensure that content is accurate, complete, and accessible to satisfy regulatory requirements and business needs.
- Modernizing the technology architecture utilized to support the CNSOPB's business operations, including hardware, software, networks, and data management systems.
- Evaluating environmental sustainability regarding CNSOPB information management and technology projects. This will be accomplished by reducing energy consumption, minimizing waste, and using environmentally friendly materials.
- Researching and assessing the emergence of new technologies, such as remote monitoring, artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud computing.
- Evaluating future facilities requirements for the CNSOPB. This will include a new/modernized office and warehouse facility and staff working locations (onsite/remote/hybrid). Other factors will relate to the CNSOPB's new mandate and the possibility of shared services with other agencies.



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