

Comment on Middle Scotian Shelf and Slope Strategic Environmental Assessment

Prepared for Canada-Nova Scotia Petroleum Board

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I oppose all forms of exploration for fossil fuels on the Middle Scotian Shelf, due to many of the expected and potential effects laid out in this SEA, which can be summarized as seismic and chemical risk to commercially and environmentally sensitive species. The area of interest includes protected areas that have been identified as important to the continued health of some of these species, the lobster spawning ground being a case in point.

The potential affected area should extend all the way down to Maine and up into the Bay of Fundy because of the ocean currents that would carry any spilled material into these sensitive areas.

Fisheries comprise a large share of Nova Scotia's economic activity, as does tourism, both of which would be threatened if exploration were to proceed. These employ far more Nova Scotians than oil and gas ever could.

The oceans are the lungs of the planet, are incredibly important as a carbon sink in this age of climate change. Therefore they should not be further degraded by development of oil and gas.