

## **Safety & Conservation Directive**

### **Offshore Renewable Energy Regulatory Framework**

06 June 2025

Effective January 31, 2025, the federal [Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation and Offshore Renewable Energy Management Act](#) and the provincial [Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation and Offshore Renewable Energy Management \(Nova Scotia\) Act](#) (collectively the *Accord Acts*) were amended, renaming our organization the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator (CNSOER) and expanding our regulatory mandate to include offshore renewable energy (ORE).

For clarity and transparency for those interested in ORE activities, the CNSOER’s regulatory framework for occupational health and safety is provided by Part III.1 of the *Accord Acts*, along with the mirrored [federal](#) and [provincial](#) versions of the *Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Area Occupational Health and Safety Regulations*. Mirrored federal and provincial CNSOER-specific regulations for ORE are also expected, likely to be based on the recently published [Canada Offshore Renewable Energy Regulations](#) (*CORER*) administered by the Canada Energy Regulator (CER).

The CNSOER recognizes that an application for ORE site assessment activities could be received prior to publication of a CNSOER-specific ORE regulation. To provide clarity of expectations for site assessment activity in the interim, the Chief Safety Officer and Chief Conservation Officer hereby direct applicants to consider elements applicable to site assessment activity described in the *CORER* as though intended to be administered by the CNSOER. It will be necessary to adapt elements of the regulation to reflect jurisdictional differences. Some key considerations requiring adaptation are provided in the attached table.

If you have any questions regarding this Directive, please contact:

*Chief Safety Officer and/or Chief Conservation Officer*  
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**Key considerations for jurisdictional adaptations (CNSOER regulatory framework and the *Canada Offshore Renewable Energy Regulations (CORER)*)**

*This Safety and Conservation Directive is intended to provide interim consideration for CNSOER application / authorization elements related only to ORE site assessment activity. As no other ORE activity authorizations will be considered in the absence of a CNSOER-specific ORE regulation, please note that elements in CORER specific to construction, operations, and maintenance activities and decommissioning and abandonment activities are not applicable for the purposes of this Directive.*

<b>Adaptation Notes</b>	<b>Language used in CORER</b>	<b>CNSOER jurisdiction considerations</b>
Use of "Act" in CORER to be considered to mean the Accord Act. For ease of reference, any Accord Act section numbers provided in this document will be for the federal version.	For CORER references to <i>Canadian Energy Regulator Act (CERA)</i>	Substitute applicable references under the federal <i>Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation and Offshore Renewable Energy Management Act (Accord Act)</i>
Use of "debris" to be considered using the Accord Act definition.	No definition provided in CORER	Use "debris" definition in Accord Act s. 188.17(1)
Use of "Operator" to be considered the applicant for or holder of an ORE authorization under CNSOER jurisdiction.	Reference to CERA s. 298	Substitute with Accord Act s. 142.011
Use of "Regulator" or "Commission" in CORER to be considered to mean the CNSOER as the Regulator.	Use of "Regulator" or "Commission" in CORER	Substitute with "Regulator" for CNSOER purposes
Consideration of factors relating to the interests and concerns of, as well as the effects on the rights of, Indigenous peoples of Canada. (CORER s. 12(e))	Reference to CERA s. 298(3) (d) and (e)	An Indigenous Communications and Engagement Plan will be required for site assessment applications. Refer to Accord Act s. 18.1
Elements related to contents / submissions requirements for an application for authorization.	Reference to CERA s. 298(2)	Substitute with Accord Act s. 142.011(1)
Elements related to development and implementation of systems and plans prior to authorization.	Reference to CERA s. 298(9)	Substitute with Accord Act s. 142.011(3)
Elements related to "diving" to consider applicable aspects of Part 32 "Diving" under the <i>Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Area Occupational Health and Safety Regulations</i> .	Use of "dive" or "diving" in CORER	Consider applicable aspects of Part 32 "Diving" under the <i>Canada–Nova Scotia Offshore Area Occupational Health and Safety Regulations</i>