



## **2018 WORK PLAN**

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

#### **CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD**

#### **FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA**

#### **AND**

#### **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA**

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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, which may be identified during the course of the 2018 calendar year.

#### **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:

- Discussions of issues/areas requiring collaborative work, and an estimate of associated workloads.
- Development of a joint 2019 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.

Timing: Ongoing

Project Team Leaders:

Dena Murphy (CNSOPB)  
 Lisa Fougere (ECCC)  
 Annette Daley (DFO Maritimes) and Regional Director, Ecosystems (DFO Gulf)

**Coordination Team:**

Elizabeth MacDonald (CNSOPB)  
 Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes)  
 Barbara Fullarton (ECCC)  
 Guy Robichaud (DFO Gulf)

**Project 2 - Environmental Assessment**

**Project Description:**

The Work Plan signatories share an interest in improving the environmental assessment (EA) process, such that impacts are understood and managed effectively and efficiently. The exchange of expertise and information is fundamental to the conduct of an EA that fulfills CNSOPB, DFO and ECCC obligations. This project will facilitate that exchange and ensure appropriate linkages are made to other relevant Work Plan items.

Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) are undertaken on an as-needed basis by the CNSOPB, and help to inform the Call for Bids process. DFO and ECCC will work collaboratively with the CNSOPB during the SEA preparation process.

**Deliverables:**

- Continued cooperation in addressing post-EA commitments on the Sable Offshore Energy Project (SOEP), the Deep Panuke project, and the Shell drilling program, including follow-up compliance.
- DFO and ECCC will provide advice on content of SEAs under development and/or review. In 2018 the Misaine and Banquereau Banks SEA will be reviewed and updated as appropriate.
- DFO and ECCC will provide advice on EAs as received.
  - \* The following EAs will continue to be reviewed by the CNSOPB in 2018:
    - BP exploratory drilling EA (EIS; currently being led by the CEA Agency)
    - Statoil Waverley seismic program EA (CNSOPB led)
- Relevant partners (CNSOPB, ECCC, DFO, CEA Agency, CNLOPB) in the EA process to participate in a workshop following the release of CEA Act Review details to confirm how best to implement any changes.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Project Team Leader:** Elizabeth MacDonald and Janice Ray (CNSOPB)

**Project Team Resources:**

Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)  
 Michael Hingston (ECCC)  
 Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes)  
 Guy Robichaud (DFO Gulf)

### **Project 3 – Environmental Effects Monitoring**

#### **Project Description:**

The CNSOPB, ECCC and DFO have developed the *Environmental Effects Monitoring (EEM) Coordination Framework* (April 2005) to assist in coordinating a review of new EEM programs and the results of completed or ongoing programs. The SOEP EEM program and Deep Panuke EEM program are ongoing and reviewed annually, following the Framework.

#### **Deliverables:**

- The *Environmental Effects Monitoring (EEM) Coordination Framework* (April 2005) document will be updated in 2018 to reflect changes in the MOUs, departments and capacity. Once revised, the new *Environmental Effects Monitoring Coordination Framework* will further outline commitments for collaborative efforts.
- Ongoing review of Deep Panuke and SOEP EEM programs and results on an as-needed basis (DFO and CNSOPB).
- Development of an EEM Synopsis Report as described in the EEM Coordination Framework.

**Timing:** EEM Coordination Framework and EEM Synopsis report to be prepared by June 2018.

**Project Team Leader:** Elizabeth MacDonald and Janice Ray (CNSOPB)

#### **Project Team Resources:**

Maria Dober (ECCC)  
Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes)  
Guy Robichaud (DFO Gulf)  
Eric Theriault

### **Project 4 – Regulatory Activities**

#### **Project Description:**

There are several ongoing activities that require regular collaborative work by the CNSOPB, ECCC and DFO in 2018 and in years to follow.

#### **Deliverables:**

- ECCC, DFO and the CNSOPB will endeavor to undertake joint compliance verification activities each year where opportunities present themselves, including monitoring and audits/inspections, under their respective mandates.
  - **Team co-leads:** Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes), Guy Robichaud (DFO Gulf), Eric Theriault, Elizabeth MacDonald and Janice Ray (CNSOPB)
- 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), Julie McKnight (ECCC), Elizabeth MacDonald and Janice Ray (CNSOPB).
- 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.
  - Team co-leads: Elizabeth MacDonald (CNSOPB) and Carina Gjerdrum (ECCC)
- The CNSOPB and DFO will continue to collaborate on the development of enhanced mitigation requirements for programs within the distribution of species at risk, with focus on the Northern Bottlenose Whale, Leatherback Turtle and North Atlantic Right Whale.
  - Team co-leads: Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes), Diane Amirault-Langlais (DFO Gulf), Eric Theriault, Elizabeth MacDonald and Janice Ray (CNSOPB), Dave Wood and Craig Smith (ECCC), and Linda Porebski (ECCC)
- The CNSOPB / Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) SARA Working Group will continue to meet and share information to help interpret SARA requirements and provide guidance.
  - Team co-leads: Heidi Schaefer (DFO Maritimes), Diane Amirault-Langlais (DFO Gulf), Elizabeth MacDonald (CNSOPB), and Julie McKnight (ECCC)
- The CNSOPB, ECCC, and DFO will collaborate on the development of standard wildlife observation reporting and data filing requirements for operators.
  - Team co-leads: Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes), Carina Gjerdrum (ECCC), and Elizabeth MacDonald (CNSOPB)
- 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: Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes), Guy Robichaud (DFO Gulf) and Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Timing: Ongoing

## **Project 5 – Integrated Management and Conservation**

### Project Description:

Under the *Oceans Act*, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans 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 (MPA). 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 *Oceans Act* initiatives that require CNSOPB awareness, involvement and/or collaboration.

### Deliverables:

- The CNSOPB will collaborate with DFO on initiatives and governance structures developed under the *Oceans Act*, such as the Regional Oceans Coordination Table

- The CNSOPB and DFO will collaborate in support of the planning, management and conservation of the Gully MPA and the St. Anns Bank MPA and the Gulf Region Area of Interest (exact location to be determined).
- The CNSOPB and ECCC will continue to participate in the federal bioregional marine protected area network development processes, including processes for new AOIs and "Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures", with focus on identified areas.

**Timing:** Ongoing

**Project Team Leaders:**

Annette Daley (DFO Maritimes) and Regional Director, Ecosystems (DFO Gulf)  
Elizabeth MacDonald and Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

**Project Team Resources:**

Janice Ray (CNSOPB)  
Glen Herbert (DFO Maritimes)  
Mireille Chiasson (DFO Gulf)  
Karel Allard (ECCC)

**Project 6 – 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:**

- Exchange of information between ECCC, DFO and the CNSOPB regarding offshore spills and other relevant incidents.
- ECCC's National Environmental Emergencies Centre (NEEC), based on its capacity, and DFO to provide comment and advice to the Board on spill response plans and net environmental benefit analysis, as needed.
- Invitations to be provided by all parties to relevant spill response exercises and/or planning sessions.
- Initiate 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:** Ongoing

**Project Team Leaders:**

Tanya Bryant (ECCC)  
Matthieu Dussault (ECCC)  
Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

**Project Team Resources:**

Marc-Etienne Lesieur (ECCC)  
Glen Herbert (DFO)

## **Project 7 – Framework for Oil Spill Fate and Effects Monitoring**

### **Project Description:**

During a major spill incident it is important to monitor both the fate of the oil and environmental effects. The purpose of this project is to develop a framework for the three agencies to monitor the fate and effects of the spill. The objective of the on-site operational science may be to support the mission to aid the response effort by gaining a better understanding of the fate and behavior of the spilled material, to support regulatory enforcement, and/or environmental damage assessment and restoration concerns. Although this project will focus on offshore activities, a national effort will be made, so that it applies to various sectors.

Upon completion of ECCC's study to assess the current state-of-the-art on-site and laboratory scientific analysis to support the Department mission at an oil spill, consideration will be given to expanding the spill monitoring framework to include further detailed descriptions of the roles and requirements by federal agencies to provide operational on-site scientific support, including sampling and analysis related to a spill.

### **Deliverables:**

- Continued discussions of issues/areas requiring collaborative work.
- Finalize the framework document describing how the three organizations will work together and an outline of the types of information to be collected, and available equipment and resources.

**Timing:** December 2018

### **Project Team Leaders:**

Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Matthieu Dussault (ECCC-NEEC)

Patrick Lambert (ECCC-ESTS)

Tom King (DFO-COOPER)

### **Project Team Resources:**

Janice Ray (CNSOPB)

## **Project 8 – Ocean Disposal**

**Project Description:** This project examines Disposal at Sea regulatory requirements as they relate to activities undertaken by the offshore oil and gas industry.

### **Deliverables:**

- A proposal to change the language of Canadian Environmental Protection Act Section 122 (1) (k), referred to as the Offshore Exemption paragraph, is pending approval as part of a broad package of proposed CEPA amendments. Upon confirmation of approval status, Atlantic Marine Programs Unit Head will meet with the CNSOPB and CNLOPB Environment leads to discuss any proposed amendments and how this may impact Authorization processes or MOUs with the Boards.
- ECCC will work with Boards to inform CAPP, CAPP members and other relevant government regulators (such as DFO) on the outcomes of any proposed regulatory change and related actions taken to clarify regulatory roles in the offshore oil and gas sector. Also there will be a discussion of the potential need to establish a

working group to enhance regulatory efficiency related to Disposal at Sea activities associated with offshore oil and gas activities.

**Timing:**

- Precise date for publication is unknown at this time but could be as early as Q1, 2018
- Target for conducting an information session on *CEPA* amendments and decisions on implementation of a working group to be taken following Royal Assent of the amendments. Target goal will be to complete before December 31, 2018, subject to confirmation of a defined path forward on regulatory changes

**Project Team Leader:** Kevin Power (ECCC)

**Project Team Resources:** Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

**Project 9 - Reporting on Progress**

**Project Description:**

The Implementation Committee Members will keep the MOU Executive Committee signatories advised of the status of projects. A progress report will be completed mid-year and an annual report will be finalized by December 31, 2018 on the previous year's progress under the MOU.

**Deliverables:**

- Mid-year summary of progress
- Annual report to Executive Committee

**Timing:** Semi-annual summary: drafting meeting in May and final report on or before June 30, 2018; Annual summary: drafting meeting in early November and the annual progress report before December 31, 2018.

**Project Team Leader:** Dena Murphy (CNSOPB)

**Project Team Resources:**

Lisa Fougere (ECCC)

Annette Daley (DFO Maritimes)

Richard Ruest (DFO Gulf)

**Approvals:**

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

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

original signed

Mr. Stuart Pinks  
Chief Executive Officer

Dec 13/17

Date

for: **Environment and Climate Change Canada**

original signed

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

Date

for: **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

original signed

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

Date

and

original signed

Ms. Mary-Ellen Valkenier  
Regional Director-General (Maritimes Region)

DEC 01 2017

Date