



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

JOINT 2017 WORK PLAN ACTIVITIES

CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD

FISHERIES and OCEANS CANADA

AND

ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA

Introduction

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) has existing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with both Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Maritimes and Gulf Regions and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Under these MOUs, there exists a deliverable to present an Annual Progress Report to the Executive Committee. The purpose of the Annual Report is to summarize the progress of joint projects defined in the 2017 Work Plan. The intent of this report is to meet that purpose.

Discussion

In 2017, the CNSOPB, DFO and ECCC agreed to continue to work collaboratively on a tri-partite work plan, with the objective of enhancing current mechanisms and practices for delivering environmental protection and conservation measures in the offshore environment that are of mutual interest.

The 2017 Work Plan included a total of nine projects, the majority of which were completed. Many are appropriately classified as 'ongoing' projects. Table 1 provides a summary of the progress for each project. Details regarding progress made in 2017 on each project are outlined in Appendix 1.

TABLE 1: Summary of Progress on Work Plan Projects

PROJECT	LEADS/CO-LEADS	ALL / MOST DELIVERABLES COMPLETED	SOME DELIVERABLES COMPLETED	NO SIGNIFICANT DELIVERABLES COMPLETED
1- Joint Priority Setting, Planning and Coordination	CNSOPB, ECCC, and DFO	X		
2 – Environmental Assessment	CNSOPB	X		
3 – Environmental Monitoring	CNSOPB		X	
4 – Regulatory Activities	CNSOPB, ECCC and DFO	X		
5 – Integrated Management and Conservation	CNSOPB and DFO	X		
6 –Spill Preparedness and Response	CNSOPB, ECCC and DFO	X		
7 – Framework for Oil Spill Fate and Effects monitoring	CNSOPB/ECCC		X	
8 – Ocean Disposal	ECCC		X	
9 – Reporting on Progress	CNSOPB	X		

Progress was made on all of the work plan projects for 2017. Major collaborative activities that took place in 2017 included:

- review of the Environmental Impact Statement and associated processes related to the BP exploratory drilling program;
- review of the Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (SIMA) related to the BP Canada Scotian Basin Exploration Program
- review and approval of the environmental effects monitoring (EEM) plans for the Deep Panuke Project and the Sable Offshore Energy Project (SOEP); and
- continued collaboration on matters related to the *Species at Risk Act*.

As a supplement to the information in Table 1, a summary of the status and progress of each project in the Work Plan is included in Appendix 1.

Representatives from the three organizations reviewed and discussed the status of various projects under the 2017 Work Plan throughout the year. Overall, the progress on work plan deliverables was positive.

Approvals

For Fisheries and Oceans Canada:

original signed

Ms. Annette Daley
A/Regional Director
Ecosystem Management
Maritimes Region

Nov 7 / 2017
Date

original signed

Mr. Richard Ruest
A/Regional Director
Ecosystem Management
Gulf Region

Nov 10, 2017
Date

For Environment and Climate Change Canada:

original signed

Ms. Lisa Fougere
Manager, Regional Analysis and Relations
Atlantic and Quebec Regions

Nov 7, 2017
Date

For the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board:

original signed

Ms. Dena Murphy
Director
Operations/Health, Safety & Environment

Nov. 7, 2017
Date

APPENDIX 1

STATUS REPORT ON CNSOPB/DFO/ECCC 2017 JOINT PROJECTS

The following summarizes progress on the nine projects defined in the 2017 CNSOPB/DFO/ECCC Work Plan.

PROJECT 1- Joint Priority Setting, Planning and Coordination

Project Team Leaders:

Dena Murphy (CNSOPB)

Lisa Fougere (ECCC)

Annette Daley (DFO Maritimes) and Luc Boucher (DFO Gulf)

Coordination Team:

Elizabeth MacDonald (CNSOPB)

Donald Humphrey/Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes)

Barbara Fullarton (ECCC)

Guy Robichaud (DFO Gulf)

Deliverables:

- Discussions of issues/areas requiring collaborative work, and an estimate of associated workloads.
- Development of a joint 2017 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.
- Discussion on the process for notification of incidents to ensure that common messages are available, and early notification occurs in accordance with an agreed "need to know" protocol.

Status: Complete

The three organizations were effective in achieving all deliverables identified under this project.

PROJECT 2 – Environmental Assessment

Project Team Leaders: Elizabeth MacDonald and Janice Ray (CNSOPB)

Project Team Resources:

Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Michael Hingston (ECCC)

Donald Humphrey/Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes) and Guy Robichaud (DFO Gulf)

Deliverables:

- Continued cooperation in addressing post-EA commitments on the Sable Offshore Energy Project (SOEP), the Deep Panuke project, and the Shell program, including follow-up compliance.
- DFO and ECCC will provide advice on content of SEAs under development.
- DFO and ECCC will provide advice on EAs as received.
 - The following anticipated EAs will be led by the CNSOPB in 2017:
 - BP exploratory drilling EA (EIS; led by the CEA Agency)

Status: Ongoing

There was successful achievement of the deliverables identified as a part of this project. Efficient and effective cooperation allowed for oversight of the Shell drilling program.

An addendum to the Western Scotian Shelf SEA (2012) was completed this year.

The BP Scotian Basin drilling program EA process is being led by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the review remains ongoing.

Statoil submitted a project description and a scoping document was developed for a potential seismic program in 2018 or 2019.

PROJECT 3 – Environmental Effects Monitoring

Project Team Leader: Elizabeth MacDonald and Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Project Team Resources:

Maria Dober (ECCC)

Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes) and Guy Robichaud (DFO Gulf)

Deliverables:

- *The Environmental Effects Monitoring (EEM) Coordination Framework (April 2005)* document to be updated 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.

Status: Ongoing

Both the SOEP and Deep Panuke EEM programs were reviewed and approved in a timely and effective manner. The work on the draft revised Framework and the EEM Synopsis Report has begun and will carry forward into 2018.

PROJECT 4 – Regulatory Compliance Activities**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: Donald Humphrey / Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes), Guy Robichaud (DFO Gulf), Eric Theriault, Elizabeth MacDonald and Janice Ray (CNSOPB), Dave Wood and Craig Smith (ECCC)

- 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), 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.

Team co-leads: Elizabeth MacDonald (CNSOPB) and Julie McKnight (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, such as the Northern Bottlenose Whale.

Team co-leads: Donald Humphrey / Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes), Diane Amirault-Langlais (DFO Gulf), Eric Theriault, Elizabeth MacDonald and Janice Ray (CNSOPB)

- 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)

- 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: Donald Humphrey/Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes), Guy Robichaud (DFO Gulf) and Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Status: Ongoing

No joint inspections or audits have been required this year.

The CNSOPB, DFO and ECCC worked together on the dropped riser analysis.

The CNSOPB participated in consultations on a number of Recovery Strategies, Action Plans and/or future protection of critical habitat for species at risk.

North Atlantic Right Whale was a major focus for both DFO and the CNSOPB this year.

Collaborative efforts continue among the parties regarding input into research objectives and priorities.

Scheduling SARA Working group meetings continues to be a challenge to do participant workload and finding common availability.

ECCC and the CNSOPB met to discuss common approaches to enforcement files.

CNSOPB participated in an ECCC hosted training session on investigations.

PROJECT 5 – Integrated Management and Conservation

Project Team Leaders:

Annette Daley (DFO Maritimes) and Luc Boucher (DFO Gulf)
Elizabeth MacDonald and Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Project Team Resources:

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

Deliverables:

- The CNSOPB will collaborate with DFO on initiatives and governance structures developed under the *Oceans Act*, such as the Regional Committee on Ocean and Coastal Management (RCCOM) and the Northumberland Strait Environmental Monitoring Program (NORSTEMP).

- The CNSOPB and DFO will collaborate in support of the planning, management and conservation of the Gully MPA and the St. Anns Bank Area of Interest (AOI) 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 process, including processes for new AOIs and “Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures”.

Status: Ongoing

The CNSOPB continues to participate on DFO’s Gully Advisory Committee. The St. Ann’s Bank was designated as an MPA in June, 2017. The CNSOPB continues to provide advice and comments on DFO’s spatial planning processes, including sensitive benthic area, AOI and MPA network planning processes. Also, collaborative efforts to develop enhanced mitigation related to the Northern bottlenose whale, and other species at risk within the CNSOPB jurisdictional area, continued in 2017 and will continue into 2018, with focus on Leatherback turtle and North Atlantic Right Whale.

PROJECT 6 – Spill Preparedness and Response

Status: Ongoing

Project Team Leaders: Tanya Bryant (ECCC) and Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Project Team Resources: Matthieu Dussault and Glen Herbert (DFO)

Deliverables:

- Exchange of information between ECCC, DFO and the CNSOPB regarding response to offshore spills.
- 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.

Status: Ongoing

There is ongoing exchange of information between ECCC, DFO and the CNSOPB regarding response to offshore spills. NEEC hosted a science table in September to provide consolidated advice to the CNSOPB on BP’s SIMA. BP will host an exercise in December, 2017.

PROJECT 7 – Framework for Oil Spill Fate and Effects**Project Team:**

Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Mathieu Dussault (ECCC-NEEC)

Patrick Lambert (ECCC-ESTS)

Tom King (DFO-COOPER)

Deliverables:

- Discussions of issues/areas requiring collaborative work.
- Development of a 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.

Status: Ongoing

Discussion of issues and areas requiring collaborative work is ongoing. The CNSOPB has developed a draft outline for the framework document which is currently being reviewed and revised. This will carry forward into 2018.

PROJECT 8 – Ocean Disposal**Project Team Leader:** Kevin Power (EC)**Project Team Resources:** Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)**Deliverables:**

- ECCC's Marine Programs – Atlantic has tabled a discussion piece with its program colleagues in National Capital Region aimed at seeking possible actions to address long standing policy questions regarding the application of CEPA Disposal at Sea provisions to the offshore oil and gas sector.
- Finalization of ECCC Disposal at Sea Program's review of Canadian Environmental Protection Act Section 122 (1) (k), referred to as the Offshore Exemption paragraph, in order to provide the two Offshore Boards, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) and their industry members an update on the outcome of that review and guidance on what that means to the regulatory process in the offshore oil and gas sector.

Status: Ongoing

Both the SOEP and Deep Panuke EEM programs were reviewed and approved in a timely and effective manner. The work on the draft revised Framework and the EEM Synopsis Report has begun and will carry forward into 2018.

PROJECT 4 – Regulatory Compliance Activities**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: Donald Humphrey / Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes), Guy Robichaud (DFO Gulf), Eric Theriault, Elizabeth MacDonald and Janice Ray (CNSOPB), Dave Wood and Craig Smith (ECCC)

- 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), 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.

Team co-leads: Elizabeth MacDonald (CNSOPB) and Julie McKnight (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, such as the Northern Bottlenose Whale.

Team co-leads: Donald Humphrey / Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes), Diane Amirault-Langlais (DFO Gulf), Eric Theriault, Elizabeth MacDonald and Janice Ray (CNSOPB)

- 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)

- 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: Donald Humphrey/Mike Wambolt (DFO Maritimes), Guy Robichaud (DFO Gulf) and Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Status: Ongoing

No joint inspections or audits have been required this year.

The CNSOPB, DFO and ECCC worked together on the dropped riser analysis.

The CNSOPB participated in consultations on a number of Recovery Strategies, Action Plans and/or future protection of critical habitat for species at risk.

North Atlantic Right Whale was a major focus for both DFO and the CNSOPB this year.

Collaborative efforts continue among the parties regarding input into research objectives and priorities.

Scheduling SARA Working group meetings continues to be a challenge to do participant workload and finding common availability.

ECCC and the CNSOPB met to discuss common approaches to enforcement files.

CNSOPB participated in an ECCC hosted training session on investigations.

PROJECT 5 – Integrated Management and Conservation

Project Team Leaders:

Annette Daley (DFO Maritimes) and Luc Boucher (DFO Gulf)
Elizabeth MacDonald and Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Project Team Resources:

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

Deliverables:

- The CNSOPB will collaborate with DFO on initiatives and governance structures developed under the *Oceans Act*, such as the Regional Committee on Ocean and Coastal Management (RCCOM) and the Northumberland Strait Environmental Monitoring Program (NORSTEMP).

- The CNSOPB and DFO will collaborate in support of the planning, management and conservation of the Gully MPA and the St. Anns Bank Area of Interest (AOI) 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 process, including processes for new AOIs and “Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures”.

Status: Ongoing

The CNSOPB continues to participate on DFO’s Gully Advisory Committee. The St. Ann’s Bank was designated as an MPA in June, 2017. The CNSOPB continues to provide advice and comments on DFO’s spatial planning processes, including sensitive benthic area, AOI and MPA network planning processes. Also, collaborative efforts to develop enhanced mitigation related to the Northern bottlenose whale, and other species at risk within the CNSOPB jurisdictional area, continued in 2017 and will continue into 2018, with focus on Leatherback turtle and North Atlantic Right Whale.

PROJECT 6 – Spill Preparedness and Response

Status: Ongoing

Project Team Leaders: Tanya Bryant (ECCC) and Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Project Team Resources: Matthieu Dussault and Glen Herbert (DFO)

Deliverables:

- Exchange of information between ECCC, DFO and the CNSOPB regarding response to offshore spills.
- 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.

Status: Ongoing

There is ongoing exchange of information between ECCC, DFO and the CNSOPB regarding response to offshore spills. NEEC hosted a science table in September to provide consolidated advice to the CNSOPB on BP’s SIMA. BP will host an exercise in December, 2017.

PROJECT 7 – Framework for Oil Spill Fate and Effects

Project Team:

Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)
 Mathieu Dussault (ECCC-NEEC)
 Patrick Lambert (ECCC-ESTS)
 Tom King (DFO-COOPER)

Deliverables:

- Discussions of issues/areas requiring collaborative work.
- Development of a 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.

Status: Ongoing

Discussion of issues and areas requiring collaborative work is ongoing. The CNSOPB has developed a draft outline for the framework document which is currently being reviewed and revised. This will carry forward into 2018.

PROJECT 8 – Ocean Disposal

Project Team Leader: Kevin Power (EC)

Project Team Resources: Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Deliverables:

- ECCC's Marine Programs – Atlantic has tabled a discussion piece with its program colleagues in National Capital Region aimed at seeking possible actions to address long standing policy questions regarding the application of CEPA Disposal at Sea provisions to the offshore oil and gas sector.
- Finalization of ECCC Disposal at Sea Program's review of Canadian Environmental Protection Act Section 122 (1) (k), referred to as the Offshore Exemption paragraph, in order to provide the two Offshore Boards, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) and their industry members an update on the outcome of that review and guidance on what that means to the regulatory process in the offshore oil and gas sector.

- Work with Boards, CAPP, CAPP members and other relevant government regulators (such as DFO) to establish a working group to enhance regulatory efficiency related to Disposal at Sea activities associated with offshore oil and gas activities.

Status: Ongoing.

Revised timing was prescribed for the discussion piece regarding Disposal at Sea. Completion of the review is targeted for Summer/Fall of 2017 and a program update will follow shortly after. Decision on implementation of a working group to be determined.

PROJECT 9 – Reporting on Progress

Project Team Leader: Dena Murphy (CNSOPB)

Project Team Resources:

Lisa Fougere (ECCC)

Annette Daley (DFO Maritimes)

Mr. Richard Ruest (DFO Gulf)

Deliverables:

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

Status: Complete

The mid-year summary was completed in June, 2017. This Annual Progress Report satisfies the second deliverable outlined under this project.

