# Accord Acts Offshore Renewable Energy Land Tenure Process

Not in Legislation

| | | Estimated dates as of November 17, 2026 |
|---|---|---|
| P1 | **Regional Assessment (RA) or Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**<br>Governments support the implementation of, and consider findings from, an RA or an SEA to:<br>▪ identify optimal areas for future projects;<br>▪ identify data gaps relevant to optimal areas;<br>▪ provide recommendations on mitigating potential impacts.<br>public engagement | January 23, 2025 |
| P2 | **Wind Energy Area (WEA) Designation**<br>Based upon the findings and recommendations of the RA Report, governments evaluate findings, identify and engage on proposed WEAs, and then designate WEAs.<br>Governments may rely on previous RAs/SEAs or new RAs/SEAs/studies to identify WEAs in the future.<br>public engagement | July 29, 2025 |
| P3 | **Strategic Direction from Ministers**<br>Ministers provide joint direction to Regulator to design and implement a Call for Information process. Details could include WEA(s) to be used to identify licence areas, timelines for Call for Information, Prequalification Criteria, Call for Bids Criteria, and purpose for electricity. Currently intended to be public. | September 18, 2025 |
| *P4 | **Call for Information & Prequalification***<br>Regulators administer a prequalification process to identify eligible companies that can participate in a Call for Bids.<br>Regulators engage with stakeholders, fishers, and Indigenous groups on location(s) of potential parcel(s) within WEAs, and proposed criteria and assessment approach used in future Calls for Bids.<br>public engagement | What We Heard Report - April 21, 2026<br>Prequalification - concluded June 19, 2026<br>Indigenous Consultation - began October 2026 |
| P5 | **Recommendation to Launch a Call for Bids**<br>Regulator makes a recommendation to Ministers to launch a Call for Bids. The recommendation will outline the details of the Call for Bids, including bidding criteria and how it will be assessed, terms and conditions for an SLL, and location(s) of parcel(s). This is informed by feedback from the Call for Information process. | February 2027* |
| P6 | **Ministerial Decision on Call for Bids Recommendation**<br>Ministers jointly decide on the Regulator's recommendation; Ministers' decisions are made public. *No time limit on Ministers decision.* | February/March 2027* |
| P7 | **Call for Bids**<br>Regulator administers a public Call for Bids for prequalified developers to bid on identified Licence areas and the associated SLLs in line with its recommendation. As part of its responsibilities, the Regulator also communicates with interested parties to share relevant information and field questions. | March/April 2027* |
| P8 | **Recommendation to Issue Submerged Land Licence(s)**<br>Regulators make recommendation to Ministers to issue an SLL(s) to the winner(s) of the Call for Bids. | Timing is dependent on the details received within the Ministerial Decision (above) and the number of bid submissions received |
| P9 | **Ministerial Decision**<br>Ministers make a decision on the Regulator's recommendation. Ministers' decisions are public. *60 days + 30 days*. | |
| P10 | **Issuance of Submerged Land Licence(s)**<br>Regulator issues SLL(s) to winner(s) of the Call for Bids. A SLL provides the exclusive right to develop a project in the Licence area. It does not allow any work or activity to take place. Developers must first apply for a project authorization under Part 3 of the Accord Acts. | |

** Dates are subject to change*

Government-Led  Regulator-Led

Offshore Wind Call for Bids NS25-1R