

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY DRILLING EAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR Engagement Activity / Meeting Notes: Regional Assessment Committee and Environmental and Academic Organizations		
Date and Time / Duration	May 23, 2019 9:00 am -11:00 am	
Location	Holiday Inn, Portugal Cove Road, St. John's NL	
Organization(s)	Environmental and Academic Organizations	
Participants (External)	Bill Montevecchi – MUN Ian Jones – Biology MUN Rachel Sorensen – Student, MUN Greg Naterer – MUN Engineering Sarah Saunders – WWF Canada	Teleconference: Tanya Edwards - CPAWS Mary Alliston – CPAWS
Participants (Internal)	Garth Bangay Wes Foote Maureen Murphy-Rustad Keith Storey Gerald Anderson	Steve Bonnell Melissa Moss
Key Questions/Issues Raised	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Questions around how scientific information on biological components, particularly seabirds, will be integrated into the Regional Assessment. 2. Data gaps are well known for the NL offshore area. There are opportunities for researchers to suggest topics for areas where information/data is lacking. 3. Concern that the environmental monitoring data required as part of authorization for seismic activities are not being captured in the Canadian Wildlife Service databases (e.g. PIROP). 4. The only seabird data available outside the continental shelf is collected on seismic vessels with seabird and marine mammal observers. This is a valuable source of distribution data. 5. There are data gaps within the Regional Assessment Study Area that could potentially be filled by ongoing data collection by independent observers on oil and gas related installations. 6. Concerns on whose responsibility it is to enforce the requirements of collecting seabird data, both protocols for data collection and analysis, but also the requirement to provide these data to CWS and their eventual distribution and use. 7. Issues with getting monitoring data from the C-NLOPB that is not under confidentiality. 8. Would like to see independent observers on every drilling installation operating in the NL Offshore. There are concerns that monitoring currently being conducted is inadequate, established protocols are not being used and whether monitoring is being completed by unqualified individuals. 9. Environmental consultants could be independent observers if they were free to release data collected. Would like to see a similar system as the fishing industry has, with independent fisheries observers. 10. Questions around whether seismic surveys will be included in the RA. 	

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">11. There is a need for more of a scientific basis for the mitigations that are currently required and implemented. Potential issues with, for example, completing wildlife observation during seismic in thick fog or night conditions.12. Recognized the importance of ensuring effects to the environment are adequately mitigated, however concerned with timelines for regulatory approvals and impacts of future investments in the NL Offshore industry.13. Support for collaboration between MUN Engineering and seabird research to improve environmental mitigations.14. Regional Assessment does not look at multiple sectors and scenarios (e.g. more fishing, or more renewable projects, oil and gas development). What are the potential effects the oil and gas sector would have on other sectors and vice versa?15. Must also consider the cumulative impacts of climate change resulting from exploration drilling. What impact will future activities have on Canada's Paris Agreement commitments or protection of marine areas?16. Marine Spatial Planning program, once released, will be a useful tool in the Regional Assessment.17. Regional Assessment should include comprehensive evaluation of oil spill response measures, particularly around capping stack technology and locations.
Follow-up / Action Items	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Committee to set-up separate meeting with seabird researchers and CWS to discuss issues with data availability.
Prepared By:	Melissa Moss