

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY DRILLING EAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Engagement Activity / Meeting Notes: Regional Assessment Committee and Fisheries Organizations

Date and Time / Duration	May 23, 2019 1:00 to 3:00 pm	
Location	Holiday Inn, Portugal Cove Road, St. John's NL	
Organization(s)	Fisheries Organizations	
Participants (External)	Rick Ellis – Ocean Choice International (OCI) Derek Butler – Association of Seafood Producers (ASP)	
Participants (Internal)	<u>Committee Members</u> Garth Bangay Wes Foote Maureen Murphy-Rustad Keith Storey Gerald Anderson	<u>Task Team:</u> Steve Bonnell Tonya Warren
Key Questions / Issues Raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Temporal issues and historical fishing data :</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General concerns over the exclusion of historical fishing data from current EAs and decisions and want to ensure that the RA captures the temporal context of the fishery and how it's changed over time. Suggested the use of an appropriate temporal scale. 2. If RA is to be evergreen, then annual or biannual updates should be done given the dynamic nature of the fishery. • <u>Fisheries Data:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is data collected from vessels on an hourly basis but is commercially sensitive and proprietary. Could this data be developed into a product that could be shared? Is there anything industry has that would help at least identify hotspots? 2. Seismic navigational data provided to DFO on a regular basis but they have not done anything with it. Fishing industry/producers are not able to tap into this. 3. Vessels are being outfitted with sensors to track various environmental factors (i.e. dissolved oxygen) and plankton movements (i.e. temperature variants and species distribution) which can be layered together to be used to predict fish patterns and possible fishing locations. Sensors could be installed on the inshore fleet as well – untapped resource and great opportunity to collect data. 4. Nexus installed nodes and cables for scientific purposes to collect real time data but not sure of the status. Potential data source. 5. Single Beam Sonar completed on the Grand Banks as well as 3D mapping in some areas. 6. Future plans to install cameras on fishing vessels to record benthos prior to fishing activity to determine what is there. 	

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Key Questions / Issues Raised	<p>7. Committee is eager to sit down and talk about how to get access to the best available data possible. Industry reps agreed to further discussion, likely through TAG process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>GIS Product:</u><ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Committee looking for as many people to contribute as possible.2. Garnered positive feedback from industry members.3. Questions asked around who will retain ownership of the Regional Assessment following completion.4. Questions also asked on how to address data gaps.• <u>Legacy Drilling/Production sites:</u><ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Some concern expressed in the past, especially regarding gear entanglement in abandoned wellheads, etc.2. No interaction to date but fishers are supposed to advise operators if there are any issues.
Follow-up / Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further discussion on how to gain access to proprietary data for inclusion in the RA (Committee and Industry), possibly through TAG process.
Prepared By:	Tonya Warren