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

Engagement Activity / Meeting Notes: Regional Assessment Committee and Fish, Food and Allied Workers (FFAW)-Unifor

Workers (FFAW)-Unifor		
Data and Time / Duration	May 24, 2019	
Date and Time / Duration	9:00 to 11:00 am	
Location	Fish, Food, and Allied Workers (FFAW-Unifor) Office, 368 Hamilton Ave, St. John's	
Organization(s)	Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union (FFAW-Unifor)	
	Keith Sullivan, FFAW-Unifor (President)	
Participants (External)	Robyn Lee, FFAW-Unifor (Petroleum Industry Liaison)	
	Erin Carruthers, FFAW-Unifor (Scientist)	
Participants (Internal)	Committee Members	Task Team:
	Garth Bangay	Tonya Warren
	Wes Foote	
	Maureen Murphy-Rustad	
	Keith Storey	
	Gerald Anderson	
Key Questions / Issues Raised	 Consultation: Concern expressed that fishers will not get the same consideration or level of consultation as other stakeholders. FFAW-Unifor suggested a second round of consultations. Consultation will have to be much wider than this session if serious about hearing from industry. FFAW-Unifor would take the information on RA to experts and other members. Discussion occurred on the importance of ensuring the provision of appropriate and clear information to union members. FFAW-Unifor agreed to provide advice on this topic. RA will need commitment to consultation with the industry if it going to be effective. FFAW-Unifor suggested that additional funding be secured to ensure long-term engagement. Temporal issues and historical fishing data: FFAW-Unifor concerned with changes in the fishery over time and how its rapidly changing nature will be captured in the RA. Fisheries (finfish) are anticipated to change over next 10 years. Consideration should be given to historical and projected fisheries. Transparency and decision making:	

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- **3.** Also concerns that there have never been decisions made to prohibit oil and gas related activities in areas where fishing activity occurs. This includes seismic acquisition activity, which is more of a concern than drilling.
- **4.** FFAW-Unifor are hoping the process will improve and that some additional consideration will be given to the importance of the fishing industry. How will factors be weighed in and will thresholds or triggers for level of activity be established?
- 5. FFAW-Unifor expressed concerns on how a single tool was used in the past (i.e. Oceans Use Atlas) to inform fisheries related decisions. Other tools should be used in addition to the Oceans Use Atlas, and other factors considered, in the decision making process followed by consultation.

• Deliverables/GIS Product:

- 1. Clarity sought by FFAW-Unifor on the goal of the RA and the exact deliverables.
- 2. Clarity sought on ownership of the RA following its completion.
- 3. Clarity sought on how to address data gaps in the RA.
- 4. In order for this RA to be of value, a quality product must be delivered.

Key Questions / Issues Raised

Data/Research:

- FFAW-Unifor have data identifying key times of fish vulnerability, migration, concentrations and life stages. These data were provided to DFO for inclusion in the MPA process.
- 2. The "rule of five" that is applied to the commercial fisheries data from DFO is prohibitive and would be a good idea to find a work around or to find a solution to allow use of better and more detailed data.
- 3. FFAW-Unifor asked if regulators had the ability to require operators to collect data in areas that were data poor.
- 4. FFAW-Unifor have data sets based on surveys for crab, cod, and halibut that they conducted which are similar to the RV surveys. FFAW-Unifor to look into the potential use of these data sets for purposes of the RA and identification of data gaps.
- Concern over the quality of the information in previous projectspecific EAs. FFAW-Unifor to go through previous EAs and identify well and poorly written sections to help inform the RA content and scope.
- **6.** Some concern over engaging fishers to participate in data collection and research when they feel that there is no value in it or the information is not being used for research purposes.
- **7.** Nexus installed nodes and cables for scientific purposes to collect real time data but unknown if it was analysed or used. Potential data source.

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY DRILLING EAST OF **NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR** Engagement Activity / Meeting Notes: Regional Assessment Committee and Fish, Food and Allied Workers (FFAW)-Unifor 8. There is a need to consider dividing the RA study area up into sub areas based on our knowledge levels. Five key areas of interest identified for fishers in the RA Study Area. Erin circled these on a map and agreed to provide a copy to the committee (FFAW-Unifor). Follow-up / Action Items 2. Provision of advice on next steps for follow up consultation with fishers. 3. FFAW-Unifor to go through their survey data to identify data gaps. 4. FFAW-Unifor to go through previous EAs and identify well and poorly written sections. **Prepared By:** Tonya Warren