

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

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Session on *Marine and Migratory Birds*

September 10, 2019

QUESTIONS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

PARTICIPANT INPUT FORM

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1) Key information and datasets

- a) Do you have any suggestions for marine and migratory bird related datasets and information sources that should be considered in the Regional Assessment?

No. Those mentioned at the TAG session I believe to be a good starting point.

- b) Do you have any suggestions for the analysis, use and presentation of marine and migratory bird data in the Regional Assessment?

No. Those mentioned at the TAG session I believe to be a good starting point.

2) Important and/or sensitive aspects of marine and migratory birds

- a) Are there any particularly important and/or sensitive aspects of marine and migratory birds that the Regional Assessment and its recommendations should focus on (e.g., locations, times, species, etc.)?

There should be a heavy emphasis on the Leach's Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) strandings onboard offshore installations and vessels. Offshore lighting, as it relates to this particular species and their attraction, particularly in the fall also needs to be closely monitored.

Should vessels and installations also be coming into port (i.e. Bay Bulls) their proximity to a bird sanctuary is of concern. While this is not offshore it still falls perhaps, within the realm of offshore jurisdiction (rules, regulations and legislation). Lighting and deck activities as they may relate to potential increases in bird strandings should be closely monitored at these times as well.

3) Potential interactions between offshore exploratory drilling and marine and migratory birds

- a) In addition to the issues and interactions listed in the backgrounder for this session, are there any others that should be considered in the Regional Assessment?

No. Those mentioned at the TAG session I believe to be a good starting point.

4) Existing and potential mitigation and follow-up requirements

- a) In addition to the standard measures listed in the backgrounder for this session, do you have any suggestions for any required new or different ones?

No. Those mentioned at the TAG session I believe to be a good starting point.

b) Do you have any suggestions for issue- or situation-specific (certain activities, areas, times) measures that should be considered?

No. Those mentioned at the TAG session I believe to be a good starting point.

5) Do you have any other input or recommendations that you would like to provide to the Committee on this topic?

It is recommended that the committee strongly consider an independent wildlife observer program on all installations. These personnel should not have any other duties unrelated to wildlife monitoring. A program of this calibre would allow high quality data to be captured in a systematic and standardized way across all platforms. It would allow for better data analysis and perhaps a clearer picture of the seabird density fluctuations throughout the year and any particular anomalies.

At minimum it would be recommended that as many rig and vessel personnel as possible, have basic training on how to handle and record stranded or dead seabirds should a dedicated wildlife observer not be onboard. This training need not be arduous but familiarize all crew with proper procedures and protocols for handling birds safely, should it be required, and the necessary recording procedures.

Once the GIS system (as mentioned in the session) comes online it would be recommended that annual sessions, such as the current TAG meetings be held annually. This would allow for ease of communication between all parties and transparency with data in the system.

All comments received will be considered public and may be posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry. For more information on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Terms of Use and Submission Policy, please consult <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/introduction?culture=en-CA#innovation> . For more information on the Agency's privacy policies, consult the [Privacy Notice](#) on its website: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/Protection?culture=en-CA>