

# Defining Management Zones for the Regional Environmental Assessment on Exploratory Drilling

## Offshore Groundfish Fisheries Perspective

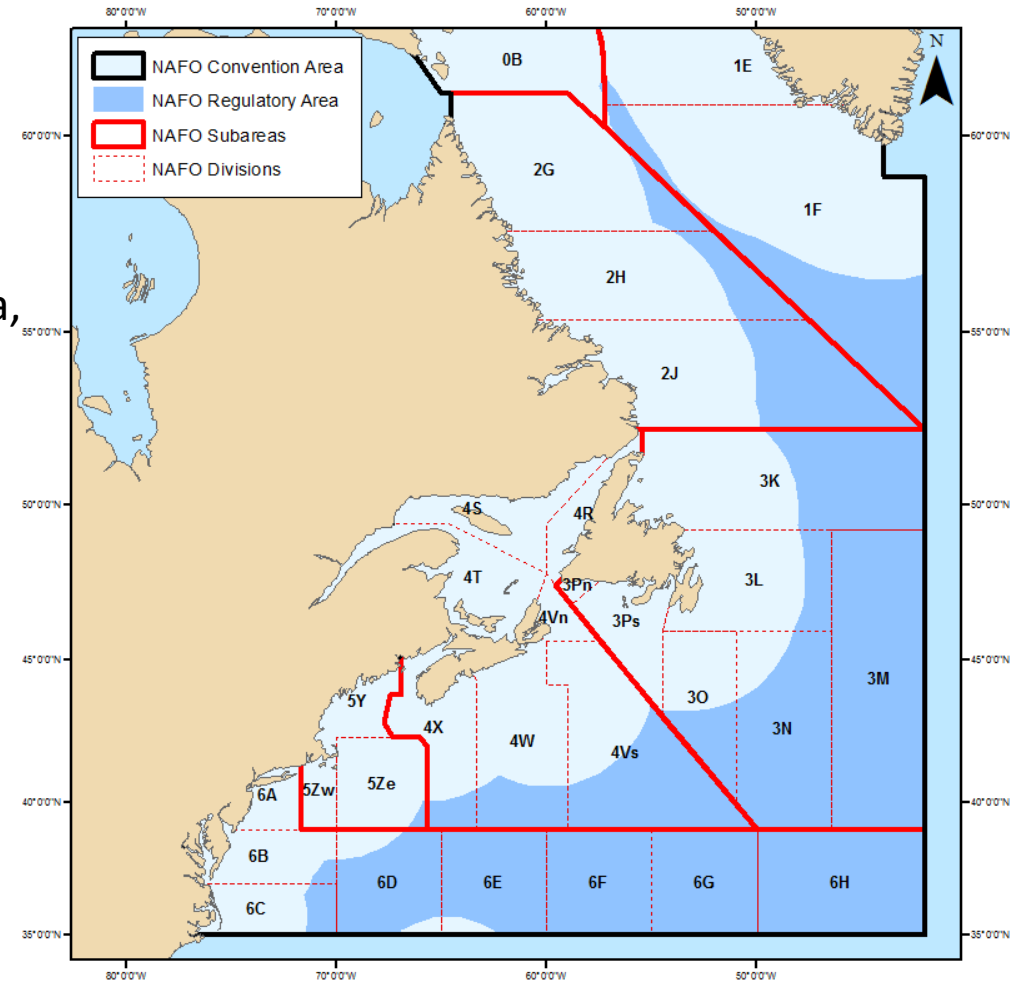
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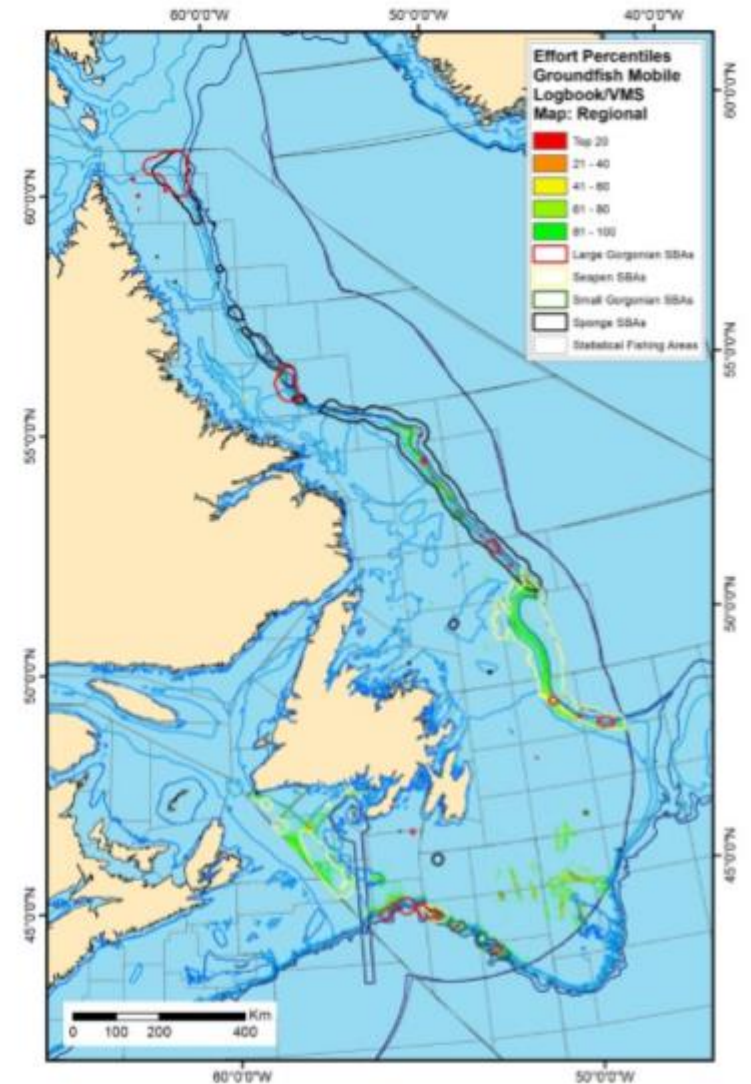
# The Offshore Groundfish Sector

- 19 licence holders from across Atlantic Canada. Include both those operating active fleets (OCI) and those that have reduced operations in light of historic stock reductions
- Represent over 50,000 mt of groundfish quota in Atlantic Canada, including over 40,000 mt of quota in the waters surrounding NL.
- A wide range of species are included:
  - Cod
  - Flatfish (plaice, flounder species, halibut)
  - Redfish
  - Halibut (Greenland and Atlantic)
  - Hake (silver and white)
  - Skates
- Operations both within and outside the of the Canadian EEZ



# Where do we fish?

- Fishing occurs throughout the edges of the NL shelves and in some plateau areas of the Grand Banks.
- The pattern of the fishery has some degree of annual shifts, related to:
  - Available stocks
  - Spatial distribution of the resource (more on this later)
  - Catch rates (must match processing or not viable)
  - Bycatch
  - Interactions with other fleet sectors/fisheries
- Activity extends up into the Eastern Arctic (available upon request)
- Footprint is fairly constrained – ***We are easy to avoid in both time and space!***

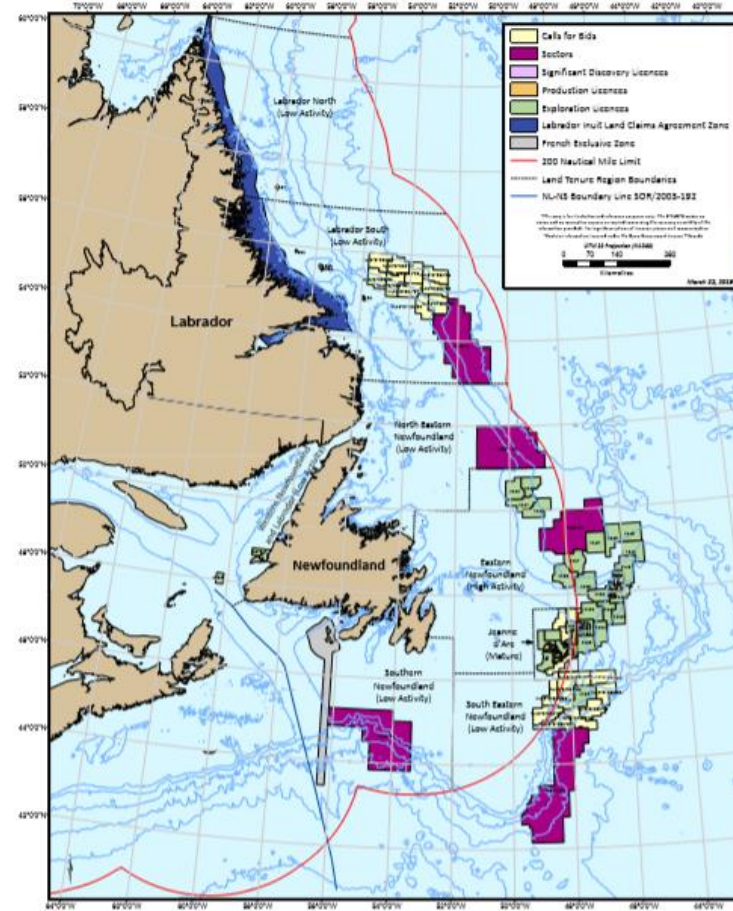
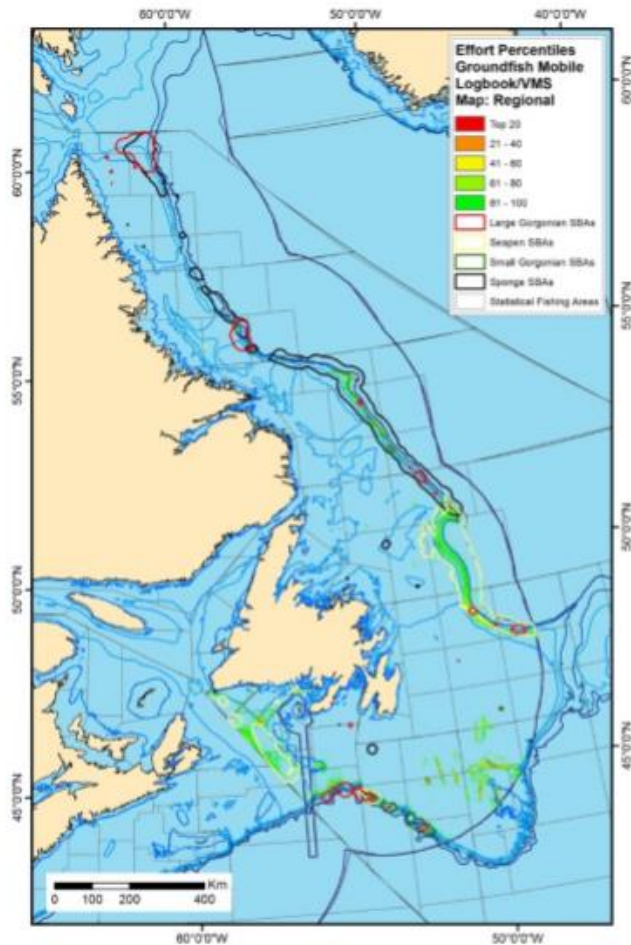


# When do we fish?

- Vessels use strengthened hulls that are capable of enduring moderate ice conditions.
- Some vessels will switch between shrimp and groundfish operations, meaning that vessels will be operating year-round
- Vessels fish when there are fish to be caught and the tissue quality is maximized, this differs between species and areas.
- A ‘general’ annual fishing trend by quarter is presented (right) defined by quarters. **Realize these can shift significantly based on environmental conditions or external factors impacting availability of the resource to gears.**

Species	Management Area	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Redfish	Unit 2	Y		Y	Y
	3LN	Y	Y	Y	Y
Greenland Halibut	2+3KLMNO	Y	Y		
	0A0B			Y	Y
Yellowtail Flounder	3LNO	Y	Y	Y	Y
Witch Flounder	3Ps	Y	Y		
	3NO	Y	Y		
Atlantic Cod	3Ps	Y			

# Fishing and Petroleum Activities



We clearly share the marine area!



# Why we are worried:

- **Loss of Access:** Exploration leads to both direct loss of fishing areas (exclusion zones) and semi-permanent loss (production) – *we seek to avoid this.*
- **Impacts:** Exploration risks are direct (i.e. blowout) and indirect (i.e. seismic). This can create future uncertainty on the willingness of markets to take products or even impacts on valuable fishable areas through siltation/spills/etc.
- **Temporal Challenges:** Fishing and exploration drilling overlap in time and space. This means one of us can't operate.
- **Unknown effects:** We do not feel that there is an adequate understanding in place on the short and long term effects of exploration activity on the ocean environment. We seek to apply a precautionary approach to ensure both industries can share out marine resources
- **Catastrophes:** From riser loss to mud blowouts, these happen and have impacts.

# What We Propose

- Create zones that provide guidance and certainty to the oil and gas industry. Specifically:
  - **Heightened Sensitivity Zones:**
    - Areas with historic fisheries that have either re-opened at low levels or will re-open soon.
    - This would require higher scrutiny and consultation with harvesters including exact sighting of activities to avoid anticipated interactions. This would also include heightened environmental protections.
  - **Exclusion Zones:**
    - Areas with strong current fisheries that are ongoing, productive and valuable.
    - Represent no-go zones for drilling activities.
    - Exploration activities outside of drilling (i.e. seismic) could be conducted with heightened environmental protections

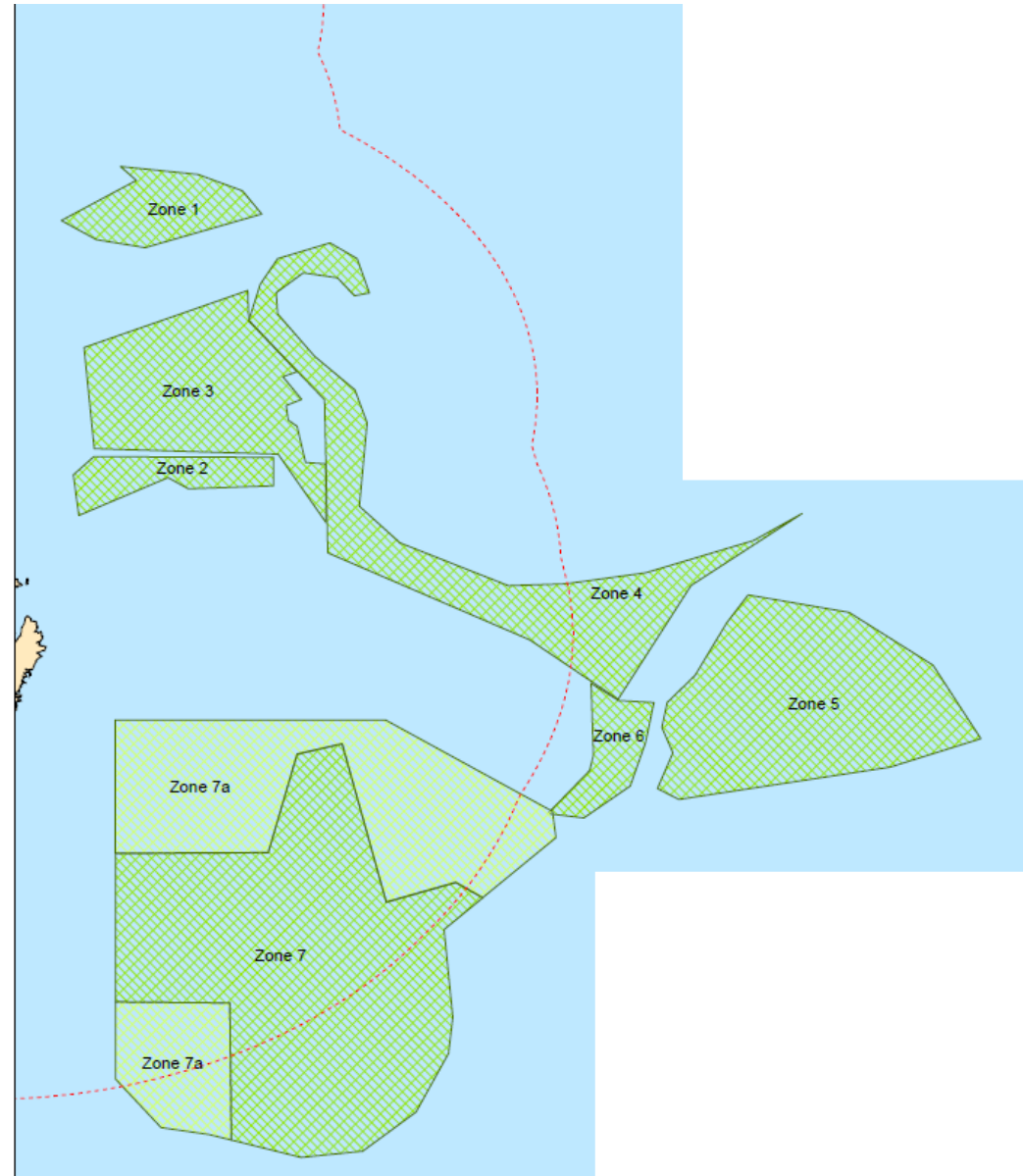
# Proposed Zones:

## Full Exclusion

- Zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7
- Zones represent active current activity and strong historical footprint
- No drilling activity
- Seismic/resource delineation permitted on a case-by-case basis with special emphasis on harvester avoidance

## • Heightened Scrutiny

- Zones 3 and 7a
- Zones represent strong historical usage and areas of focus for stocks on recovery trajectory
- Drilling permitted, but with heightened conditions which may include:
  - Fine-scale position of rigs relative to activity
  - Small drill rig footprints to protect opportunity to harvest
  - Industry consultation required before permitting to assess values
  - Reduced vessel exclusion zones
- Seismic/resource delineation permitted with operators seeking input on timing and impacts





# What This Approach Will Achieve:

- **Certainty for operators:** They know where challenges can be anticipated and where they will be free to operate unhindered.
- **Certainty for industry:** We know our interests will be respected and will work cooperatively with industry.
- **Demonstrated Cooperation:** We suggest that the panel look at our recent work with EMERA regarding the Maritime Link – we will staunchly defend our shared marine economy when we have a spirit of cooperation across industries.
- **High Value Oil and Gas Prospects Maintained:** Our proposed approach will keep areas open where drilling is expected to increase in intensity (i.e. Equinor, Hibernia, Sea Rose) at the expense of some VERY high value fishing areas.

# Questions and Next Steps?