REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY DRILLING EAST OF **NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR Engagement Activity / Meeting Notes** Date finalized: November 18, 2019 Date and Time / Friday, November 1, 2019 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. NDT **Duration** Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Office, St. John's, NL and teleconference Location Atlantic Groundfish Council (AGC) Organization(s) Ocean Choice International (OCI) Teleconference: In-person: **Participants** Carrey Bonnell, OCI Kris Vascotto, AGC (External) Rick Ellis, OCI Committee Members: Regional Assessment Task Team: Garth Bangay (phone) Impact Assessment Agency of Canada **Participants** Maureen Murphy Rustad Jeff Janes (Internal) Wes Foote **Erin Stapleton** 1. AGC/OCI fishing footprint is narrowly constrained – they feel their activities are easy to avoid both in time and space. 2. AGC/OCI's key concerns regarding exploratory drilling are: loss of access to high value fishing areas; impacts on fishing activities; temporal challenges; unknown effects; and catastrophic events. As discussed in the September Technical Advisory Group meeting, the fishing industry has privacy concerns around sharing detailed data publicly. AGC/OCI suggest that the most effective way to address this is to allow the fishing industry to identify polygons of high value that could be presented in a spatial manner in the Regional Assessment. 4. AGC/OCI described two types of proposed zones: Exclusion Zones and Heightened Sensitivity Zones 5. Exclusion Zones are high value fishery areas, where there are high catch returns Record of as well as a strong historical footprint. These areas are proposed to be closed to Discussion exploration drilling, though seismic/resource delineation would be permitted on a case-by-case basis. 6. Heightened Sensitivity Zones are areas with a strong history of usage and areas of focus for stocks on a recovery trajectory. Drilling would be permitted but with a heightened level of mitigation applied to them. 7. AGC/OCI believe that adoption of these zones would provide certainty to both the oil and gas and fishing industries, and demonstrates a cooperative approach. 8. The Committee members noted that they cannot mandate these zones, but can make recommendations of this nature (i.e., a mechanism to deal with/mitigate against conflict). 9. The Committee suggested AGC/OCI overlay CNLOPB data and NAFO regions onto their proposed zones. 10. The Committee requested AGC/OCI provide more detail in support of their proposed zones, including details on seasonality, species and value of catch.

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	Kris to send Committee shapefiles of proposed zones.
Follow-up /	2. Kris to send Committee "desensitized" version of presentation.
Action Items	3. Kris to send Committee rationale behind proposed zones, and include information
	about species and seasonality in those zones.
Prepared By:	Erin Stapleton