

**REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY DRILLING  
EAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Session on GIS  
September 11, 2019  
QUESTIONS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION  
PARTICIPANT INPUT FORM**

**Name and Affiliation:** CAPP

**1. (a) Do you have any suggestions on available environmental datasets or other information sources that should be accessed and used in the RA, or around key data gaps?**

- The RA scope and study area are similar to the 2014 [Eastern Newfoundland Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\)](#) which identified key environmental features and considerations associated with future oil and gas activities in the eastern NL area (including Flemish Pass and parts of the Orphan Basin outside the 200 Nautical Mile Limit). CAPP recommends that the Committee consider building on/updating this SEA as you develop the Regional Assessment report.
- The REA TAG should rely on existing Geographical Information Systems (GIS) that Fisheries & Oceans Canada (i.e., fish & fisheries, environmentally sensitive areas, other ocean uses) and other government agencies such as Environment Canada (i.e., seabird distributions, oil slick sightings) maintain as the primary sources of environmental baseline information for the offshore NL area. There is no need to re-invent these GIS databases which other government agencies regularly update (e.g., up to 2017 in the case of fisheries data by DFO). Standard graphical outputs (some public; others available upon request from aforementioned agencies) from these databases readily allow for the overlay of potential exploration drilling ‘footprints’ (as an example refer to the [SEA for the SW Scotian Slope](#) ).
- With regard to illustrating the dispersion of oil from a blow out or large spill, the RA should rely on the results of plume model simulations from previous EAs (as per the eastern NL SEA) or if necessary conduct new simulations at representative locations within the REA Study area as component of their scenario projections (as per the 2000 [regional scale EA for exploration drilling off the Nova Scotia](#) ).
- Refer to CAPP’s submission for the Cumulative Effects session for a summary of the environmental ‘footprint’ of routine discharges and emissions related to exploratory drilling.

**1) (b) Do you have any suggestions around the nature and format of the eventual product that the Committee will develop and submit to the Minister?**

The end product should be a straightforward and comprehensive RA report presented in a user-friendly format with concise narratives supported as much as possible by appealing GIS graphical outputs. It is critical that RA report equip the Minister with the information to issue a decision that exempts exploration drilling from the Designated Projects list in the RA area. Recommendations from the committee should align with existing offshore project specific mitigations for exploration drilling.

**REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY DRILLING  
EAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Session on GIS  
September 11, 2019  
QUESTIONS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION  
PARTICIPANT INPUT FORM**

Recommendations tabled at the TAG sessions to address known data gaps should be noted for potential future research opportunities and must not impede a timely impact assessment process.

**2) Do you have any suggestions on where the GIS platform should be housed, such that the system gets maintained and updated at regular intervals?**

Refer to comment re GIS in 1(a) above

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

Refer to comment re GIS in 1(a) above

The RA should abandon the strategy of building and maintaining a proposed new GIS system. Instead, the RA should adopt a more sustainable approach, which is to avail of relevant existing fisheries, ocean uses and environmental databases maintained on an ongoing basis by government agencies such as DFO, and Environment Canada.

***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](https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/Protection?culture=en-CA) on its website: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/Protection?culture=en-CA>***