

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

Name and Affiliation:

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1) Key information and datasets

- Do you have any suggestions for marine and migratory bird related datasets and information sources that should be considered in the Regional Assessment?
- Do you have any suggestions for the analysis, use and presentation of marine and migratory bird data in the Regional Assessment?

Tracking data

- local ECCC data
- international dataset available as well → international birds use RA

Analysis → GIS exercise will be useful to highlight info spatial/temporal gaps

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

- 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.)?

Leach's Storm-Petrel is a ECCC priority species because of population declines and international responsibility; this species has significant data gaps including behaviours with respect to interactions with oil & gas activities, key to understanding magnitude of impacts & mitigation.

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

- 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?

Need to highlight impacts of operational releases in addition to accidental oil spills. Studies exist related to sheens affecting feather structures.

4) Existing and potential mitigation and follow-up requirements

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

Need to develop & implement a systematic monitoring program conducted by trained & dedicated observers to search for, collect & document the occurrence of stranded birds on offshore platform (daily + effort)

+ research need to look at other variables involved with a mortality assessment (e.g. detectability, persist... ) to quantify mortality associated w strandings.

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

- Need to recognize international responsibility/impact of oil + gas industry on global seabird popns, many of which use G.Banks area to winter + are highly vulnerable to oil on the water. In case of thick-billed murre, also declining throughout NE Atlantic, a portion of which winter in RA area.
- Add light pollution map as GIS layer (see Falchi et al. 2016 and visit [www.lightpollutionmap.info](http://www.lightpollutionmap.info) for data source).

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