

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY DRILLING
EAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Session on *Cumulative Effects*
September 13, 2019
QUESTIONS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
PARTICIPANT INPUT FORM

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1) Possible sources of cumulative effects

- a) How should the inherently dynamic nature of the marine environment, including the continued influence of climate change and other such factors, be considered and addressed in the RA?

- Considering how dynamic the marine environment is, there should be specific EA's or assessments for each drilling program

- b) What type and level of future exploratory drilling should be assumed in the Study Area for the purposes of the cumulative effects assessment, and how should this be defined and approached (e.g., possibly through definition of various "scenarios" of future activity levels / intensities / distributions upon which to base the assessment)?

- Perhaps the question should be what level of exploratory drilling will be "allowed" → both spatially + temporally

- c) What other types of human activities are affecting the marine environment in the Study Area, and are likely to have the most potential to result in cumulative effects in combination with offshore exploratory drilling?

Fishing & shipping
~~and~~ human induced climate change

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2) Potential cumulative effects and their management

a) What factors and processes influence whether (and to what degree) the effects of individual projects and activities in the Study Area may overlap or otherwise interact to result in cumulative effects?

- multiple activities with migratory routes or habitat
- amount of seismic in exploration
- amount of nights based fishing in area now and ^{predicted} into the future
- the transparency and independent oversight of proponent activities

b) Are there particular environmental effects that are more likely than others to behave "cumulatively" in the Study Area? Are there certain environmental components that are more likely to be affected or are more sensitive to such cumulative effects?

- seismic activity - pre drilling + VSPs
- other noise from drill rigs + supply vessels
- chronic spills + potential blow outs
- no fish zones due to drilling/production activities

c) Are there existing regulatory, planning or other mechanisms that help to ensure an adequate "degree of separation" between individual activities and their environmental effects in the Study Area?

- There should be Fisheries Authorization from DFO for any exploration wells.

d) What recommendations could the Committee consider making in its report around how cumulative effects might be better managed through existing, enhanced or potentially new regulatory and planning processes?

- limit on number of concurrent developments
- Needs to be increased transparency of individual activities / issues such as oil spills + emissions

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

- if NS has Regional Assessment, the cumulative effects of NFID & NS should be considered together
- one of the valued components needs to be Atlantic salmon

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Timber Rob - Committee for hosters

- increased probability of oil spill / blow out as more exploration & development comes online

- As more wells proceed ^{so too does the} ~~the more exploration~~ ^{space like} impact on Atlantic salmon ~~migration~~ and other wildlife patterns. The ^{scope of} impact is ~~still~~ uncertain and we should be taking a precautionary approach going forward

↳ Also consider NS if sector grows ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{should}, there will likely be a greater amount of Indigenous fishing as treaty rights are implemented, ^{as per} for example the Marshall decision of 1999.

- The more activity, the more impediment to this rights based fishing in terms of fragmentation & potential impact to fish & fish habitat