

**REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY DRILLING  
EAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**  
**Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Session on *Commercial Fisheries***  
**September 9, 2019**  
**QUESTIONS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**  
**PARTICIPANT INPUT FORM**

**Name and Affiliation :** Susanna Fuller, Oceans North

**1) Key fishing activities and areas**

- a) Are there any key fishing activities, locations and times that you would like to identify, including any particularly important and sensitive areas within the Study Area (current and potential future fisheries)?
- All areas that have been protected either under the Fisheries Act or under NAFO for deep sea corals and sponges should be out of scope for any exploratory drilling. These areas have been 1) identified as biodiversity hotspots and contains fragile species 2) have been closed to fishing activity. In order to reduce the resource use conflict between sectors, an area closed to one industrial activity should be closed to all industrial activities, particularly those that are know to impact seafloor, filter feeding species.
  - Spawning grounds should be identified and exploratory drilling and seismic activity, noting it is out of scope of this assessment, should be limited so that they do not occur during spawning.
  - The panel should consider all information included in the ecologically or biologically sensitive areas (EBSAs) that have been identified either by Canada within its EEZ or by the Convention on Biological Diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

**2) Fisheries information and datasets**

- a) Do you have any suggestions for fisheries related datasets and information sources that should be considered in the Regional Assessment (current and future fisheries)?
- b) Do you have any suggestions for the analysis, use and presentation of fisheries data in the Regional Assessment?
- The panel has already collected much of the needed data, and Oceans North supports the disaggregation of active fishing information by species, gear type and vessel length/ tonnage. Historical data should also be considered.
  - DFO RV survey information should be presented as part of the GIS information, only after relevant experts at DFO have approved its use and placed any necessary caveats on its potential interpretation.

**3) Potential interactions between offshore exploratory drilling and fisheries**

- a) 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?
- Timing and duration of seismic activity and further studies on the impacts of seismic activity on the marine foodweb are needed.

**4) Existing and potential mitigation and follow-up requirements**

- a) 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?
- b) Do you have any suggestions for issue- or situation-specific (certain activities, areas, times) measures that should be considered?
- Spawning grounds and timing of spawning of commercial fisheries should be considered both in terms of approving seismic activity prior to exploration as well as through cumulative impacts of exploratory wells.
  - Buffer zones should be established around key fish habitat and key fishing areas.

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

- More reserch is needed on the food chain impacts of climate change and how exploratory drilling further

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exacerbates these changes.

- Spatial planning, including areas where oil and gas is prohibited should be an outcome of this regional assessment.
- All oil and gas related information should be publicly available and accessible.

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