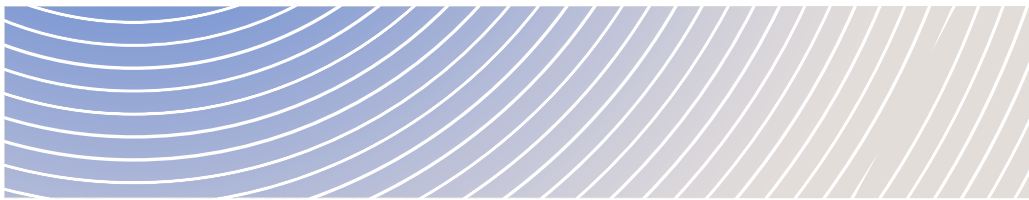




Follow-up Program Report for 2021- 2022



REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY
DRILLING EAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

May 2022



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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition
CHS	Canadian Hydrographic Service
C-NLOPB	Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
CSAS	Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
ECCC-CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service, a branch of Environment and Climate Change Canada
ESRF	Environmental Studies Research Fund
G&C Agreement	Grants and Contribution Agreement
GIS Tool	Geographic Information System Decision Support Tool
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
Government of NL	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
IAAC	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
MPA	Marine protected area
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
Ministerial Regulation	Regulations Respecting Excluded Physical Activities (Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Exploratory Wells)
Ministerial Response	Ministerial Response to the Regional Assessment Committee Report for Offshore Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador
MRPR	Ministerial Response Progress Report (the Regional Assessment Ministerial Response Progress Report)
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
PCA	Parks Canada Agency
Registry	Canadian Impact Assessment Registry
Regional Assessment	Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador
RA Final Report	Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador Final Report
RA Follow-up Advisory Committee	Regional Assessment Follow-up Program Advisory Committee
RA Follow-Up Program	Follow-up Program for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration Drilling East of Newfoundland
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
Steering Committee	The Regional Assessment Follow-up Program Steering Committee. This committee includes representatives from: IAAC, NRCan, the Government of NL's Department of Industry, Energy and Technology, the C-NLOPB, ECCC and DFO
Study Area	The Regional Assessment Study area as defined in Figure 1.1 of the Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador Final Report.

1. Introduction

On April 15, 2019, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) announced the launch of the Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador (the Regional Assessment) and the appointment of a Committee to conduct the Regional Assessment (the RA Committee). The purpose of the Regional Assessment was to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the federal impact assessment process for future offshore exploratory drilling projects in the defined offshore Regional Assessment Study Area (the Study Area) while ensuring the highest standards of environmental protection continue to be applied and maintained.

On February 29, 2020, the RA Committee submitted its [Report on the Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador](#). This Report detailed the knowledge gained by the Committee, including its associated analysis and engagement activities, the conclusions reached and the subsequent recommendations.

On June 4, 2020 the [Regulations Respecting Excluded Physical Activities - Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Exploratory Wells](#), a Ministerial regulation under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) that sets out requirements for future exploratory drilling projects in the Study Area, came into force. Subsequently, the Impact Assessment Agency (IAAC) posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry) the [Ministerial Response to the Regional Assessment Committee Report for Offshore Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador](#) (Ministerial Response). In this document, the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (Government of NL) responded to the recommendations in the Final Report of the RA Committee and committed to establishing a Regional Assessment Follow-up Program (RA Follow-up Program).

The RA Follow-up Program monitors and reports on the implementation and effectiveness of the various outcomes of the Regional Assessment, including commitments made in the associated Ministerial Response. The RA Follow-up Program will also ensure that the information and analysis remain valid and up-to-date, and that it continues to fulfill its intended function of informing decision-making as it pertains to future exploratory drilling and associated activities in the Study Area.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Regional Assessment Follow-up Program Report is to provide updates on the initiatives and outputs of the RA Follow-up Program for the reporting period of 2021-2022. The Ministerial Response Progress Report (MRPR) included in Section 4 below reports on the progress being made on the commitments by the government agencies and departments named in the Ministerial Response. This includes IAAC, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), ECCC, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) and the Government of NL.

3. Summary of Activities 2021-2022

On May 31, 2021, an updated version of the [GIS Tool](#) was released, that included various information updates, new studies and system enhancements. A full account of the [2021 updates was made available online](#).

On July 15 2021, the members of the RA Follow-up Advisory Committee were appointed. The RA Follow-up Advisory Committee is responsible for providing advice to the Steering Committee on the development and implementation of the RA Follow-up Program. The RA Follow-up Advisory Committee consists of the following members:

- Bevin Ledrew
- David Pinsent
- Frédéric Dwyer-Samuel
- George Russell
- Kris Vascotto
- Marcy Cloud
- Ray Finn
- Shelley Denny

The RA Follow-up Advisory Committee will review technical documents and emerging information to provide advice and support the RA Follow-up Program as outlined in its final Terms of Reference. To date, no formal recommendations have been put forward by the RA Follow-up Advisory Committee.

The Steering Committee acknowledges that one of the key objectives of the RA Follow-up Program is to report on the implementation and effectiveness of the commitments outlined in the Ministerial Response. The Steering Committee will develop an evaluation framework and report on the results of the effectiveness evaluation in the 2022-2023 RA Follow-up Program Report.

Table 1 provides an overview of the change of status for the 42 commitments made in the Ministerial Response for the given reporting period. A description of the statuses is included in Table 2.

Table 1: Commitment status dashboard for the commitments outlined in the Ministerial Response.

Status	Number of Commitments	
	2021	2022
Completed – Fully Met	10	10
Completed - Ongoing Monitoring	8	12
Progress Ongoing	24	20

4. Ministerial Response Progress Report

The Ministerial Response Progress below builds off of commitments and work plans identified in the initial 2021 [Ministerial Response Progress Report](#). A summary of changes to commitment status can be found in Table 1. Each commitment has been assigned a status based on the description in Table 2. The commitments in this report follow the format of those outlined in the Ministerial Response. Table 3 below provides an overview of the actions taken, or accomplishments made towards achieving the commitment during the 2020-2021 reporting period.

Table 2: Status description to track the commitments outlined in the Ministerial Response.

Status	Description
Completed – Fully met	Commitment was fully completed. No more actions or monitoring required.
Completed – Ongoing Monitoring	Commitment was completed but ongoing monitoring is required.
Progress Ongoing	Commitment has not been completed but progress has been made or actions were taken towards achieving the commitment and ensuring it remains on track for completion.

Table 3: Updates to the Ministers commitments outlined in the Ministerial Response to the recommendations of the Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Commitment	Status
Committee Recommendations in Relation to the Regulation	
1. Mitigation and Follow-up Measures (IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
2. Trained Seabird Observers (ECCC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECCC provided technical guidance and review of two new seabird observer training programs in development by industry to ensure adherence to standards. Additional follow-up with training program developers will continue in 2022-23. ECCC liaised with industry to ensure seabird monitoring requirements were understood. ECCC developed and piloted a data verification framework to assess industry seabird survey data submissions and communicate data inconsistencies to both industry and C-NLOPB via a standardized report. This has proved to be a useful tool for tracking data quality standards and supporting continual improvement in data consistency and data transfer. To strengthen seabird observer competencies and improve data consistency, ECCC initiated a contract to develop seabird identification resources for groups of species that can be challenging to separate in the field. 	Completed - Ongoing Monitoring
3. Fisheries Communications Plans (C-NLOPB & IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
4. Pre-drilling Notifications (C-NLOPB & IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The list of stakeholders maintained by the C-NLOPB was reviewed and will be updated periodically to ensure that communications from proponents reaches all parties in a timely manner (as outlined in the Ministerial Regulation). 	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
5. Migratory Bird Mitigation (IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met

Commitment	Status
6. Seabird Monitoring (IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
7. Training on Seabird Strandings (IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
8. Activities in Marine Refuges and Closure Areas (DFO, C-NLOPB & IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
9. Consultation in Regulatory Development (IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
10. Notification Requirements (IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
11. Application of Exclusion (IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
12. Review of Ministerial Regulation (IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review process will occur within five years of the coming into force of the regulation – See 2021 MRPR 	Progress Ongoing
13. Adequate and Appropriate Modeling (IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the time of the RA Follow-up Program Report (2021-2022), no projects have been proposed by proponents under the Ministerial Regulation. 	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
Committee Recommendations for the Regional Assessment Follow-up Program	
14. Annual Follow-up Program Report (IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RA Follow-up Program Report finalized and published on May 10, 2022. 	Progress Ongoing

Commitment	Status
<p>15. Long-term plan for the GIS Decision-support tool (IAAC, Government of Canada & Government of NL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated version of the GIS tool prepared and released in May 2021. Arrangements made for the continuation of the online hosting and maintenance of, and software licence for, the GIS system up to March 31, 2023. The RA Steering Committee continues to explore and discuss options for the long-term maintenance and hosting of the GIS, and the appropriate frequency of future GIS updates. On-going identification of new and updated datasets for future GIS updates, with the advice of the Advisory Committee. 	<p>Completed – Ongoing Monitoring</p>
<p>16. Ministerial Response Progress Report (IAAC, Government of Canada & Government of NL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	<p>Completed – Fully Met</p>
<p>17. Reviews and Reports (IAAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of the commitments of parties, as outlined in the Ministerial Response, continue to be tracked and publicly reported in the annual Ministerial Response Progress Report. 	<p>Completed - Ongoing Monitoring</p>
<p>18. Incorporating Diverse Perspectives (IAAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the RA Follow-up Advisory Committee were appointed in July 2021. The Committee members represent a diversity of perspectives from Indigenous communities, the oil and gas industry, the fishing industry, environmental non-government organizations, academic interest groups, and the public. The RA Follow-up Program will continue to seek and incorporate diverse perspectives through engagement processes. Where appropriate, public comment periods will be held for reviewing and providing comments on key documents. 	<p>Completed - Ongoing Monitoring</p>
<p>19. Use of Studies and Scientific Reviews (DFO & ECCC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Committee continues to track the status and completion of these on-going studies referenced by the RA Committee, and other relevant studies, for inclusion in a future update of the GIS tool. Updated timeframe for completion: 2022-2023. 	<p>Progress Ongoing</p>

Commitment	Status
<p>ECCC’s species-specific predictive modelling for seabirds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlas of Seabirds at Sea for Eastern Canada has been updated, but latest version has not yet been posted on OpenData. • ECCC has compiled all existing seabird telemetry data that passes through the study area (including from external partners) and is in process of analyzing and producing a comprehensive review of seasonal marine bird use. • Work still underway for seasonal maps of important areas. Includes comprehensive review of seasonal marine bird use using at-sea survey data and compiled tracking data (October 2022) and predictive density maps (March 2023). • Grants & Contributions (G&C) with Nunatsiavut Government to enhance capacity for marine bird monitoring and research well underway, though some initially planned work delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions. • Work plans for the NunatuKavut Community Council, Qalipu First Nation and Miawpukek First Nation G&C developed. Projects to focus on identification of marine priority species (Species at Risk and migratory birds), selection of marine/coastal areas of significance, and participation in training to enhance capacity to conduct research and monitoring and participate in emergency response. Covid-19 affected some project components. • One new G&C agreement planned for 2022-2023 with Innu Nation (pending ECCC approval). Workshop planned to discuss marine and emergency response priorities with Innu Nation Guardians was held on March 18, 2022. A second workshop is planned for later in 2022. <p>DFO’s marine mammals species distribution modelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validation of marine mammal and sea turtle sightings data is ongoing. This data is being amalgamated into a single database. • Environmental data is gathered from trips to deploy acoustic receivers and record oceanic data, and from existing sources, such as websites provided by DFO’s Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS), ECCC, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and others. 	

Commitment	Status
Committee Recommendations for Specific Departments or Agencies	
<p>20. Scope of Factors for Assessment of Designated Projects (IAAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scope of factors will continue to be monitored through the RA Follow-up Program – See 2021 MRPR. 	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
<p>21. Atlantic Salmon (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Committee continues to track the status and completion of these on-going initiatives for inclusion in a future update of the GIS tool. During 2021, significant field efforts resulted in the deployment of large numbers of acoustic and satellite tags on Atlantic salmon on 22 rivers distributed throughout Atlantic Canada. This involved 1115 acoustic tags on juvenile post-smolts, 277 acoustic and 45 satellite tags on post-spawned kelt. 86 fixed acoustic receivers were also deployed along the western boundary of the offshore ESRF study area (Regions 8-15). A wave glider mission (June and September 2021) and the deployment of two acoustic drifters (July 2021) resulted in significant enhancement of acoustic receiver array capability in eastern Canadian waters. During October 2021, an expert tagging team deployed 70 satellite tags on multi-sea winter adult salmon that will be tracked during their return to natal rivers in early spring 2022. Plans are currently underway for the 2022 field season, including the identification of priority salmon rivers for tagging. This research involves collaboration between project member groups (Atlantic Salmon Federation, Ocean Tracking Network, Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, DFO Gulf, Maritimes and Quebec Regions, as well as Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management), and is providing new insights into the migratory pathways of Atlantic salmon. Five smolt counting facilities operated in 2021 with 1519 smolt Passive Integrated Transponders tagged. Operation of these facilities will continue in 2022. Genetic analysis of mixed-stock fishery samples from 2021 is ongoing, with publications expected in the near future. 	Progress Ongoing
<p>22. Leach's Storm-petrels and other Relevant Species (ECCC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Committee continues to track the status and completion of these on-going initiatives for inclusion in a future update of the GIS tool. 	Progress Ongoing

Commitment	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to Covid-19 restrictions during both the 2020 and 2021 field seasons, storm-petrel colonies could not be accessed to conduct surveys, however, plans are in place to survey up to three of the largest colonies in 2022 which have outstanding estimates. • Ongoing support provided to monitor adult survival and reproductive success at key site across Atlantic Region • Maps identifying Leach’s Storm-Petrel foraging areas during incubation have been produced. • Approach using genomic and biochemical markers to assign stranded juvenile birds to colony of origin has been successfully developed. • Preliminary studies manipulating light characteristics and storm-petrels strandings are underway. • Work investigating local bird movements using marine radar and data capture/analysis is underway. • A public opinion research study investigating people’s perceptions toward Leach’s Storm-Petrels was completed in March, 2022 and will be made publicly available. This study will inform outreach and education/conservation efforts. • An Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation model for Leach’s Storm-Petrel in Atlantic Canada was initiated in April 2022. To date six workshops have been held bringing together 25+ Leach’s Storm-Petrel experts from Canada, US, and Europe. • NunatuKavut Community Council deployed Automated Recording Units to detect presence of breeding Leach’s Storm-petrels within their territory. Other Indigenous governments in NL were engaged this fiscal year to discuss possible participation as a part of their 2022/2023 field programs. • A map of lightscape across eastern NL including the Regional Assessment study area will be finalized by March 31, 2022 to inform on the impacts of excess energy in the form of light pollution in the offshore and inform future mitigation measures. An index of lightscape from vessel traffic has been completed which further contributes to final lightscape map. 	
<p>23. Data Accessibility (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee continues to track the status and completion of these on-going initiatives for inclusion in a future update of the GIS tool. • The Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Atlas of interactive maps is on course to be completed by the end of the 2022-2023 fiscal year. It will become publicly accessible as soon as user testing is completed. 	<p>Progress Ongoing</p>

Commitment	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MSP Platform was successful in running two pilot programs with the regions of Pacific and Newfoundland-Labrador. During the pilot, the platform was accessible and usable by the province. This work is in the process of being scaled to a national level in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. 	
<p>24. Commercial Fisheries Data (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFO and the C-NLOPB staff hold regular bi-monthly meetings to discuss data sharing needs and upcoming dataset releases. The MSP Atlas of interactive maps is on course to be completed by the end of the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Featured in the Atlas will be information on the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (fishing zone boundaries) and catch per unit effort for various fisheries. DFO published commercial fisheries data (2009-2018) for all Eastern Canada on Open Data in October 2021. In cooperation with fishing industry partners, the data was screened according to applicable privacy standards. DFO also shared this commercial fishery data with the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, who have incorporated and made it publicly accessible via the C-NLOPB's Interactive Data and Information Hub. Steering Committee continues to track the status and completion of these on-going initiatives for inclusion in a future update of the GIS tool. 	Progress Ongoing
<p>25. Knowledge Sharing Protocol (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work underway to develop the knowledge sharing protocol. Office of the Chief Data Officer is leading data sharing work through the Data Sharing Agreement Working Group (departmental working group under the Data Governance Steering Committee) with the participation of the Centre of Expertise for Collaboration. Deliverables include the development of agreement templates and directives on data sharing agreements. 	Progress Ongoing
<p>26. Information Gathering and Sharing Protocol (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFO Newfoundland and Labrador Region has compiled a preliminary inventory of marine data held by MSP Planning partners in Newfoundland (through a working group under the Canada-Newfoundland Committee on Oceans Management). DFO continues national development of various MSP data initiatives including marine atlases and data products. 	Progress Ongoing

Commitment	Status
<p>27. Accessibility of Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles Data (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFO continues to advance the Open Data initiative. • Validation of marine mammal and sea turtle sightings data is ongoing. This data is being amalgamated into a single database for Atlantic Canada. • We are currently determining the best technical solution for making it accessible via a DFO public portal. 	<p>Progress Ongoing</p>
<p>28. Standards for Marine Mammals Observers (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFO is in the process of preparing a document to establish standards of qualification for marine mammal observers. 	<p>Progress Ongoing</p>
<p>29. Surveys of Stranded Birds (ECCC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April 2021, representatives from twelve industries and C-NLOPB participated in an ECCC-led Question & Answer webinar to develop a shared understanding of the “ECCC-CWS Guidance on Developing Site-specific Protocols for Stranded Bird Surveys on Vessels and Platforms.” • ECCC worked with proponents to develop and implement site-specific survey protocols for offshore platforms and vessels. ECCC liaised with industry to ensure the stranded bird survey monitoring requirements are understood. • To improve stranded bird survey data transfer procedures and maintain data, ECCC initiated a multi-year contract to develop a data submission template for industry. It was piloted in 2021-2022. The template will be finalized and implemented by March 2023. • ECCC developed and piloted a data verification framework to assess industry stranded bird survey data submissions and communicate data inconsistencies to both industry and C-NLOPB via a standardized report. This has proved to be a useful tool for tracking data quality standards and supporting continual improvement in data consistency and data transfer. • To support stranded bird awareness among industry proponents, ECCC piloted new resources. ECCC will make modifications to these resources based on an evaluation and will retest in fall 2022. 	<p>Progress Ongoing</p>
<p>30. Information Availability and Data Gaps (C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the overall environmental risks, information availability and any data gaps for the specific area as part of the land tenure decision-making process will continue to be monitored through the RA Follow-up Program - See 2021 MRPR 	<p>Completed – Ongoing Monitoring</p>

Commitment	Status
<p>31. Special Areas Initiatives (DFO & ECCC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipated timeline for completion: 2022. • ECCC continues to be engaged with DFO and Parks Canada Agency (PCA). • ECCC continues to improve knowledge by filling spatial, temporal and species-specific data gaps and continuing baseline monitoring to inform our understanding of important areas, including connectivity and climate resiliency. • ECCC developing migratory bird indicators best suited to monitor health of special areas and contribute to informing special areas management and reporting on effectiveness. • DFO has finalized operational guidance for minimizing impacts by offshore exploration drilling on cold water corals and sponges, including in marine refuge areas. The guidance has been provided to the C-NLOPB, as well as to other key partner authorities, industry contacts and stakeholder groups. The Department is working with the C-NLOPB to prepare additional information to communicate this guidance to other interested parties, including for the RA Steering Committee. 	<p>Progress Ongoing</p>
<p>32. Availability of Spill Imagery (C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The C-NLOPB met with ECCC to discuss a path forward for the provision of spill imagery. • The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ECCC and the C-NLOPB can facilitate the sharing of information as part of the response to pollution incidents by supporting the C-NLOPB with science advice related to preparedness and response to spills. • ECCC, working with the C-NLOPB, can provide spill imagery overlaid with other relevant information that can be shared by the C-NLOPB with Indigenous Groups and stakeholders. 	<p>Progress Ongoing</p>
<p>33. Guidance on Mitigating Effects to Corals and Sponges (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In collaboration with the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board and key stakeholders, DFO has finalized guidance to minimize impacts on cold water corals/sponges from exploration drilling. • The guidance has been provided to the C-NLOPB, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, oil and gas operators and other stakeholders. Supplemental guidance and communication materials are being prepared. 	<p>Completed – Ongoing Monitoring</p>
<p>34. Updates to Seismic Sound Mitigation or Standards (DFO)</p>	<p>Progress Ongoing</p>

Commitment	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update to provide at this time – See 2021 MRPR 	
<p>35. Baseline Data on Contaminants Levels (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the review completed thus far of internally and externally funded research, DFO has not located studies specifically related to baseline information of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in the study area, located offshore of Newfoundland. Some studies that have been located that may have relevance to this overall topic (and have had DFO involvement and/or partial/complete funding): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hwang, J., Bose, N., Robinson, B., & Nguyen, H. (2020). Assessing hydrocarbon presence in the waters of port au port bay, Newfoundland and Labrador, for AUV oil spill delineation tests. The Journal of Ocean Technology, 15(3), 102-112. DFO. (2020). Proceedings of the National Peer Review Meeting on the Assessment of the Effectiveness of Mitigation Measures in Reducing the Potential Impacts of Oil and Gas Exploration and Production on Areas with Defined Benthic Conservation Objectives; June 26-28, 2018. DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Proceed. Ser. 2020/021. Lyons, M. C., Wong, D. K. H., MacKeigan, K., Burrige, L. E., Lee, K., & Robinson, B. (2014). The Effects of Chronic Exposure to Produced Water on Growth and Hepatic Ethoxyresorufin O-deethylase (EROD) Activity of Juvenile Atlantic Cod (<i>Gadus Morhua</i>). Fisheries and Oceans Canada/Pêches et océans Canada. K. Lee, S.L. Armsworthy, S.E. Cobanli, N.A. Cochrane, P.J. Cranford, A. Drozdowski, D. Hamoutene, C.G. Hannah, E. Kennedy, T. King, H. Niu, B.A. Law, Z. Li, T.G. Milligan, J. Neff, J.F. Payne, B.J. Robinson, M. Romero, and T. Worcester. 2011. Consideration of the Potential Impacts on the Marine Environment Associated with Offshore Petroleum Exploration and Development Activities. DFO. Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Res. Doc. 2011/060: xii + 134p. Neff, J. M., Sauer, T. C., & Maciolek, N. (1992). Composition, fate and effects of produced water discharges to nearshore marine waters. In <i>Produced Water</i> (pp. 371-385). Springer, Boston, MA. Courtenay, S., McIntyre, C., Lyons, M., Boudreau, M., Burrige, L., and Lee, K. (2013) Biological effects of produced water from offshore Canadian Atlantic oil and gas platforms on various life stages of marine fish, Environmental Studies Research Fund. Azetsu-Scott, K., Yeats, P., Wohlgeschaffen, G., Dalziel, J., Niven, S., & Lee, K. (2007). Precipitation of heavy metals in produced water: Influence on contaminant transport and toxicity. <i>Marine environmental research</i>, 63(2), 146-167. 	<p>Progress Ongoing</p>

Commitment	Status
<p>h. Pérez-Casanova, J. C., Hamoutene, D., Samuelson, S., Burt, K., King, T. L., & Lee, K. (2010). The immune response of juvenile Atlantic cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> L.) to chronic exposure to produced water. Marine Environmental Research, 70(1), 26-34.</p> <p>i. Hamoutene, D., Samuelson, S., Lush, L., Burt, K., Drover, D., King, T., & Lee, K. (2010). In vitro effect of produced water on cod, <i>Gadus morhua</i>, sperm cells and fertilization. Bulletin of environmental contamination and toxicology, 84(5), 559-563.</p> <p>j. Yeung, C. W., Law, B. A., Milligan, T. G., Lee, K., Whyte, L. G., & Greer, C. W. (2011). Analysis of bacterial diversity and metals in produced water, seawater and sediments from an offshore oil and gas production platform. Marine pollution bulletin, 62(10), 2095-2105.</p> <p>k. Cranford, P. J., Armsworthy, S. L., McGee, S., King, T., Lee, K., & Tremblay, G. H. (2003). Scallops as sentinel organisms for off-shore environmental effects monitoring. Offshore Oil and Gas Environmental Effects Monitoring: Approaches and Technologies.</p>	
<p>36. Land Tenure Decisions (C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of the information and analysis of the Regional Assessment and outcomes of the RA Follow-up Program in land tenure decisions is being monitored regularly. See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
<p>37. Strategic Environmental Assessments (C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently no new SEAs or updates to existing SEAs in the RA Study Area. See 2021 MRPR 	Progress Ongoing
<p>38. Exploratory Drilling Scenarios (Government of Canada, Government of NL & C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The anticipated number of wells to be drilled on an annual basis between 2022 and 2023, as well as the spatial distribution of those wells, do not exceed the RA Committee’s exploratory drilling scenarios. At this time, based on planned industry activity, it is not expected that the drilling scenarios will require an update before 2024. 	Progress Ongoing
<p>39. Cumulative Effects (Government of Canada, Government of NL & C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C-NLOPB supported IAAC in the update to the GIS decision support tool. The C-NLOPB reviewed the RA GIS decision support tool prior to calls for bids, nominations, sector identification, and licencing decisions in this period. 	Progress Ongoing

Commitment	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An MSP Governance and Engagement Structure has been established and is being used to advance key elements of MSP. Most notably, two working groups (Data and Engagement) have been formed under the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Committee on Oceans Management to engage with key partners and stakeholders on information collection and sharing relevant to MSP. 	
<p>40. Benefits Plans (C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The C-NLOPB has considered and accepted this recommendation. Making Exploration Benefits Plans public is now a regulatory requirement. Benefits Plans will be made available on operator's websites. To date, the only project approved under this commitment is Equinor's 2021-2026 Exploration Benefits Plan. 	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
<p>41. Diversity Plans (C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The C-NLOPB has considered and accepted that Diversity initiatives must be included in Exploration Benefits Plans, which will be required to be made publicly available on the operator's website. 	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
<p>42. Greenhouse Gas Emissions (ECCC & IAAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment has received an updated work plan. Timeframe for completion of commitment: 2022. ECCC continues to develop and keep up to date the draft report of sector analysis of GHG emissions from offshore exploratory drilling in Study Area. Anticipated public comment period on draft report: 2022. 	Progress Ongoing