

Advisory Groups – Request for feedback on areas for offshore wind development in Nova Scotia

December 4, 2023

Dear Advisory Group Members,

The Committee has recently hosted a series of public open houses throughout Nova Scotia, in Moncton, New Brunswick, and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, to inform the public about the Regional Assessment, answer questions, and to gather input on potential locations and concerns regarding future offshore wind development in the Study Area. The Committee has also had initial meetings with the Chief and Council in most Indigenous communities in Nova Scotia and with the Chief and Council of the Abegweit First Nation in Prince Edward Island. Discussions are ongoing with representatives from the commercial fishing industry and through KMKNO on the moderate livelihood and FCS fisheries. Several other meetings will be scheduled in the weeks ahead, the intention being to complete the first round of “engagement” early in 2024. That date is related to the requirements contained in the [Committee’s Terms of Reference](#), as set out in its [letter to Minister Guilbeault dated October 25th, 2023](#). Your attention is drawn to the following passage in that correspondence under the heading of ‘A. Deliverable 1, The Interim Report’:

“The submission of an interim working paper on March 23rd, 2024, that will comprise a map, based on referenced data bases and information received from interested parties and feedback from engagement that “narrows” the study area as defined and identifies “potential future development areas” (PFDA) that may be appropriate for offshore wind projects.”

To augment the input received to date, the Committee is now looking to draw on the Advisory Groups expertise and experience.

The Committee will continue to use the most up to date publicly available data sets and mapping, some of which are referenced below:

- **Appendix A:** Studies that have been undertaken to date by various companies and government agencies, which attempt preliminary analysis to identify potential areas that could be suitable for offshore wind development. A further breakdown of each study, and links to all documents (where available) are provided.
- **Appendix B:** Maps from the [Canada Marine Planning Atlas \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](#) that display a variety of ecological and economic components within the Study Area.

If you feel you have additional information to provide, provide any feedback on areas where offshore wind development in the Study Area might best be located or should be avoided to the Committee via email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) by **January 30, 2024**. If you wish to visualize activities within the [Study Area](#) using your own data, this is now possible by downloading the open source data file.

The ongoing support of the Advisory Groups is also required as we consider the potential environmental and socio-economic implications of any development activity and relevant mitigation requirements/opportunities. We fully appreciate that the topics of location and impacts are not mutually exclusive and that there are gaps in our understanding of the ecology of the Study Area including important topics such as the abundance and movement of birds and marine mammals. However, by narrowing the areas for potential development based on initial investigations and feedback, we aim to move into a more in-depth discussion of impacts and knowledge gaps. Your support is requested to help identify any requirement for more comprehensive and integrated research surveys, specific environmental monitoring actions with reference to the use of modern or novel technologies, a better understanding of the relevant lessons learned from the body of research and monitoring activities associated with existing offshore wind farms, and the potential recruitment of current and past users of the marine environment that could expand our collective knowledge of the ecosystems within the Study Area. We look forward to receiving your thoughts on location by the end of January, and to engaging with you on the balance of our mandate following the delivery of our Interim Report.

All information about the Regional Assessment is available on the [Regional Assessment Registry page](#). The Committee invites all Indigenous peoples, organizations, and any other person or group with information and interests related to the Regional Assessment, and who wishes to participate in it, to reach out via the Regional Assessment Committee via email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Ann Wilkie (co-chair), James Wooder (co-chair), Graham Daborn, Steve Parsons and Lorraine Whitman
Committee for the Regional Assessment