## REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT IN NOVA SCOTIA – UPDATE

## February 2024

During February, the Committee has been focused on drafting the Interim Report, which will be submitted to Ministers on March 23, 2024. The Committee and Secretariat continue to gather information and meet with various participants including Indigenous participants, fisheries groups, NGOs, and federal authorities.

As a follow-up to the fall engagement program, the Committee posted a <u>What We Heard Summary</u> which provides general feedback from the fall engagement program. The first edition of a HYPERLINK "https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/155637" <u>Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)</u> document was also posted. New editions of this will be posted on the Registry as the Regional Assessment progresses to provide information and clarification to various questions on technical, environmental, economic, and other aspects of offshore wind development and the Regional Assessment process.

If you were unable to attend an open house event or would like to provide further feedback to the Committee, you can do so through the online <u>Feedback Form</u>. The link will be live until <u>March 31, 2024</u>. The feedback received from this survey will be used to help inform the Committee's analyses and future engagement events. Your input is appreciated and important to the Committee's work.

The Committee sent a request for feedback to the three Advisory Groups in December. The request was for feedback on areas for potential future offshore wind development in the Study Area. The feedback received is now posted on the Regional Assessment Registry page, and will be used to inform the Interim Report. If you wish to be a part of an Advisory Group (Indigenous Knowledge, Scientific Information and Community Knowledge, and/or Fisheries and Other Ocean Uses) you can submit an Expression of Interest form to the Regional Assessment email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

The Committee has continued to meet regularly with the Secretariat to discuss outcomes of fall engagement sessions and plan next steps. A Summary of Regional Assessment Committee Meetings is updated and posted to the Regional Assessment Registry page.

The Committee continued to meet with fisheries groups, an NGO and federal government departments in February. A summary of participant meetings will be added to the tracking tables within the relevant Participation Plans. These Plans include the <u>Public and Stakeholder Participation Plan</u>, <u>Fisheries Participation Plan</u>, and <u>Indigenous Participation Plan</u>. Updated versions of these Plans have been posted to the Regional Assessment Registry page.

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 email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) and/or the public commenting tool with any questions or comments. If you would like your name and contact added to the distribution list, please sent your contact information to the Regional Assessment email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

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