REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT IN NOVA SCOTIA – UPDATE

June 2024

The Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia has completed the Spring Engagement Program which commenced in April. The Spring Engagement Program included public open houses in Port Hawkesbury, Sydney, Chéticamp, Charlottetown (PEI), Yarmouth, Shelburne, Guysborough, Sheet Harbour, New Glasgow, and Dartmouth; and Indigenous community information sessions in Potlotek First Nation, Eskasoni First Nation, Pictou Landing First Nation, Wagmatcook First Nation, and Glooscap First Nation. The objectives of the Spring Engagement Program were to continue to provide information about offshore wind and the Regional Assessment process to date, receive feedback on the potential future development areas proposed in the Interim Report, and gather input on potential effects and mitigation/monitoring measures for offshore wind. Each session included a presentation from the Committee, followed by a question-and-answer period. All materials presented during these sessions are now available on the Regional Assessment Registry page.

Anyone wishing to provide any feedback to the Committee can do so through the online Feedback Form. The link will be live until July 31, 2024. The feedback received from this survey will be used to help inform the Committee's Final Report and potential future engagement events. Your input is appreciated and important to the Committee's work. The Committee's generic email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) is also available for general comments and questions.

The Committee has posted the third addition of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), this time centered on the offshore wind development process. It is available on the Registry: Frequently Asked Questions Edition 3 - Offshore Wind Projects (iaac-aeic.gc.ca). Additionally, the Potential Future Development Areas that were presented in the Interim Report are now available on Open Data. This geospatial data depicts potential future development areas recommended by the Committee. These areas are preliminary and will be refined throughout the remainder of the Regional Assessment. The Committee welcomes feedback on these areas from participants at any time during the Regional Assessment.

The Committee continued to meet with provincial and federal government departments, fisheries groups, and other participants in June. A summary of participant meetings will be added to the tracking tables within the relevant Participation Plans. These Plans include the Public and Stakeholder Participation Plan, Fisheries Participation Plan, and Indigenous Participation Plan. Updated versions of these Plans have been posted to the Regional Assessment Registry page and will be updated on a quarterly basis.

The Committee continued to meet regularly with the Secretariat in June with a focus on the Interim Report feedback, organizing meetings with participants, and planning of the Final Report. A Summary of Regional Assessment Committee meetings is updated monthly and posted to the Regional Assessment Registry page.

All information about the Regional Assessment is available on the <u>Regional Assessment Registry page</u>. 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 (<u>OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca</u>)

and/or the <u>public commenting tool</u> 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 (<u>OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca</u>).