

Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia

Preliminary Call for Interest for Advisory Group Members

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) is seeking early Expressions of Interest from individuals and organizations interested in being a member of one or more advisory groups for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia.

1. Context

The decision to undertake a Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia was announced on April 5, 2022. At the end of the planning phase, which is currently in progress, the Regional Assessment will be split into two, with one being conducted in Newfoundland and Labrador, and another in Nova Scotia. The regional assessments will be conducted by two Committees (one in each province), working under the same Terms of Reference.

The Terms of Reference states that each Committee will establish and seek information and advice from three advisory groups: Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group, Scientific Information and Community Knowledge Advisory Group, and Fisheries and Other Ocean Uses Advisory Group.

The information collected in response to this Expression of Interest will be provided to the Committees, once appointed, so that they may establish their advisory groups as soon as possible.

2. Advisory Group Role and Responsibilities

Each Committee will seek assistance from advisory groups in:

- identifying, providing and supporting the use of Indigenous knowledge, Community knowledge, and scientific information in the conduct of the Regional Assessment, as appropriate; and,
- identifying and evaluating information and knowledge gaps and recommended approaches to address these gaps.

Each advisory group will provide information and expert advice to their respective Committee on the topics listed below, as required and requested by each Committee:

- Environmental, health, social and economic conditions
- Information and knowledge gaps, and potential opportunities to address these during or following the completion of the Regional Assessment
- Future offshore wind development activities in the Study Area, including:
 - Need and purpose
 - Physical activities associated with their construction, including expansion, operation, decommissioning and abandonment

Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia Preliminary Call for Interest for Advisory Group Members

- Key locations of interest for future offshore wind development activities in the Study Area (to help focus the Committee's work on areas which are most likely to see future development interest, based on technical and economic factors)
- Regulatory requirements
- Potential positive and adverse effects, including cumulative effects and associated sustainability considerations
- Mitigation and other approaches for avoiding or reducing potential adverse effects and creating and maximizing potential positive effects
- Follow-up requirements
- Other topics relevant to the Regional Assessments, as requested by each Committee

3. Advisory Group Composition

Advisory groups will be comprised of individuals and organizations from within and outside government, including Indigenous Peoples, who have knowledge or experience relevant to the Regional Assessment.

Each Committee will establish advisory groups with a view to ensuring inclusivity and diversity in the membership.

Composition and activities may vary from time to time, based on the needs, work or expertise required and requested by each Committee during the conduct of the Regional Assessment.

4. Advisory Group Descriptions

4.1 Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group

The Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group will assist each Committee by:

- Sharing Indigenous knowledge and perspectives on matters relevant to the conduct of the Regional Assessment, including the topics listed in Section 2 above
- Providing information, knowledge and perspectives on Indigenous peoples and their communities, activities and other interests, including Aboriginal or Treaty rights protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*
- Advising on approaches for the collection, sharing and consideration of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives, and its incorporation into the Regional Assessment, in accordance with established Indigenous protocols and procedures
- Providing input on the development, implementation and updating of the Indigenous Participation Plan

The Indigenous Knowledge Advisory Group will be comprised of Indigenous peoples participating in the Regional Assessment. To express your interest in participating in this advisory group, please complete the EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM and email it to OffshoreWind-EolienneExtracotiere@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

4.2 Scientific Information and Community Knowledge Advisory Group

The Scientific Information and Community Knowledge Advisory Group will assist each Committee by:

Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia Preliminary Call for Interest for Advisory Group Members

- Sharing scientific information, including technical information and advice, and Community knowledge relevant to the Regional Assessment, including on the topics listed in Section 2 above
- Providing advice and expertise related to environmental, health, social and economic components and issues
- Gathering and analyzing relevant data and information and conducting analyses
- Providing input on the development, implementation and updating of the Public, Fisheries and Stakeholder Participation Plan

This advisory group will be comprised of representatives from federal and provincial government departments and agencies and non-governmental organizations and individuals, including Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous organizations. These representatives will have information and expertise related to, and/or community knowledge of, the following components:

- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases
- Marine Fish and Fish Habitat (including species at risk)
- Avifauna (including birds, bats, and associated species at risk)
- Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles (including species at risk)
- Protected and Special Areas (established and proposed)
- Visual Aesthetics / Viewscapes and Acoustic Environments
- Physical and Cultural Heritage (including structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance)
- Health
- Communities
- Economy

To express your interest in participating in this advisory group, please complete the EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM and email it to OffshoreWind-EolienneExtracotiere@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

4.3 Fisheries and Other Ocean Uses Advisory Group

The Fisheries and Other Ocean Uses Advisory Group will assist each Committee by:

- Providing knowledge, information and advice regarding current and potential fishing activity, and potential interactions between fishing activity and offshore wind development activities
- Advising on approaches for avoiding or minimizing adverse effects and creating or maximizing opportunities for positive effects on fisheries and other ocean uses
- Gathering and analyzing relevant data and information and conducting analyses
- Providing input on the development, implementation and updating of the Public, Fisheries and Stakeholder Participation Plan

This advisory group will be comprised individuals and representatives from organizations, including Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous organizations, engaged in commercial, traditional, and recreational fisheries, in inshore, mid-shore, and offshore areas. This advisory group will also include those with experience / expertise in other ocean uses including, but not limited to, tourism, marine shipping, offshore energy, research, and aquaculture.

To express your interest in participating in this advisory group, please complete the EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM and email it to OffshoreWind-EolienneExtracotiere@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia Preliminary Call for Interest for Advisory Group Members

5. Important information

Each Committee is responsible for establishing advisory groups, and determining how and when to engage them. The Agency is therefore unable to provide any details on how the advisory groups will operate.

This is only a preliminary call for interest for advisory group membership. Once the Committees are established, the Committee (or the Secretariat at the Committee's direction) will continue to accept Expressions of Interest for advisory groups. Additionally, anyone may contact the Committee at any time during the conduct of the Regional Assessment to express their interest in participating in one or more of the advisory groups.

For communities, organizations and individuals receiving funds through the Agency's Participant Funding Program, participation in one or more advisory groups is an eligible activity.

Advisory groups will be one of several participation activities undertaken by the Committees. Involvement in one or more of these advisory groups will not restrict any individual's or organization's participation in other activities undertaken by the Committees, nor their ability to make separate submissions to the Committees.

In addition to the three advisory groups described above, each Committee may establish additional advisory groups and may issue calls for interest accordingly.

6. Next steps

While there is no deadline for submission of the Expression of Interest, each Committee will likely want to identify and engage advisory group members as early as possible in the regional assessment process.

The Agency will compile all information received and provide it to the relevant Committee for their consideration.

When each Committee is ready, they (or their Secretariat at the Committee's direction) will contact those who submitted an Expression of Interest to discuss advisory group membership and operation.

Contact information

For inquiries about this Preliminary Call for Interest for Advisory Group Members, please contact OffshoreWind-EolienneExtracotiere@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.