

Slide 1

June Engagement  
Sessions 2024

# Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland & Labrador

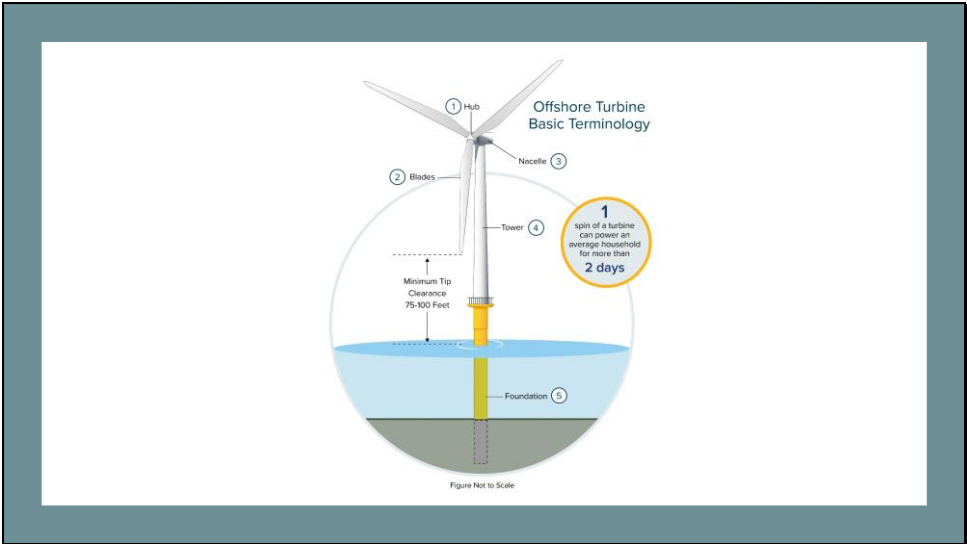
## Session Itinerary

- Background Information (10 minutes)
- Component Discussion (20 minutes per Component – 1h40min)
  - Communities & Economy
  - Fisheries
  - Fish & Fish Habitat
  - Aero fauna
  - Marine Mammals & Sea Turtles
- Discussion w/ Committee Members (30 minutes post-session)

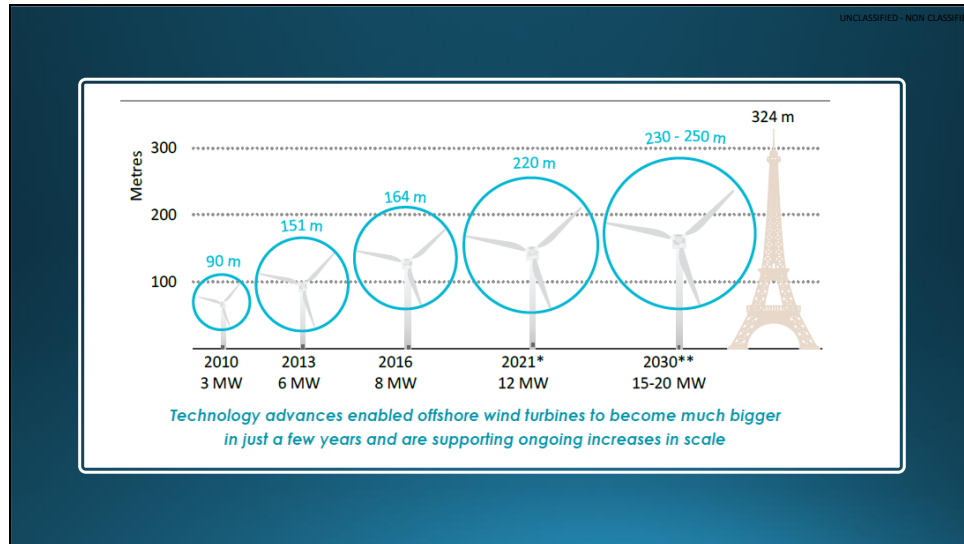
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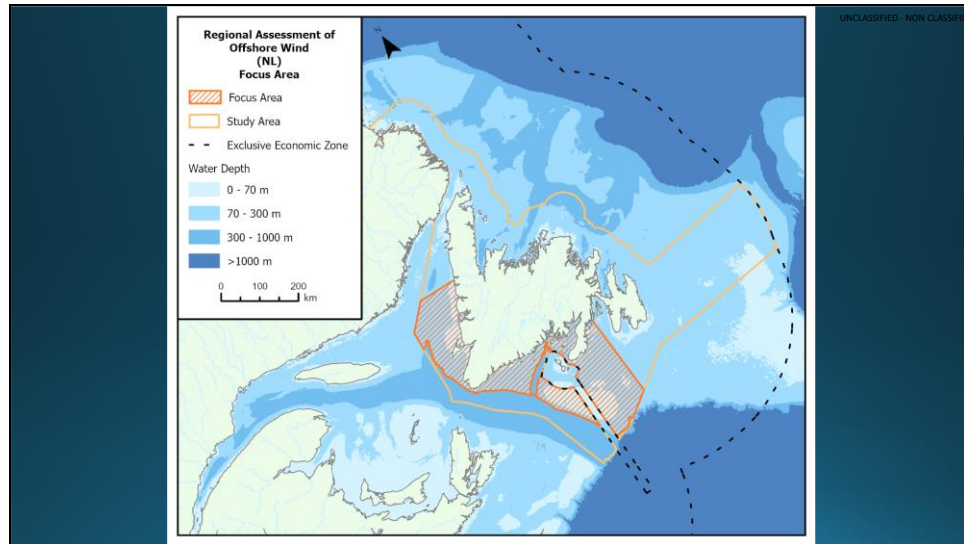
# Committee Introductions



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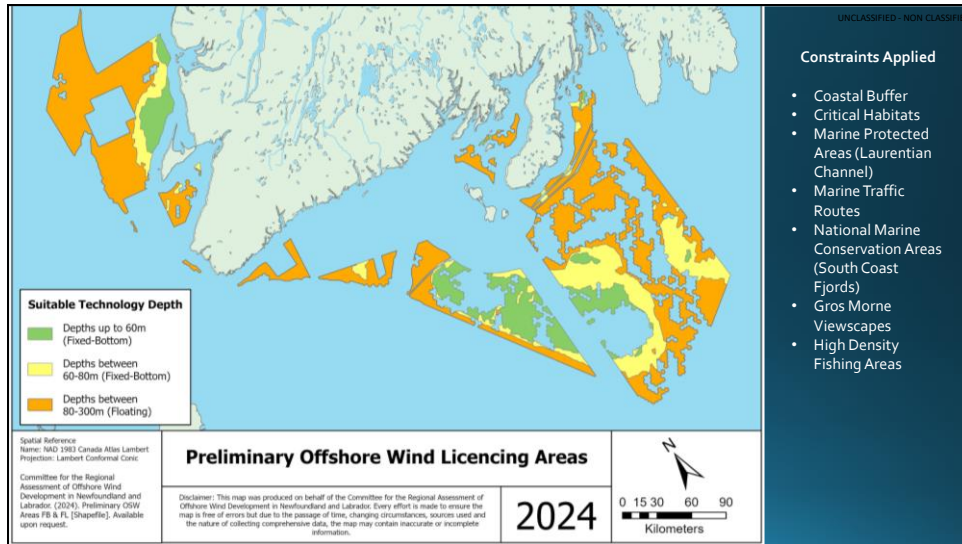


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As of 2023, the average size of an offshore wind farm has been found to be between 78.4 - 130.7 square kilometres. To help visualize how much area this would cover, Merasheen Island within Placentia Bay is approximately 124 square kilometres.

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Committee added this map on June 10, 2024 for the South Coast Engagement Sessions June 2024 – Fortune, Marystown, and Harbour Breton. Replaced previous map.

**Coastal buffer:** 10 km around NL and Ramea, 5 km around islands with bird colonies, 3 km around remaining islands. Avoids and/or begins to reduce impacts to: Important areas for birds that occur on land (e.g., bird colonies, critical habitats etc.); key biodiversity areas, Marine Refuge or Fisheries Closures, Coastal fisheries, Aquaculture sites and licenses, Airports and Marine Aerodromes, Provincially protected areas, community and cottage viewscapes

**Critical habitat:** removed CH for northern wolffish. CH for bobolink, piping plover and bank swallow occur adjacent to the FA (coastal buffer used).

**Marine Traffic Routes:** removed those delineated in the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2019) Vessel Traffic Routes dataset. No meaningful buffers added, additional buffers may need to be considered at project level.

**NMCA:** Removal of South Coast Fjords Study Area serves to support conservation efforts there and to protect viewscapes from Sandbanks Provincial Park (proposed redesignation to national park)

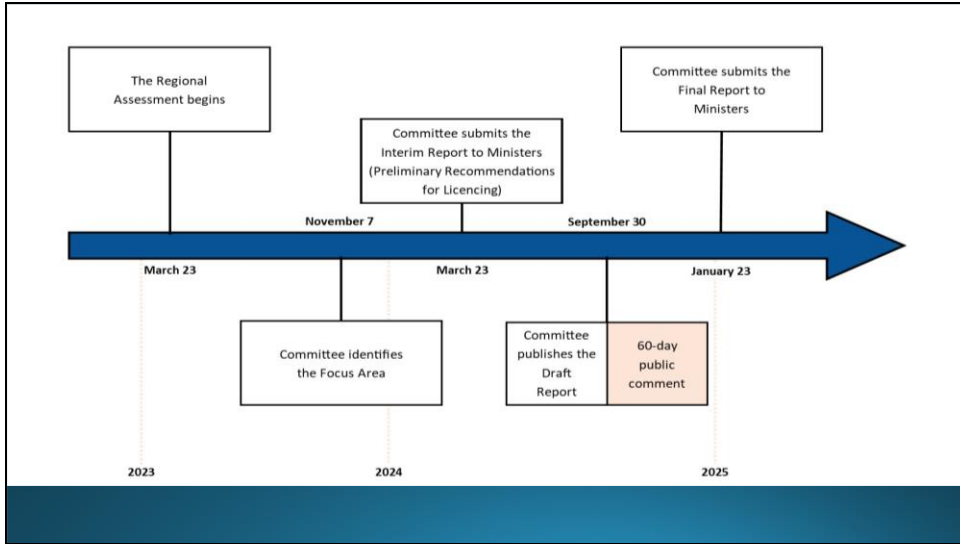
**Gros Morne:** 80 km buffer to address viewscapes

**High Density Fishing Areas:** High density fishing areas were identified based on DFO's (2023) Eastern Canada and Commercial Fishing, All Species dataset. Areas with an average catch density greater than 7,800 kg and areas less than 10 km<sup>2</sup> were removed from the Focus Area.





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## Purpose of Today

Discuss these 5 components:

1. Community & Economy
2. Fisheries
3. Fish & Fish Habitat
4. Marine Mammals & Sea Turtles
5. Aero fauna

The information will be used in the RA Report.

Committee Members will be around for an additional 30-minutes after the session to discussion these topics further 1-on-1.

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## #1. Communities & Economy

Potential topics of concern:

- Influx of workers, both temporary and permeant
- Displacement of local and traditional users of the port and harbor
- Change in community norms and culture (access to services, local seascapes and recreation, road traffic, noise)
- New tax revenue for the community
- New training, employment and/or business opportunities
- Impacts to local industries and businesses
- Considering impacts to all individuals in your community, including Indigenous peoples and peoples with diverse, intersecting identity factors
- Any other topics you would like to discuss



Examples of Intersecting Identity Factors  
(WAGE, 2022)

A major project can bring concerns and questions regarding possible changes – some good, some worrisome. Depending on the stage (early research, construction, installation, operation, decommissioning) and location of an offshore wind energy project, communities can be involved in various ways.

The slide lists some topics related to the potential impacts (positive and negative) of offshore wind development activities on communities and economies. What are you through on these topics?

Image from: [https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/gbaplus-course-cours-acsplus/eng/mod02/mod02\\_03\\_01a.html](https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/gbaplus-course-cours-acsplus/eng/mod02/mod02_03_01a.html)

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## #2. Fisheries

1. How can we improve engagement with the Newfoundland and Labrador fishery?
2. How can the Committee reflect the past and present importance and geographic distribution of fisheries (e.g., commercial, commercial/communal, food social ceremonial, recreational, traditional) in the Focus Area?
3. How can the Committee account for potential changes in future fish distribution and abundance due to factors such as climate change?

DFO has provided an overview of fisheries within the Focus Area, which includes both georeferenced and non-georeferenced fisheries to have a better overall picture. The georeferenced data generally includes vessels greater than 35 feet, with an automatic identification system (AIS) on board, within the years of 2012-2021, hence not being representative of our historic fisheries. Any non-georeferenced data mostly covers vessels under 35 feet. Within the Focus Area, there is a vast amount of small vessel fisheries, but it is more difficult to determine with absolute certainty the location of these fishing activities since these fisheries are not georeferenced and is extracted as best as possible from logbook data.

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## #3. Fish & Fish Habitat

1. Are there any specific marine fish or fish habitats that are important to you or your community in the Focus Area?
  - Why are they important?
  - What steps need to be taken to avoid or address any possible impacts of offshore wind development on those species?
2. What research or information is needed to better understand the effects of offshore wind on marine fish and fish habitat in the Focus Area?
3. Are there locations or times of year that should be avoided during offshore wind development activities?
  - Do you recommend any other measures to minimize impacts on species or habitats (e.g., monitoring programs for salmon or eel)?

The marine ecosystems of Atlantic Canada, including the Focus Area, are changing, due to climate change, natural variability and human activities. Fish and other species can be found throughout the water column, from sea surface to seabed. There are potential effects on the seabed and the nearby water column during construction and installation, possibly also during operation and maintenance. The RA Committee is recommending that a 10 km coastal buffer be established which would protect commercial and recreational activities in that area.

## #4. Aerofauna

Aerofauna refers any species that flies or glides (e.g., birds, bats, insects, and butterflies).

1. Are there any aerofauna species that are important to you or your community in the Focus Area?
  - Why are they important?
  - What steps need to be taken to avoid or address any possible impacts of offshore wind on those species?
2. What research or information is needed to better understand the effects of offshore wind development activities on aerofauna in the Focus Area?
  - Are you aware of any research, Indigenous or Community Knowledge that could improve our understanding of aerofauna?
3. Are you aware of any changes in aerofauna in this region over time?

Aerofauna refers to birds, bats, insects, and butterflies.

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## #5: Marine Mammals & Sea Turtles

1. Are there any known areas of marine mammal and sea turtle presence within the Focus Area?
  - Have these areas changed over time?
  - Are marine mammals and sea turtles more likely to be in these areas at specific times of the year?
2. Where could the Committee find expertise (e.g., research, Indigenous or Community Knowledge) on marine mammals and sea turtles in the context of offshore wind development in the Focus Area?
3. What research or information is needed to better understand the effects of offshore wind development activities on marine mammals and sea turtles in the Focus Area?

Several species of marine mammals and sea turtles may occur in or near the Focus Area, including some species at risk. However, data and information on the presence, movements, and seasonality for some of these species is limited. Identifying areas and species of important for marine mammals and sea turtles will enable the Committee to make relevant recommendations on how to mitigate the impacts and/or effects offshore wind development may have on these species in the Focus Area.

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## Ways to Provide Your Input:

- Talk to a Committee Member today (next 30 minutes)
- Pass in your written comments today
- Email your comments to:
  - [OffshoreWindNL-EolienneExtracotiereTNL@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:OffshoreWindNL-EolienneExtracotiereTNL@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)
- Submit your comments on our Registry Page:
  - <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84343> -

## Thank You

We're interested in having further discussion with you on these topics or anything else you would like to bring to our attention today, or throughout the remainder of the Regional Assessment process.