

# **Eastern Newfoundland Strategic Environmental Assessment**

## ***Introduction and Overview for Public and Stakeholder Consultations***

**Canada - Newfoundland & Labrador  
Offshore Petroleum Board**

**September 2013**



# Presentation Overview

- Welcome and Introduction
- C-NLOPB Overview
- Offshore Petroleum Licencing in the NL Offshore Area
- Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Area
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): Purpose and Objectives
- Eastern Newfoundland SEA: Process, Scope and Outcomes
- SEA Schedule and Next Steps



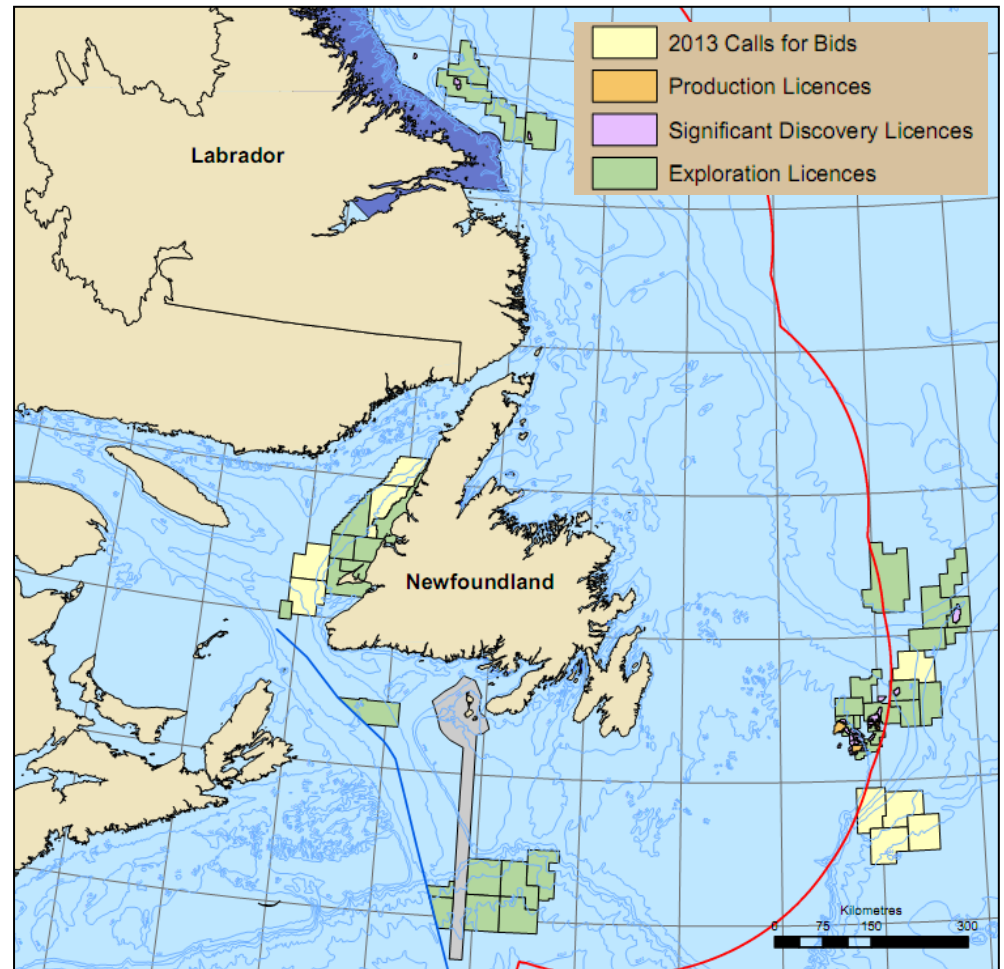
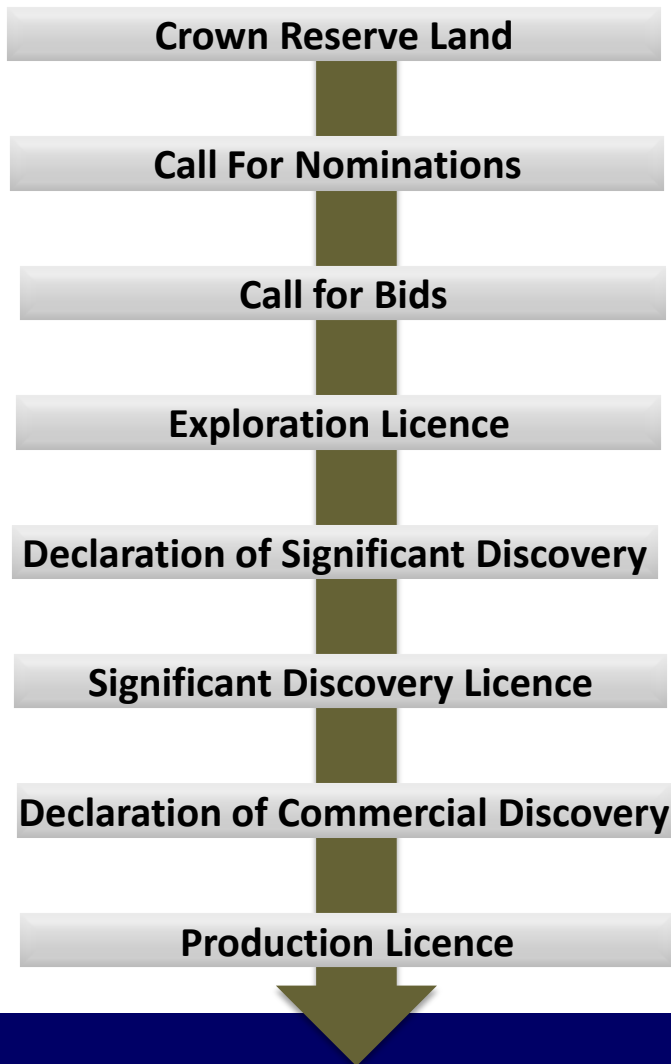
# C-NLOPB Overview

- Created in 1986 by the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland & Labrador through the *Atlantic Accord*
- Responsible for the regulation of the oil and gas activities offshore Newfoundland and Labrador
- The Board's role is to facilitate the exploration for and development of the hydrocarbon resources in this area in a manner that conforms to the statutory provisions for:
  - Worker Safety
  - Environmental Protection
  - Effective Management of Land Tenure
  - Maximum Hydrocarbon Recovery and Value, and
  - Canada / Newfoundland & Labrador Benefits



# Offshore Petroleum Licencing

- The C-NLOPB administers land rights issuance processes and other regulatory requirements for oil and gas activities in the NL Offshore Area



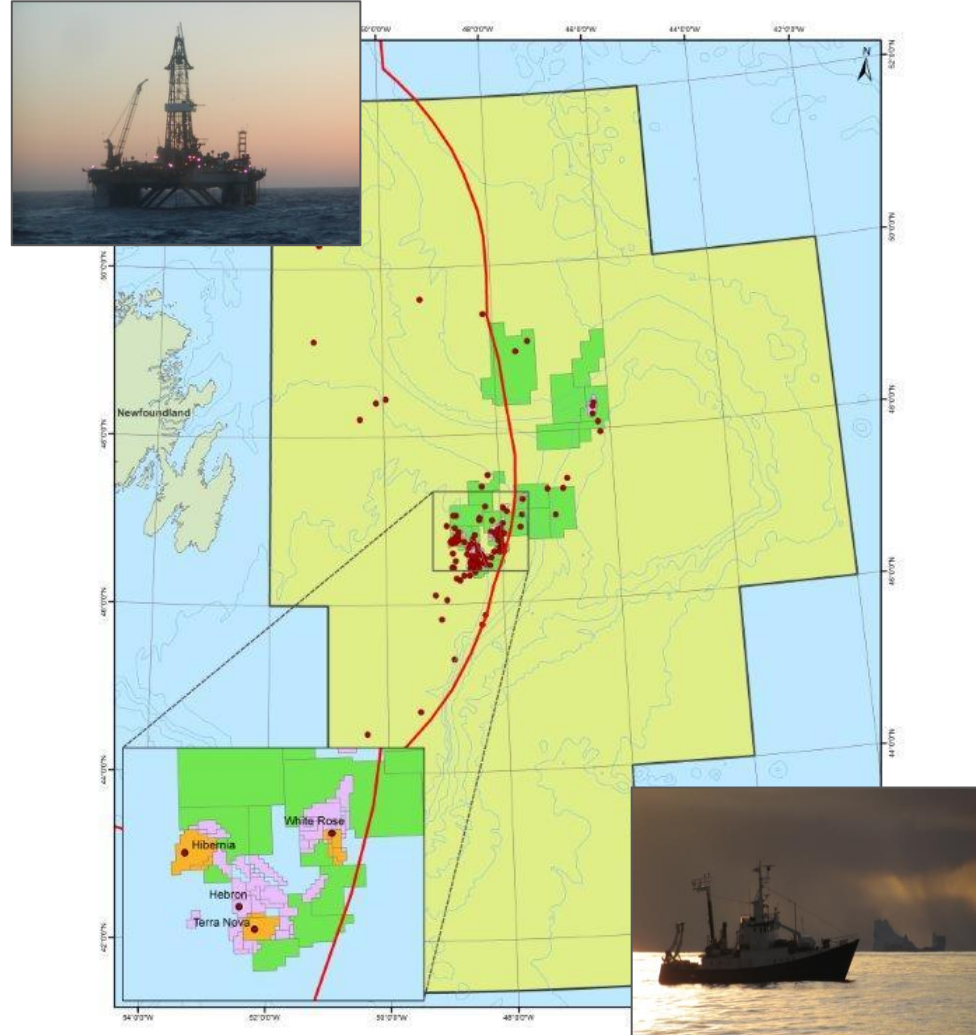
# C-NLOPB Typical Call for Bids Cycle

Step	Time frame
Call for Nominations Opens	September – October
Nominations Close	October-November
Board Submits Plan for Rights Issuance to Ministers for upcoming year	January 31
Board decides to issue Call for Bids	January – March
Ministers' Approval to issue Call for Bids and Call for Bids issued	February - April
Call for Bids Closed	November – December
Issuance of Exploration Licences	January (following year)
<b>* Minimum 120 day call period after close of SEA</b>	



# Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Area

- Covers an approximately 680,000 km<sup>2</sup> area offshore Eastern Newfoundland
- Existing Petroleum Licences in the area include:
  - 19 Exploration Licences
  - 52 Significant Discovery Licences
  - 11 Production Licences
- Offshore oil and gas activities have been occurring since 1964, and to date have included:
  - 380,000 line km of 2D seismic data
  - 1.65 million CMP km of 3D seismic data, and
  - 315 wells drilled (1966 - 2013)





# Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Area (Continued)

- There are several producing oilfields, with another currently under development (Approx 1.3 billion barrels produced to date)

## Hibernia Oilfield

- Discovered in 1979
- Production since Nov 1997 (GBS)

## Terra Nova Oilfield

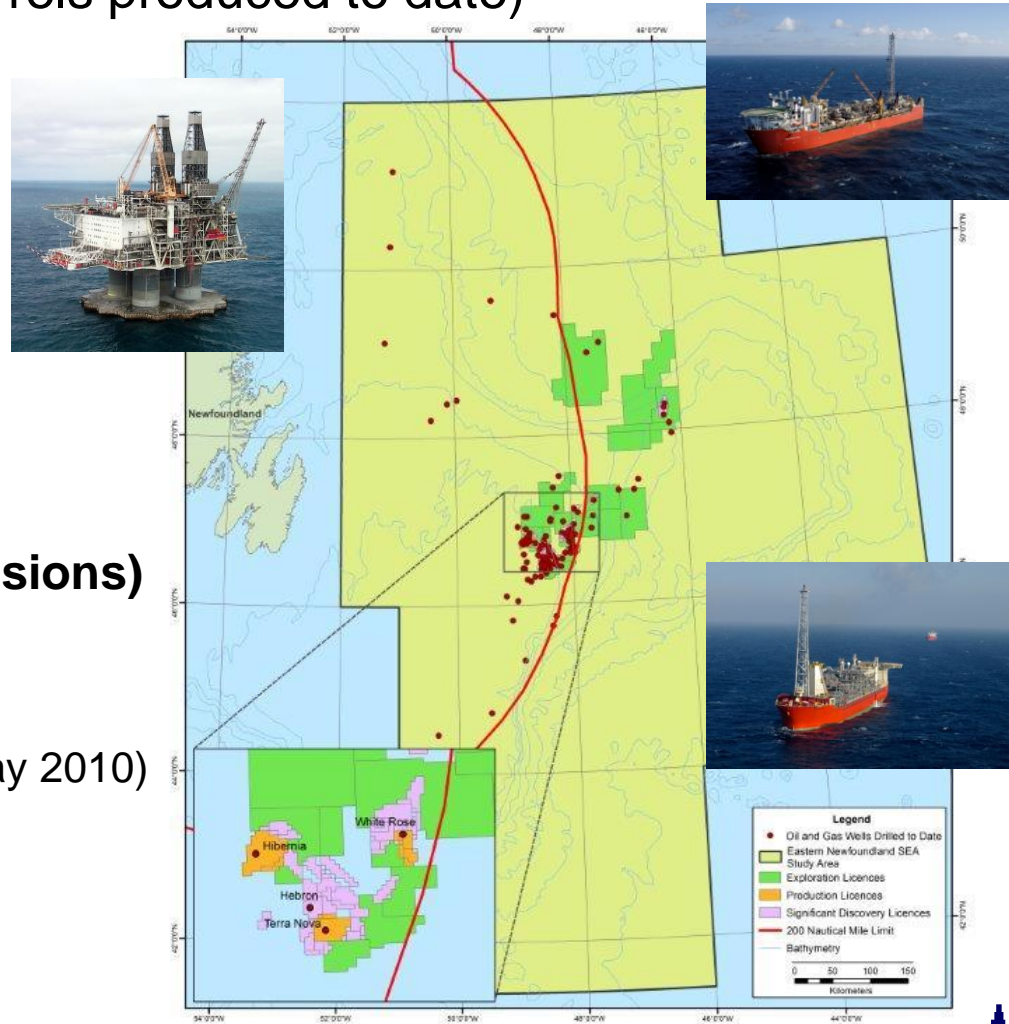
- Discovered in 1984
- Production since Jan 2002 (FPSO)

## White Rose Oilfield (& Satellite Expansions)

- Discovered in 1984
- Production since Nov 2005 (FPSO)
- + Expansion Fields (North Amethyst, May 2010)

## Hebron Oilfield

- Discovered in 1980
- First oil planned for 2017 (GBS)



# SEA Purpose and Objectives

- SEA is a proactive and “issues based” approach to environmental assessment
- Involves identifying potential environmental issues at the early stages of planning (policy, plan, program), before projects are proposed and defined
- SEAs typically include:
  - An overview of the existing environmental setting (biophysical and human)
  - The early identification of potential environmental issues and interactions, and
  - An identification of any key environmental sensitivities to help guide future decisions
- SEA allows for consideration of environmental issues early in strategic planning and decision-making





# SEA Purpose and Objectives (Continued)

- The C-NLOPB has been undertaking SEAs in the NL Offshore Area since 2002, in areas where:

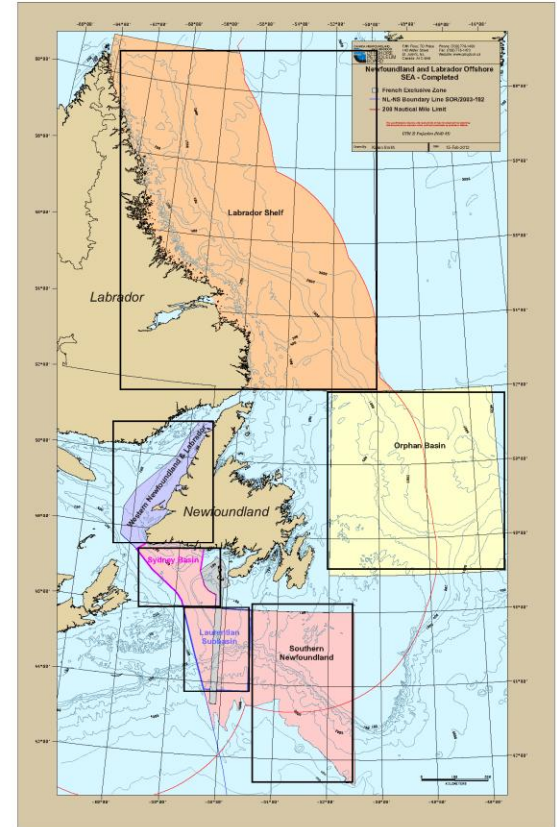
- The issuance of new Exploration Licences may be contemplated, and
- Which have not been subject to substantial levels of Project EA

- These SEAs inform the C-NLOPB's “*decisions*” regarding the potential issuance of new Exploration Licences in that area

- SEAs are reviewed and updated as required

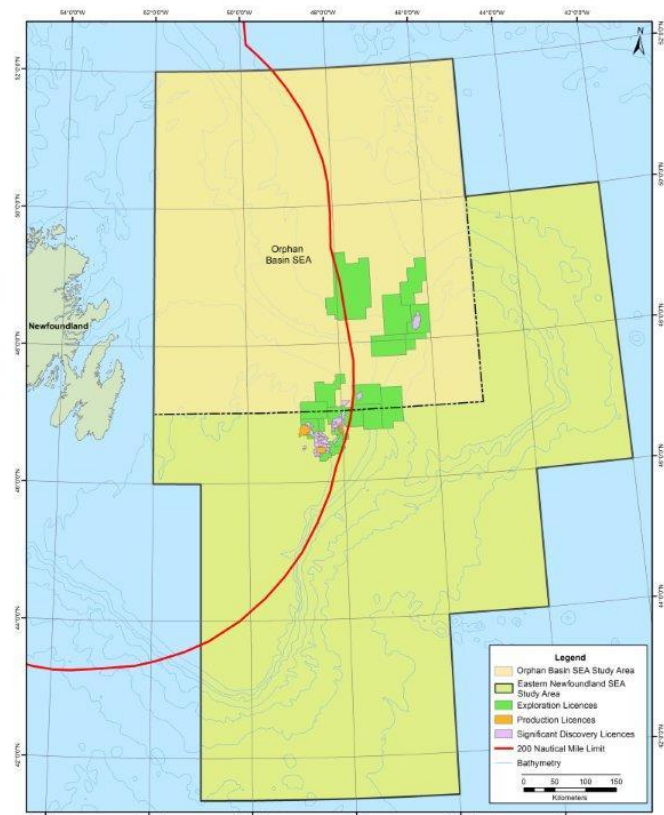
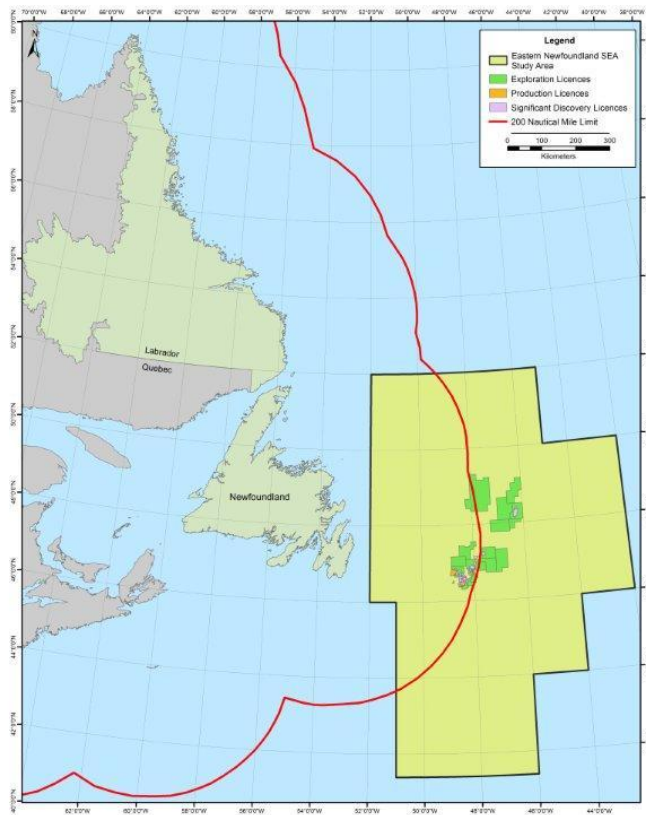
- Any oil and gas exploration or production activities are still subject to individual EA review (May be informed and focused by SEA)

- + Other required authorizations / approvals



# Eastern Newfoundland SEA

- This SEA will involve updating the previous *Orphan Basin SEA* (2003) and extending its geographic coverage to the south and east



# Eastern Newfoundland SEA (Continued)

- SEA Purpose, Objectives and Scope:
  - Overview of existing environmental setting
  - Describe typical oil and gas exploration activities
  - Describe existing and potential petroleum production activities
  - Describe and evaluate potential environmental effects (project and cumulative)
  - Highlight any key environmental issues and sensitivities
  - Identify any information / knowledge gaps and opportunities
  - Identify and recommend mitigation / planning measures and monitoring
- SEA results will help inform future C-NLOPB licencing decisions for this area
  - Whether exploration rights should be issued in whole, in part, or at all



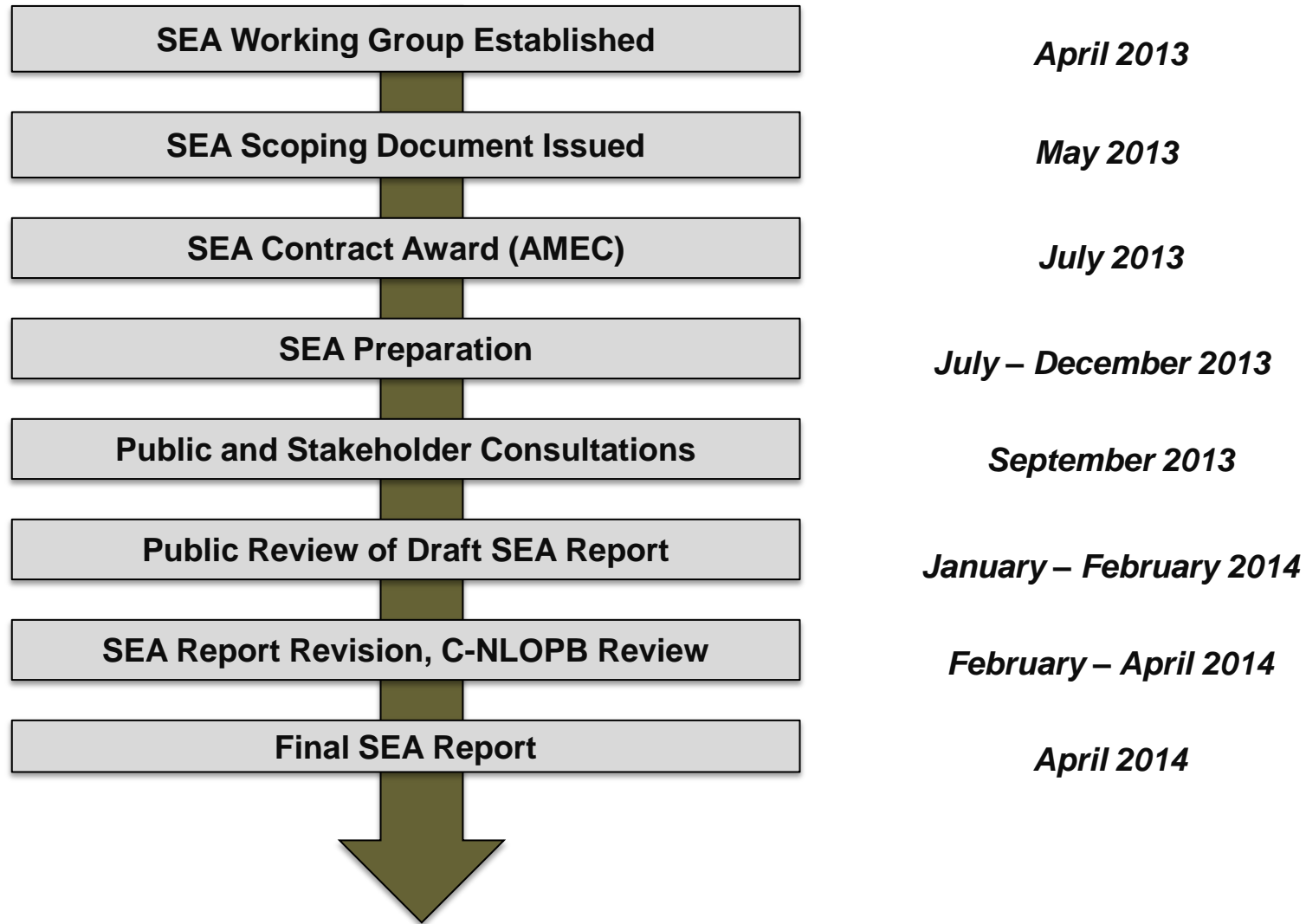
# Eastern Newfoundland SEA (Continued)

- Through these Public and Stakeholder Consultations, we are hoping to obtain information and perspectives related to:

- 1) **Issues Scoping:** Questions and comments on potential offshore petroleum activities and their potential effects (both adverse and positive). What are the main questions and issues that you feel need to be considered and addressed in the SEA?
- 2) **Environmental Planning and Mitigation:** Any suggestions on potential measures that could be taken to help address your comments or concerns (including in C-NLOPB licensing decisions and/or as mitigation measures for any future projects).
- 3) **Environmental Information:** Knowledge and perspectives on the existing environment in the SEA Study Area, including oceanography, fish, birds, mammals, fishing and other human activities, that would be relevant to the SEA and to future planning and licencing decisions



# SEA Process, Outcomes and Current Timeline





# Eastern Newfoundland Strategic Environmental Assessment

Thank you.

*(Questions and Discussion....)*

