

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

- The SEA will provide information on the existing regional environment in the Study Area, including:

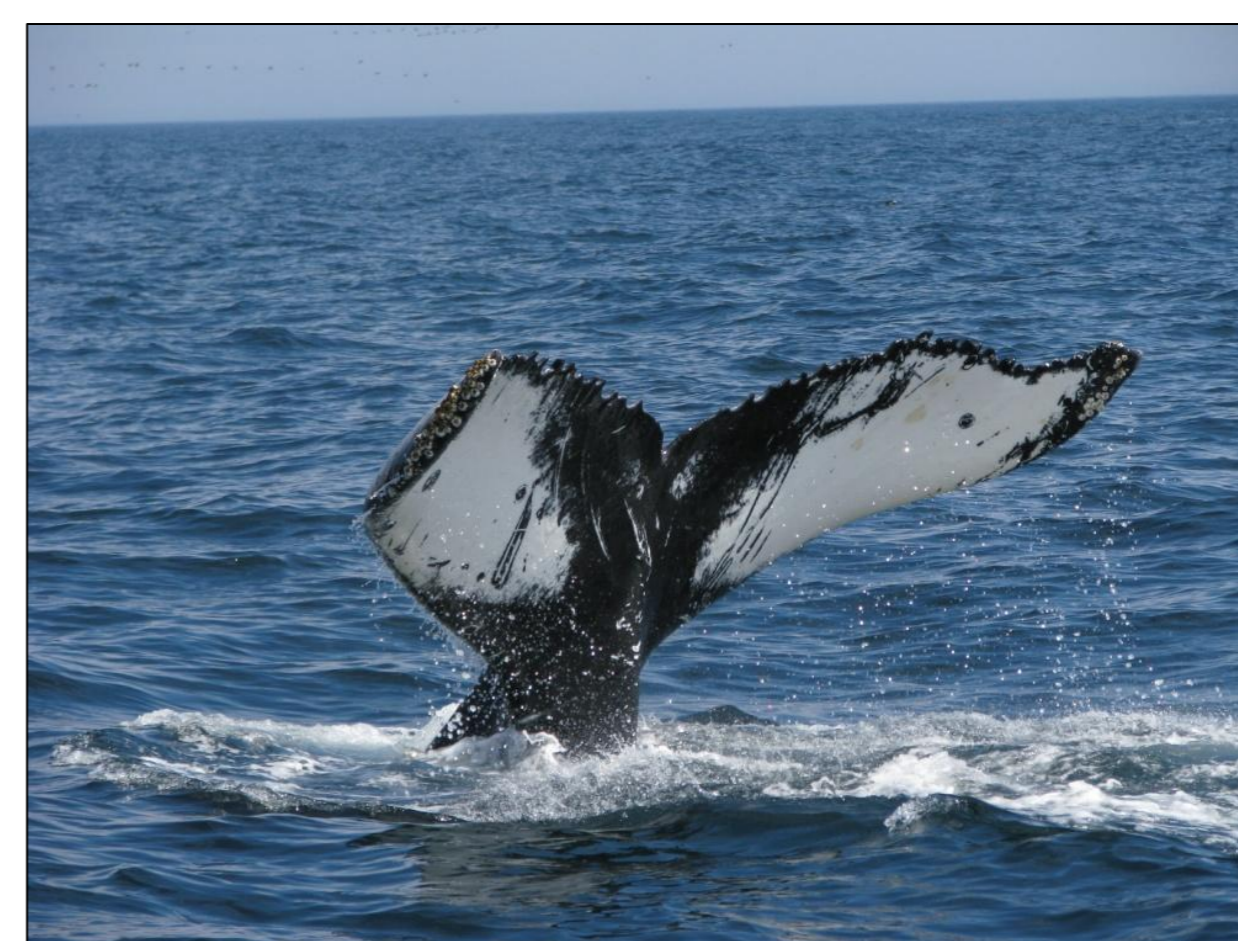
Physical Environment

- Geology
- Seismicity
- Bathymetry
- Meteorology and Climatology (including Climate Change)
- Sea Ice, Ice Islands and Icebergs
- Oceanography
- Unexploded Ordinances



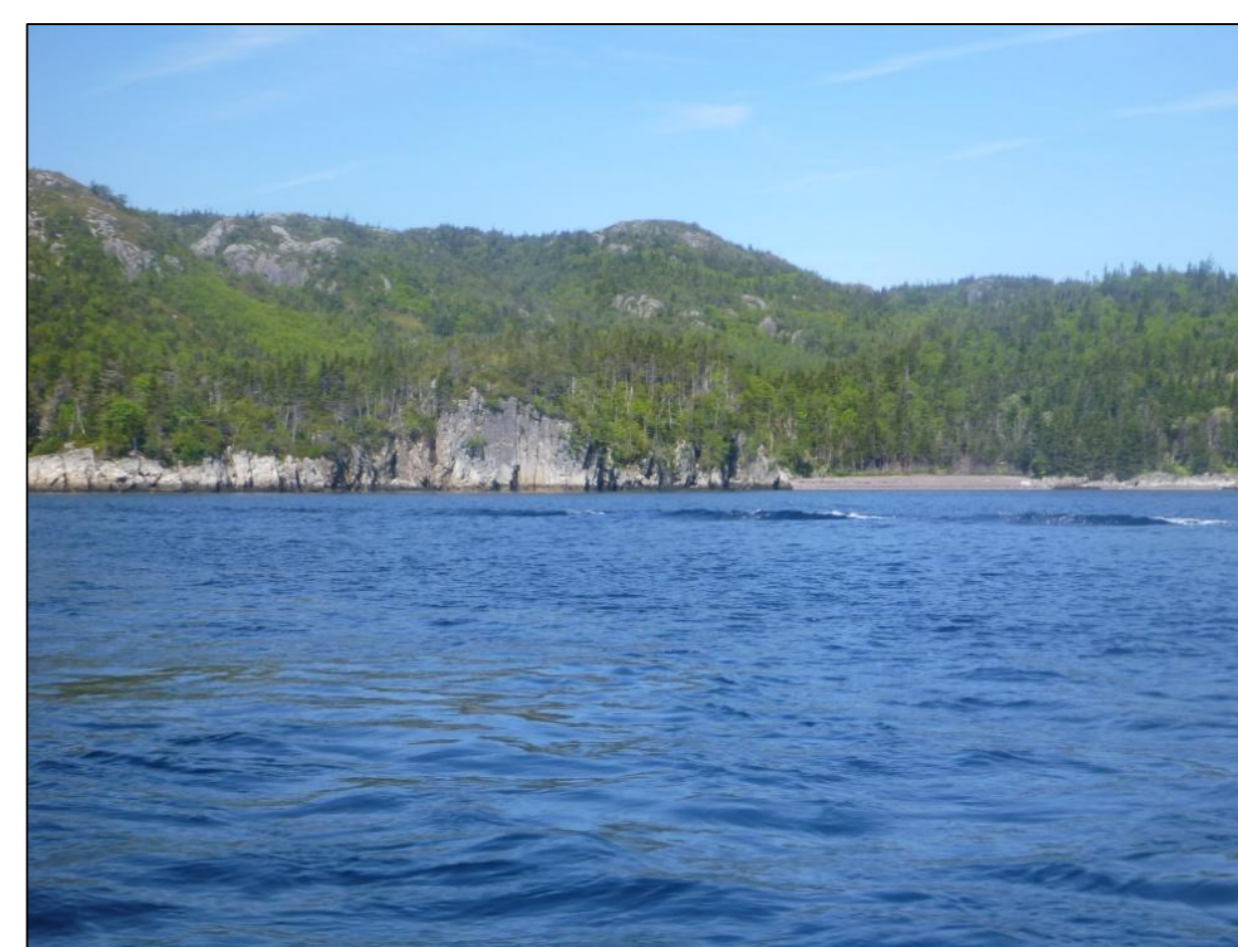
Biological Environment

- Plankton
- Benthos (including Deep Water Corals)
- Marine Invertebrates
- Finfish
- Seabirds
- Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles
- Species at Risk
- Important Habitats and Times
- Sensitive / Special Areas



Human Activities

- Commercial and Recreational Fisheries
- Aquaculture
- Marine Recreation and Tourism
- Submarine Cables
- Commercial Vessel Traffic
- Canadian Naval Exercises



Through these consultations, the SEA Team is interested in obtaining information about the marine environment from the Public and Stakeholder Groups

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTIONS AND MITIGATION

Seismic Surveys

- Possible avoidance of survey areas by marine fish, birds, mammals and turtles
- Attraction to or avoidance of seismic vessels (e.g., lights, noise)
- Potential accidental emissions or discharges (spills) and associated environmental effects
- Interference with fishing or other marine activities

Some Environmental Protection Measures

- Minimizing air gun noise levels and survey area / duration
- Use of seismic “soft start” procedures
- Avoidance of known sensitive areas and times
- Fishing industry communication and coordination
- Safety zones and fishing gear compensation plans
- Compliance with applicable legislation, regulations and guidelines

Well Drilling (Exploration and Delineation) and Production

- Water quality and sea bottom effects from drill cuttings or other marine discharges
- Air emissions (exhausts, flaring) and noise
- Avoidance of areas by marine fish, birds, mammals and turtles
- Marine biota attraction to offshore installation and vessels (lights, noise), disruption or mortality
- Potential accidental emissions or discharges (blowouts and spills) and associated environmental effects
- Interference with fishing or other marine activities

Some Environmental Protection Measures

- Avoidance of known sensitive areas and times
- Use of water-based muds (WBMs) / low toxicity fluids
- Treatment of SBM-associated drill cuttings to comply with guidelines prior to discharge
- Use of oily water separators and high efficiency burners
- Collection and release of stranded birds
- Chemical screening, selection and management
- On-shore disposal of wastes
- Avoidance and reduction of emissions and discharges
- Compliance with environmental legislation, regulations and guidelines
- Fishing industry communication and coordination
- Safety zones and fishing gear compensation plans
- Oil spill prevention, preparedness and response procedures