

## Measures to Protect and Monitor Seabirds in Petroleum-Related Activity in the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area

- As part of its regulatory oversight of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area, the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) receives advice from the Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) on the conservation and protection of seabirds near offshore facilities, which is then incorporated into our conditions of authorization.
- C-NLOPB staff conduct detailed reviews of operators' safety and environmental management systems prior to approving activities. Board staff also monitor reports from offshore drilling and production operations on a daily basis and conduct regular, detailed safety and environmental audits offshore.
- ECCC-CWS is engaged in ongoing monitoring activities to support the collection of information to inform future mitigation requirements to protect seabirds from offshore oil operations. Further, as an outcome of the [Hebron Comprehensive Study](#), ExxonMobil has committed to do a study on seabird attraction to the Hebron Platform, which was developed in consultation with CWS.
- As well, operators are required to have a valid permit authorized under the *Migratory Bird Conventions Act* and Migratory Bird Regulations. This permit provides guidelines related to the handling and reporting of migratory seabirds for further assessment.
- Additionally, operators are required to minimize their use of light, considering the safety of crew members, to deter seabirds from their vessels. To mitigate the impacts to seabird populations from flaring operations in exploration and delineation drilling, including well testing, industry operators are required to notify the C-NLOPB of plans to flare. The Board would then consult with ECCC-CWS to determine a safe timeline to proceed to minimize impact on migratory birds.
- Drilling rigs have personnel on board who monitor weather and sightings of seabirds and other marine mammals. While the Board would have no objections to the placement of third-party observers on offshore vessels or installations, full-time observers of industrial operations are typically deployed only when there is evidence of pervasive and flagrant disregard for the regulatory system and/or persistently poor operating practices.