

**REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY DRILLING
EAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
Request for Participation in Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
June 2019**

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

As announced by the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador on April 15, 2019, a Regional Assessment of offshore oil and gas exploratory drilling east of Newfoundland and Labrador is currently being conducted under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012).

This is the first such assessment to be undertaken under federal environmental assessment (EA) legislation in Canada, and will apply to, and focus on, offshore exploratory drilling and associated activities in a defined marine Study Area off Eastern Newfoundland (please see map below).

A 5-member Committee appointed by the federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change is responsible for completing the Regional Assessment, with the support of:

- 1) A *Task Team*, that will support planning and completion of the Regional Assessment based on direction from the Committee; and
- 2) A *Technical Advisory Group* (TAG) comprised of representatives of relevant government departments and agencies, Indigenous groups, industry and stakeholder organizations, and others that have interests, information and expertise related to the Regional Assessment.

The Regional Assessment is currently targeted for completion by Fall 2019. Further information can be found at: <https://ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80156?culture=en-CA>

The purpose of this short correspondence is to:

- a) Provide an introduction to the proposed TAG structure and processes to organizations that may have information, expertise and interests relevant to the Regional Assessment, and
- b) To request your organization's involvement in the TAG process, to seek identification of a point of contact to coordinate your group's participation in it, and to identify the particular subject areas that you would like to focus your participation on.

TAG COMPOSITION AND PROCESSES

As outlined in the Agreement to conduct the Regional Assessment, the TAG will be comprised of representatives of applicable government departments and agencies, Indigenous groups, industry and stakeholder organizations, and others that have interests, information and expertise related to the Regional Assessment.

Requested inputs and support from TAG participants may include:

- a) Identification, provision and analysis of environmental data and other information for use in the Regional Assessment;
- b) Provision of technical expertise and analysis in relation to the environmental effects assessment, and associated mitigation and follow-up requirements;
- c) Review of and input into individual draft sections of the Regional Assessment as they are being prepared; and
- d) Review of the Draft Regional Assessment Report once completed.

It should be noted that the TAG is not envisioned as a fixed membership “committee”, but rather that its composition and the involvement of particular groups and individuals will vary according to specific items and issues being discussed and considered at any particular time.

There are also no strictly defined forums or set methods for the activities of the TAG, but this may involve some meetings and teleconferences to discuss and review particular items, as well as the exchange of information and comments by email or other electronic means (such as a collaborative website).

IDENTIFICATION OF CONTACTS AND KEY TOPICS OF INTEREST

If your organization is interested in participating in the Regional Assessment through the TAG process, it would be appreciated if you could provide the following information at your earliest convenience (ceaa.nloffshorestudy-etudeextracotieretnl.acee@canada.ca):

- 1) Identification of a single point of contact for this initiative, who will help identify and coordinate involvement by relevant individuals from within your organization for specific activities and topics; and
- 2) Based on your organization’s particular areas of expertise and interest, an initial indication of the specific subject areas that you would like to focus your participation on. (Please complete and return the Table below – Note that this can be revisited and updated at any time).

Organization Name	
Designated Point of Contact	

Topic	Subject Areas (Please check any that apply to your organization)
Offshore Exploratory Drilling and Associated Activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploratory drilling components and activities (equipment, methods, emissions) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental protection measures and requirements for planned activities 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accidental events and malfunctions (including oil spills) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spill prevention and response 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Others (please specify) 	

Topic	Subject Areas (Please check any that apply to your organization)	
	Existing Environment (including relevant datasets)	Environmental Effects (incl Cumulative Effects), Mitigation, Follow-up
Environmental Components / Issues		
<i>Physical Environment</i>		
• Atmospheric Environment (ambient air quality, potential air emissions)		
• Geology (bedrock, surficial, seismicity, geohazards)		
• Bathymetry		
• Climatology (wind, air temperatures, precipitation, visibility)		
• Oceanography (waves, currents, seawater properties, tides)		
• Underwater Noise		
• Ice Conditions (sea ice and icebergs)		
• Climate Change (atmospheric, oceanographic, ice)		
<i>Biological Environment</i>		
• Plankton, Plants and Macroalgae		
• Benthic Invertebrates		
• Corals and Sponges		
• Atlantic Salmon		
• Other Finfish (Including species at risk)		
• Marine and Migratory Birds (including species at risk)		
• Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles (including species at risk)		
• Protected and Special Areas – Federal, Provincial, International, Others		
<i>Socioeconomic Environment</i>		
• Marine Commercial Fisheries (domestic and/or foreign)		
• Marine Recreational Fisheries		
• Research Surveys (fisheries and others)		
• Marine Shipping		
• Military Activities		
• Unexploded Ordnances / Legacy Sites		
• Subsea Cables		
• Coastal and Marine Tourism and Recreation		
• Physical and Cultural Heritage		
• Other socioeconomic issues (please specify)		
<i>Indigenous Communities and Activities</i>		
• Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes (including fishing)		
• Health and Socioeconomic Conditions (including other fisheries and marine activities)		
• Physical and Cultural Heritage, and Structures, Sites or Things of Historical, Archaeological, Paleontological or Architectural Significance		
• Indigenous Knowledge		
<i>Others</i>		
• Geographic Information Systems (GIS)		
• <i>Others (please specify)</i>		

