



Strategic Environmental Assessment Update Labrador Shelf Offshore Area

Draft Scoping Document Summary

Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador
Offshore Petroleum Board

May 2017

In August 2008, the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) published a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for a portion of the Labrador Shelf offshore area: the *Strategic Environmental Assessment Labrador Shelf Offshore Area* (Sikumiut Environmental Management Ltd. 2008). The 2008 SEA was conducted with the assistance of a multi-stakeholder Working Group that was co-chaired by a representative of the C-NLOPB and a representative of the Nunatsiavut Government. The C-NLOPB is updating this document in consideration of the elapsed time since it was originally published. Figure 1 depicts the proposed geographic focus for the SEA Update (the SEA Update Area). The eastern limits of the original SEA Area have been extended in the southern portion to the full extent of Canada's continental shelf claim beyond 200 nautical miles from the territorial sea baselines, outside the limit of the 2008 SEA but now included in the SEA Update. Areas defined in the SEA Update Study Area beyond the 200 nautical mile limit are part of Canada's 2013 partial submission to the Commission for the Limits of the Continental shelf (CLCS). The Extended Continental Shelf area delineated in Canada's submission should be considered preliminary and subject to change pending recommendations from the CLCS and the resolution of overlapping delineations with our neighbours.

An SEA involves a broader-scale Environmental Assessment (EA) that considers the larger ecological setting, rather than a project-specific EA that focuses on site-specific issues with defined boundaries. Information from the SEA will assist the Board in determining whether exploration rights should be offered in whole or in part within the Labrador Shelf area and may identify general restrictive or mitigative measures that should be considered for application to exploration activities.

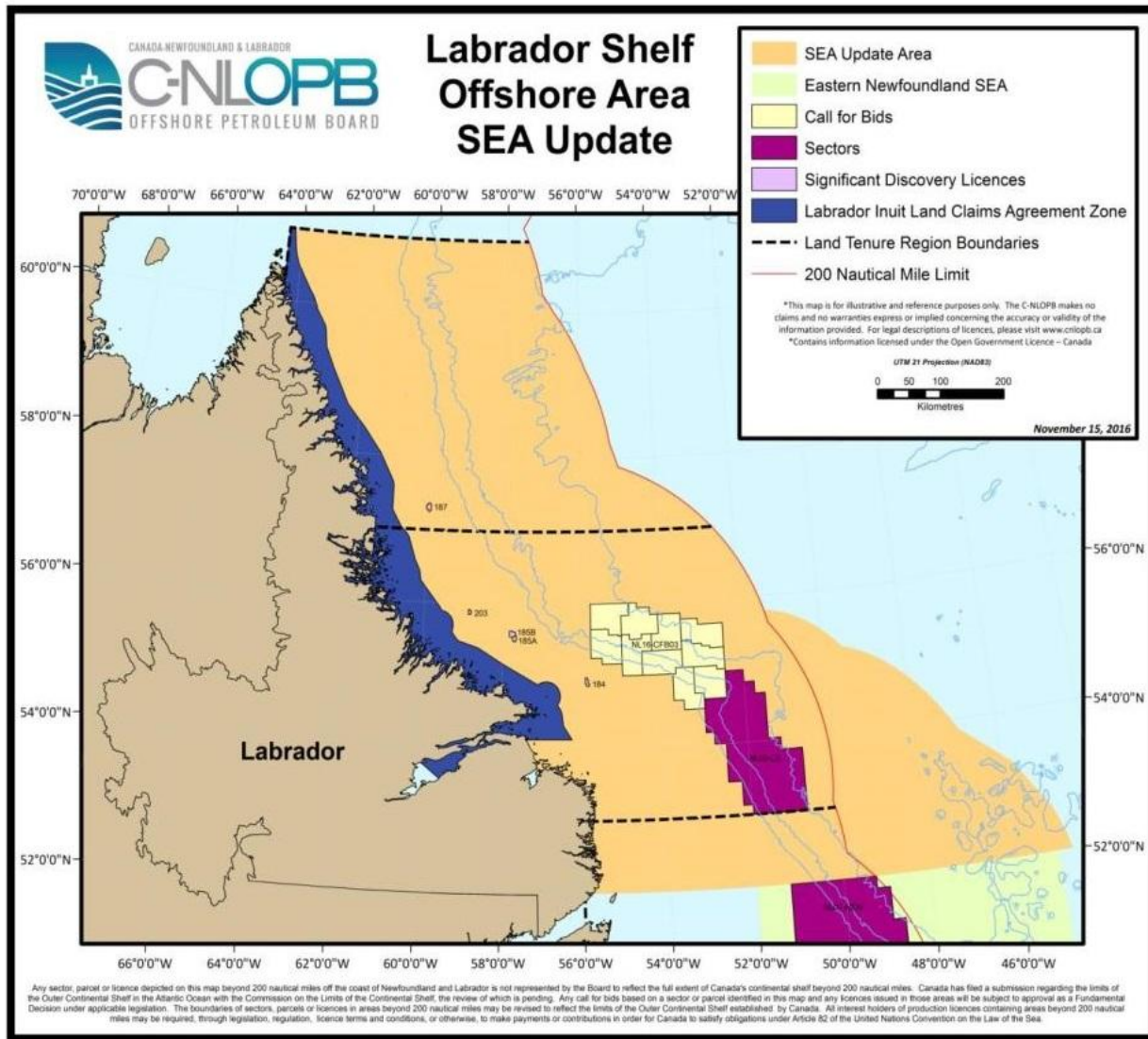
Activities associated with exploration licences may include: conduct of seismic surveys, other geophysical surveys, geotechnical surveys; drilling of wells (either exploration or delineation); and well abandonment. If one or more exploratory drilling programs successfully identify petroleum deposits with commercial potential, production activities may follow. Production activities may involve: drilling of wells (e.g. delineation, development/production, injection wells, well testing activities such as flaring); installation and operation of subsea equipment; installation and operation of production facilities; and production abandonment activities.

The scope for the update of the 2008 SEA outlines the factors to be considered in the SEA Update, the scope of those factors, and guidelines for preparing the SEA Update Report. The information provided in the SEA Update Report will be based on new and relevant information that has become available since the publication of the 2008 SEA. The SEA will: provide an overview of the existing physical and biological environments; discuss in broader terms the potential

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Update Labrador Shelf Offshore Area – Draft Scoping Document Summary

environmental effects associated with offshore oil and gas activities in the SEA Update Area; collect, describe and incorporate Traditional Knowledge (TK) (both current and historical occupational uses of Labrador indigenous groups in the SEA Update Area); update the status of knowledge and data gaps and identify any new knowledge and data gaps; and highlight issues that may be of concern for planning approaches.

Figure 1: SEA Update Area



The SEA Update will focus on the incorporation of scientific information on the existing and predicted ecosystems and collected TK and will be based on a Valued Ecosystem Component (VEC) approach which identifies components of the environment that are valued (e.g. socially, economically, culturally and/or scientifically) and/or of interest when considering the potential environmental effects. Each VEC (including components or subsets thereof) will be defined and

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Update Labrador Shelf Offshore Area – Draft Scoping Document Summary

the rationale for its selection provided. VECs will be determined based on consultations with interested stakeholders, the public, regulatory agencies, and published scientific literature. At a minimum, VECs will include: fish and fish habitat (including benthic habitat); commercial fisheries, traditional Aboriginal fisheries, marine mammals and sea turtles; waterbirds (including seabirds, waterfowl, shorebirds); species at risk; and sensitive/special areas. For each of the identified VECs, the description will be based on new and relevant information that has become available since the publication of the 2008 SEA.

Throughout the development of the SEA Update, the C-NLOPB and its contractors, with assistance by the Working Group, will consult with the Nunatsiavut, provincial and federal government departments, Aboriginal Groups, Labrador communities, the fishing industry, and local non-governmental organizations. Community consultations and targeted stakeholder engagement sessions will be required. Traditional Knowledge will be collected from the region's three Indigenous groups; the Inuit, Innu and NunatuKavut. The gathering and documenting of TK of historical, current, and potential future use in the SEA Update Area will be an important component of the SEA Update and will be done at the earliest stages of the SEA Update process, under guidance from the SEA Update Working Group. Information on species of importance, area use, and changes in environment (e.g., ecological, commercial, ceremonial, traditional) in the SEA Update Area will be included within each of the VEC description categories.