



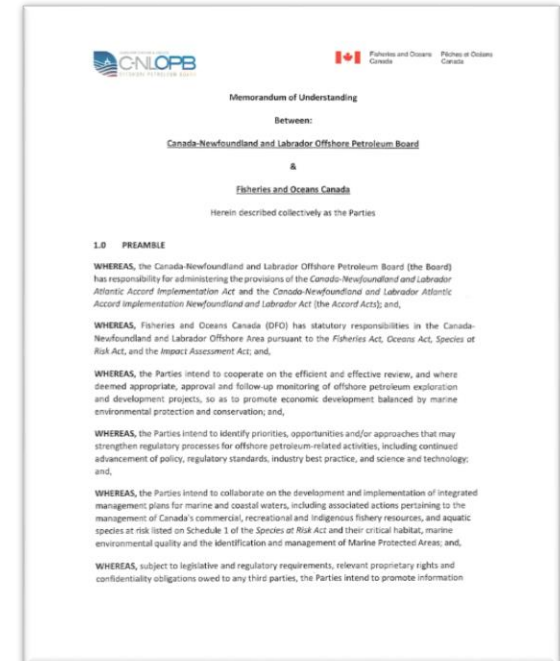
DFO Roles and Responsibilities Oil Spill Incident

C-NLOPB Spill Prevention and Response Forum
January 12-14, 2021



Background

- DFO / C-NLOPB have a long history of collaboration.
- The DFO and C-NLOPB MOU (updated July 2020) identifies and promotes effective coordination and planning of activities of mutual interest in NL's Offshore Area including oil spill response.
- DFO plays an “expert / support” role to the CNLOPB during an oil spill incident, through the provision of advice and information which is typically coordinated through the National Environmental Emergency Centre (NEEC).
- DFO may also discharge legislative responsibilities as required under the *Fisheries Act*, *Species at Risk Act*, *Marine Mammal Regulations*.





DFO Support - Oil Spills

- An internal Departmental protocol has been established to ensure a single departmental response to the Lead Authority (i.e. C-NLOPB) typically through the NEEC.
- Upon notification from the Lead Authority / NEEC, DFO “kick starts” the protocol.
- Ecosystems Management Branch led:
 - One window for reporting of Environmental Incidents to DFO
 - Responsible for coordinating DFO expert / support to the Lead Authority
- DFO recognizes the importance of obtaining real-time information on active fisheries during incidents. DFO will initiate discussions with fisheries organizations on how best to obtain this information.



DFO Advice and Support

DFO provides advice and support to the Lead Authority through NEEC on:

- Fish species and ongoing fisheries
- Oceanography (i.e. currents)
- Marine Protected Areas
- Location of sensitive marine habitats (e.g. coral and sponge areas, VMEs)
- Potential impacts to aquatic species and their habitats
- Monitor marine mammals, including species at risk, during an oil spill event and related response activities



Legislative and Regulatory Responsibilities

DFO may apply relevant legislative provisions to incident response and recovery operations if required, such as:

- *Fisheries Act* Authorizations for emergency works(exigent circumstances)
- Permits for marine mammal or SAR (e.g. permitting activities to divert or interfere with a species in response efforts)
- Establish and enforce fisheries closures



Fishery Closures Instruments

The Department's Regional Director General (RDG) has two primary mechanisms to close fisheries in relation to an oil spill.

1. RDG could issue a prohibition order (PO) under Section 3(1) of the Management of Contaminated Fisheries Regulations (MCFR).
2. RDG could issue a variation order (VO) under Section 6(1) of the Fishery General Regulations.

DFO has the communication tools in place should a fishery be closed (i.e. Notice to Fishers)



Going Forward

- DFO will continue to play a expert support role during the planning and response efforts led by the C-NLOPB
- DFO will continue to provide timely advice to the C-NLOPB as per the MOU and through cooperation with the NEEC.