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# Environmental Emergencies Science Table role in spill response

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# National Environmental Emergencies Center OPERATIONAL MANDATE

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ECCC-NEEC is responsible for ensuring that the environment is protected when an environmental emergency occurs.

(Emergency Management Act, Fisheries Act, Canadian Environmental Protection Act 1999, Species at Risk Act and Migratory Birds Convention Act).

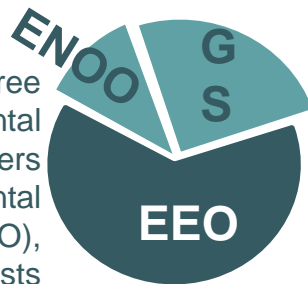


# WHO ARE WE AT NEEC?

**5**  
teams

- National Programs and Operations
- Geomatics and Technology
- Central, Prairie and North
- Atlantic Satellite Office
- Pacific Satellite Office

NEEC is made up of three positions: Environmental Notification Operations Officers (ENOO), Environmental Emergencies Officers (EEO), and Geomatics Specialists (GS)



**Environmental Scientists**

**Notification Experts**

**Toxicologists**

**Engineers**

**Biologists**

**Ecologists**

**Physical Geographers**

**GIS professionals**



WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



# What is an environmental emergency?

An uncontrolled or unexpected incident involving the release, or the likelihood of a polluting substance into the environment



2013 – Lac Mégantic, QC



2014 – *Simushir* cargo vessel, BC



# NEEC's role in NL Offshore Industry spills

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Defined by:

- legislation
- 2015 Memorandum of Understanding between the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board and Environment Canada



# MOU between C-NLOPB and ECCC

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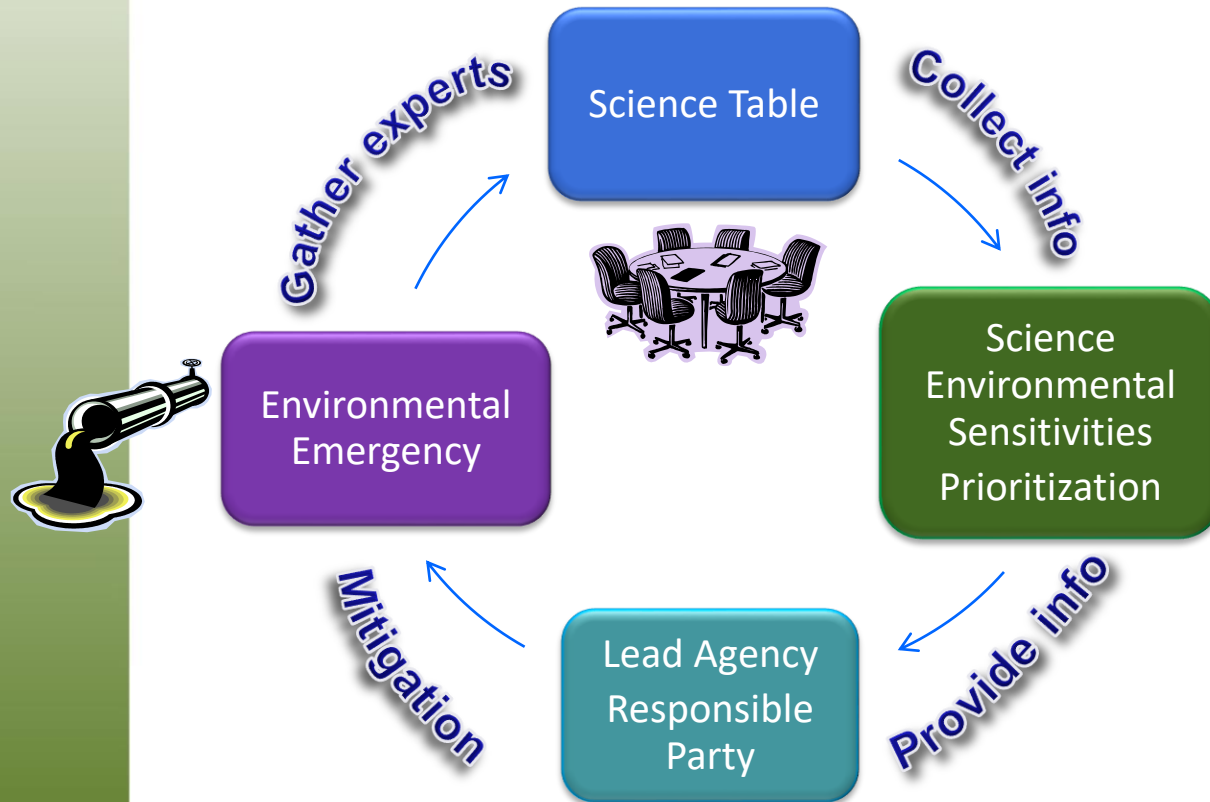
- C-NLOPB is the Lead Agency
- NEEC will coordinate provision of ECCC's scientific and technical advice including:
  - weather and meteorology
  - wildlife species and habitat
  - contaminant fate and behavior
  - dispersion and trajectory modelling
  - monitoring through satellite based remote sensing Integrated Satellite Tracking of Pollution (ISTOP)
  - establishment of clean up priorities and countermeasures
  - convene an Environmental Emergencies Science Table (EEST)

Page 6 – January 18, 2021



# Environmental Emergencies Science Table

- Multidisciplinary table of experts providing consolidated advice, information and assistance to the Lead Agency



ECCC can convene and chair a Science Table when one or more triggers are met, or requested by the Lead Agency:

- Environmental emergency is significant and/or complex/severe;
- Incident has international or cross-jurisdictional component; or
- Need to coordinate information impedes the Lead Agency at fulfilling its response monitoring role.



# EEST role in general

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- The Environmental Emergencies Science Table (EEST) develops a very high level consensus on overall protection and clean-up priorities for an incident on behalf of the Lead Agency.
- The EEST brings the right expertise, adapts the scale of response to a particular environmental emergency, and provides a forum to deal with rapidly moving information to minimize damage to human life or health, or the environment, while maximizing the use of limited response resources. **Virtual or in person**
- The EEST forum covers scientific and technical advice in addition to providing input on cultural and historical concerns such as from Indigenous Peoples and economic and industry impacts of incidents on concerns like commercial fisheries through the FFAW and/or One Ocean.





# EEST role in general

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- The EEST will meet as required during an incident, initially meetings may be required daily and then as needed to deal with issues which arise for the overall environmental priorities of the response, these may be updated as required as the response progresses
- The EEST may from time to time identify regulatory Subject Matter Experts to provide technical assistance on specific issues to ensure appropriate permits and legislation are met before detailed plans are submitted to the EEST for review.
- The EEST is chaired by Environment Canada's National Environmental Emergencies Centre staff.



# EEST Guiding Principles

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- Lead Agency Concept
- One Window Approach
- Team Concept
- Flexibility/Expandability
- Open Communication



# Lead Agency role

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- The Lead Agency defined by legislation and MOU as C-NLOPB is the one window for dealings with the Responsible Party (RP).
- The Lead Agency is responsible for ensuring the Responsible Party is aware of the mandates and concerns of other agencies and acts as their spokesperson to the RP.
- The Lead Agency is responsible to ensure issues raised by the RP are brought to the EEST for discussion and resolution.
- The Lead Agency will ensure all information requested from the RP by the EEST is received in a timely manner.
- The Lead Agency will ensure the EEST is kept briefed on the RP's operational plans and progress on addressing resources at risk and priorities which have been identified by the EEST.



# Role of EEST agency representatives

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- Representatives should be at the **senior** level for the organizations they represent,
- Representatives should be able to speak to their legislation, policies and mandates.
- Representatives must be able to commit staff and potentially funds to deal with issues as they arise.
- Representatives must be able to coordinate in a timely manner responses to issues which impact their mandate and/or legislation
- Representatives will be the one window for information back to their department or organization



# Role of EEST agency representatives cont.

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- Representatives will ensure media lines are coordinated through the Lead Agency for their organization during the response
- Representatives will be responsible for identifying Subject Matter Experts within their department/organization to deal with specific issues as they arise
- Representatives will be responsible for identifying competent alternates during periods of their absence



# EEST invites for NL Offshore Industry incidents

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- C-NLOPB
- ECCC – NEEC, CWS, MSC, ESTS, ISTOP
- DFO – Science, Ecosystem Management
- CCG
- TC – Marine Safety and Compliance, National Aerial Surveillance Program
- NR Can
- NL Environment, Climate Change and Municipalities
- Service NL
- NL Industry, Energy and Technology

Page 14 – January 18, 2021



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# Non F/P/T/M roles

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- Incident dependent invites
- Indigenous Peoples, Associations, Unions etc
- Must be willing to be part of the solution
- Must be willing to be the One Window for sharing information with the EEST and their membership
- Ex. McNally Barge 2007, FV Katsheshuk 2002



# Example of a discussion topic- Alternative Response Methods (ARMs)

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- Alternative Response Method – use of Dispersant
- Overview of science related to fate and behavior of product spilled and effectiveness of proposed dispersant
- High level over view of resources at risk with use of dispersant or no dispersant application. This discussion covers biological as well as economic such as fisheries
- Monitoring requirements
- Appropriateness of the application and monitoring plans submitted by the Responsible Party
- Review of Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA)





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# Thank You!

Page 17 – January 18, 2021



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