

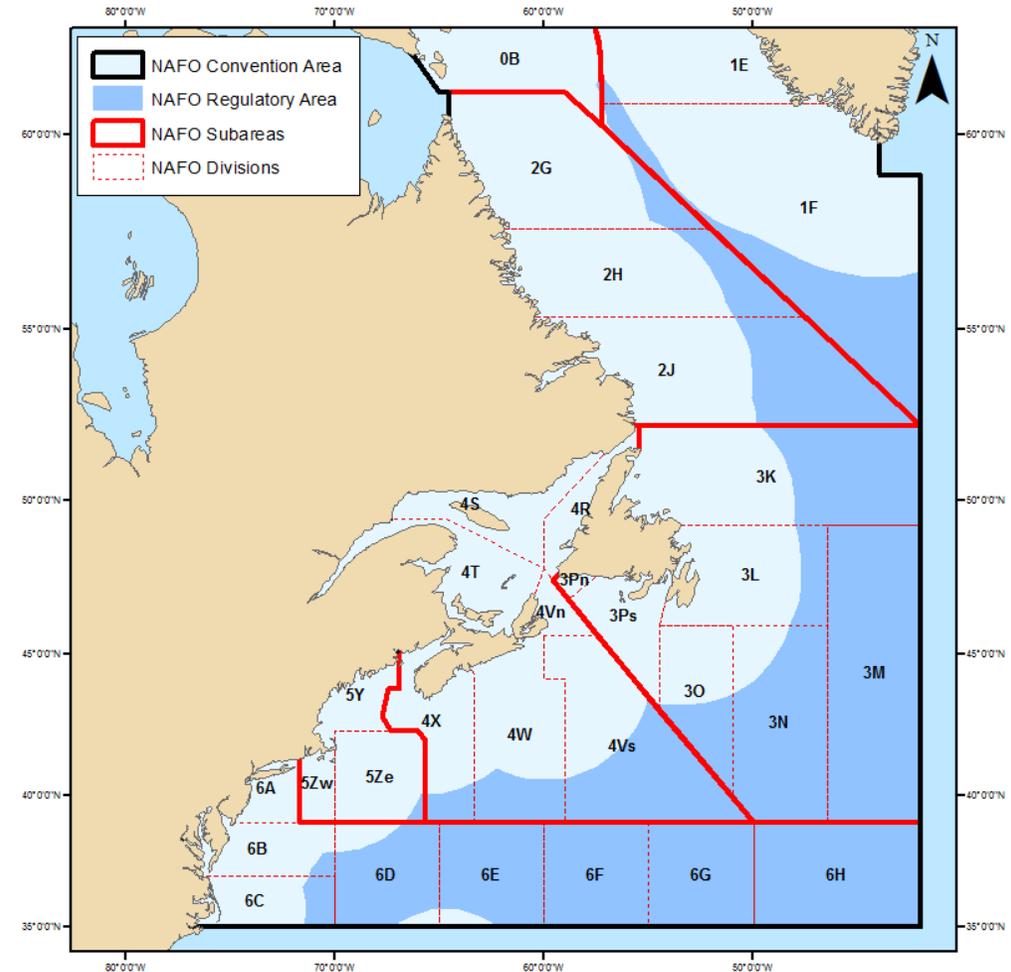
# Offshore Fishing Industry Perspectives Oil Spills and Response

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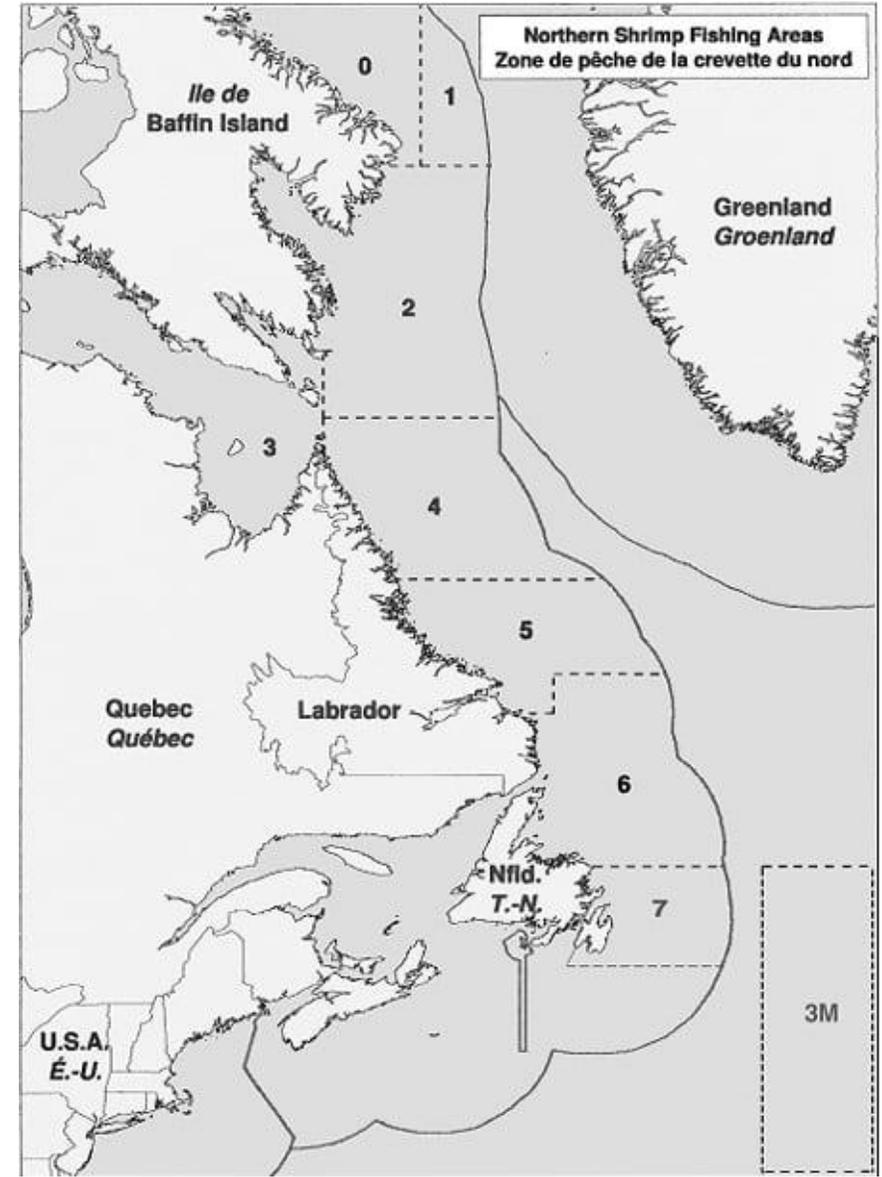
# The Offshore Groundfish Sector

- 19 licence holders from across Atlantic Canada. Include both those operating active fleets and those that have reduced operations in light of historic stock reductions
- Represent almost 50,000 mt of groundfish quota in Atlantic Canada, including over 40,000 mt of quota in the waters surrounding NL.
- A wide range of species are included:
  - Cod
  - Flatfish (plaice, flounder species, halibut)
  - Redfish
  - Halibut (Greenland and Atlantic)
  - Hake (silver and white)
  - Skates
- Operations both within and outside the of the Canadian EEZ



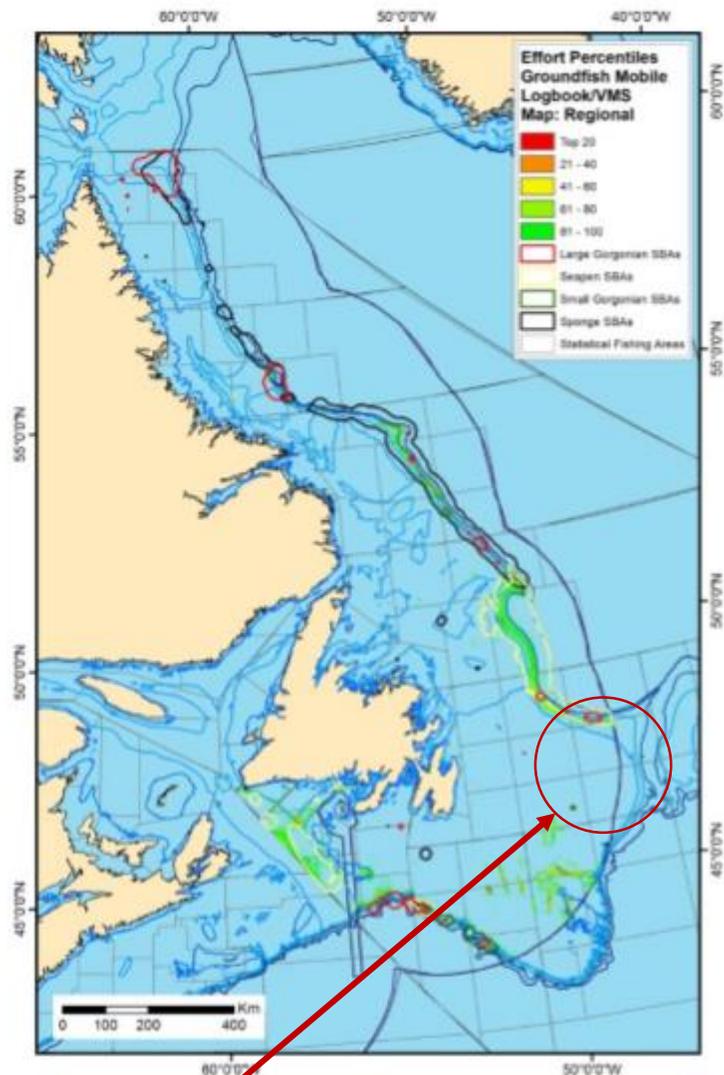
# Offshore Shrimp:

- CAPP members hold ~11 of the 17 offshore shrimp licenses in Canada.
- Member vessels harvest the quotas from most of these licenses.
- Operational capacity includes:
  - 8 large freezer vessels
    - 5 of which regularly land in Newfoundland
    - 3 land in Nova Scotia
- Operations are seasonally based:
  - SFAs 5-6 during January through May
  - SFAs 2,3,4 during June-December
  - SFA1 in the second half on an opportunistic basis



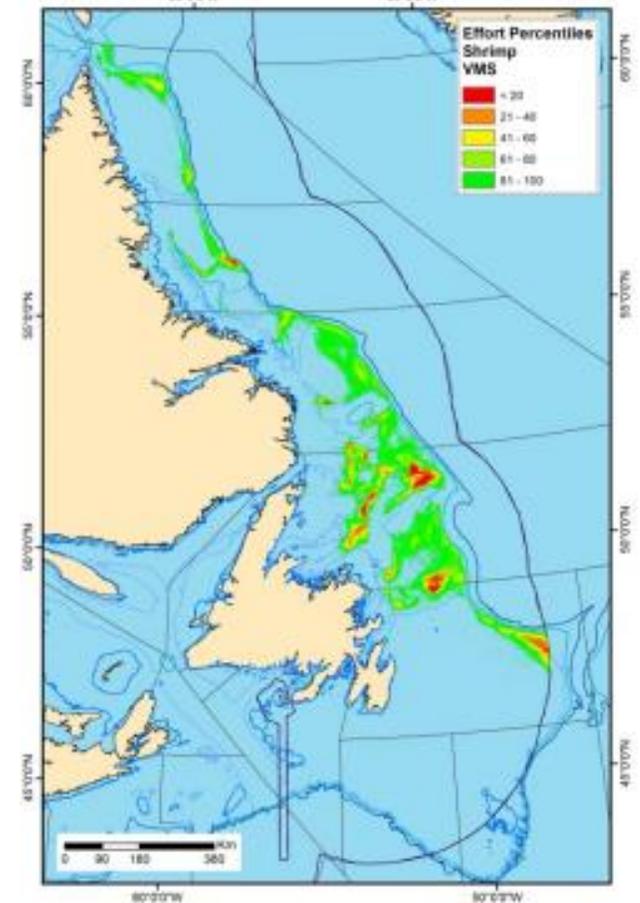
# Groundfish Footprint

- Fishing occurs throughout the edges of the NL shelves and in some plateau areas of the Grand Banks.
- The pattern of the fishery has some degree of annual shifts, related to:
  - Available stocks
  - Spatial distribution of the resource (more on this later)
  - Catch rates (must match processing or not viable)
  - Bycatch
  - Interactions with other fleet sectors/fisheries
- Activity extends up into the Eastern Arctic (available upon request)
- Footprint is fairly constrained – ***We are easy to avoid in both time and space!***

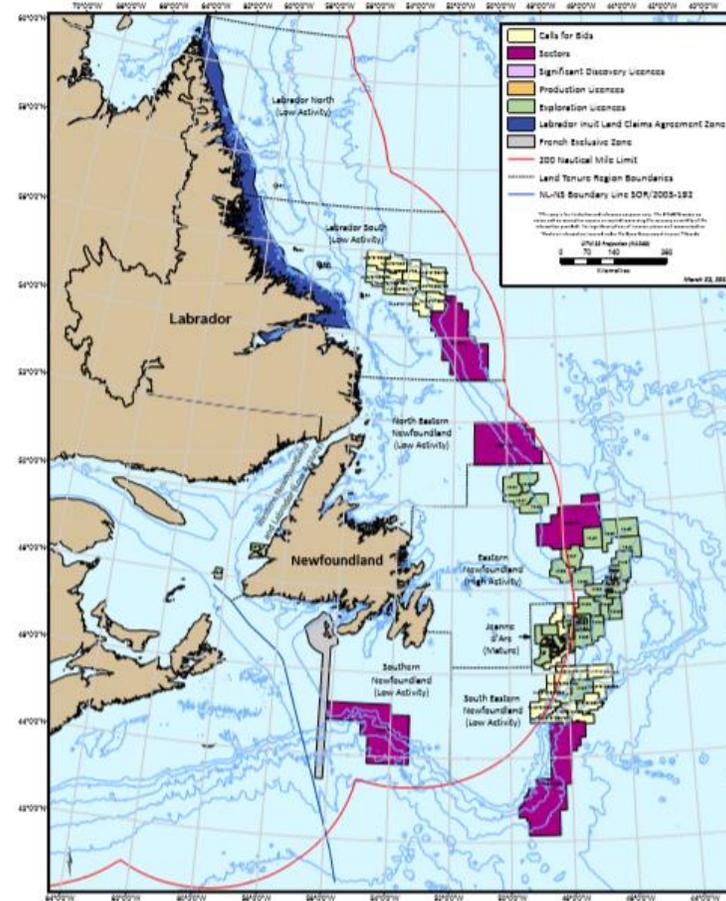
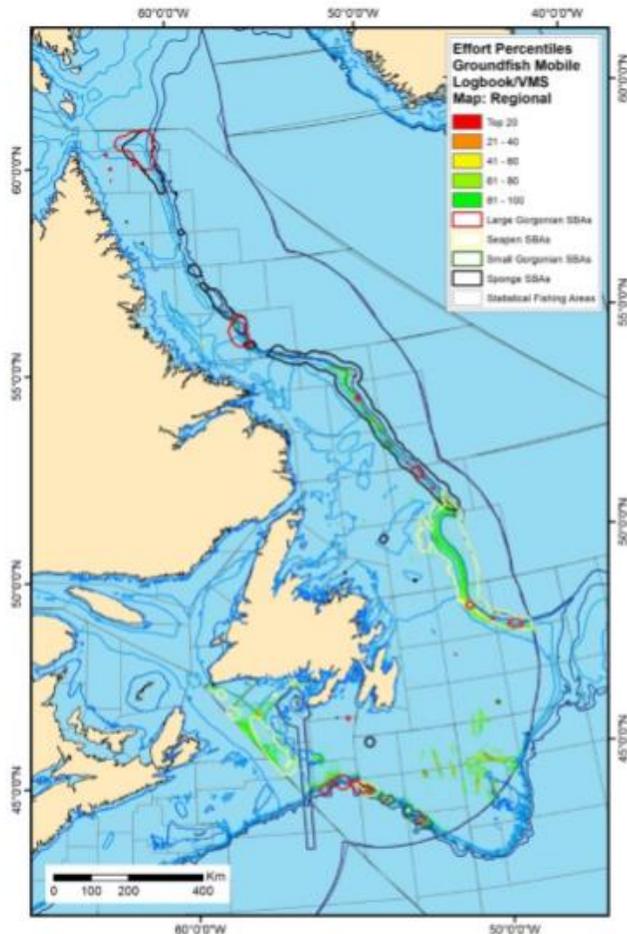


# Shrimp Fishery is Broader

- Substantial effort is based on the shelf edge, but is also present in the channels and basins of the shelf
- Current effort distribution has changed in response to changing quota levels and resource distribution
- Future patterns are expected to show some fluctuation with the environment – very hard to predict with any precision
- The majority of the fishery is operating outside of existing oil and gas extraction/drilling activities, but exploration is beginning to intrude on the fishing areas.
- **Again - *easy to avoid in both time and space!***



# Fishing and Petroleum Activities



# Oil Spill Prevention and Response in NL

- The oil and gas industry is regulated. We cannot say ‘how’ spills can be prevented. We can speak to the response
- We have observed multiple uncontrolled ‘releases’ in NL operations in the past several years, with the largest being over 200,000 L.
- In all cases, the spill response was generally non-existent:
  - Information was provided to public before being provided to the industry
  - Key pieces needed to assess impacts to operations (i.e. maps/spill trajectory) were not provided or had to be explicitly requested
  - Attempts to control releases (skimmers, booms, dispersants, in-situ burning, etc.) were not utilized due to environmental conditions and little detail was provide on rationale and implications
  - Industry forced to rely on public briefing which were scant on detail
- Thankfully, operations local to the releases were limited and the lack of spatial overlap meant that our operations were not directly impacted, but indirect impacts are always a risk.

# Direct Impacts:

- **Crew Safety:** Operators were left to determine if their active operations were still considered 'safe'. No guidance was provided.
- **Product Safety:** With ongoing harvesting operations, it was imperative that the fish being harvested remained safe. No guidance was provided on this.
- **Operational Disruption:** Operations are part of an annual fishing plan. If a spill is left to 'naturally disperse', it may come into our planned operations – **we can't plan if we don't know**. This was central to past requests through One Ocean for spill trajectories.

**Think of Direct Impacts as those that are experienced what the spill is actually happening – namely when the oil is on the water**

**Direct impacts are mitigated by the immediate response to the spill and this includes communication between the fishing industry and the oil and gas sector. This did not happen.**

# Indirect Impacts:

- **Market Impacts:** NL Seafood is branded as ‘Clean North Atlantic’ – each time a spill occurs and it reaches world markets, consumers ask questions. Our reputation is based on our products and can be impacted by a spill or poor response. This was observed after the Macando blow-out.
- **Stock Impacts:** The impacts of hydrocarbon releases and the chemicals used to disperse them have been well-studied in some environments, but no others. We must take care to ensure that whatever approach is used, it is the least harmful. For instance, the impact of COREXIT mixed with Hibernia oil has been shown to be detrimental to capelin production – the industry needs the confidence that the cure is not worse than the disease.

**Indirect impacts are longer term – ranging from days to years after the spill occurs.**

**Mitigation requires a detailed understanding of what the response was and how everything from the ecosystem to markets respond.**

# A Path Forward



We realize that accidents ‘happen’, but there is question whether these were avoidable and if the response was reasonable.

If we were asked five years ago if we expected a spill in the offshore, we would have said that we have faith in the operators. This confidence has been eroded.

Please rely on the following principles when preparing a spill response:

# A Path Forward



- ***Communication:*** This flows both ways, we can provide you with information on activities/operations, and in return expect that you will share key details such as size, extent, trajectory and expected response. **We need this to respond and to keep our crews safe.**
- ***Rationalize the Response:*** Whatever the response may be, we need to understand what, why and impacts – this is key to keeping markets confident in our products. **We are not the general public, but stakeholders working in the area of operations – and we were generally there first. Please respect us.**
- ***Minimize the Damage:*** The shared goal is to minimize the long-term damage the environment, the fish and the public perception of our shared industries.
- ***Support the Follow-up:*** Saying ‘sorry’ doesn’t cut it – let’s have a plan in place and execute it well.
- ***Compensation:*** Understand that compensation must include both direct and indirect costs.



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