

**Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Program  
2018-2027**

**2025 Seabed Survey  
Environmental Assessment Update**

**Equinor Canada Ltd.**

**May 6, 2025**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

Equinor Canada Ltd. (Equinor) will be undertaking a seabed survey in 2025 in the Flemish Pass area of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area (the Project).

The scope of this Project is addressed in the approved environmental assessment (EA) “Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Program Environmental Impact Statement” (Statoil 2017).

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) requires that operators, when applying for various program authorizations, submit information confirming that the proposed activities fall within the scope of a previously approved EA, indicate if the EA predictions remain valid, and provide an update on species at risk (SAR). The information in this document herein provides the information to support the above requirements and notes changes that need to be addressed. This EA update provides the following information:

- Overview of planned Project activities for 2025 (Section 2)
- Information on consultation and engagement activities undertaken (Section 3.5)
- Update applicable baseline information for key environmental components that has become available since the EA was produced, specifically regarding:
  - Commercial fisheries (Section 3.1)
  - Species at risk, or of conservation concern (Section 3.2)
  - Special Areas (Section 3.3)
- Evaluation and confirmation that the nature and scope of the proposed activities are within the scope of the approved EA, including the appropriateness and adequacy of the associated environmental effects predictions and mitigation measures (Section 3.4)

The scope of the planned Project were assessed under the approved EA as summarised in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1 Environmental Assessment Summary**

<b>EA reference:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Statoil 2017)</li> <li>• Responses to Information Requirements (Statoil 2018, Statoil and ExxonMobil 2018, Equinor and ExxonMobil 2018a, 2018b)</li> <li>• EA Decision Statement – Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Project (Environment and Climate Change Canada [ECCC] 2019)</li> </ul>	
Reference No.	Canadian Impact Assessment Registry 80129
Temporal Scope	Year-round, 2019 to 2027, inclusive
Geographic Scope	Flemish Pass area (see Figure 2-1; Appendix A for a listing of geographical coordinates)
Planned 2025 Activities	<p>Licenses: Exploration Licence (EL) 1156 and Significant Discovery Licence (SDL) 1056, 1059.</p> <p>The Survey program is in three stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stages one and two will include both a seabed and environmental survey using an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV)</li> <li>• Stage three will include a detailed soil investigation survey using the Benthic Geo-services PROD system; up to 50 boreholes and cone penetration tests (CPTs) could be obtained.</li> </ul>

## 2 Proposed Activities for 2025

Equinor is planning to undertake a vessel-based seabed survey program in 2025, commencing in late May 2025 and continuing into August 2025, with an option to continue operations into September if required. The seabed survey program is in three stages. Stages one and two will include a seabed bathymetry survey and an environmental survey using an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) and stage three will include a detailed soil investigation survey using the Benthic Geo-services PROD system.

Stages one and two involve the use of an AUV to collect high-resolution bathymetry data using multibeam echosounder (MBES), sub-bottom profiler, and side-scan sonar via a purpose-built vessel Fugro Borealis. The environmental survey will be completed using an AUV to collect high resolution camera survey / photogrammetry for coral / sponge presence and abundance to address EA conditions.

Stage three, the geotechnical site investigation, will be completed using a portable remotely operated drill tool (PROD) installed on the Atlantic Kestrel and will include cone penetration testing unit (CPT) and soil samplings recovery. Up to 50 boreholes and CPTs could be obtained.

In addition to the activities outlined above, the following activities may be completed:

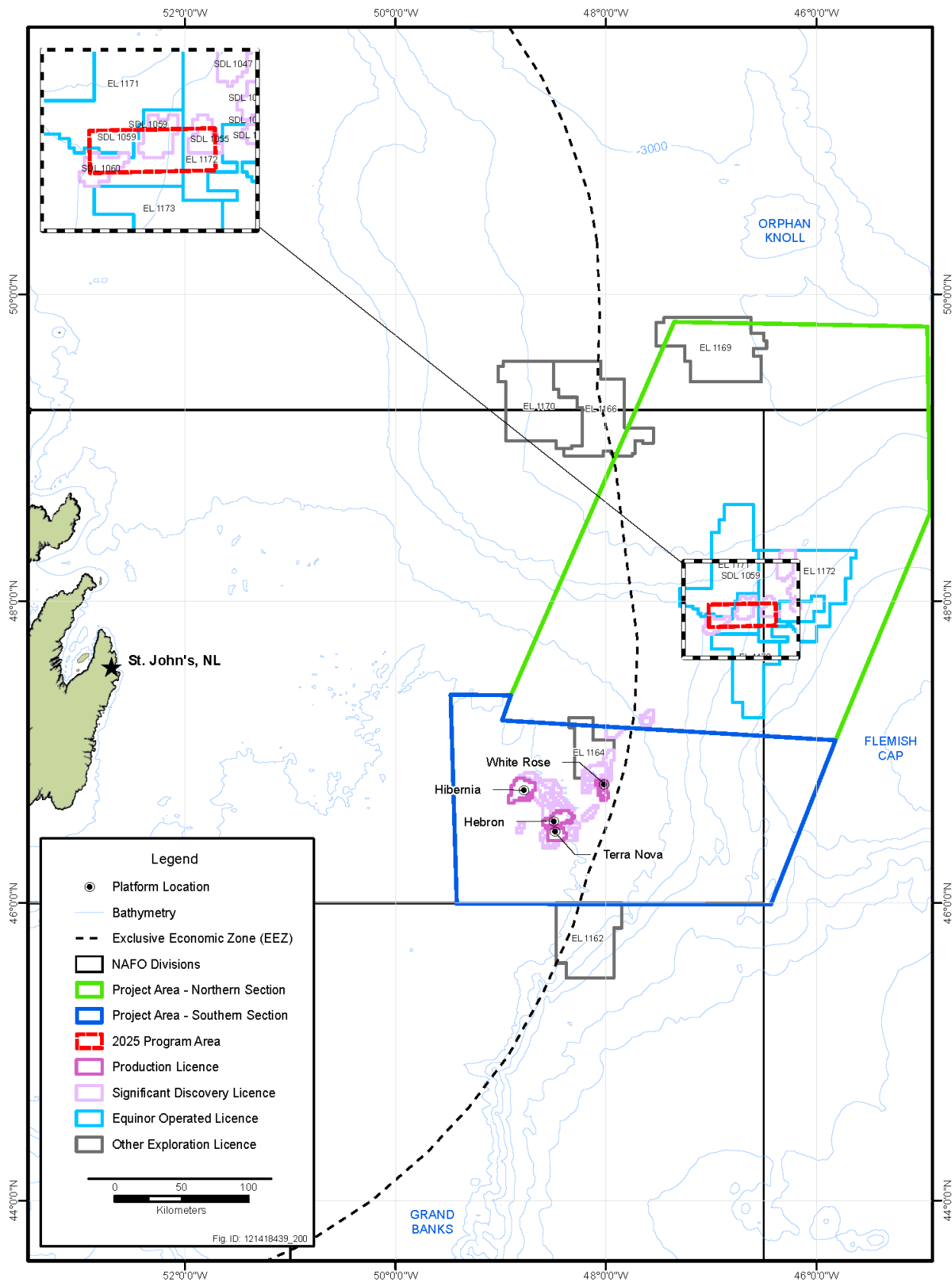
- Deployment of wave rider buoy
- Retrieval of existing marine acoustic sound recording devices and deployment of replacement units in the Flemish Pass area

The 2025 Program Area is illustrated in Figure 2-1.

### 2.1 Stage One: Seabed Survey

The seabed survey will provide Equinor with detailed bathymetry information and imagery summaries within target areas to support design and planning of future seabed infrastructure. The total survey area covers approximately 781 km<sup>2</sup>. The survey will be completed using an AUV equipped with a MBES, sub-bottom profiler, and side-scan sonar, with a target MBES resolution of 0.3 m or less. Water depths for the survey area range from approximately 400 m to approximately 1,200 m. Prior to commencing the survey, sea trials will likely be carried out to test the deployment, retrieval, and functionality of the AUV. The in-field trial will be within the survey area. For the ultra-short baseline (USBL) test, a transponder is set on the seafloor, tethered to a small clump weight. After the test, the transponder is released to the surface, but the clump weight will remain on the seafloor. The survey is planned to commence late May-2025 with an estimated duration of this phase of the survey of approximately 18 to 20 days, not including technical or weather delays.

The AUV is preprogrammed for a set location and flies at approximately 30 m above the seabed. However, if it encounters impediments to the survey (e.g., an obstruction, undulating seabed conditions), it is programmed to abandon the survey and return to surface. In this event, the AUV will discard its ballast weights to ensure a safe return to surface. The weights cannot be recovered. The weights are conical in shape and each one is approximately 161 mm wide at the bottom with a height of approximately 163 mm.



**Figure 2-1 Flemish Pass Project Areas and 2025 Program Area**

An AUV contains hydraulic fluid in a closed system and therefore there is no risk of hydraulic fluid loss during normal operations. Chemicals that will be, or have the potential to be, discharged to the marine environment, will be screened in consideration of the Geotechnical Selection Guidelines for the Drilling and Production Activities on Frontier Lands (Chemical Screening Guidelines) (National Energy Board [NEB] et al. 2009).

## 2.2 Stage Two: Seabed Habitat Survey

Stage 2 of the survey involves the use of the AUV to collect still photos the seabed within the survey area. The still images will be used to determine abundance and condition of coral and sponges in the area and to assist in project development planning. During still photo collection, the AUV will fly approximately 3 to 4 m above the seabed. The duration of this stage will be approximately 2 to 4 days. The AUV photo collection will be calibrated to meet required parameters. A coloured plate will be placed on the seafloor; images collected from flying over this plate will be used to calibrate the AUV camera. This plate will not be recovered.

## 2.3 Stage Three: Geotechnical Soil Investigation

A geotechnical program (sediment investigation) will be conducted in the survey area with the use of a PROD. The PROD will drill up to 50 boreholes approximately 98 mm in diameter at locations throughout the survey area. The shallowest borehole will be approximately 1 to 2 m, with the deepest in the range of 40 to 50 m. For the deeper boreholes, it is estimated that approximately 0.0005 m<sup>3</sup> (500 ml) of spoils could be generated when collecting boreholes. On the seabed, the three PROD feet occupy an area per foot of approximately 3.5 m x 1.2 m (three feet total on the device). For the deepest boreholes, the PROD could be on the seabed for up to 30 hours during borehole collection. All chemicals used in the collection of the boreholes will be screened in accordance with NEB et al. (2009). As with the AUV survey, a USBL test will be performed in the survey area. The Geotechnical survey is planned to commence in mid-July and could take up to 6 weeks to complete.

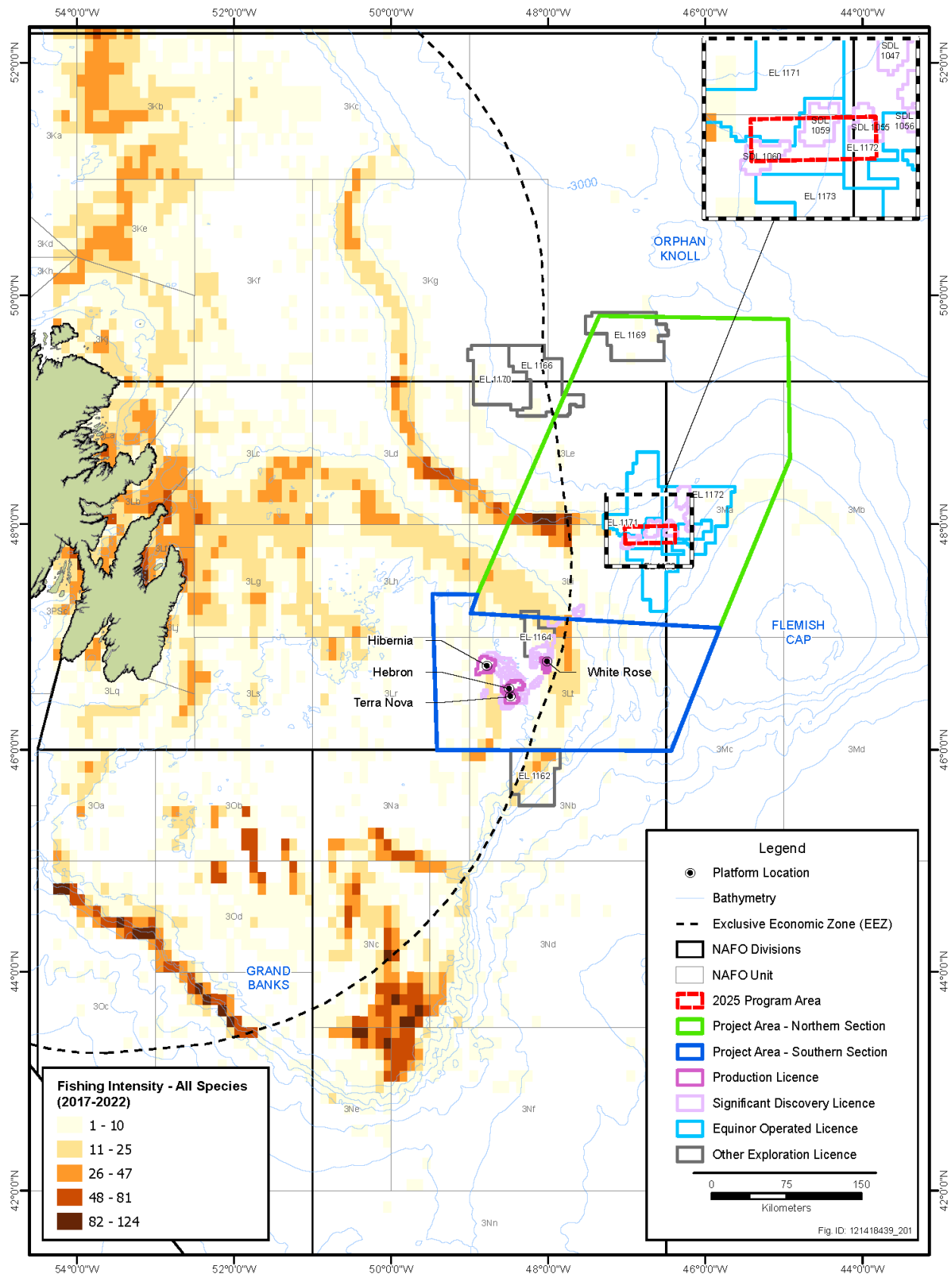
# 3 Environmental Aspects

This section addresses the environmental aspects associated with the activities outlined in Section 2.

## 3.1 Commercial Fisheries

Figure 3-1 illustrates the pattern of fishing activity between 2017 to 2022 for commercial species based on domestic (i.e., Canadian) geospatial catch data as obtained from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) with respect to Project Areas. This pattern of activity is consistent with that documented in the previously approved EA (Statoil 2017).

Within offshore Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) and the Drilling Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Project Areas, general fishing distribution and activity for most species has remained consistent since the EA Update in 2024. Quotas for fisheries have changed throughout fishing seasons, resulting in lower harvesting activity for some fisheries. However general fishing trends and locations of harvesting activities for species have remained consistent. The most recent available fish management decisions for Atlantic Canada, Quebec, and the Arctic were posted in 2024.



**Figure 3-1 Pattern of Canadian Fishing Activity (2017 to 2022) for Commercial Species in Relation to the Project Areas (Canadian data only)**

Commercial harvesting for northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in Shrimp Fishing Area 7 (Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization [NAFO] Division 3L, where it occurs within the Canadian 200 nautical mile [NM] Exclusive Economic Zone [EEZ]) was placed under moratoria in 2015 due to declining shrimp stocks and poor recruitment numbers (DFO 2018). In the portion of Division 3L outside the EEZ regulated by NAFO, fishing for shrimp in Division 3L takes place in depths greater than 200 m (NAFO 2025). The proposed 2025 activities fall within NAFO Division 3L, as a result there is no directed fishing activity for northern shrimp overlapping with the 2025 Program Area (Figure 3-2).

DFO's fishing activity information for commercial species of interest (i.e., halibut [*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*] and snow crab [*Chionoecetes opilio*]) are provided in Figures 3-3 and 3-4, respectively. Mapping for additional species of commercial interest (i.e., Atlantic cod [*Gadus morhua*], American plaice [*Hippoglossoides platessoides*], and redfish [*Sebastes spp.*]) are provided in Appendix B.

Snow crab is harvested within the EIS Project Areas but with low activity within Equinor's ELs and SDLs. Figure 3-4 shows the 2017 to 2022 patterns of Canadian fishing activity for snow crab. The pattern of activity for snow crab indicates a decline in fishing activity in the areas / locations associated with proposed 2025 activities as compared to the previously approved EA.

Domestically, the most recent fisheries management decision for snow crab set the TAC for the 2024 fishing season in NAFO Divisions 3LNO at 36,403 t, which is an increase of 13% compared to the 2023 season (32,224 t) (DFO 2024).

The 2025 fisheries quotas allocated to NAFO vessels for divisions outside of the EEZ are described in NAFO/COM Doc. 25-01 (NAFO 2025). This document indicates a total allowable catch (TAC) of 10,960 tonnes (t) for Greenland halibut for Divisions 3LMNO and 6,000 t for redfish for Divisions 3LN. Of these amounts, 1,684 t of Greenland halibut TAC and 2,556 t of redfish TAC has been allocated to Canadian vessels. Redfish quotas were higher in 2024 for Divisions 3LN with a TAC set to 18,100 with 7,710 allocated to Canadian vessels (NAFO 2024). NAFO has opened the portion of Division 3L outside the EEZ for commercial harvesting of cod for 2025 with a TAC of 18,947 t. Canada's TAC has been set to 18,000 t, which was established by Canada for Canadian fishers (NAFO 2025).

For international fishing operations, the data on previous fishing activities cannot be definitively used to predict the extent quota allocations will be taken in the EIS Project Areas or 2025 Program Area.

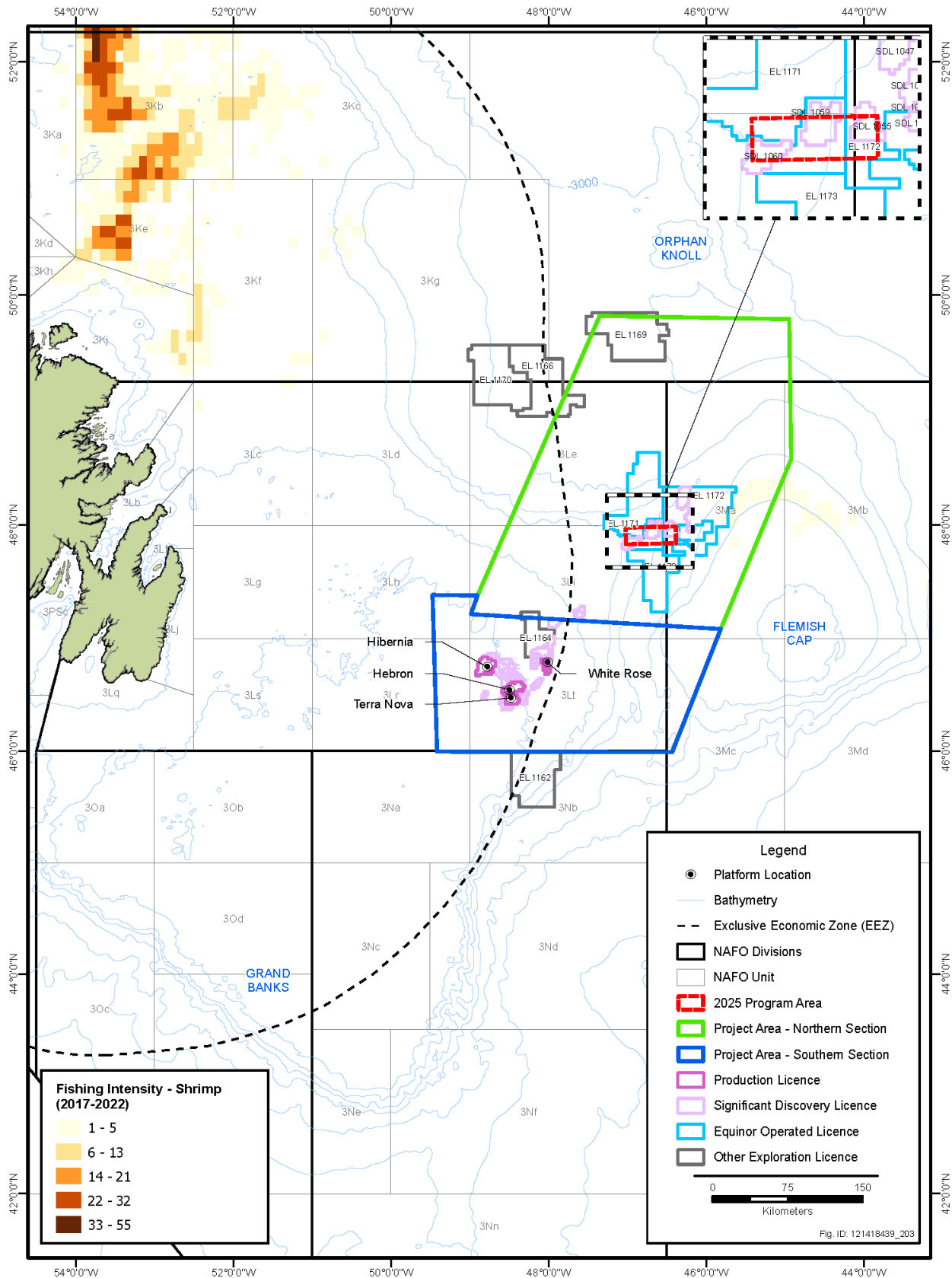
Given the location of commercial fishing activities, nature of the 2025 seabed survey, and the mitigation measures outlined in the approved EA (Statoil 2017) and in Section 3.4 of this update, the conclusions of the previously approved EA and amendments remain valid.

### 3.2 Species at Risk

Appendix C outlines SAR as designated by the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), as well as the NL *Endangered Species Act*, for the Grand Banks and Flemish Pass areas.

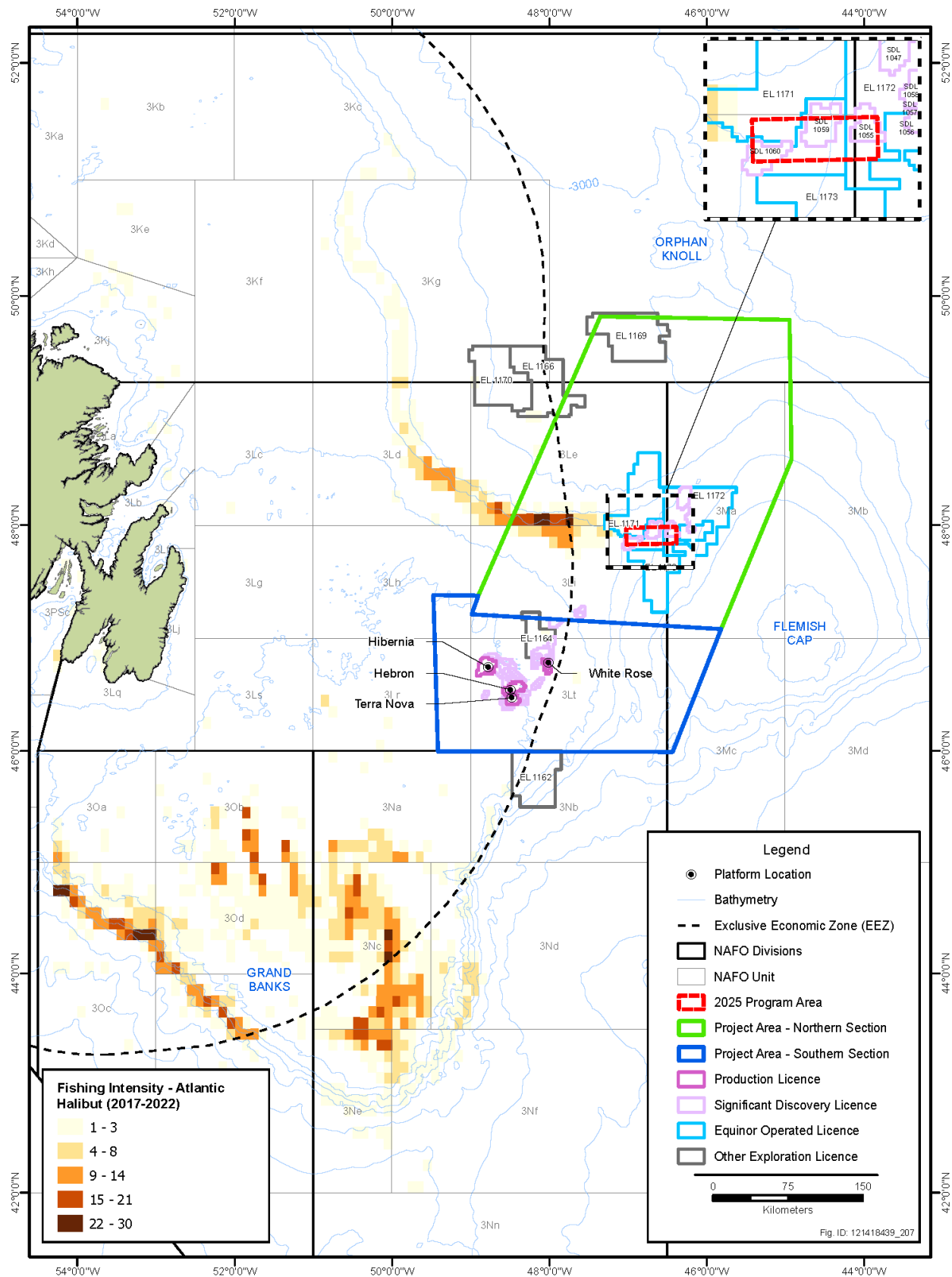
The federal minister received the COSEWIC 2020 assessment of Threatened for Leach's storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*; Atlantic population) in October 2021. Normal consultations were undertaken regarding the addition of this seabird species to SARA Schedule 1 in 2022 and is currently under consideration to be added. The list of SAR in the EIS Project Areas has been updated from the previously approved EA (Appendix C).



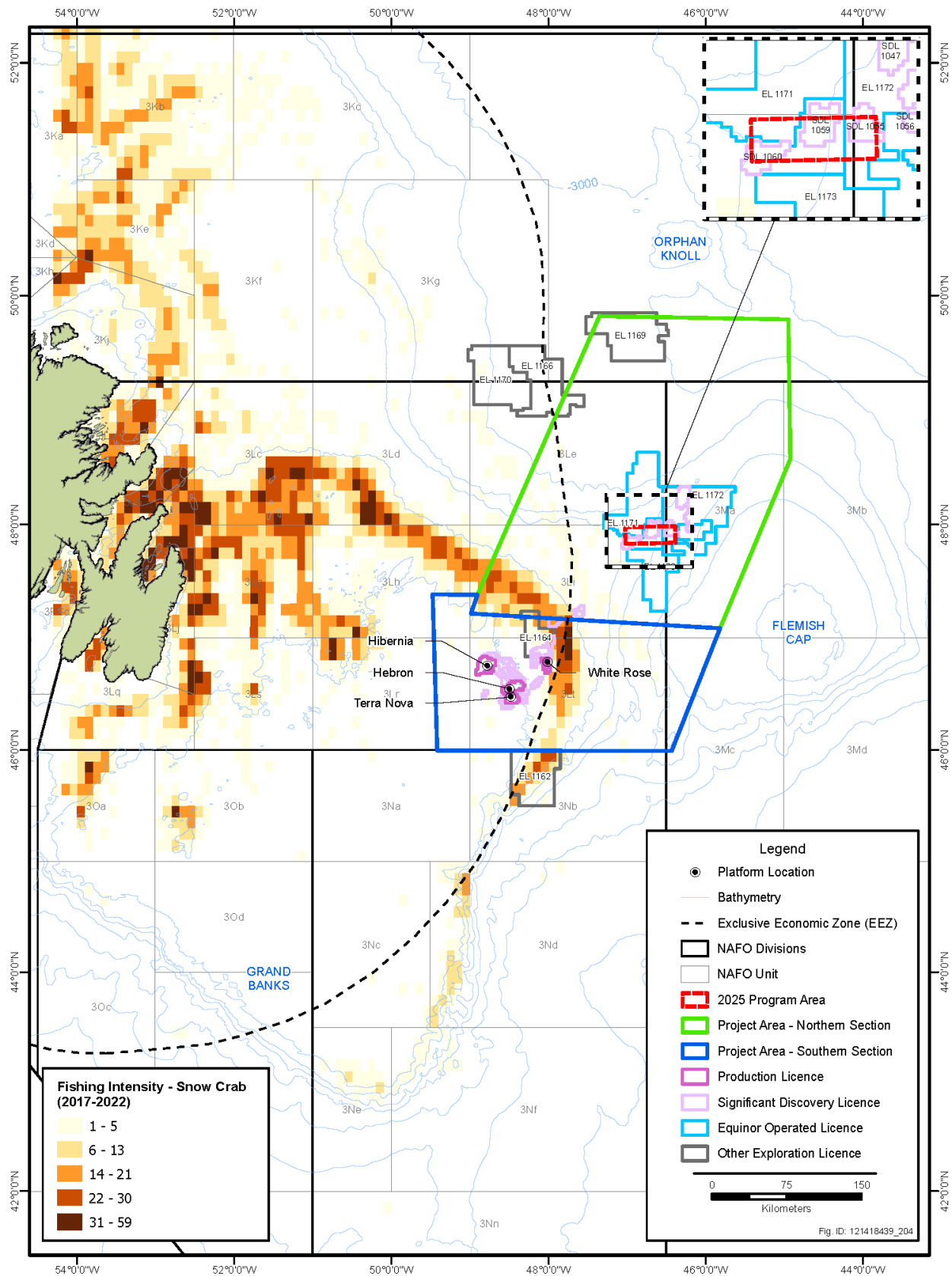


Note: Fishing for northern shrimp in NAFO Division 3L has been under a moratorium since 2015.

**Figure 3-2 Pattern of Northern Shrimp Fishery, 2017 to 2022 (Canadian data only)**



**Figure 3-3 Pattern of Halibut Fishery, 2017 to 2022 (Canadian data only)**



A review of the SARA species-specific recovery plans and critical habitat statements, as noted in Appendix C, do not indicate that new or modified mitigation measures are required beyond those already committed to by Equinor for the scope of the operations addressed by the previously approved EA relevant to the activities described in this update. There are four species that have the potential to occur in the Project Areas with identified critical habitat. These are described below.

Given the location of critical habitat associated with northern and spotted wolffish, North Atlantic right whale, and the Scotian Shelf population of northern bottlenose whale, nature of seabed survey, the lack of seismic-related activities, and the mitigation measures outlined in the approved EA (Statoil 2017) and in Section 3.4 of this update, the conclusions of the previously approved EA and amendments remain valid.

### 3.2.1 North Atlantic Right Whale

North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) has a Critical Habitat Protection Statement pursuant to SARA (DFO 2009); however, there has been no critical habitat designated in the EIS Project Areas and based on known sightings to date, it is an infrequent visitor to the EIS Project Areas (Statoil 2017). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Northeast Fisheries Science Centre (NEFSC) has an interactive North Atlantic Right Whale Sightings Map and most reported sightings between January 2010 and August 2023 have been along the United States eastern seaboard, southwest of Nova Scotia and east of New Brunswick (NOAA NEFSC 2023). There have been two sightings of North Atlantic right whale since August 2023 off the Newfoundland coast (Whale Insight 2025). A few observations were documented in the Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling EIS (Statoil 2017).

Critical habitat has been identified for North Atlantic right whale. However, the only critical habitat currently designated is in the Grand Manan Basin in the Bay of Fundy, which is outside the EIS Project Areas.

### 3.2.2 Northern Bottlenose Whale (Scotian Shelf Population)

The northern bottlenose whale (*Hyperoodon ampullatus*) (Scotian Shelf population) has a Critical Habitat Protection Statement pursuant to SARA (Government of Canada 2018). However, the identified critical habitat is in the Scotian Shelf area, outside the EIS Project Areas (Statoil 2017).

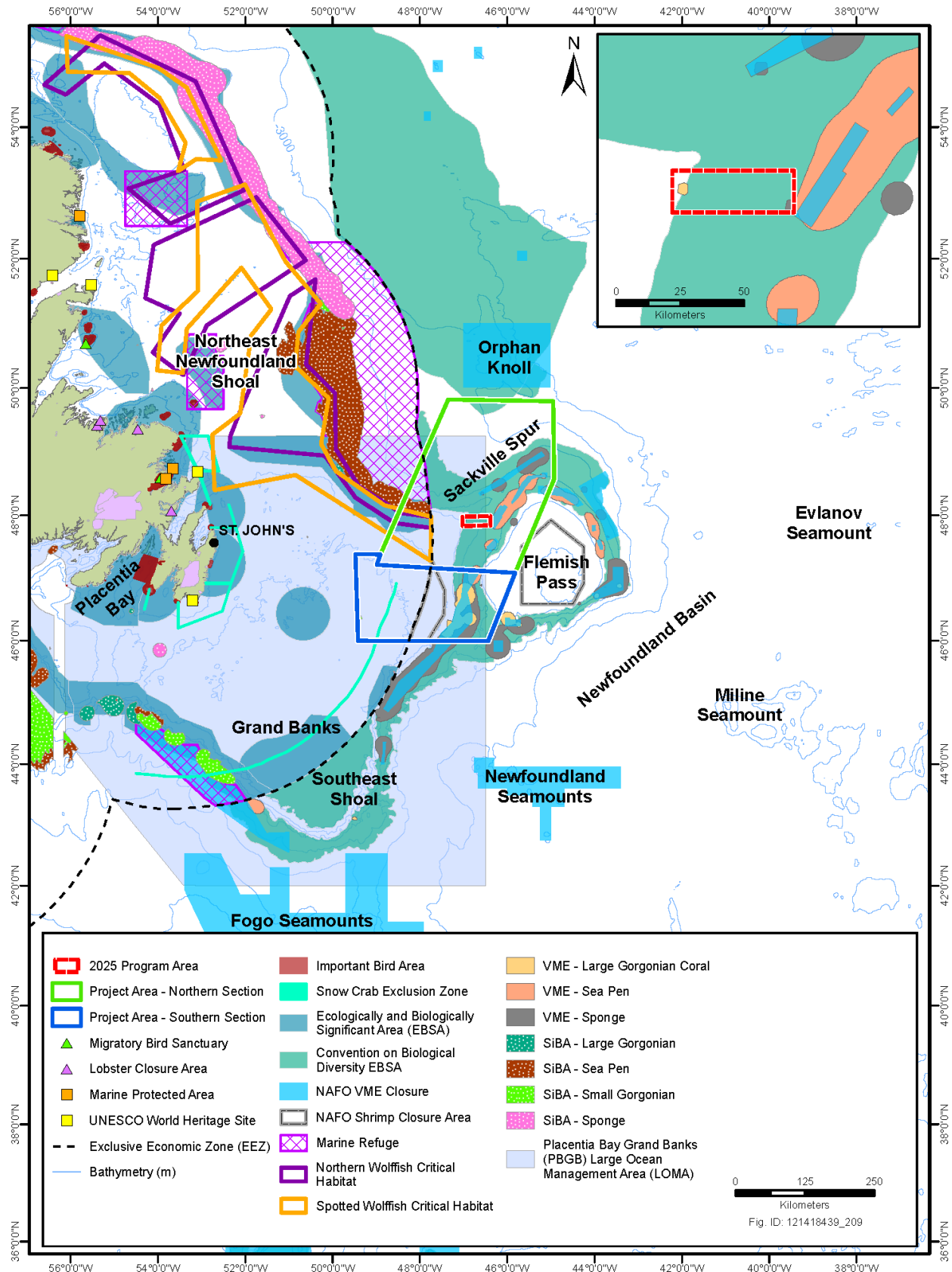
There is some evidence that northern bottlenose whale are also found on the edge of the Grand Banks near the Flemish Cap, although it's unclear whether these individuals are from the Scotian Shelf or Davis Strait-Baffin Bay population, which is not listed under SARA and is assessed as special concern by COSEWIC (Statoil 2017; DFO 2016, 2017; Equinor 2020).

### 3.2.3 Northern and Spotted Wolffish

The "Recovery Strategy for Northern Wolffish (*Anarhichas denticulatus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*), and Management Plan for Atlantic Wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus*) in Canada" (DFO 2020) identifies critical habitat for the northern and spotted wolffish. DFO has issued Critical Habitat Protection Statements for these species (Government of Canada 2020a, 2020b). The critical habitat identified falls within the EIS Project Areas but does not overlap with the 2025 Program Area (Figure 3-5).

## 3.3 Special Areas

As illustrated in Figure 3-5, there are a number of special areas within the EIS Project Areas, including NAFO Fishery Closure Areas (FCAs), a marine refuge, Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs), and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs).



**Figure 3-5** Locations of Special Areas within and near the Project Areas and 2025 Program Area

Proposed 2025 seabed survey activities overlap with the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity EBSA – Slopes of the Flemish Cap and Grand Bank, which has a total area of approximately 87,817 km<sup>2</sup>. This area contains most of the aggregations of indicator species for VMEs in the NAFO Regulatory Area and includes NAFO closures to protect corals and sponges and a component of Greenland halibut fishery grounds in international waters. A high diversity of marine taxa, including Threatened and listed species are found within this area. A small VME of large gorgonian coral and a small VME of sponge are also within the 2025 Program Area.

With the mitigation measures outlined in the approved EA (Statoil 2017) and in Section 3.4 of this update, the conclusions of the previously approved EA remain valid.

### 3.4 Mitigation Measures

Equinor re-commits to implementing the mitigation measures described in the approved EA for the proposed activities to be carried in 2025. Mitigation measures to be implemented for the proposed 2025 activities, as outlined in the previously approved EA and amendments, include the following:

- Stranded seabird searches, handling and release of stranded seabirds in accordance with Equinor protocol
- Survey vessels will maintain a minimum lateral distance of 300 m from Cape St. Francis and Witless Bay Islands important bird and biodiversity areas, unless there is an emergency situation
- Implementing a fishing gear and vessel compensation program
- Adherence to the C-NLOPB's Chemical Screening Guidelines (NEB et al. 2009)
- Adherence to the C-NLOPB's Offshore Waste Treatment Guidelines (NEB et al. 2010)
- Communication with the Department of National Defence (DND) regarding planned offshore military activity
- Communication with DFO regarding research vessel surveys
- Communication with Indigenous groups as per decision statement conditions including an Indigenous Fisheries Communication Plan
- Communication and engagement with commercial fishers on planned activities
- Communicate according to approved Fishers Communication Plan (Equinor 2024)
- Communication with OneOcean and NAFO (through DFO)
- Single point of contact (SPOC) for reporting potential fishing gear interactions during 2025 activities
- Issuance of Navigational Warnings (NAVWARNs) and notification to stakeholders
- Notice to shipping is not required as there are no shipping lanes in the seabed survey locations for the 2025 activities
- Marine vessels will reduce speed to a maximum of 13 kilometres per hour (7 knots) when a marine mammal or sea turtle is observed or reported within 400 m of a vessel, except if not feasible for safety reasons

### 3.5 Engagement

#### 3.5.1 Indigenous Groups

Indigenous groups have been provided notification of the intended scope of work associated with the 2025 seabed survey program. Further information will be provided upon request. Engagement will be tracked using the engagement log.



### 3.5.2 Commercial Fishers

Equinor recognizes that communication and coordination between oil and gas industry activities and fishing interests are critical to avoid or reduce interference with other industries or offshore operators. Key factors to achieve this from Equinor's perspective include:

- Ongoing communication with commercial fish harvesters in the Project Areas including Atlantic Groundfish Council (AGC), Association of Seafood Producers (ASP), Fish, Food and Allied Workers-Unifor (FFAW-Unifor), and Ocean Choice International (OCI)
- Ongoing communication with OneOcean and NAFO (through DFO)
- If nearshore sea trials are required, determining final location in consultation with FFAW-Unifor to prevent conflicts with ongoing fishing activities in sea trial areas
- There are no designated shipping lanes within the designated 2025 activities
- Establishing a SPOC for reporting potential fishing gear interactions during 2025 activities
- Implementing a compensation program for damages resulting from program activities, and in consideration of the Compensation Guidelines Respecting Damages Relating to Offshore Petroleum Activities (C-NLOPB and Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board [CNSOPB] 2017)
- Issuing NAVWARNs

For the 2025 seabed survey, Equinor continues to engage with fisheries organizations.

Information regarding the proposed 2025 activities have been provided to the following organisations:

- ASP
- AGC
- FFAW-Unifor
- OCI

There is also ongoing liaison with the fishing industry through the regular meetings of the OneOcean Industry Board and its working group that includes representatives from the various operating oil and gas operators and the fishing sector.

Information regarding the 2025 seabed survey was initially shared with commercial fisheries organisations at the January 2025 OneOcean Working group meeting. Since that time, Equinor met with FFAW-Unifor, and OCI, ACG and ASP in mid-April to provide updated and detailed information regarding the planned survey. Follow-up emails were sent to these groups to inform them of updates to survey start date. From these engagement sessions, through their representative members, it was agreed to provide updated information as it became available. OCI provided information that there may be directed fish harvesting near the proposed survey area, and it was agreed that Equinor and OCI would remain in contact to ensure both parties are aware of planned activities. Regular updates of survey activities will be provided to FFAW-Unifor. With the surveys being undertaken by vessels, it was agreed with the FFAW-Unifor that guide vessels or a Fisheries Liaison Officer would not be required.

Equinor recognizes that other countries fish outside Canada's 200 NM EEZ. To reduce potential conflict, Equinor will inform Canada's representative, DFO, on NAFO regarding 2025 activities. In addition, Equinor communicate NAVWARNs to the NAFO Secretariat via DFO, for activities inside the 200 NM EEZ.

### 3.5.3 Regulatory Agencies

#### 3.5.3.1 C-NLOPB – EA Commitments and Conditions

Commitments and conditions applicable to the 2025 activities are outlined in the Flemish Pass EIS (e.g., refer to table 17.2 in Statoil 2017), responses to select Information Requirements (Equinor and ExxonMobil 2018a, 2018b; Statoil 2018; Statoil and ExxonMobil 2018), and conditions outlined in the Decision Statement (ECCC 2019).

Equinor continues to meet with the C-NLOPB on a regular basis review the Decision Statement conditions (ECCC 2019) and associated compliance plans, commencement / completion dates, and verification details. The frequency of meetings will be determined with the C-NLOPB; however, it is anticipated that monthly meetings will occur initially and will then increase to biweekly for the duration of the 2025 seabed survey.

#### 3.5.3.2 C-NLOPB – Follow-up and Monitoring Programs

Under the EA Decision Statement (ECCC 2019), Equinor is required to execute follow-up and monitoring programs. Compliance associated with these programs will be provided to the C-NLOPB and associated regulatory agencies within established timelines and reporting format. For the 2025 seabed survey, Equinor, in accordance with EA Condition 4.3.2 will undertake daily stranded seabird searches of the survey vessels.

#### 3.5.3.3 DFO – Research Vessel Surveys

DFO undertakes annual fisheries research surveys in the NL offshore area. Table 3.1 provides the schedule for DFO research surveys for 2024 (B. Healey, pers. comm. 2025). Equinor will coordinate with DFO prior to commencement of proposed 2025 activities described in Section 2 to determine if there are spatial or temporal conflicts with DFO surveys scheduled for 2025.

**Table 3.1 Proposed 2025/2026 DFO Research Vessel Surveys**

Vessel	Activity	NAFO Divisions	Planned Start	Planned End
<i>RV Cabot</i>	NL Multispecies Spring 2025 Survey	3LNOPs	April 28, 2025	June 24, 2025
	NL Multispecies Fall 2025 Survey	3LNO	October 1, 2025	December 19, 2025
	NL Summer AZMP Oceanographic Survey		July 9, 2025	August 1, 2025
<i>RV Captain Jacques</i>	NL Multispecies Spring 2025 Survey	3LNOPs	April 3, 2025	April 28, 2025
	NL Multispecies Fall 2025 Survey	2HJ3K	October 1, 2025	December 20, 2025

There is also an annual Industry-DFO Collaborative Post Season Trap Survey for snow crab, which is conducted using commercial and modified snow crab traps at established trap stations. The survey typically starts in late August or early September after the commercial snow crab season has ended. Appendix D outlines the 2024 locations of the post-season survey. As of submission of this EA update, we have not received 2025 proposed locations. However, based on 2024 locations there should be no proposed overlap with planned 2025 seabed survey activities.

#### 3.5.3.4 Department of National Defence – Military Exercises

As part of Equinor's standard seabed survey program, Equinor will contact the DND to determine if there are planned military activities scheduled in 2025 that overlap spatially / temporally with the proposed seabed survey program.



## 4 Concluding Statement

The proposed 2025 seabed survey program to be executed by Equinor has been reviewed and assessed to be within the scope of previously approved EA, specifically:

- The scope and nature of proposed activities and addressed under the previously approved EA and amendments have not changed
- The nature and extent of the fishing activities being undertaken in the Project Areas have been validated and have not changed such that proposed activities pose potential effects not previously assessed
- The nature of the SAR in the Project Areas have been validated; no new species has been added to Schedule 1 of SARA, one new species have been added to COSEWIC listings (ringed seal)
- As noted previously in this update, no critical habitats for these species defined pursuant to the SARA occur in the Project Areas
- The mitigation measures defined and committed to in the previously approved EA are still valid and will continue to be implemented
- The commitments and conditions associated with the previously approved EA will be implemented
- Equinor continues to consult with regulatory agencies, fishers and Indigenous groups directly affected by the proposed activities under the previously approved EA

The environmental effects predicted in previously approved EA remain valid. Equinor reaffirms its commitment to implement the mitigation measures, commitments and conditions associated with the EA.

## 5 Additional Information

### 5.1 Abbreviations

AGC	Atlantic Groundfish Council
ASP	Association of Seafood Producers
AUV	Autonomous Underwater Vehicle
C-NLOPB	Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
CNSOPB	Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (now the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator)
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
CPT	Cone Penetration Testing
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DND	Department of National Defence
EA	Environmental Assessment
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Area
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EL	Exploration Licence
Equinor	Equinor Canada Ltd.
ExxonMobil	ExxonMobil Canada Ltd.
FCA	Fishery Closure Area
FFAW	Fish, Food and Allied Workers-Unifor
IAAC	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (formerly the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency)
km	kilometre
km <sup>2</sup>	square kilometre

m	metre
MBES	multibeam echosounder
ml	millilitre
mm	millimetre
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
NAVWARN	Navigational Warning
NEB	National Energy Board
NEFSC	Northeast Fisheries Science Centre
NL	Newfoundland and Labrador
NM	Nautical Mile
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OCI	Ocean Choice International
PROD	Remotely Operated Drill Tool
SAR	Species at Risk
SARA	<i>Species at Risk Act</i>
SDL	Significant Discovery Licence
SiBA	Significant Benthic Area
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
Statoil	Statoil Canada Ltd.
t	tonne
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem

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## Appendix A – Listing of Project-related Geographical Coordinates

**Table A.1 Project Area – Northern Section Coordinates**

Project Area Vertices	Coordinates – NAD83 UTM ZONE 22N			
	Longitude (DMS)	Latitude (DMS)	Easting (m)	Northing (m)
A	44° 56' 48" W	49° 47' 31" N	935562	5533101
B	44° 55' 21" W	48° 34' 30" N	948190	5398059
C	45° 49' 04" W	47° 04' 57" N	893344	5227380
G	48° 59' 13" W	47° 12' 49" N	652421	5230868
I	47° 21' 04" W	49° 49' 18" N	762440	5525202

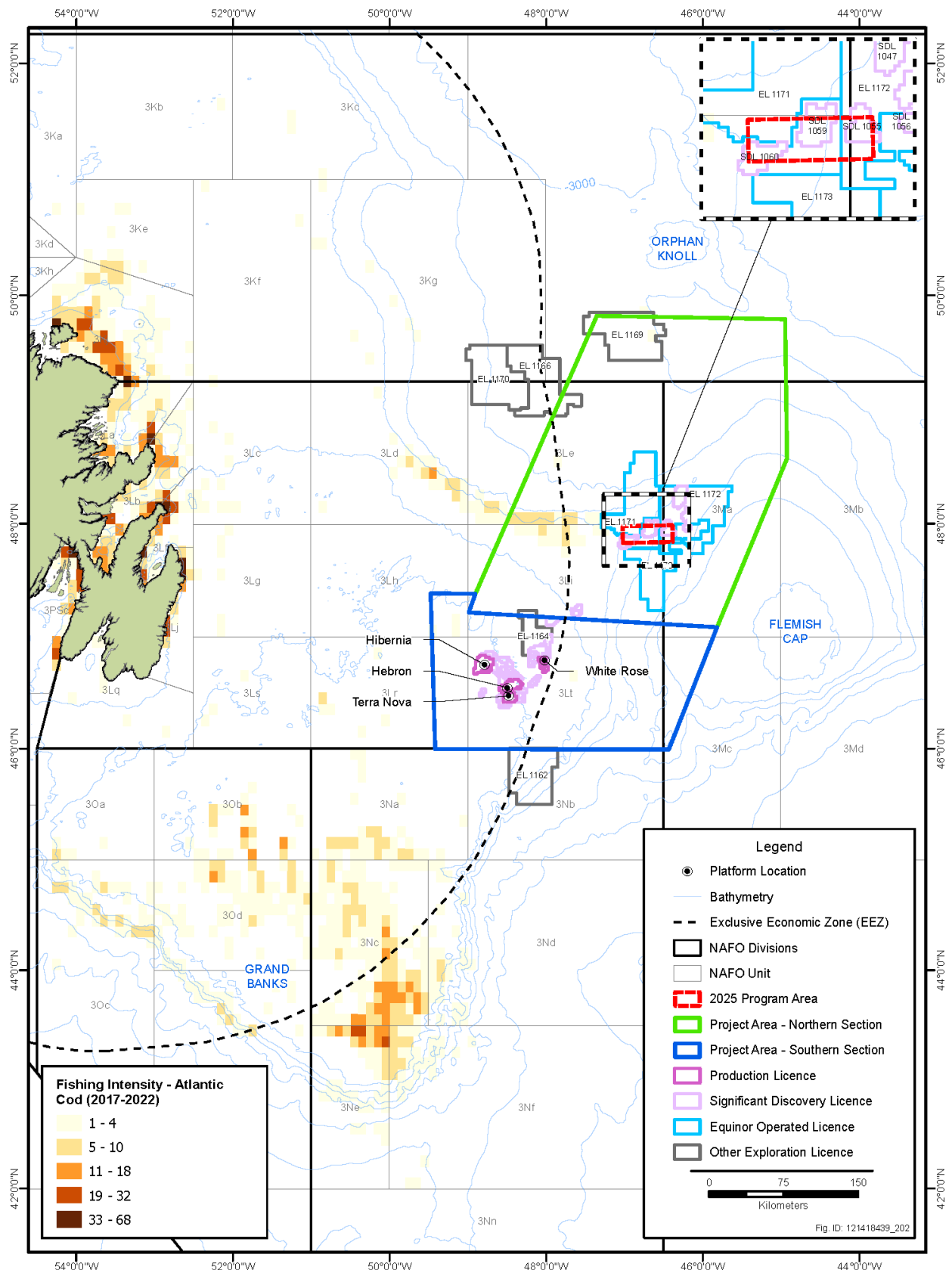
**Table A.2 Project Area – Southern Section Coordinates**

Project Area Vertices	Coordinates – NAD83 UTM ZONE 22N			
	Longitude (DMS)	Latitude (DMS)	Easting (m)	Northing (m)
C	45° 49' 04" W	47° 04' 57" N	893344	5227380
D	46° 26' 02" W	45° 59' 28" N	853605	5103218
E	49° 25' 01" W	45° 59' 42" N	622584	5094695
F	49° 28' 29" W	47° 23' 03" N	615122	5248990
G	48° 59' 13" W	47° 12' 49" N	652421	5230868
H	48° 54' 10" W	47° 22' 44" N	658314	5249404

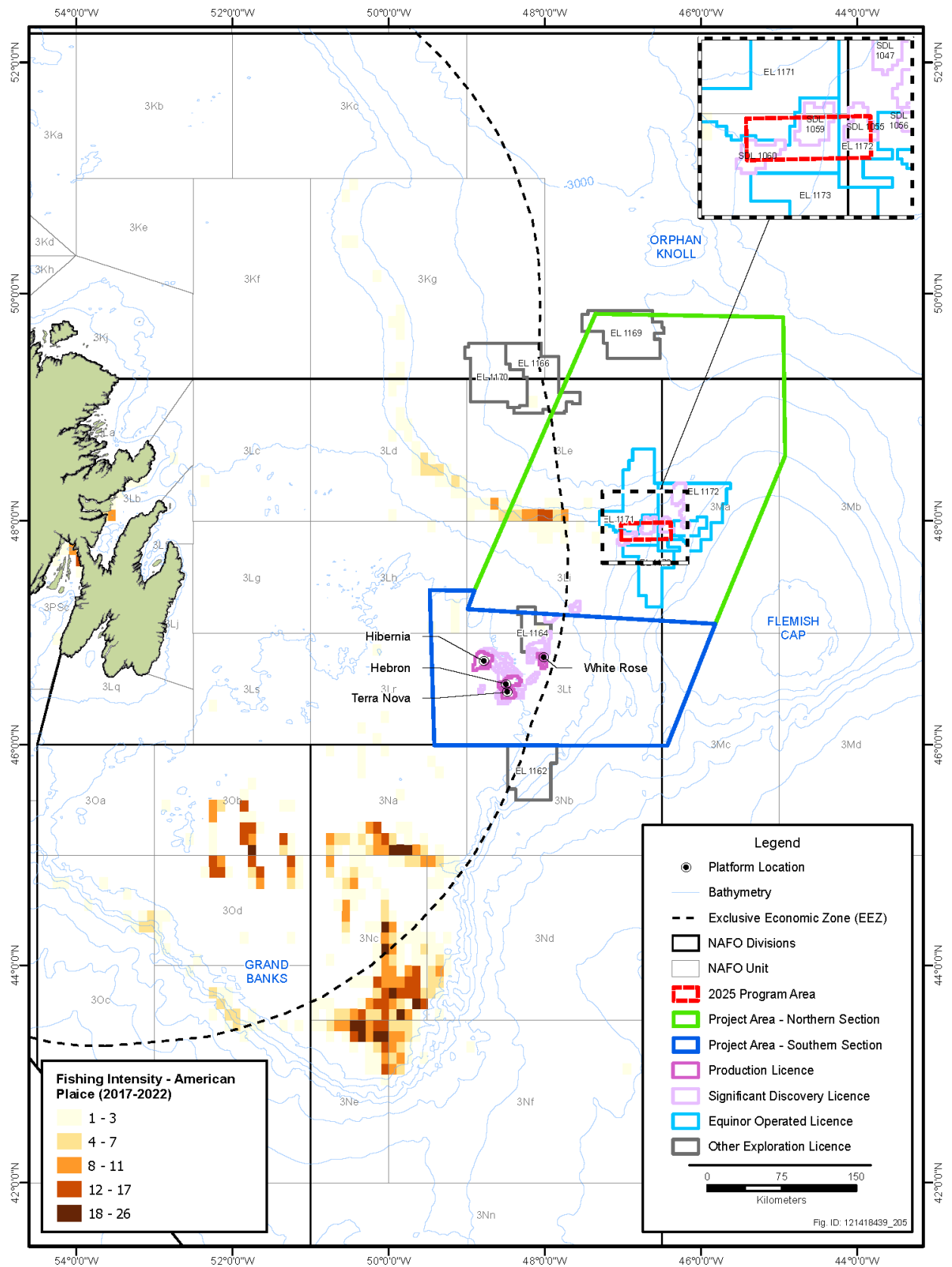
**Table A.3 2025 Program Area Coordinates**

Corner	WGS 84 Longitude	WGS 84 Latitude	Easting NAD83(CSRS) UTM23N	Northing NAD83(CSRS) UTM23N
1	47.829537	-47.019129	348889	5299327
2	47.976876	-47.024869	348889	5315713
3	47.986354	-46.386815	396523	5315713
4	47.838967	-46.382882	396523	5299327

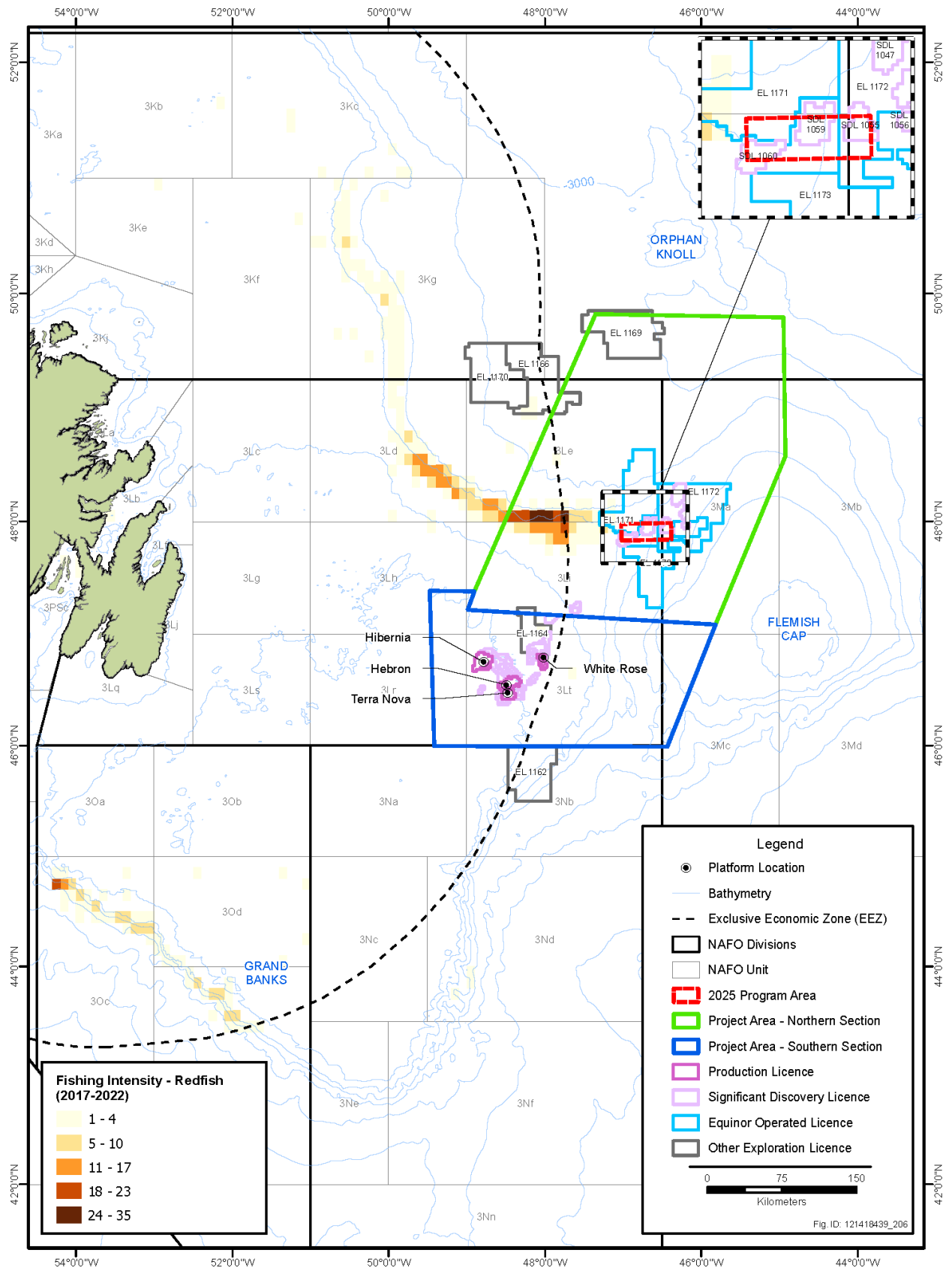
## APPENDIX B – FISHING ACTIVITY MAPS FOR COD, AMERICAN PLAICE, AND REDFISH



Pattern of Atlantic Cod Fishery, 2017 to 2022 (Canadian data only)



Pattern of American Plaice Fishery, 2017 to 2022 (Canadian data only)



Pattern of Redfish Fishery, 2017 to 2022 (Canadian data only)



**APPENDIX C –SARA-LISTED AND COSEWIC-ASSESSED SPECIES IN THE PROJECT AREAS**  
(as of March 2025)

Family	Species		Federal		Provincial
	Common Name	Scientific Name	SARA Status (Schedule 1) <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Designation	Designation
<b>Marine Fish</b>					
Anarhichadidae	Atlantic wolffish	<i>Anarhichas lupus</i>	Special Concern <sup>2</sup>	Special Concern	Not listed
Anarhichadidae	Northern wolffish	<i>Anarhichas denticulatus</i>	Threatened <sup>2</sup>	Threatened	Not listed
Anarhichadidae	Spotted wolffish	<i>Anarhichas minor</i>	Threatened <sup>2</sup>	Threatened	Not listed
Anguillidae	American eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	Not listed	Threatened	Vulnerable
Cetorhinidae	Basking shark (Atlantic population)	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Not listed	Special Concern	Not listed
Cyclopteridae	Lumpfish	<i>Cyclopterus lumpus</i>	Not listed	Threatened	Not listed
Gadidae	Atlantic cod (Newfoundland and Labrador population) [Special Concern – SARA Schedule 3]	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Not listed	Endangered	Not listed
Gadidae	Cusk	<i>Brosme brosme</i>	Not listed	Endangered	Not listed
Lamnidae	Porbeagle	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Not listed	Endangered	Not listed
Lamnidae	Shortfin mako (Atlantic population)	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Not listed	Endangered	Not listed
Lamnidae	White shark (Atlantic population)	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	Endangered <sup>3</sup>	Endangered	Not listed
Macrouridae	Roundnose grenadier	<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>	Not listed	Endangered	Not listed
Phycidae	White hake (Atlantic and Northern Gulf of St. Lawrence population)	<i>Urophycis tenuis</i>	Not listed	Threatened	Not listed
Pleuronectidae	American plaice (Newfoundland and Labrador population)	<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	Not listed	Threatened	Not listed
Rajidae	Smooth skate (Funk Island Deep population)	<i>Malacoraja senta</i>	Not listed	Endangered	Not listed
Rajidae	Thorny skate	<i>Amblyraja radiata</i>	Not listed	Special Concern	Not listed
Rajidae	Winter skate (Eastern Scotian Shelf and Newfoundland population)	<i>Leucoraja ocellata</i>	Not listed	Endangered	Not listed

Family	Species		Federal		Provincial
	Common Name	Scientific Name	SARA Status (Schedule 1) <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Designation	Designation
Salmonidae	Atlantic salmon (South Newfoundland population)	<i>Salmo salar</i>	Not listed	Threatened	Not listed
Salmonidae	Atlantic salmon (Outer Bay of Fundy population)	<i>Salmo salar</i>	Not listed	Endangered	Not listed
Scombridae	Atlantic bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	Not listed	Endangered	Not listed
Scorpaenidae	Acadian redfish (Atlantic population)	<i>Sebastes fasciatus</i>	Not listed	Threatened	Not listed
Scorpaenidae	Deepwater redfish (Northern population)	<i>Sebastes mentella</i>	Not listed	Threatened	Not listed
Squalidae	Spiny dogfish	<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Not listed	Special Concern	Not listed
<b>Marine Birds</b>					
Laridae	Ivory Gull	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Endangered <sup>4</sup>	Endangered	Endangered
Scolopacidae	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Special Concern <sup>5</sup>	Special Concern	Not listed
Hydrobatidae	Leach's Storm-petrel (Atlantic population)	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	Not listed	Threatened	Not listed
<b>Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles</b>					
Balaenopteridae	Blue Whale (Atlantic population)	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Endangered <sup>6,7</sup>	Endangered	Not listed
Balaenopteridae	Fin Whale (Atlantic population)	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Special Concern <sup>8</sup>	Special Concern	Not listed
Balaenidae	North Atlantic Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	Endangered <sup>9,10</sup>	Endangered	Not listed
Ziphiidae	Northern Bottlenose Whale (Scotian Shelf population)	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Endangered <sup>11,12</sup>	Endangered	Not listed
Ziphiidae	Northern Bottlenose Whale (Davis Strait-Baffin Bay-Labrador Sea population)	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Not listed	Special Concern	Not listed
Ziphiidae	Sowerby's Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>	Special Concern <sup>13</sup>	Special Concern	Not listed
Delphinidae	Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic / Eastern Arctic population)	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Not listed	Special Concern	Not listed

Family	Species		Federal		Provincial
	Common Name	Scientific Name	SARA Status (Schedule 1) <sup>1</sup>	COSEWIC Designation	Designation
Phocoenidae	Harbour Porpoise (Northwest Atlantic population) [Threatened – SARA Schedule 2]	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Not listed	Special Concern	Not listed
Monodontidae	Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay population) [Threatened – SARA Schedule 2]	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	Not listed	Threatened	Not listed
Phocidae	Ringed Seal	<i>Pusa hispida</i>	Not listed	Special Concern	Not listed
Dermochelyidae	Leatherback Sea Turtle (Atlantic population)	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered <sup>14,15</sup>	Endangered	Not listed
Cheloniidae	Loggerhead Sea Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Endangered <sup>16</sup>	Endangered	Not listed

1. Blue shading means that Recovery Strategies, Action Plans and/or Management Plans have been issued for the species.

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## APPENDIX D – POST SEASON CRAB SURVEY LOCATIONS (2024)

