

Western Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area

Strategic Environmental Assessment Update



SEA Background

- ❖ C-NLOPB undertakes SEAs as part of the Rights Issuance Process
 - Conducted in areas with potential for offshore oil/gas activity
 - Undertaken before or during Rights Issuance Process



SEA Principles

- ❖ A broad-based approach
- ❖ Considers all reasonably foreseeable exploration activities (e.g., seismic surveys, drilling activities)
- ❖ Examines all environmental aspects to determine what, if any, might be at risk
- ❖ Identifies general restrictive or monitoring measures that may be required for future petroleum activities
- ❖ Assists the Board in its decision making
 - Whether exploration rights should be issued in whole, in part, or at all



SEA Objectives

- ❖ Inform the “strategic decision”: *Whether to issue licences, or under what restrictions*
- ❖ Consider larger ecological setting
- ❖ Present an overview of biological and physical environments
- ❖ Describe/evaluate potential environmental effects
- ❖ Identify:
 - Issues of concern (e.g., sensitive areas, species at risk)
 - Data/knowledge gaps
 - Mitigation measures for petroleum related activities
 - Monitoring and potential research/study requirements
- ❖ Assist scoping and focus of subsequent project-specific assessments
- ❖ **NOT** a substitute for project-specific EAs



Western NL SEA 2005

- ❖ Working Group (WG) Members:
 - Federal & Provincial Departments
 - Regional Economic Boards
 - Stephenville Chamber of Commerce
 - Academia
 - FFAW
 - One Ocean

- ❖ WG Terms of Reference drafted to outline role and mandate

- ❖ WG members acted as experts; not as organizations' representatives

- ❖ WG Functions:
 - Reviewing draft scope & draft SEA reports
 - Advising on consultation of local communities/organizations

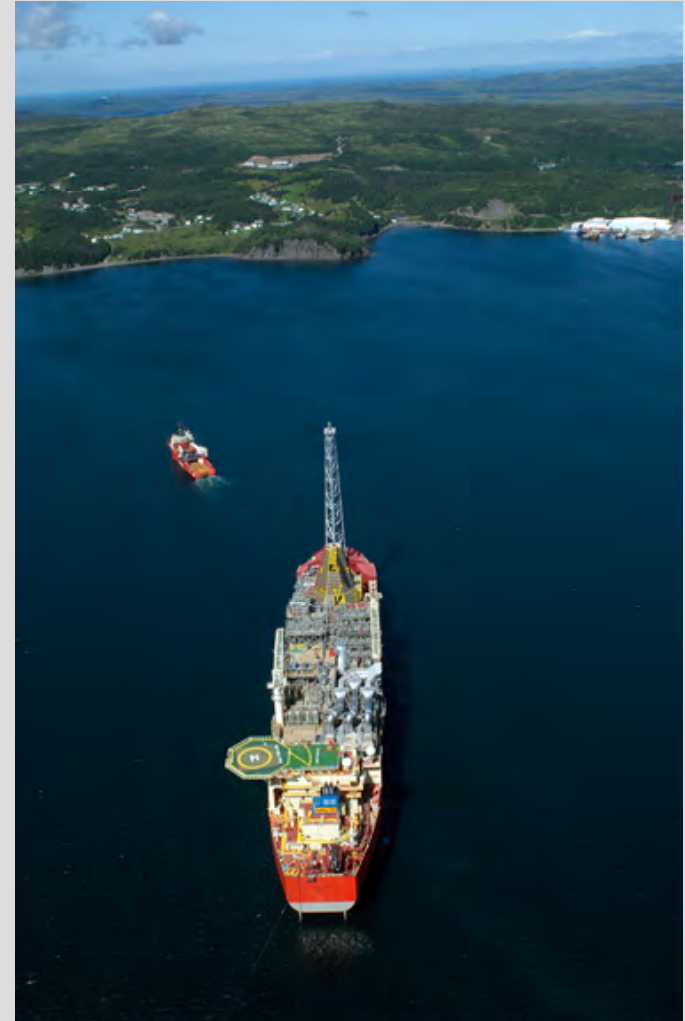
- ❖ One Ocean organized consultation sessions

- ❖ Updated in 2007 to extend geographic coverage of the 2005 SEA to include additional lands



Western NL SEA Update - Objectives

- ❖ Identify and present new information that has become available since the 2005/2007 Western NL SEA
- ❖ Overview of Existing Environment (physical, biological, human activities)
- ❖ Generally describe typical offshore oil and gas exploration/production activities
- ❖ Describe/evaluate potential environment effects
- ❖ Consider the potential cumulative effects with other potential activities
- ❖ Identify knowledge and data gaps



Western NL SEA Update - Objectives

- ❖ Highlight issues that may be of concern
- ❖ Identify areas of interest or sensitive areas
- ❖ Recommend mitigative measures for petroleum related activities
- ❖ Identify general restrictive or monitoring measures that may be required for future petroleum activities
- ❖ Assist Board in its decision making
 - Whether exploration rights should be issued in whole, in part, or at all in the Western NL Offshore Area



SEAs Completed

- ❖ Conducted in areas with potential for offshore oil/gas activity
- ❖ SEAs completed in NL offshore area to date
 - Laurentian Sub-basin (2003)
 - Orphan Basin (2003)
 - Western NL SEA (2005, updated 2007)
 - Sydney Basin (2007)
 - Labrador Shelf (2008)
 - Southern Newfoundland (2009, updated Laurentian Sub-basin and Sydney Basin SEAs)
- ❖ Working Group assists in SEA process
 - Representatives from Federal and Provincial Government Departments and community stakeholder groups



C-NLOPB Generic SEA Process



Establish SEA Working Group

Working Group Drafts Scope

Public/Agency Review of Scope

Scope Finalized

Bid, Award Preparation of SEA Report

Consultation Process and Info Gathering

Contractor Provides Draft SEA Report

Public Review of Draft SEA Report

Draft SEA Report Revised

C-NLOPB Board Review

Final SEA Report



Next Steps

- ❖ Consultant Prepares Draft Report
- ❖ Public Comment Period on Draft Report
- ❖ Recommendations Regarding Rights and Conditions for Oil and Gas Activity in the Update Area Finalized for Inclusion in Final Report
- ❖ Finalize SEA Update Report



Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB)

Background:

- ❖ Established in 1986 under Canada-Newfoundland Atlantic Accord

- ❖ Reports to:
 - Government of Canada
 - Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

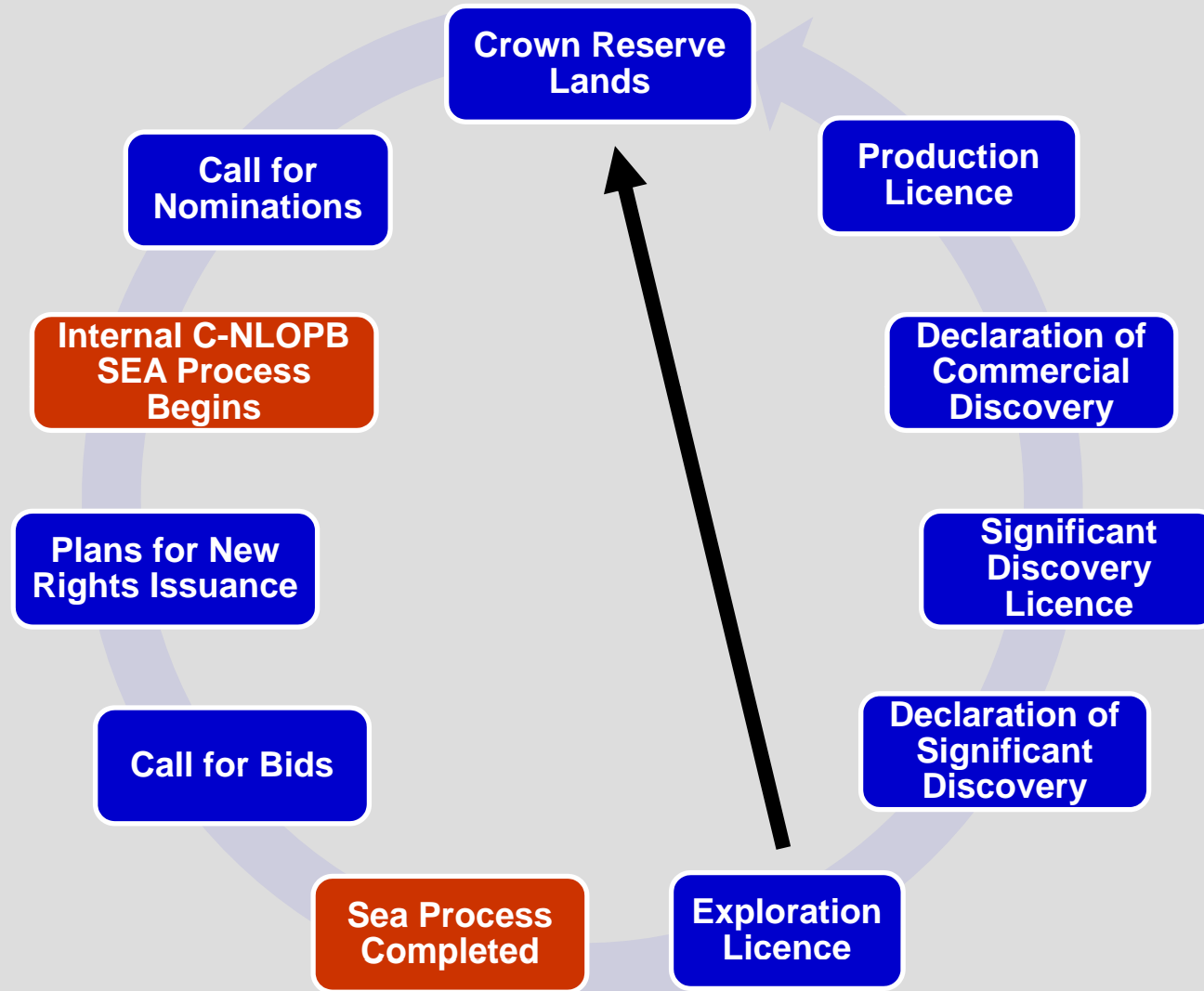


C-NLOPB Responsibilities

- ❖ Verify that offshore oil and gas activities are conducted in a safe, environmentally responsible manner
- ❖ Assess and ensure conservation of petroleum resources
- ❖ Promote industrial and employment benefits
- ❖ Administer rights issuance and land tenure system



SEA and Rights Issuance Cycle



C-NLOPB Call for Bids Cycle

Minimum 120 day call period

Step	Time frame
Call for Nominations Opens	September – October
Nominations Close	October-November
Board Submits Plan for Rights Issuance to Ministers for upcoming year	January 31
Board decides to issue Call for Bids	January – March
Ministers' Approval to issue Call for Bids and Call for Bids issued	February - April
Call for Bids Closed	November – December
Issuances of Exploration Licences	January (following year)



Exploration Licences - Western NL

