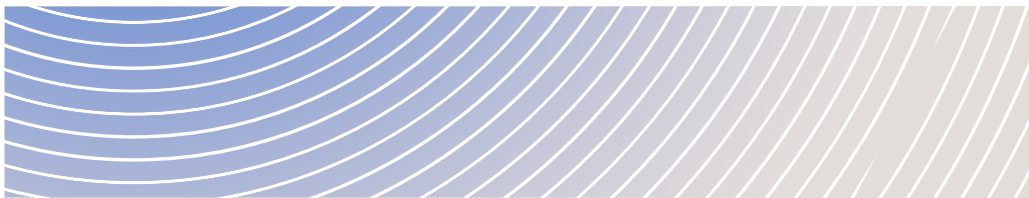




Draft Follow-up Program Report for 2023-2024



REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY
DRILLING EAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

June 6, 2024



Contents

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms	3
1. Introduction	5
2. Purpose	6
3. Summary of Activities 2023-2024	6
4. Ministerial Response Progress Report	7
5. Follow-up Program Effectiveness Evaluation	18
Annex I. Logic Model for the RA Follow-up Program	21



List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition
CHS	Canadian Hydrographic Service
C-NLOPB	Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board
CSAS	Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
ECCC-CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service, a branch of Environment and Climate Change Canada
ESRF	Environmental Studies Research Fund
G&C Agreement	Grants and Contribution Agreement
GIS Tool	Geographic Information System Decision Support Tool
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
Government of NL	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
IAAC	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
MPA	Marine protected area
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
Ministerial Regulation	Regulations Respecting Excluded Physical Activities (Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Exploratory Wells)
Ministerial Response	Ministerial Response to the Regional Assessment Committee Report for Offshore Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador
MRPR	Ministerial Response Progress Report (the Regional Assessment Ministerial Response Progress Report)
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
PCA	Parks Canada Agency
Registry	Canadian Impact Assessment Registry
Regional Assessment	Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador
RA Final Report	Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador Final Report
RA Follow-up Advisory Committee	Regional Assessment Follow-up Program Advisory Committee
RA Follow-Up Program	Follow-up Program for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration Drilling East of Newfoundland
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
Steering Committee	The Regional Assessment Follow-up Program Steering Committee. This committee includes representatives from: IAAC, NRCan, the Government of NL's Department of Industry, Energy and Technology, the C-NLOPB, ECCC and DFO
Study Area	The Regional Assessment Study area as defined in Figure 1.1 of the Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador Final Report.

1. Introduction

On April 15, 2019, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) announced the launch of the Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador (the Regional Assessment) and the appointment of a Committee to conduct the Regional Assessment (the RA Committee). The purpose of the Regional Assessment was to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the federal impact assessment process for future offshore exploratory drilling projects in the defined offshore Regional Assessment Study Area (the Study Area) while ensuring the highest standards of environmental protection continue to be applied and maintained.

On February 29, 2020, the RA Committee submitted its [Report on the Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador](#). This Report detailed the knowledge gained by the Committee, including its associated analysis and engagement activities, the conclusions reached and the subsequent recommendations.

On June 4, 2020 the [Regulations Respecting Excluded Physical Activities - Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Exploratory Wells](#), a Ministerial regulation under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) that sets out requirements for future exploratory drilling projects in the Study Area, came into force. Subsequently, the Impact Assessment Agency (IAAC) posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry) the [Ministerial Response to the Regional Assessment Committee Report for Offshore Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador](#) (Ministerial Response). In this document, the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (Government of NL) responded to the recommendations in the Final Report of the RA Committee and committed to establishing a Regional Assessment Follow-up Program (RA Follow-up Program).

The RA Follow-up Program monitors and reports on the implementation and effectiveness of the various outcomes of the Regional Assessment, including commitments made in the associated Ministerial Response. The RA Follow-up Program will also ensure that the information and analysis remain valid and up-to-date, and that it continues to fulfill its intended function of informing decision-making as it pertains to future exploratory drilling and associated activities in the Study Area.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Regional Assessment Follow-up Program Report is to provide updates on the initiatives and outputs of the RA Follow-up Program for the reporting period of 2023-2024. The Ministerial Response Progress Report (MRPR) included in Section 4 reports on the progress being made on the commitments by the government agencies and departments named in the Ministerial Response. This includes IAAC, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), ECCC, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) and the Government of NL. The report also provides and evaluation the overall effectiveness of the follow-up program (Section 5).

3. Summary of Activities 2023-2024

In addition to the activities summarized in Section 4, the following activities were carried out under the RA Follow-up Program in the 2023-2024 reporting year:

- The RA Follow-up Advisory committee met 7 times during the 2022-2023 reporting period.
- On October 11, 2023, the Steering Committee met with the RA Follow-up Advisory Committee to share work to date and discuss the conduct of the committees moving forward. The RA Follow-up Advisory Committee recommended that it should identify its own priorities and tasks related to the RA follow-up program in addition to responding to requests from the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee accepted this recommendation.
- On November 10, 2023, the Steering Committee appointed Francine Wight to the Advisory Committee, filling a vacancy from an outgoing member.
- On January 30, 2023, the RA Follow-up Advisory Committee received an update on DFO's Atlantic Salmon research project.
- On February 23, 2024 the C-NLOPB met with IAAC to discuss the transition of the RA GIS tool to C-NLOPB and establish plans to demonstrate the tool to the Steering Committee and Advisory Committee in the future.

Table 1 provides an overview of the change of status for the 42 commitments made in the Ministerial Response for the given reporting period. A description of the statuses is included in Table 2.

Table 1: Commitment status dashboard for the commitments outlined in the Ministerial Response.

Status	Number of Commitments	
	2022-2023	2023-2024
Completed – Fully Met	14	16
Completed – Ongoing Monitoring	12	11
Progress Ongoing	16	14
On Hold	0	1

4. Ministerial Response Progress Report

The Ministerial Response Progress below builds on commitments and work plans identified in the initial 2021 [Ministerial Response Progress Report](#). A summary of changes to commitment status can be found in Table 1. Each commitment has been assigned a status based on the description in Table 2. The commitments in this report follow the format of those outlined in the Ministerial Response. Table 3 below provides an overview of the actions taken, or accomplishments made towards achieving the commitment during the 2023-2024 reporting period.

Table 2: Status description to track the commitments outlined in the Ministerial Response.

Status	Description
Completed – Fully met	Commitment was fully completed. No more actions or monitoring required.
Completed – Ongoing Monitoring	Commitment was completed but ongoing monitoring is required.
Progress Ongoing	Commitment has not been completed but progress has been made or actions were taken towards achieving the commitment and ensuring it remains on track for completion.
On Hold	Progress on the commitment has paused with a provided rationale.

Table 3: Updates to the Ministers commitments outlined in the Ministerial Response to the recommendations of the Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Commitment	Status
Committee Recommendations in Relation to the Regulation	
1. Mitigation and Follow-up Measures (IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
2. Trained Seabird Observers (ECCC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canadian Wildlife Service continues to review data collected by trained observers as part of exploratory drilling programs on an ongoing basis. (see #29 for more details). 	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
3. Fisheries Communications Plans (C-NLOPB & IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
4. Pre-drilling Notifications (C-NLOPB & IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The list of stakeholders maintained by the C-NLOPB was reviewed and will be updated periodically to ensure that communications from proponents reaches all parties in a timely manner (as outlined in the Ministerial Regulation). 	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
5. Migratory Bird Mitigation (IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
6. Seabird Monitoring (IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
7. Training on Seabird Strandings (IAAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
8. Activities in Marine Refuges and Closure Areas (DFO, C-NLOPB & IAAC)	Completed – Fully Met

Commitment	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	
<p>9. Consultation in Regulatory Development (IAAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
<p>10. Notification Requirements (IAAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
<p>11. Application of Exclusion (IAAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
<p>12. Review of Ministerial Regulation (IAAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review process will occur within five years of the coming into force of the regulation – See 2021 MRPR 	Progress Ongoing
<p>13. Adequate and Appropriate Modeling (IAAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On August 30, 2023, ExxonMobil Canada Ltd. submitted a project description for a 2024-2034 exploratory drilling program (Exploratory License #1169). The proponent must satisfy the conditions set out in Schedule 2 of the Regulations including those related to the modeling of drill cuttings (Condition 6(b) and spills (Condition 32(a)). The C-NLOPB will verify compliance with these conditions. 	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
<p>Committee Recommendations for the Regional Assessment Follow-up Program</p>	
<p>14. Annual Follow-up Program Report (IAAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2023-2024 RA Follow-up Program Report is anticipated to be published in July 2024. 	Progress Ongoing
<p>15. Long-term plan for the GIS Decision-support tool (IAAC, Government of Canada & Government of NL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated version of the GIS tool prepared and released in May 2021. 	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring

Commitment	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements made for the continuation of the online hosting and maintenance of, and software licence for, the GIS system up to March 31, 2023. • On-going identification of new and updated datasets for future GIS updates, with the advice of the RA Follow-up Advisory Committee. 	
<p>16. Ministerial Response Progress Report (IAAC, Government of Canada & Government of NL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR 	Completed – Fully Met
<p>17. Reviews and Reports (IAAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the commitments of parties, as outlined in the Ministerial Response, continue to be tracked and publicly reported in the annual RA Follow-up Program Report. 	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
<p>18. Incorporating Diverse Perspectives (IAAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the RA Follow-up Advisory Committee were appointed in July 2021. The Committee members represent a diversity of perspectives from Indigenous communities, the oil and gas industry, the fishing industry, environmental non-government organizations, academic interest groups, and the public. • The RA Follow-up Program will continue to seek and incorporate diverse perspectives through engagement processes. Where appropriate, public comment periods will be held for reviewing and providing comments on key documents. 	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
<p>19. Use of Studies and Scientific Reviews (DFO & ECCC)</p> <p>ECCC’s species-specific predictive modelling for seabirds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing tracking data from ECCC and partners has been compiled, and preliminary maps highlighting seasonal seabird use (combining both tracking and at-sea survey data) have been completed. The peer-review process has been initiated and remains ongoing. To-date, maps and results have been reviewed by co-authors, co-author comments and edits are being incorporated, and the manuscript will be submitted to primary literature by April 30, 2024. 	Progress Ongoing

Commitment	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on predictive maps is ongoing. First drafts of all predictive maps have been completed, but a number of caveats remain unaddressed. Work remains ongoing to improve the predicative maps, including integrating the most recent data from Quebec Region, and incorporating new predictors. <p>DFO’s marine mammals species distribution modelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress is ongoing and there continues to be good exchange of information between proponents, regulators, and DFO. Validation of sightings data in NL region has been completed and this data has also been amalgamated into a single database for Atlantic Canada. The process of mapping additional acoustic whale detections for modelling purposes is ongoing and will augment the sightings data. Environmental data will be used in conjugation with the sightings information to create habitat models and these will be shared once validated. 	
<p>Committee Recommendations for Specific Departments or Agencies</p>	
<p>20. Scope of Factors for Assessment of Designated Projects (IAAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scope of factors will continue to be monitored through the RA Follow-up Program – See 2021 MRPR. 	<p>Completed – Ongoing Monitoring</p>
<p>21. Atlantic Salmon (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant progress has been made towards the achievement of the Environmental Studies Research Fund (ESRF) project goal of determining the likelihood that Atlantic salmon from different rivers will enter areas of interest to oil and gas production/exploration activities including the timing, duration and specific areas where this is likely to occur. 2023 marked the last year of tagging for this project with data collection continuing during the field season of 2024. Preliminary data is starting to come out of the project and presentations are ongoing with collaborators, a presentation was made to the Regional Assessment monitoring committee in January 2024. This represents a significant enhancement in operational capacity to detect salmon in offshore waters, and within the C-NLOPB RAA. 	<p>Progress Ongoing</p>

Commitment	Status
<p>22. Leach’s Storm-petrels and other Relevant Species (ECCC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The summary report, as part of a grants and contribution agreement, was received in Spring 2023. 	Completed Fully Met
<p>23. Data Accessibility (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) atlas of interactive maps was publicly launched on the MSP website on January 31, 2023, under the name of the Canada Marine Planning Atlas, accessible at: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/planning-planification/atlas/index-eng.html. It was showcased at the pavilion of the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Congress (IMPAC5), February 3 to 9, 2023 MarineCollab (formerly named the MSP Platform) is a SharePoint-based platform used to share information and collaborate with external partners (e.g. Federal/Provincial/Territorial governments, Indigenous governments and communities) involved in marine planning and conservation processes. Building on the success of the two regional pilot projects, the platform is now in use by every DFO MSP region. While not a data warehouse, the Platform provides MSP partners with access to knowledge and information products derived from the data, including but not exclusive to fisheries, with linkages to other tools such as the MSP Atlas and Open Data Portal. 	Completed – Fully Met
<p>24. Commercial Fisheries Data (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFO and C-NLOPB continue to hold regular meetings multiple times per year. Additionally, data experts in both organizations collaborated on adding petroleum data to the Canada Marine Planning Atlas. Using web mapping services published by the C-NLOPB, petroleum data is featured under the Add Data widget of the Canada Marine Planning Atlas. The Eastern Canada Commercial Fishing was published to Open Data Canada on September 14, 2021. This dataset delineates catch per unit area by species and gear type for commercial fisheries from 2009 to 2018 for Eastern Canada DFO Regions. Catch per unit is generalized to 10 km² hexagons as total catch weight, in kg, per hexagon. DFO staff in NL Region are updating the commercial fisheries dataset to include information from 2012 to 2021. Both this fisheries dataset and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization fishing zone boundaries are featured on the Canada Marine Planning Atlas published in January 2023. 	Completed – Fully Met
<p>25. Knowledge Sharing Protocol (DFO)</p>	Progress Ongoing

Commitment	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Office of the Chief Data Steward leads a national Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) Working Group as part of the national Data Governance Framework. • The group has worked with Subject Matter Experts (including Access To Information and Privacy, Legal) to develop a suite of data sharing agreement templates and a decision tree, assessment form and supporting guidance. • DSA templates cover one-time data sharing, data shared externally, data received from an external organization, and two-way data sharing with an external organization. Additional data sharing agreement guidance and processes, including those involving areas of Indigenous data sovereignty and traditional knowledge, aligned with DFO responsibilities under the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA), will be developed. • In addition to the DSA work, the Office of the Chief Data Steward is in the process of developing (or adopting/adapting as appropriate) guiding principles, requirements (roles and responsibilities), and assessment tools as part of the departmental data ethics and artificial intelligence policy suite which will guide DFO handling and use of data received. The Office is also pursuing opportunities to engage departmental working groups, other government departments, and Indigenous stakeholders to co-develop elements of the policy suite having potential implications for Indigenous communities. 	
<p>26. Information Gathering and Sharing Protocol (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) atlas of interactive maps was publicly launched on the MSP website on January 31, 2023, under the name of the Canada Marine Planning Atlas, accessible here: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/planning-planification/atlas/index-eng.html • While, version 1 of the Atlas was developed after extensive user testing, DFO plans to provide 12 to 18 months for partners and stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the application before soliciting feedback on potential changes to develop a version 2 of the Atlas. 	Completed – Fully Met
<p>27. Accessibility of Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles Data (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress is ongoing and there continues to be good exchange of information between proponents, regulators and DFO (see also commitment 19 above). 	Progress Ongoing
<p>28. Standards for Marine Mammals Observers (DFO)</p>	Progress Ongoing

Commitment	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFO is finalizing the process to establish standards of qualification for marine mammal observers. Anticipated publication of the standards is 2024. 	
<p>29. Surveys of Stranded Birds (ECCC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CWS is building internal capacity to conduct quality control of stranded bird data collected by operators, enter new data in a timely manner upon receipt of verified data, and update the stranded bird database with historically collected data (primarily opportunistic searches). CWS reviewed two operator seabird management plans this fiscal year, assisting operators in the development of robust vessel-specific systematic stranded bird surveys. 	Progress Ongoing
<p>30. Information Availability and Data Gaps (C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of the overall environmental risks, information availability and any data gaps for the specific area as part of the land tenure decision-making process will continue to be monitored through the RA Follow-up Program. 	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
<p>31. Special Areas Initiatives (DFO & ECCC)</p> <p>ECCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECCC continues to engage with DFO and the Parks Canada Agency to ensure existing ECCC-CWS information available to inform decisions related to protected area establishment. Foundational work to collect information continues to be underway and progress is being made towards the creation of a Marine National Wildlife Area in Newfoundland. CWS has provided funding to support the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and Miawpukek First Nation in increasing their capacity to engage in this initiative. <p>DFO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best available information from a variety of sources, including science, Indigenous and community knowledge, continues to inform Government of Canada MPA and OECM establishment and management processes. 	Progress Ongoing

Commitment	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFO, in collaboration with the Canada-Newfoundland Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB), has developed operational guidance for minimizing impacts by offshore exploration drilling on cold water corals and sponges, including in OECMs. This guidance is available online: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional guidance on measures to protect corals and sponges during exploratory drilling (dfo-mpo.gc.ca) ○ Brochure Overview of Regional Guidance on Measures to Protect Corals and Sponges During Exploratory Drilling in the Canada – Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area ○ Summary of Regional Guidance on Measures to Protect Corals and Sponges During Exploratory Drilling in the Canada – Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area • The details of the federal MPA Protection Standard were clarified in 2023 and published online: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/mpa-zpm/protection-standard-norme-protection-eng.html • The Government of Canada’s 2022 Guidance for Recognizing Marine Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) implements the federal marine OECM Protection Standard. The guidance is available online: https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/oecm-amcepz/protection-standard-norme-protection-eng.html 	
<p>32. Availability of Spill Imagery (C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ECCC and the C-NLOPB facilitates the sharing of information as part of the emergency response to pollution incidents. The C-NLOPB may request advice and assistance from ECCC in the preparedness for, or response to, an environmental emergency. • ECCC can bring together relevant experts in the field of environmental protection to support environmental emergency response and preparedness and provide digital sensitivity maps using geospatial resource databases, and other tools such as spill imagery, which can be shared with Indigenous Groups and stakeholders. C-NLOPB and ECCC engagement continues. 	Progress Ongoing
<p>33. Guidance on Mitigating Effects to Corals and Sponges (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFO, in collaboration with the Canada-Newfoundland Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB), has developed operational guidance for minimizing impacts by offshore exploration drilling on cold water corals and sponges, including in OECMs. This Guidance considers best available 	Completed – Fully Met

Commitment	Status
<p>scientific information and advice, international best practices, regional industry practices, and feedback from interested parties. It takes a balanced approach to maintain high levels of environmental protection during exploratory drilling programs in Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador offshore area. Guidance materials (full report, summary and brochure) are finalized and available online:</p> <p>Regional guidance on measures to protect corals and sponges during exploratory drilling (dfo-mpo.gc.ca) Publications (dfo-mpo.gc.ca)</p>	
<p>34. Updates to Seismic Sound Mitigation or Standards (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFO is in the process of developing draft amendments to the Statement of Canadian Practice with respect to the Mitigation of Seismic Sound in the Marine Environment (the Statement) and will begin the process of consulting federal partners and stakeholder prior to the publication. The proposed amendments will incorporate new science and international best practices for seismic sound mitigation. • Anticipated publication of the draft amendments to the Statement is 2024. 	Progress Ongoing
<p>35. Baseline Data on Contaminants Levels (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review completed. 	Completed – Fully Met
<p>36. Land Tenure Decisions (C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of the information and analysis of the Regional Assessment and outcomes of the RA Follow-up Program in land tenure decisions is being monitoring regularly. 	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
<p>37. Strategic Environmental Assessments (C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently no new SEAs or updates to existing SEAs in the RA Study Area. 	Progress Ongoing
<p>38. Exploratory Drilling Scenarios (Government of Canada, Government of NL & C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The anticipated number of wells to be drilled on an annual basis between 2024 and 2025, as well as the spatial distribution of those wells, do not exceed the RA Committee’s exploratory drilling scenarios. 	Progress Ongoing

Commitment	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At this time, based on planned industry activity, it is not expected that the drilling scenarios will require an update before 2025. 	
<p>39. Cumulative Effects (Government of Canada, Government of NL & C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With respect to Cumulative Effects, an MSP Governance and Engagement Structure has been established and is being used to advance key elements of MSP. Most notably, two working groups (Data and Engagement) have been formed under the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Committee on Oceans Management to engage with key partners and stakeholders on information collection and sharing relevant to MSP. DFO’s Marine Spatial Planning program identified cumulative impact mapping analysis as a national priority for development and has advanced a process for cumulative impact mapping through the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (publication anticipated in 2024). In this context, cumulative impacts refer to the effects of multiple pressures (created by human activities) acting together on valued components (e.g. habitats and/or species) in a given area. This work therefore involves combining spatial data layers of marine and coastal activities with ecological data as inputs in an analysis that models the interactions between stressors and habitats/species, resulting in a map of cumulative impacts. While this map can be used to support Marine Spatial Planning more generally, it can also help inform the existing knowledge on effects in Newfoundland and Labrador Region. DFO’s Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Region has initiated work on a cumulative impacts mapping exercise for marine activities using this existing knowledge base to guide the work in the region. The scope of the preliminary analysis will be dependent on available data and the extent of the spatial layers included. NL Region has been working to identify the appropriate stressor and ecological data layers required for this analysis. This process is on-going and initial runs of the additive cumulative effects model will be performed as funding and resources allow. 	<p>Progress Ongoing</p>
<p>40. Benefits Plans (C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits Plans for exploration drilling programs are a regulatory requirement and made publicly available on Operator’s websites. 	<p>Completed – Ongoing Monitoring</p>
<p>41. Diversity Plans (C-NLOPB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity initiatives must be included in Exploration Benefits Plans and are made publicly available on the Operator’s websites. 	<p>Completed – Ongoing Monitoring</p>

Commitment	Status
<p>42. Greenhouse Gas Emissions (ECCC & IAAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This commitments has been put on hold until there is more clarity on the direction for greenhouse gas emissions under the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. The draft Sector GHG Analysis of Offshore NL Exploratory Drilling Report will need to be adjusted to reflect any relevant amendments to the Act. 	<p>On hold</p>

5. Follow-up Program Effectiveness Evaluation

The purpose of the follow-up program effectiveness evaluation is to:

- Support accountability between the parties named in the terms of reference for the RA follow-up program;
- Identify gaps or improvements that may warrant an amendment to the terms of reference for the RA follow-up program; and
- Support ongoing learning for future post-RA activities.

To determine the effectiveness of the RA follow-up program, the program’s results are compared against targets that measure the achievement of the desired outcomes of the RA follow-up program. Annex I contains a logic model depicting how the RA follow-up program’s inputs and activities serve to achieve the desired program outcomes.

For the 2023-2024 reporting year, 8 targets were met, 3 targets were not applicable, and 0 targets were not met (Table 1). The targets for ensuring new and emerging information is considered in decision-making and fulfilling the Ministerial Commitments were fully met. The targets for ensuring the highest standards of environmental protection continue to be maintained over time were partially not applicable for the reporting year as the single project operating under the Ministerial Regulation has not yet produced applicable information to support the review of the Ministerial Regulation. Based on the applicable targets for the 2023-2024 reporting year, the follow-up program was effective in achieving the desired program outcomes.

Table 1: Performance measurement table for the 2023-2024 reporting year for the RA follow-up program.

Program Outcome	Indicators	Targets	Results and Comments
<p>New and emerging information is considered in decision-making (Logic Model Outcome 1B)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIS Tool continues to be updated and is used to inform decision-making for exploratory drilling projects 	<p>RA FUP Advisory Committee reviews information and makes recommendations regarding the GIS Tool, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Target met. The Steering Committee continues to implement the RA FUP Advisory Committee recommendations on the long-term plan for the GIS tool. A demonstration of the GIS tool is being planned to support future recommendations from the RA FUP Advisory Committee.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous groups and stakeholders (including the RA FUP Advisory Committee) are engaged in reviewing and providing comments on key products of the RA FUP 	<p>The RA FUP Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Steering Committee, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Target met. No recommendations were requested by the Steering Committee or provided by the RA FUP Advisory Committee.</p>
		<p>The Steering Committee receives and considers advice, recommendations or comments on key documents of relevance to the RA</p>	<p>Target met. The Steering Committee is undertaking work to adopt the recommendations on the GIS tool. The advisory committee's advice on the effectiveness framework was discussed and considered by the Steering Committee.</p>
<p>Governments ensure the highest standards of environmental protection continue to</p>	<p>The Ministerial Regulation and the RA FUP are operationalized in collaboration with the C-NLOPB, IAAC, NRCan, the</p>	<p>Operators of exploratory drilling projects that are exempt from a federal Impact Assessment comply with the Ministerial Regulation</p>	<p>Target met. The Operator of the first exploratory drilling program under the regulations has complied with s. 3 of the Ministerial Regulations and has indicated full compliance with conditions. Compliance verification activities are ongoing by the C-NLOPB.</p>

<p>be maintained over time. (Logic Model Outcome 1A)</p>	<p>Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, DFO, and ECCC</p>	<p>Results of follow-up programs are submitted to the C-NLOPB.</p>	<p>Not applicable. No exploratory drilling projects have reached the point of reporting results of follow-up programs under the Ministerial Regulation.</p>
		<p>Information collected supports the 5-year review of the Ministerial Regulation.</p>	<p>Not applicable. Applicable information has not yet been produced from projects operating under the Ministerial Regulation.</p>
		<p>Actions are taken to address any gaps or potential improvements that are identified during the 5-year review of Ministerial Regulations.</p>	<p>Not applicable. Applicable information has not yet been produced from projects operating under the Ministerial Regulation.</p>
<p>Demonstrate progress towards, and completion of, Ministerial Commitments (Logic Model Outcomes 2A and 2B)</p>	<p>Annual public-facing report tracks and reports on the progress of commitments</p>	<p>Departments submit annual summary of progress made on commitments to IAAC</p>	<p>Target met. Department's annual summaries are contained within this report.</p>
		<p>Report is posted to the Registry on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Target met.</p>
	<p>Annual progress is made on the commitments of the Ministerial Response to the RA Committee's Report until fully completed.</p>	<p>Commitments designated as "Ongoing Progress" provide detailed updates and/or updated work plans until completed.</p>	<p>Target met.</p>
		<p>For commitments that cannot be completed, appropriate actions are taken, or adequate rationale is provided and publicly reported on</p>	<p>Target met. No commitments have been identified as unable to be completed.</p>

Annex I. Logic Model for the RA Follow-up Program

