

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT IN NOVA SCOTIA – UPDATE

April 2024

Since the last update the Committee has initiated an extensive spring engagement program which includes a series of public and Indigenous community open house events. The Committee is also having meetings with Chief-and-Councils and other participant groups.

The spring engagement program commenced in April and included public open houses in Port Hawkesbury and Sydney, and Indigenous community sessions in Potlotek First Nation, Eskasoni First Nation, and Pictou Landing First Nation. The objectives of this program are to provide information about offshore wind, the Regional Assessment process to date, and to gather input with a focus on potential effects and mitigation/monitoring measures within the potential future development areas (PFDAs) that were identified in the [Interim Report](#). Each session consisted of a presentation from the Committee, followed by a question-and-answer period. Attendees were encouraged to review poster boards and partake in discussions focussed on potential interactions with the PFDAs. Feedback forms and input boards were also set-up to gather individual feedback on any aspect of the Regional Assessment.

Additional locations in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and PEI will be visited in May and June. A schedule of the open house sessions is posted to the Registry under *Information Sessions* (<https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83514/session>) and will be updated as sessions are confirmed/added. The Committee plans to produce a *What We Heard Summary* document once the spring engagement program concludes. This document will be posted to the Registry.

Invitations to engagement events are sent via email to the Regional Assessment distribution list and area also posted to the Agency's social media pages. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please send your contact information to the Regional Assessment email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

The Committee attended several meetings in April including with all three Advisory Groups, Marine Renewables Canada, DFO, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Canadian Wildlife Services), East Coast Environmental Law, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, Cape Breton Partnership, and the Nova Scotia Fisheries Alliance for Energy Engagement. The Committee also met with Chief and Council at Millbrook First Nation, and the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council. These meetings have focussed on the Regional Assessment process, feedback on the Interim Report, and potential effects and mitigation related to offshore wind development. Two briefings were provided to the Committee in April:

- NS Special Places Protection (Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, & Heritage): Protection for archaeological resources including submerged and underwater resources; and
- NRCAN: Update on Offshore Renewable Energy Regulations

A summary of participant meetings will be added to the tracking tables within the relevant Participation Plans. These Plans include the [Public and Stakeholder Participation Plan](#), [Fisheries Participation Plan](#), and [Indigenous Participation Plan](#). Updated versions of these Plans have been posted to the [Regional Assessment Registry page](#).

The Committee continued to meet regularly with the Secretariat in April with a focus on the Interim Report feedback, planning for the spring engagement program and planning of the Final Report. A Summary of Regional Assessment Committee Meetings is updated and posted to the [Regional Assessment Registry page](#).

All information about the Regional Assessment is available on the [Regional Assessment Registry page](#). The Committee invites all Indigenous peoples, organizations, and any other person or group with information and interests related to the Regional Assessment, and who wishes to participate in it, to reach out via the Regional Assessment email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) and/or the [public commenting tool](#) with any questions or comments. If you would like your name and contact added to the distribution list, please sent your contact information to the Regional Assessment email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).