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# Offshore Wind Predevelopment Program – Overview

June 19th, 2024

Subject to Change

Canada

# Offshore Wind Predevelopment Program – Overview

- The OWPD received funding through Budget 2023, and is designed to provide new investments in government-led marine data collection efforts to help capitalize on Canada's offshore wind potential, particularly off the coasts of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador
- The OWPD is composed of two initiatives:
  1. **Regional Marine Data Collection Campaign** – aims to establish the necessary baseline data and fill data gaps to set the enabling conditions for responsible and efficient OSW development.
  2. **Offshore Wind Integration and Transmission Study** – Inform decision-making and identify necessary investments in the bulk electricity system to enable the reliable and efficient integration of OSW-generated electricity in Atlantic Canada and include considerations related to the use of OSW for the production off hydrogen in Atlantic Canada.



# Regional Marine Data Collection Campaign – Objectives

- The Regional Marine Data Collection Campaign aims to:
  - Expand on existing marine data;
  - Help foster social license for offshore wind development by **collecting and making publicly available** data from **government-led project agnostic** data collection campaigns; and,
  - Provide baseline marine data to inform the regulatory review process for future offshore wind projects.
- **Geoscientific** (seabed sampling, seabed photography, bathymetry), meteorological and oceanographic (**metocean**) (e.g. wind speeds, average wave conditions, tides, etc.), and **marine wildlife and habitat** (e.g. presence of species, breeding or nesting grounds) data will be collected in areas off the coasts of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Data collected will build off existing information and shared knowledge from the **Regional Assessments** to inform responsible and efficient government decision making regarding offshore wind development.
- **Timeline** – the Regional Marine Data Collection Campaign is expected to run until March 31st, 2028.



# Campaigns are

## Intended to:

- Collect marine data within areas informed by the Regional Assessments
- Generate reliable marine data in accordance with applicable standards
- Ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, public release and access to high-quality reliable marine data
- Help inform future research activities into the effects and opportunities that could reasonably be expected from future OSW in Atlantic Canada

## Not intended to:

- Collect data outside designated areas of interest, or for specific OSW projects
- Replace marine data collection activities that may be required by regulators of the private sector in support of future offshore wind development projects
- Undertake detailed modeling, research or environmental/cumulative impact assessment of OSW in Atlantic Canada



# Scope of Marine Data Collection Activities

## Geoscience & Geophysical

- Delivered internally by the Geological Survey of Canada

## Meteorological & Oceanographic

- Delivered externally through government procurement

## Marine Wildlife & Habitat Data

- Delivered externally through government procurement



# Timelines

(approximate)

- The OWPD will be funded until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2028.
- Campaigns are expected to begin next calendar year off the coasts of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador.



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