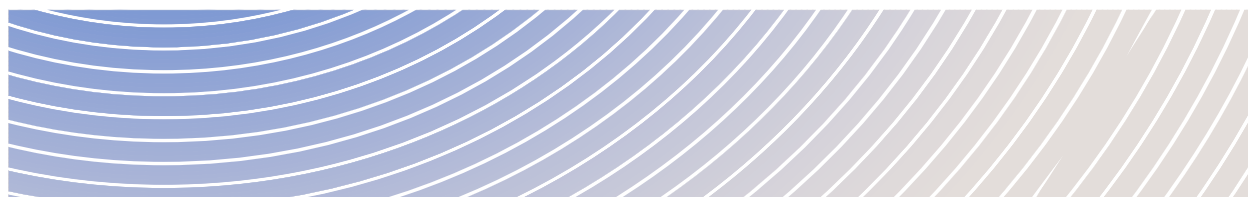




Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Draft Follow-up Program Report for 2025-2026



Regional Assessment of Offshore oil and gas exploratory drilling east
of newfoundland and labrador

August 2026

Canada 



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List of abbreviations and acronyms

Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition
AAROM	Aboriginal Aquatic Oceans Resource Management
C-NLOER	Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Energy Regulator
CSAS	Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DSA	Data Sharing Agreement
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
ESRF	Environmental Studies Research Fund
GIS Tool	Geographic Information System Decision Support Tool
Government of NL	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
IAA	<i>Impact Assessment Act</i>
IAAC	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
IDS	Indigenous Data Sovereignty
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge Systems
MPA	Marine protected area
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
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

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NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
OECM	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures
Registry	Canadian Impact Assessment Registry
RA	Regional Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling East of Newfoundland and Labrador
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
STB	Science and Technology Branch
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-NLOER, 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.
UNDA	United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

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 2025-2026. The Ministerial Response Progress Report (MRPR) included in Section 5 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 Energy Regulator (C-NLOER) and the Government of NL. The report also provides an evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the follow-up program (Section 6).

3. Engagement

A public comment period on the draft version of this report will take place. Notice of this opportunity will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Agency Registry website.

4. Summary of Activities 2025-2026

In addition to the activities summarized in Section 5, the following activities were carried out under the RA Follow-up Program in the 2025-2026 reporting year:

- The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board officially became the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Energy Regulator on June 2, 2025.
- The RA Follow-up Advisory Committee¹ met five times during the 2025-2026 reporting period and worked to develop advice for the Steering Committee related to updates to the RA GIS Tool.

1. The RA Follow-up Advisory Committee is composed of a variety of interests and areas of expertise, including representatives of Indigenous groups, the fishing industry, oil and gas industry, non-government organizations, and academics.

Table 1 provides an overview of the status of the 42 commitments made in the Ministerial Response and identifies changes since the 2024–2025 reporting period. Notably, Commitment 31 was completed during the current reporting period, contributing to the overall change in commitment statuses. Definitions of the status categories are provided in Table 2, while Table 3 presents detailed updates on the progress of each of the 42 commitments.

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

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Completed – Fully Met	16	16	16
Completed – Ongoing Monitoring	11	12	13
Progress Ongoing	14	13	12
On Hold	1	1	1

5. 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 2025-2026 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
1. Mitigation and Follow-up Measures (IAAC) Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR	Completed – Fully Met
2. Trained Seabird Observers (ECCC) ECCC-CWS has not received any lists of qualified observers in recent years, nor has guidance been updated or requested.	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
3. Fisheries Communications Plans (C-NLOER & IAAC) Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR	Completed – Fully Met
4. Pre-drilling Notifications (C-NLOER & IAAC) The list of Stakeholders maintained by the C-NLOER is updated periodically to ensure that communication reaches all parties in a timely manner.	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
5. Migratory Bird Mitigation (IAAC) Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR	Completed – Fully Met
6. Seabird Monitoring (IAAC) Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR	Completed – Fully Met
7. Training on Seabird Strandings (IAAC) Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR	Completed – Fully Met
8. Activities in Marine Refuges and Closure Areas (DFO, C-NLOER & IAAC) Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR	Completed – Fully Met
9. Consultation in Regulatory Development (IAAC)	Completed – Fully Met

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Commitment	Status
Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR	
10. Notification Requirements (IAAC) Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR	Completed – Fully Met
11. Application of Exclusion (IAAC) Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR	Completed – Fully Met
12. Review of Ministerial Regulation (IAAC) IAAC began reviewing the Ministerial Regulation and anticipates it to be completed by the end of 2026 – See 2021 MRPR.	Progress Ongoing
13. Adequate and Appropriate Modeling (IAAC) Schedule 2 of the Ministerial Regulations establishes conditions related to adequate and appropriate drill cuttings modeling. The C-NLOER verifies compliance with these conditions.	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
14. Annual Follow-up Program Report (IAAC) The 2025-2026 RA Follow-up Program Report is anticipated to be published in Winter 2026-2027.	Progress Ongoing
15. Long-term plan for the GIS Decision-support tool (IAAC, Government of Canada & Government of NL) - Updated version of the GIS tool prepared and released in May 2021. - Online hosting of the GIS tool was successfully transferred to the C-NLOER and is accessible - On-going identification of new and updated datasets for future GIS updates, with the advice of the RA Follow-up Advisory Committee.	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
16. Ministerial Response Progress Report (IAAC, Government of Canada & Government of NL) Commitment was fully met – See 2021 MRPR	Completed – Fully Met
17. Reviews and Reports (IAAC) 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

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Commitment	Status
18. Incorporating Diverse Perspectives (IAAC) - 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. In the 2025-2026 reporting period, the Committee met 5 times and developed advice related to the update and enhancement of the RA GIS Tool. - 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
19. Use of Studies and Scientific Reviews (DFO & ECCC) ECCC’s species-specific predictive modelling for seabirds - ECCC-CWS and ECCC Science and Technology Branch (STB) continue to add new data to density surface models for common Atlantic migratory bird species. DFO’s marine mammals species distribution modelling - 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.	Progress Ongoing
20. Scope of Factors for Assessment of Designated Projects (IAAC) The scope of factors will continue to be monitored through the RA Follow-up Program – See 2021 MRPR.	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
21. Atlantic Salmon (DFO) A project entitled “<i>Atlantic salmon in the Eastern Canadian offshore regions (ESRF Regions 8 to 15): timing, duration and the effects of environmental variability and climate change</i>” was initiated by DFO in 2020 and received \$11.7M in funding from offshore industry operators via the Environmental Studies Research Fund (ESRF). A total of 4,965 salmon were tagged during the project (2021-2023), including 3900 smolt (from 32 rivers), 679 kelt (from 26 rivers) and 386 adults at West Greenland. Results from the project are now being published in the scientific literature and being presented to indigenous communities across the Atlantic region. Of the 32 rivers where smolts were tagged, individuals from ten (31%) were	Progress Ongoing

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Commitment	Status
detected in the RAA (Lilly et al CJFAS in revision) with only five kelt (19%) being present in the RAA. Additionally, a modelling approach has been developed to predict the homeward migration routes of adult salmon tagged at West Greenland (Dufresne et al. 2025). This model could be used in future EAs for developments in the area.	
22. Leach's Storm-petrels and other Relevant Species (ECCC) - The summary report, as part of a grants and contribution agreement, was received in Spring 2023. - Through the Environmental Studies Research Fund (ESRF), offshore industry operators have contributed over \$980k for two research studies on storm petrel tracking and population models led by ECCC. These studies have been completed and final ESRF technical reports are expected to be published in December 2026.	Completed - Fully Met
23. Data Accessibility (DFO) - 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, and is accessible online. 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
24. Commercial Fisheries Data (DFO) - DFO and C-NLOER 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-NLOER, 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.	Completed – Fully Met

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Commitment	Status
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.	
25. Knowledge Sharing Protocol (DFO) - 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 DSA template, a template guidance document, a decision tree, and an impact assessment form. - 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 DSA templates, guidance and processes, addressing sharing of Indigenous data and Knowledge in alignment with respect for Indigenous Data sovereignty (IDS) and DFO responsibilities under the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA) will be developed. Interim DSA guidance materials supporting IDS have been developed throughout FY 2025-26. - 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. - DFO has funded seven workshops delivered throughout FY 2024-25 by Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management (AAROM) department. The workshops focused on IDS and roles and responsibilities with respect to stewardship and use of Indigenous data and Knowledge. Building on the foundations established by these workshops, a collaborative task force of First Nations and DFO members has been established to support co-development of national policy for DFO on IDS. Throughout FY 2025-26, the task force has developed a thematic analysis on IDS, including connections to Indigenous Knowledge, and has begun planning for cross-Canada engagement with First Nations. Task force activities are planned to continue into the next FY to conduct engagement and begin policy co-development. - DFO has provided funding to Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat (APC) as part of a contribution to a broader \$1.7M initiative through the Environmental Studies Research Fund (ESRF). Through this initiative, APC used funding from both DFO and offshore industry operators (via ESRF) to contract AAROM departments to conduct research and host workshops on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and current methods of IKS collection, interpretation, storage, and dissemination.	Progress Ongoing

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Commitment	Status
26. Information Gathering and Sharing Protocol (DFO) - 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 and is accessible online. - 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
27. Accessibility of Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles Data (DFO) Progress is ongoing and there continues to be good exchange of information between proponents, regulators and DFO (see also commitment 19 above).	Progress Ongoing
28. Standards for Marine Mammals Observers (DFO) - DFO is finalizing the process to establish standards of qualification for marine mammal observers. - DFO has developed and published standards, as recommended from a scientific perspective, as a Technical Report in English and French: Recommended standards for marine mammal observers (MMOs) and passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) operators engaged during offshore geophysical surveys in Canada: qualification, training, data collection, and reporting. Normes recommandées pour les observateurs de mammifères marins (OMM) et les opérateurs de surveillance acoustique passive (SAP) participant à des levés géophysiques en eaux extracôtières au Canada : qualification, formation, collecte de données et production de rapports. - These standards build off a report by an external consultant that was commissioned by DFO and published in 2025: LGL Limited. 2025. Recommended Standard Qualifications for Marine Mammal Observers and Passive Acoustic Monitoring Operators: A Guidance Document for Offshore Geophysical Surveys in Canada. Can. Contract. Rep. Hydrogr. Ocean Sci. 64: iv + 90 p.	Progress Ongoing
29. Surveys of Stranded Birds (ECCC) ECCC-CWS continues to review site/vessel-specific systematic stranded bird protocols developed by operators of exploration projects and provides updated guidance (for example the annual updates to the Fall Stranding Alert Posters/Calendars), etc., as required.	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
30. Information Availability and Data Gaps (C-NLOER)	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring

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Commitment	Status
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.	
31. Special Areas Initiatives (DFO & ECCC) ECCC (Completed - Ongoing monitoring) - ECCC continues to engage with DFO and Parks Canada Agency to ensure existing ECCC information is 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. ECCC has provided funding to support the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and Miawpukek First Nation in increasing their capacity to engage in this initiative. - ECCC leadership of this project will be in abeyance by March 31, 2026. DFO (Completed – Ongoing monitoring) - DFO, in collaboration with the Canada-Newfoundland Labrador Offshore Energy Regulator (C-NLOER), has developed operational guidance for minimizing impacts by offshore exploration drilling on cold water corals and sponges, including in OECCMs. This guidance is available online: - 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 - Best available information from a variety of sources, including science, Indigenous and community knowledge, continues to inform Government of Canada MPA and OECCM establishment and management processes. - The details of the federal MPA Protection Standard were clarified in 2023 and published online: - The Government of Canada's 2022 Guidance for Recognizing Marine Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECCMs) implements the federal marine OECCM Protection Standard. The guidance is available online.	Completed - Ongoing Monitoring

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Commitment	Status
32. Availability of Spill Imagery (C-NLOER) The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ECCC and the C-NLOER and associated annual workplan have been updated to include specific reference to the sharing of tools such as spill imagery that can be shared with Indigenous Groups and stakeholders.	Progress Ongoing
33. Guidance on Mitigating Effects to Corals and Sponges (DFO) DFO, in collaboration with the Canada-Newfoundland Labrador Offshore Energy Regulator (C-NLOER), 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 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.	Completed – Fully Met
34. Updates to Seismic Sound Mitigation or Standards (DFO) DFO is in the process of consulting federal and provincial regulatory partners on the draft amendments to the Statement of Canadian Practice with respect to the Mitigation of Seismic Sound in the Marine Environment (the Statement) prior to publication and engagement. The proposed amendments will incorporate new science and international best practices for seismic sound mitigation.	Progress Ongoing
35. Baseline Data on Contaminants Levels (DFO) Review completed.	Completed – Fully Met
36. Land Tenure Decisions (C-NLOER) Inclusion of the information and analysis of the RA and outcomes of the RA Follow-up Program in land tenure decisions is implemented by the C-NLOER.	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
37. Strategic Environmental Assessments (C-NLOER) There were no new SEAs or updates to existing SEAs in the RA Study Area during the reporting period.	Progress Ongoing
38. Exploratory Drilling Scenarios (Government of Canada, Government of NL & C-NLOER) The anticipated number of wells to be drilled on an annual basis, as well as the spatial distribution of those wells, do not exceed the RA Committee's exploratory drilling scenarios.	Progress Ongoing

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Commitment	Status
39. Cumulative Effects (Government of Canada, Government of NL & C-NLOER) - With respect to Cumulative Effects, an MSP Governance and Engagement Structure was established 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. - The C-NLOER will provide information on recent, on-going, planned, and potential offshore oil and gas activities in the Study Area to the RA Follow-up Program. The C-NLOER considers this information in its decisions regarding calls for bids, nominations, sector identification, and licensing decisions. - DFO's National Marine Spatial Planning program (2018-2024) identified cumulative impact mapping analysis as a national priority for development and advanced a process for cumulative impact mapping through the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS; Murray et al. 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, species) in a given area. The CSAS process was led by Pacific and Maritimes Region staff but methods, data layer inventories, and scripts supporting data analyses had been shared with NL Region Science staff who had used the existing knowledge base to guide the work in the region. This included defining regional project objectives, collating data, and preliminary analyses; however, the regional project could not be completed due to the loss of funding effective April 2024. Completing the regional work would have involved combining spatial data layers of marine and coastal activities with ecological data as inputs in an analysis that modelled the interactions between stressors and habitats/species, resulting in a map of cumulative impacts. Because this work was not completed, a cumulative impacts map was never finalized for the NL Region. Such a map could have been used to support Marine Spatial Planning more generally and help inform the existing knowledge on cumulative effects in NL Region, but there is uncertainty regarding any future funding for this purpose.	Progress Ongoing
40. Benefits Plans (C-NLOER) Benefits Plans for exploration drilling are a regulatory requirement and made publicly available on Operator's websites. There were no exploration drilling programs during the reporting period.	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
41. Diversity Plans (C-NLOER) Diversity initiatives, included in Exploration Benefits Plans, are made publicly available on the Operator's websites. There were no exploration drilling programs during the reporting period.	Completed – Ongoing Monitoring
42. Greenhouse Gas Emissions (ECCC & IAAC)	On hold

Commitment	Status
The Greenhouse Gas Analysis Report is on hold while ECCC studies potential changes to the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change and its associated technical guides, to better align with the 2023 Supreme Court Decision, amended Impact Assessment Act and the Building Canada Act.	

6. 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.

For the 2025-2026 reporting year, 7 targets were met, 2 targets are ongoing, 2 targets were not applicable, and 0 target were not met (Table 4). The targets for ensuring new and emerging information are 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 ongoing for the reporting year as the review of the Ministerial Regulation has not yet been completed. Based on the applicable targets for the 2025-2026 reporting year, the follow-up program was effective in achieving the desired program outcomes.

Table 4: Performance measurement table for the 2025-2026 reporting year for the RA follow-up program.

Program Outcome	Indicators	Targets	Results and Comments
New and emerging information is considered in decision-making.	- GIS Tool continues to be updated and is used to inform decision-making for exploratory drilling projects. - Indigenous groups and stakeholders (including the RA follow-up program Advisory Committee) are engaged in reviewing and providing comments on key products of the RA FUP.	- RA FUP Advisory Committee reviews information and makes recommendations regarding the GIS Tool, where appropriate. - The RA FUP Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Steering Committee, where appropriate. - The Steering Committee receives and considers advice, recommendations or comments on key documents of relevance to the RA.	- Target met. The RA FUP Advisory Committee worked to develop advice on updates to the GIS tool. The advice will be delivered to the Steering Committee in the next reporting year. - Not applicable. No recommendations were requested by the Steering Committee or provided by the RA FUP Advisory Committee during the reporting period. - Not applicable. No advice, recommendations or comments were provided on key documents during the reporting year.
Governments ensure the highest standards of environmental protection continue to be maintained over time.	The Ministerial Regulation and the RA follow-up program are operationalized in collaboration with the C-NLOER, IAAC, NRCan, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, DFO, and ECCC.	Operators of exploratory drilling projects that are exempt from a federal Impact Assessment comply with the Ministerial Regulation.	Target met. The Operator of the first exploratory drilling program under the regulations complied with s. 3 of the Ministerial Regulations and all conditions outlined in Schedule 2. Compliance verification of Schedule 2 conditions was conducted by the C-NLOER.

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		- Results of follow-up programs are submitted to the C-NLOER. - Information collected supports the 5-year review of the Ministerial Regulation. - Actions are taken to address any gaps or potential improvements that are identified during the review of Ministerial Regulations.	- Target met. The results of follow up monitoring for the first exploratory drilling program under the regulations have been reported and are available publicly at: https://exploration.exxonmobilcanada.ca/. - Ongoing. The review of the Ministerial Regulation began but has not yet been completed. - Ongoing. As the review of the Ministerial Regulation has not yet been completed, no gaps or potential improvements have been identified.
Demonstrate progress towards, and completion of, Ministerial Commitments.	- Annual public-facing report tracks and reports on the progress of commitments. - Annual progress is made on the commitments of the Ministerial Response to the RA Committee's Report until fully completed.	- Departments submit annual summary of progress made on commitments to IAAC. - Report is posted to the Registry on an annual basis. - Commitments designated as "Ongoing Progress" provide detailed updates and/or updated work plans until completed. - For commitments that cannot be completed, appropriate actions are	- Target met. Department's annual summaries are contained within this report. - Target met. - Target met. - Target met. No commitments have been identified as unable to be completed.

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		taken, or adequate rationale is provided and publicly reported on.	
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