

Tilt Cove Exploration Drilling Program

Chapter 7: Existing Socio-economic
Environment

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April 2023



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7.0 EXISTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The socio-economic environment includes urban and rural setting (Section 7.1), commercial fisheries (Section 7.2), Indigenous peoples and communities (Section 7.3), and other ocean users (Section 7.4).

7.1 Urban and Rural Setting

The Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador is comprised of an island portion, Newfoundland, which has an area of 111,390 km², and a mainland portion, Labrador, which has an area of 294,330 km². Based on census data, the population, at 510,550 decreased by 1.8% between 2016 and 2021 (Statistics Canada 2022).

With the exception of interactions between supply vessels and the shorebase in the St. John's region, Project-related activities will not have a measurable interaction with the urban and rural setting of the province. The City of St. John's hosts the closest permanent residence to the Project Area and is the largest community in Newfoundland and Labrador with a population of approximately 110,525 residents, an increase of 1.5% from the 2016 census. Representing approximately 40% of the province's population, St. John's and neighbouring municipalities comprise the St. John's Census Metropolitan Area with a population of approximately 212,579, an increase of 2% from the 2016 census (Statistics Canada 2022). St. John's, the capital city of Newfoundland and Labrador, is relied upon by the oil and gas industry as an important centre for servicing and support through the St. John's Harbour (see Section 7.2.3).

The oil and gas industry contributed \$6.7 billion, approximately 20.6%, to nominal gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019 (Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Finance 2021) and hence, is an important component of the provincial economy. The industry was the largest contributor in the goods-producing sector and represented 1.9% of total employment in the province in 2020 (Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Finance 2021). The fishing industry, also an important contributor to the Province culturally as well as economically, is a key stakeholder in the offshore oil and gas industry. Given the importance of the fishing industry to the Province and Indigenous peoples, this chapter focuses primarily on commercial fisheries, described in Section 7.2, and Indigenous peoples and community values, described in Section 7.3.

7.2 Commercial Fisheries

The coastal and offshore areas of NL contain important commercial fishing grounds for both domestic and foreign fleets. Fishing for commercial purposes has been, and continues to be, an important economic and cultural activity, and plays an influential part in shaping the offshore marine environment. This section describes trends in commercial activity related to fishing within EL 1161, the Project Area and RAA, and offshore NL in general, including domestic commercial fishing, commercial fishing by foreign nations, aquaculture, and recreational fishing.



7.2.1 Boundaries, Quota Sharing Agreements and Key Information Sources

7.2.1.1 International Boundaries

The RAA extends outside the Canadian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and overlaps with additional territorial boundaries, including the Greenland EEZ and the EEZ for Saint Pierre and Miquelon, a French nation located off the south coast of NL (Figure 7-1, Table 7.1). Table 7.1 indicates the extent to which each boundary overlaps with the RAA, with 46% of the RAA within the Canadian EEZ and 55% outside. The portion of the RAA that lies outside any of the respective EEZs out to 42°W is called the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) (Figure 7-1). Within the NRA, is an area known as the Fishing Footprint, where historically 90% of commercial fishing activity for groundfish by foreign (non-Canadian) fleets has occurred (NAFO 2023). Beyond 42°W is known as international waters.

Table 7.1 Jurisdictional Boundaries within the RAA

Type	Boundary Name	Regulatory Body	Area (km ²)	% of RAA
Domestic	Canadian EEZ	Government of Canada, DFO	981,425	46%
International	Greenland EEZ	Government of Greenland, Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting	2,870	0%
	France (Saint Pierre and Miquelon) EEZ	Government of France, Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries	12,685	1%
	NAFO Regulatory Area	NAFO	1,019,204	48%
	Other (International Waters)	UN FAO	127,638	6%

7.2.1.2 NAFO Divisions and Subdivisions

DFO, NAFO and Saint Pierre and Miquelon use NAFO Divisions and Subdivisions to define fishing grounds and management areas (Figure 7-2). The RAA Overlaps with all or portions of the following NAFO divisions and subdivisions (Figure 7-2): 1F, 2H, 2J, 3K, 3L, 3M, 3N, 3O, 3Ps, 3Pn, 4Vn, 4Vs, 4W and 4R. The NAFO Divisions are further broken down into Unit Areas. The Project Area overlaps with Unit Areas 3Lr, 3Lt, 3Na and 3Nb.



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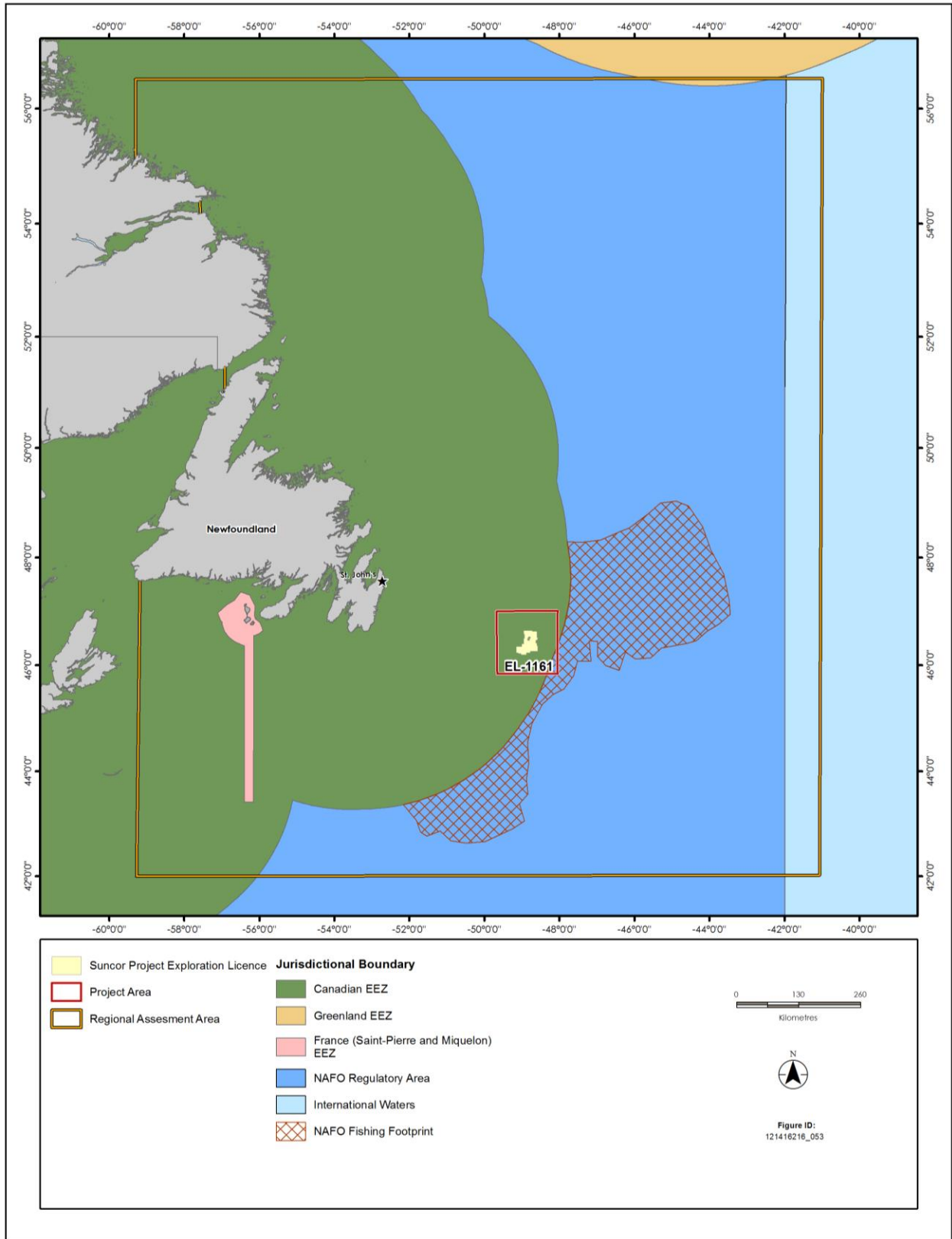


Figure 7-1 International Boundaries in the RAA



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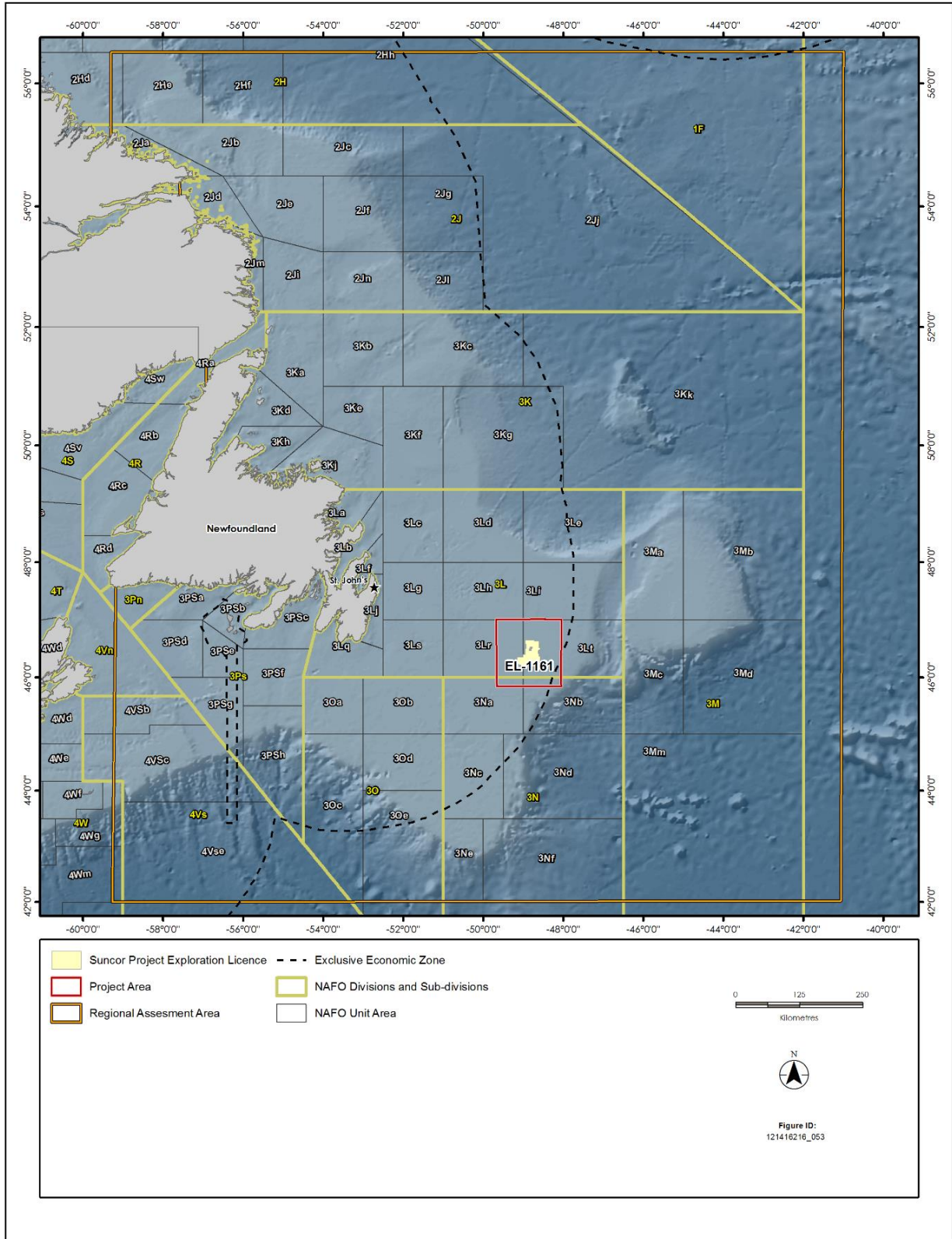


Figure 7-2 NAFO Divisions, Subdivision and Unit Areas



7.2.1.3 Domestic vs. Foreign Fishing Activity and Sharing Agreements

In spite of defined international boundaries (described in Section 7.2.1.1), commercial fishing activity is not restricted within a country’s EEZ, and there are several agreements in place for shared access to stocks that are commercially fished. This is especially true for groundfish stocks that straddle the Canadian EEZ and the NRA, as well as those that are shared between fleets from Canada and Saint Pierre and Miquelon. It becomes important to define commercial fishing activity attributed to domestic fleets and those attributed to foreign fleets. The definition of domestic and foreign, as used in this chapter, are indicated below.

- **Domestic:** The term domestic is used to describe commercial fishing activity by Canadian vessels, including vessels from NL as well as those in the Maritime provinces and Quebec, who fish within NAFO divisions that overlap with the RAA. Domestic commercial fishing activity also includes landings from Indigenous groups who hold commercial communal fishing licenses.
- **Foreign:** Commercial fishing activity by foreign fleets includes two distinctive groups: fleets from Saint Pierre and Miquelon; and fleets from other NAFO nations (excluding Canada and Saint Pierre and Miquelon). Where applicable, they are described individually, as there are different quota sharing agreements for each.

In 1972 Canada and France negotiated a Treaty Agreement regarding mutual fishing relations (Canada and France 1972). The Agreement includes two Annexes: Annex 1 refers to commercially fished species within NAFO Subdivision 3Ps (Table 7.2); while Annex 2 refers to arranged agreements within the Canadian fishing zones outside of 3Ps (Table 7.3).

Table 7.2 Quota Sharing Arrangements Described in Annex I of the 1972 Canada-France Treaty Agreement (All pertain to NAFO Subdivision 3Ps)

Species	Canada	France
Cod	84.40%	15.60%
Redfish	96.40%	3.60%
Squid	98.50%	1.50%
American plaice*	90%	10%
Witch flounder	88.70%	11.30%
Iceland scallop (Core Area Only)	30%	70%

* Refers to species that are currently under moratoria
 Source: B. Fagan, DFO, 2019, personal communication



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Table 7.3 Quota Sharing Arrangements Described in Annex 2 of the 1972 Canada-France Treaty Agreement

Species	NAFO Divisions	Canada	France
Cod	4RS3Pn	97.40%	2.60%
	4TVn (Jan - Apr)	97.40%	2.60%
Greenland halibut (2J)	2J	97%	3%
Grenadier*	3O	70%	30%
Redfish	3O	85%	15%
Silver hake	4VWX	98%	2%
Squid	3 + 4 (Excluding 3Ps)	98.50%	1.50%
* Refers to stocks that are currently under moratoria Source: B. Fagan, DFO, 2019, personal communication			

There are 11 species (19 stocks total) that are managed by NAFO. Each year the percent allocation of the set total allowable catch (TAC) for each nation is published in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NAFO 2023). The allocations for 2022 are summarized in Table 7.4.

Table 7.4 Stocks Managed by NAFO and their Shared Stock Allowances (2022)

Species	Stock (NAFO Divisions)	Allocated Percent of TAC		
		Canada	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	Remaining NAFO Nations
American plaice*	3LNO		-	-
American plaice*	3M	-	-	-
Atlantic cod*	3L	-	-	-
Atlantic cod	3M	0.80%	0.00%	99.20%
Atlantic cod*	3NO	-	-	-
Greenland halibut	3LMNO	15.00%	1.64%	83.36%
Redfish	3LN	42.60%	0.00%	57.40%
Redfish	3M	4.76%	0.62%	94.62%
Redfish	3O	30.00%	0.00%	70.00%
Redfish*	2 + 3K + 1F	-	-	-
Skate	3LNO	16.67%	0.00%	83.33%
White hake	3NO	29.40%	0.00%	70.60%
Witch flounder	3NO	60.00%	0.00%	40.00%
Witch flounder*	3L	-	-	-
Yellowtail flounder	3LNO	97.50%	2.00%	0.50%
Squid	3 + 4	Undetermined**	1.33%	98.67%
Capelin*	3NO	-	-	-



Table 7.4 Stocks Managed by NAFO and their Shared Stock Allowances (2022)

Species	Stock (NAFO Divisions)	Allocated Percent of TAC		
		Canada	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	Remaining NAFO Nations
Northern Shrimp*	3L	-	-	-
Northern Shrimp*	3NO	-	-	-
Note: * Refers to stocks that are currently under moratoria ** The allocations of the Contracting Parties are not yet determined Source: NAFO 2023				

7.2.1.4 Key Information Sources

Domestic catch weight (t) and value (\$CAD) are provided by DFO at the unit area level; however, commercial fishing data for foreign fleets are provided by NAFO and can only be summarized by Division or Subdivision. The three main datasets that will be used in the interpretation and analyses of commercial fishing activity within the RAA and Project Area are as follows.

- **DFO tabular dataset (DFO 2020a):** This dataset is obtained from the Economic Analysis and Statistics Division, DFO Ottawa. It provides information on catch weight (t) and value (\$CAD) of domestic fishing activity by NAFO Unit Area and includes information on species and gear type. Only the most recent five-year period available is used (2016-2020). The dataset is used in this section to show the distribution of catch weight and value by species within the RAA and Project Area.
- **DFO geospatial dataset (DFO 2020b):** This dataset is obtained from the Economic Analysis and Statistics Division, DFO Ottawa. It includes information on domestic commercial fishing activity by year, month, species, vessel length, and gear type. This is a geo-spatial dataset and allows for the information to be displayed in grid cells with a resolution of 4 NM x 6 NM. The dataset is used to create maps showing the location of domestic commercial fishing activity for individual species, species groups, and gear types. The data are also presented by month and are used to create graphs showing seasonality for individual species, species groups or by gear type.
- **NAFO STATLANT 21A dataset (NAFO 2022):** This dataset can be downloaded online from the NAFO website. It contains data on catch weight (t) by country for each NAFO Division and species from 1960-2020. The dataset is used to show historical trends (1968-2015) of catch weight for both domestic and foreign commercial fishing activity. With information related to Canadian fleets removed, the dataset is also used to show recent trends (2016-2020) of foreign commercial fishing activity within NAFO Divisions that overlap with the RAA.



7.2.2 Historical Overview of Commercial Fisheries (1980-2012)

Fish harvesting for commercial purposes in the nearshore and offshore areas of NL has historically been a large industry for both domestic and foreign fleets. The STATLANT 21A dataset available from NAFO (NAFO 2022) has a record of catch weight by country and NAFO division from 1960-2020, allowing for a historical look at the commercial fishing catches. A time series of catch weight (t) from 1980-2012 for all NAFO Divisions and Subdivisions that overlap with the RAA is shown in Figure 7-3. From 1980-1990 catch effort was high and it became evident that stocks were being over-fished. The period from 1990-1992 continued to see major declines in catch weight, and in 1992 a moratorium was put in place for groundfish species. At that point in time, the focus shifted to commercial harvesting of shellfish species (i.e., snow crab and shrimp). This is evident in Figure 7-4, which shows the proportion of catch weight by species groups (groundfish, shellfish, molluscs, small pelagic and large pelagic). Domestically, for approximately the past 20 years, shellfish have filled the void left by the groundfish moratorium; however, the viability of those stocks is beginning to be questioned (DFO 2021a, 2021b) as declines in the catch weight of these species has been noted in recent years (further information is provided in Section 7.2.1.6).

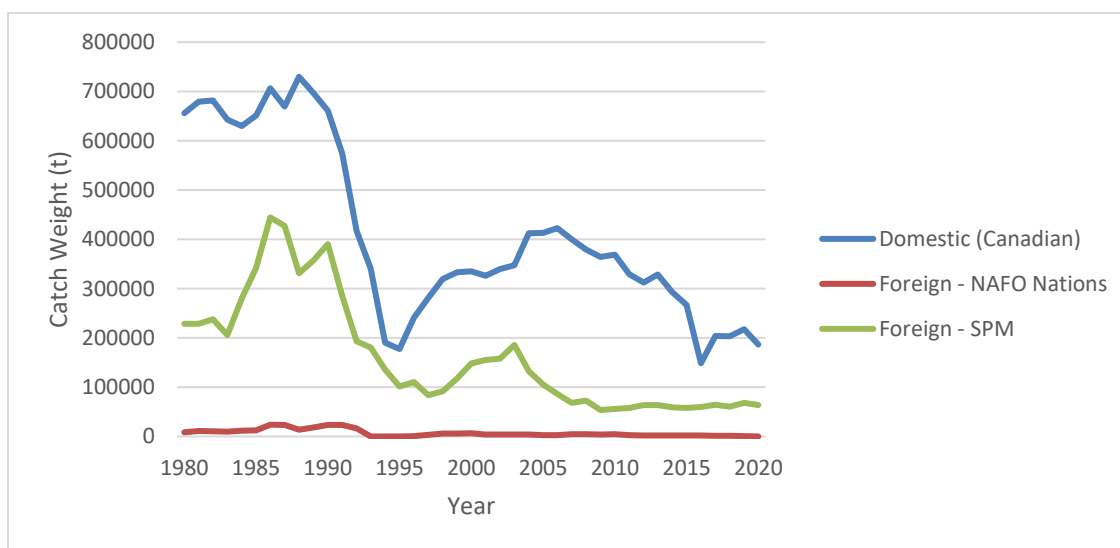


Figure 7-3 Catch Weight (t) for Domestic and Foreign Commercial Fishing Activity in NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA



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Figure 7-4 Catch Weight (t) by Species Group for Domestic and Foreign Fleets, 1980-2020



7.2.3 Current Overview of Domestic Commercial Fishing Activity within the RAA (2016-2020)

Between 2016 and 2020, there has been a 36% decrease in catch weight from 171,530 t to 109,783 t (Table 7.5, Figure 7-5). In total, 61% of the weight caught by domestic fleets within the RAA from 2016 to 2020 occurred within NAFO Divisions 3K and 3L (Figure 7-6). The value of domestic commercial fishing activities decreased by 33% from over \$673 million in 2016 to approximately \$473 million in 2020 (Table 7.5, Figure 7-7). For the same time period, 50% of the value from domestic commercial fishing activities were from species harvested in NAFO Divisions 3K and 3L (Figure 7-8). Figure 7-9 shows more detailed information on the exact location of domestic commercial fishing activity summarized by a 4 NM x 6 NM grid (DFO 2020b), indicating key fishing areas over multiple years along the shelf break and the Grand Banks area, north of the Project. A minor amount of commercial fishing activity was recorded within the Project Area during 2016 to 2020.

Table 7.5 Weight and Value of Domestic Commercial Fisheries within the RAA, 2016-2020

Unit	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Weight (t)	171,530	127,210	133,081	94,196	109,783
Value	\$673,619,508	\$664,371,750	\$669,144,186	\$494,966,826	\$473,205,374
Note: Based on summation of data for all NAFO Unit Areas that overlap (partially and fully) with the RAA Source: DFO 2020a					

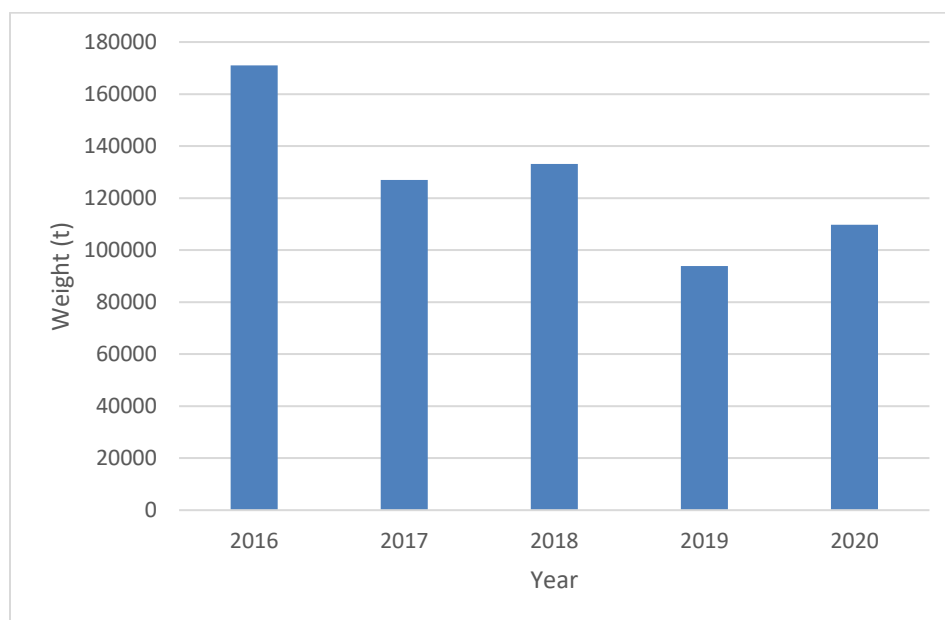


Figure 7-5 Catch Weight (t) for All Species within the RAA, 2016-2020



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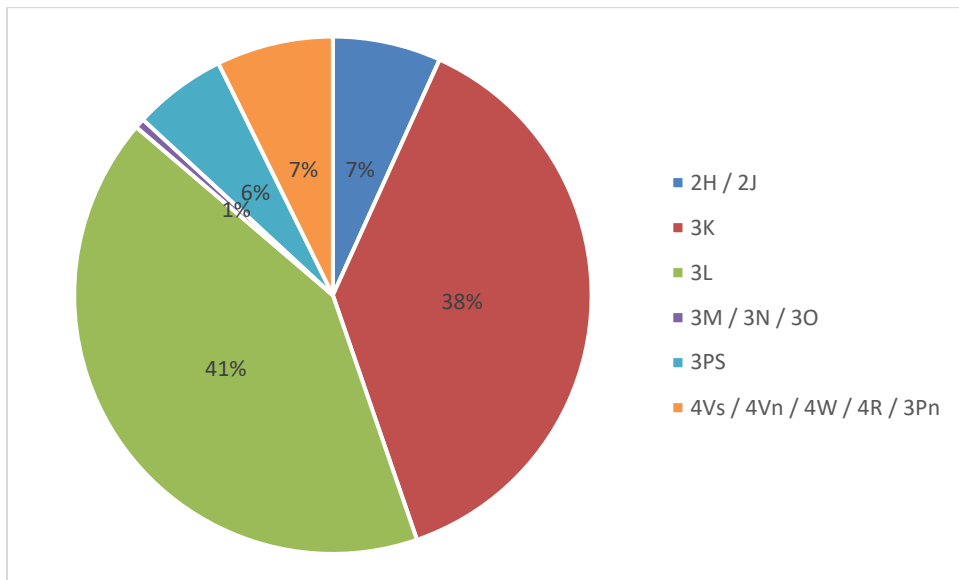


Figure 7-6 Percentage of Catch Weight Attributed to each NAFO Division / Subdivision

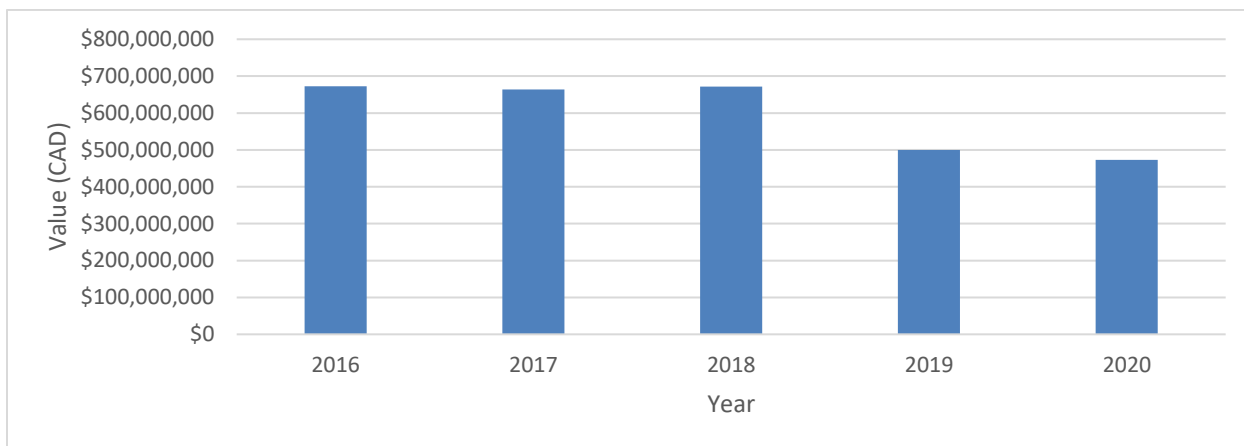


Figure 7-7 Value (\$CAD) for All Species within the RAA, 2016–2020



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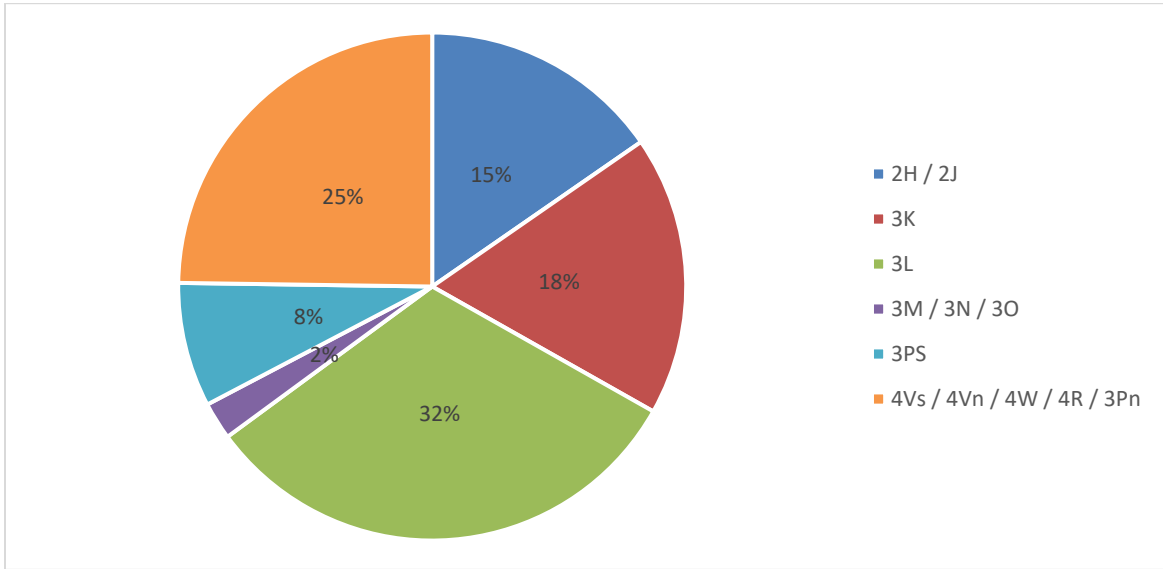


Figure 7-8 Percentage of Value Attributed to each NAFO Division / Subdivision



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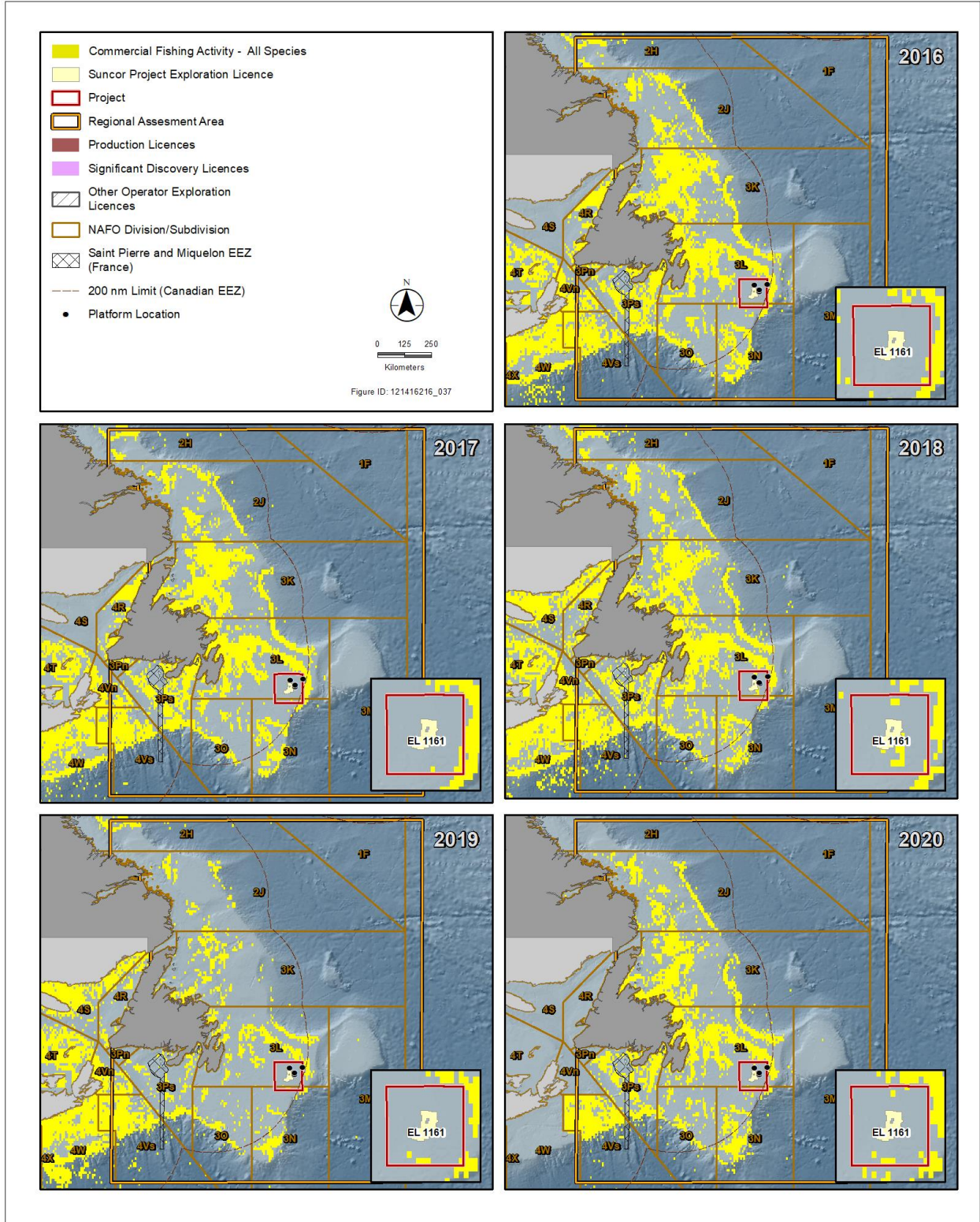


Figure 7-9 Location of Domestic Commercial Fishing Activity, All Species, 2016-2020



7.2.4 Domestic Commercial Fishing by Species, Species Groups and Fishing Areas (2016-2020)

This section describes commercial fishing activity by species group and by distinctive combinations of NAFO Divisions / Subdivisions (Figure 7-2), as commercially fished species within each fishing area are managed by different organizations and contain varying habitats (inshore, mid-shore, and offshore) that support different species. The following discussion highlights differences in domestic commercial fishing activity for five main species groups, including groundfish, shellfish, molluscs, small pelagic, and large pelagic. Figure 7-10 shows the percent of catch weight for these species groups in NAFO Divisions and Subdivisions that overlap with the RAA.

7.2.4.1 Groundfish

Table 7.6 indicates groundfish species and stocks that occur within the RAA and can be harvested by domestic fleets. Stocks are managed by NAFO or DFO (NL, Maritime or Gulf Region). The allotted TAC, as set by the respective managing body, is also shown in Table 7.6; however, some of the stocks are shared with Saint Pierre and Miquelon or other NAFO nations and only a portion of the TAC is allotted to domestic fleets (see Tables 7.3 to 7.5). The total catch weight for each of the identified species of groundfish from 2016 to 2020 are listed in Table 7.7 and the total values are listed in Table 7.8. Atlantic cod, Greenland halibut, redfish, and Atlantic halibut are the main species that are commercially fished by domestic fleets, and combined they account for 95% of the total catch weight for groundfish species and 98% of the value from 2016 to 2020. These species are discussed in more detail below.



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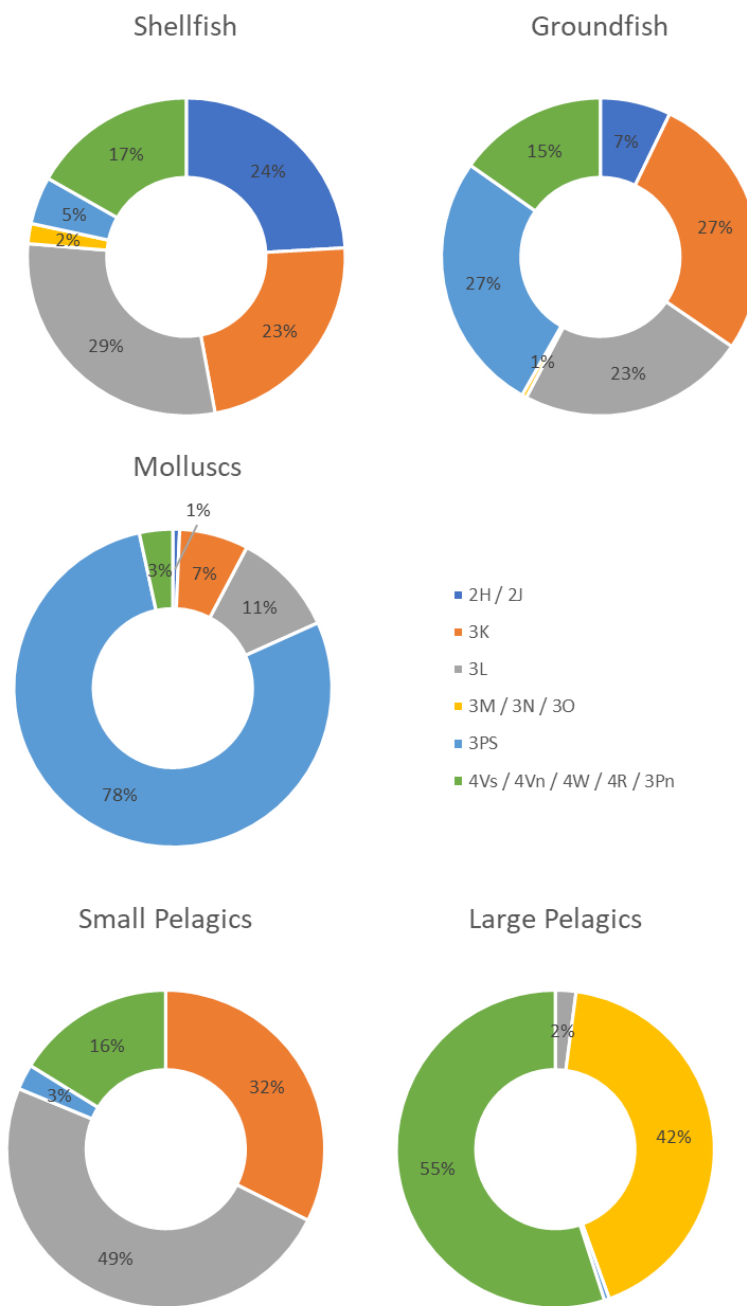


Figure 7-10 Percent Catch Weight by Species Group, Cumulative 2016-2020



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Table 7.6 Groundfish Species and Stocks that Overlap with the RAA

Species	Stock	Managing Body	Status	TAC (t)
American plaice	2 + 3K	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
	3LNO	NAFO	Bycatch only	N/A
	3M	NAFO	Bycatch only	N/A
	3Ps	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
Atlantic cod	2GH	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
	2J3KL	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
	3M	NAFO	Active	6,100 t (2023)
	3NO	NAFO	Bycatch only	N/A
	4VsW	DFO (Maritimes)	Bycatch only	N/A
	4Vn	DFO (Maritimes)	Bycatch only	N/A
	4RS-3Pn	DFO (NL/Gulf)	Active	N/A
	4TVn	DFO (Gulf)	Bycatch only	N/A
Greenland halibut	3Ps	DFO (NL)	Active	1,346 (2021-2022)
	3LMNO	NAFO	Active	11,227 (2023)
	2GHJ3K	NAFO	Bycatch only	N/A
	3Ps	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
Redfish	4RST	DFO (NL/Gulf)	Active	1,350 (interim 2021-2022)
	2+3K	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
	3LN	NAFO	Active	18,100 (2023)
	3O	NAFO	Active	20,000 (2023)
	3M	NAFO	Active	11,171 (2023)
	Unit I*	DFO (Gulf)	Active	4,500 (2021)
	Unit II*	DFO (NL)	Active	8,500 (2021-2022)
Witch flounder	Unit III*	DFO (Maritimes)	Active	9,000 (2021-2022)
	2J3KL	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
	3NO	NAFO	Active	1,295 (2023)
	4RST	DFO (Gulf)	Active	500 (until May 14, 2022)
	3Pn	DFO (NL)	Active	N/A
Haddock	3Ps	DFO (NL)	Active	650 (2021-2022)
	3LNO	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
	4TVW	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
	3Ps	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A



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Table 7.6 Groundfish Species and Stocks that Overlap with the RAA

Species	Stock	Managing Body	Status	TAC (t)
Monkfish	3LNO	DFO (NL)	Active	No set TAC
	4VWX	DFO (Maritimes)	Bycatch only	N/A
	3Ps	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
Thorny skate	3LNO	NAFO	Active	7,000 (2023)
	4VsW	DFO (Maritimes)	Bycatch only	N/A
	3Ps	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
White hake	3NO	NAFO	Active	1,000 (2023)
	4VW	DFO (Maritimes)	Bycatch only	N/A
	3Ps	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
Winter flounder	3KL	DFO (NL)	Active	No set TAC
	4VW	DFO (Maritimes)	Active	1,600 (2021-2022)
Yellowtail flounder	3LNO	NAFO	Active	20,000 (2023)
	3Ps	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
Lumpfish	3KL	DFO (NL)	Active	No set TAC
	2GHJ	DFO (NL)	Active	No set TAC
	3Ps	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
Grenadier	2+3	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
Pollock	4VW	DFO (Maritimes)	Active	660 (2021-2022)
	3Ps	DFO (NL)	Bycatch only	N/A
Silver hake	4VWX+5	DFO (Maritimes)	Active	15,000 (2021-2022)
Atlantic halibut	3NOPs4VWX5Zc	DFO (Maritimes)	Active	5,445 (2021-2022)
	4RST	DFO (Gulf)	Active	1,075 (interim 2021-2022)
Flatfish	4VW	DFO (Maritimes)	Active	1,000 (2021-2022)
Argentine	4VWX	DFO (Maritimes)	Active	1,000 (2021-2022)
Cusk	4VWX	DFO (Maritimes)	Bycatch only	N/A
Spiny Dogfish	Atlantic Canada	DFO (Maritimes)	Active	2,800 (directed fixed gear fishery) 4,000 (bycatch other gear types) (2021-2022)

Source: DFO 2021c; DFO 2022a; NAFO 2023

Note: * Redfish Unit I = 4RST, 3Pn +4Vn (January 1 – May 31), Unit II = 3Ps4Vs, and 3Pn+4Vn (June 1 – December 31), Unit III = 4WdehklX



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Table 7.7 Catch Weight (t) of Groundfish Species Fished by Domestic Fleets within NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA, 2016-2020

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Total
Cod, Atlantic	15,953	19,354	15,632	8,747	11,645	71,331	63%
Turbot / Greenland Halibut	3,019	2,909	5,473	2,613	3,448	17,462	15%
Redfish	1,786	756	2,698	1,049	4,795	11,084	10%
Halibut – Atlantic	1,282	1,365	1,578	1,475	2,158	7,857	7%
Hake, White	577	335	355	77	174	1,518	<1%
Pollock	365	553	251	62	44	1,274	<1%
Haddock	287	311	201	82	1	882	<1%
Greysole/Witch Flounder	460	2	6	76	87	631	<1%
Winter Flounder	101	86	55	14	20	277	<1%
American Plaice	162	52	69	52	58	394	<1%
Skate	117	58	544	0	8	728	<1%
Cusk	8	13	7	7	6	41	<1%
Monkfish (American Angler)	13	2	13	11	15	54	<1%
Yellowtail Flounder	2	0	1	0	0	3	<1%

Table 7.8 Value (\$CAD) of Groundfish Species Fished by Domestic Fleets within NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA, 2016-2020

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Total
Cod, Atlantic	\$22,967,533	\$28,655,165	\$22,270,739	\$12,125,798	\$17,157,390	\$103,176,625	36%
Turbot / Greenland Halibut	\$17,710,491	\$18,000,181	\$26,473,418	\$9,394,787	\$13,939,899	\$85,518,776	30%
Redfish	\$11,392,402	\$11,148,719	\$2,683,252	\$1,061,416	\$7,886,138	\$34,171,927	12%
Halibut – Atlantic	\$1,793,573	\$754,803	\$16,746,931	\$17,489,412	\$20,870,805	\$57,655,524	20%
Hake, White	\$674,583	\$346,448	\$357,858	\$85,422	\$185,235	\$1,649,546	<1%
Pollock	\$508,019	\$576,086	\$177,813	\$27,746	\$15,147	\$1,304,811	<1%
Haddock	\$340,537	\$455,991	\$398,908	\$141,565	\$726	\$1,337,726	<1%
Greysole/Witch Flounder	\$762,014	\$1,275	\$7,036	\$113,995	\$133,480	\$1,017,800	<1%
Winter Flounder	\$202,352	\$33,880	\$42,989	\$11,053	\$14,804	\$305,077	<1%
American Plaice	\$68,319	\$74,142	\$53,036	\$60,355	\$68,974	\$324,826	<1%
Skate	\$42,323	\$13,793	\$129,885	\$-	\$1,935	\$187,937	<1%
Cusk	\$6,902	\$10,693	\$9,119	\$4,590	\$3,937	\$35,241	<1%
Monkfish (American Angler)	\$15,898	\$1,689	\$17,015	\$15,315	\$19,416	\$69,333	<1%
Yellowtail Flounder	\$979	\$-	\$801	\$-	\$-	\$1,780	<1%



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Atlantic Cod

The most recent assessment of Atlantic cod for NAFO Divisions 2J3KL (DFO 2019a) indicates that although the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) has increased over the past decade, it remains within the critical recovery zone. There is still uncertainty surrounding the stock recovery and whether a commercial fishery will be reinstated for the species. There is a commercial fishery for Atlantic cod in NAFO Division 3Ps, with a quota of 1,346 t for 2021-2022. The commercial fishery for Atlantic cod in 3Ps consists of an inshore fishery that uses fixed gear only, and an offshore fishery, which uses both fixed and mobile gear types. The 2019 assessment for Atlantic cod in 3Ps (DFO 2021d) indicates that the SSB is in the critical zone. There is also a northern cod stewardship fishery in Divisions 2J+3KL. In 2021 the TAC was set at 12,999 t (DFO 2021e).

NAFO manages Atlantic cod for NAFO Divisions 3M and 3NO outside of the EEZ and within the Fishing Footprint. The 2021 stock assessment for Atlantic cod saw a TAC of 3,000 t for 3M for 2022 (NAFO 2021a). The latest assessment of the 3NO cod stock (2021) indicated that the biomass is still too low for a directed fishery, and no directed fishery has been scheduled from 2022 to 2024 (NAFO 2021b).

Domestic commercial fishing occurrence by Atlantic cod from 2016 to 2020 are shown in Figure 7-11, which shows that Atlantic cod have not been commercially fished in the Project Area.

Greenland Halibut

Greenland halibut is managed by NAFO for stocks in Divisions 3LMNO. NAFO set the TAC for GHL3LMNO at 11,755 t, of which Canada was allocated a TAC of 1,684 t (NAFO 2023). Domestic commercial harvesting for Greenland halibut is shown in Figure 7-12, which shows that Greenland halibut have not been commercially fished in the Project Area.

Redfish

Three species of redfish, including Acadian, golden, and deepwater, exist in offshore waters of NL. All three stocks are managed together as a single unit in each management area (NAFO n.d.). NAFO collectively manages the stocks of all three species of redfish in Divisions 3KLMNO. The stock in Division 3K is jointly managed with the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NAFO 2021c). The 2GHJ+3K fishery has been under moratorium since 1997 (DFO 2020c). DFO (2020c) indicates that the biomass in 2GHJ+3K increased considerably from 2003 to 2010, with recruitment since 2000 above the long term average and fishing mortality since 2006 very low (<1%). The commercial stock for redfish in 3LN was placed under moratorium in 1998 but re-opened in 2010. Stocks in 3M have remained relatively stable over the years; however, NAFO has issued advice to limit redfish TAC in 3M to 10,933 t in 2022 and 11,171 t in 2023 (NAFO 2021c). There is still a high level of uncertainty regarding the health of the 3O stocks (NAFO 2021c). Redfish stocks in Units I and II were last assessed in 2017 and the results were positive, with strong recruitment and biomass increases (DFO 2020c). These stocks consist of deepwater redfish and Acadian redfish. Domestically, redfish is primarily fished along the shelf region and the bottom edge of the Newfoundland Slopes area near the nose of the Grand Banks (Figure 7-13), which shows that redfish have not been commercially fished in the Project Area.



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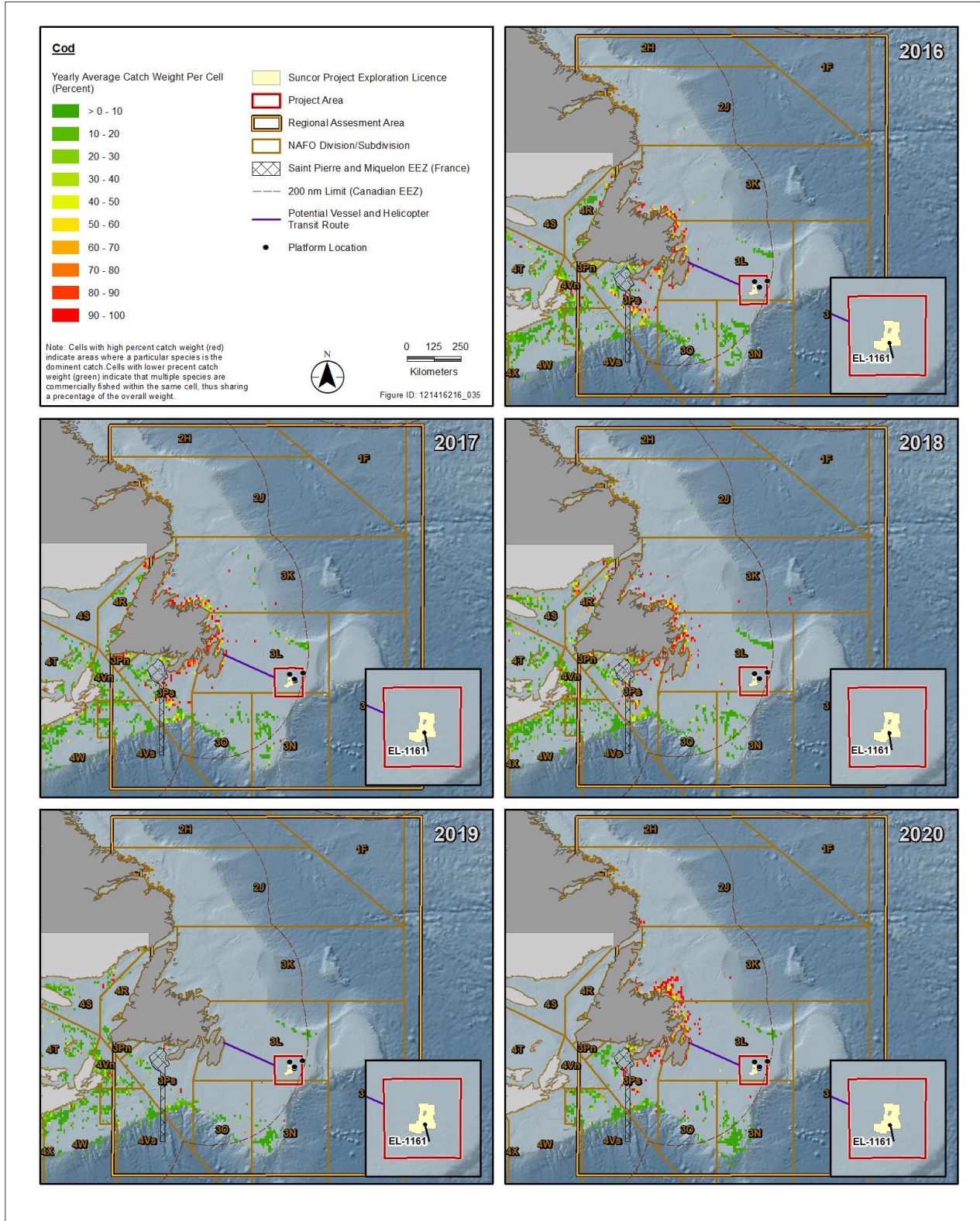


Figure 7-11 Domestic Commercial Fishing Activity, Atlantic Cod, 2016-2020



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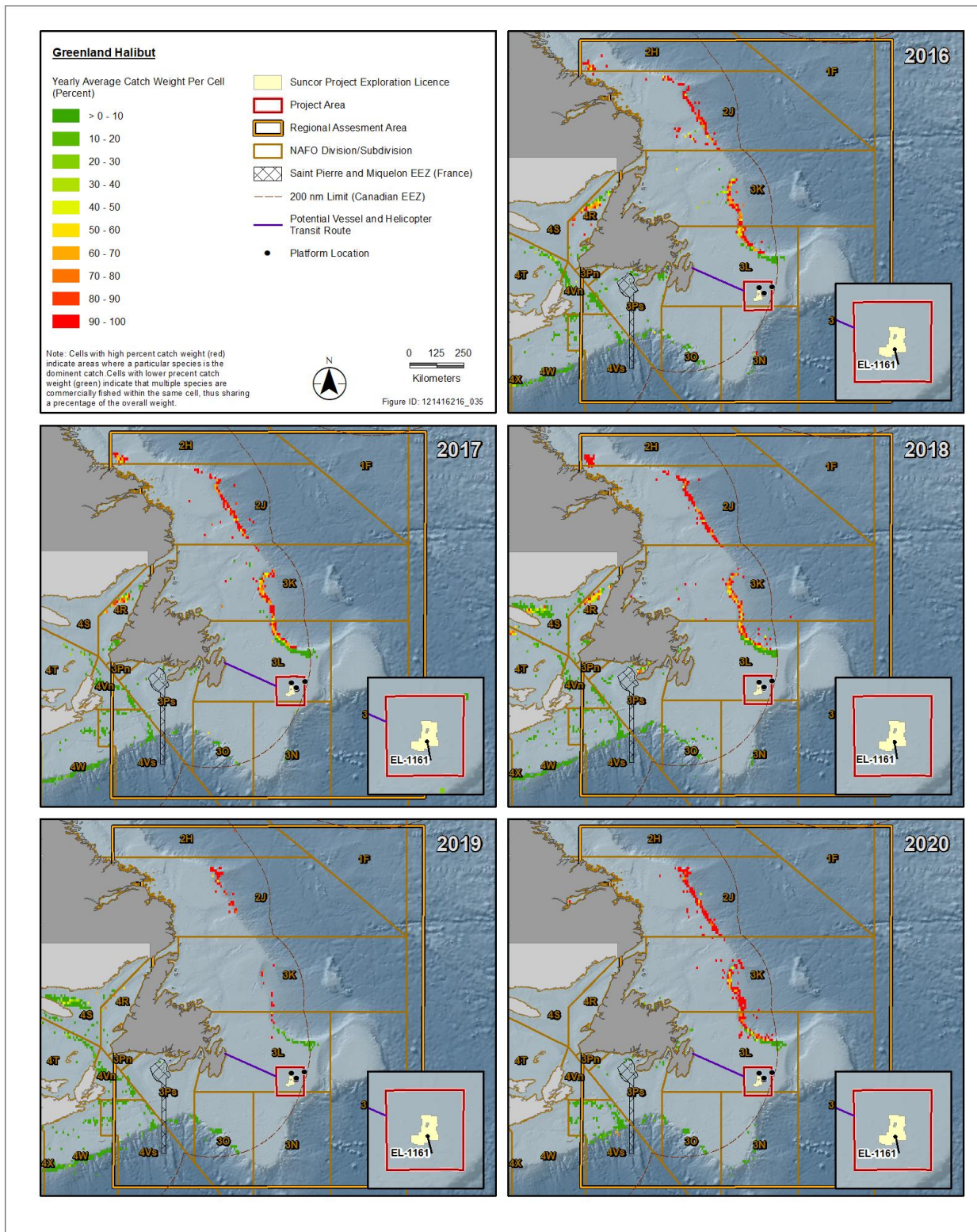


Figure 7-12 Domestic Commercial Fishing Activity, Greenland Halibut, 2016-2020



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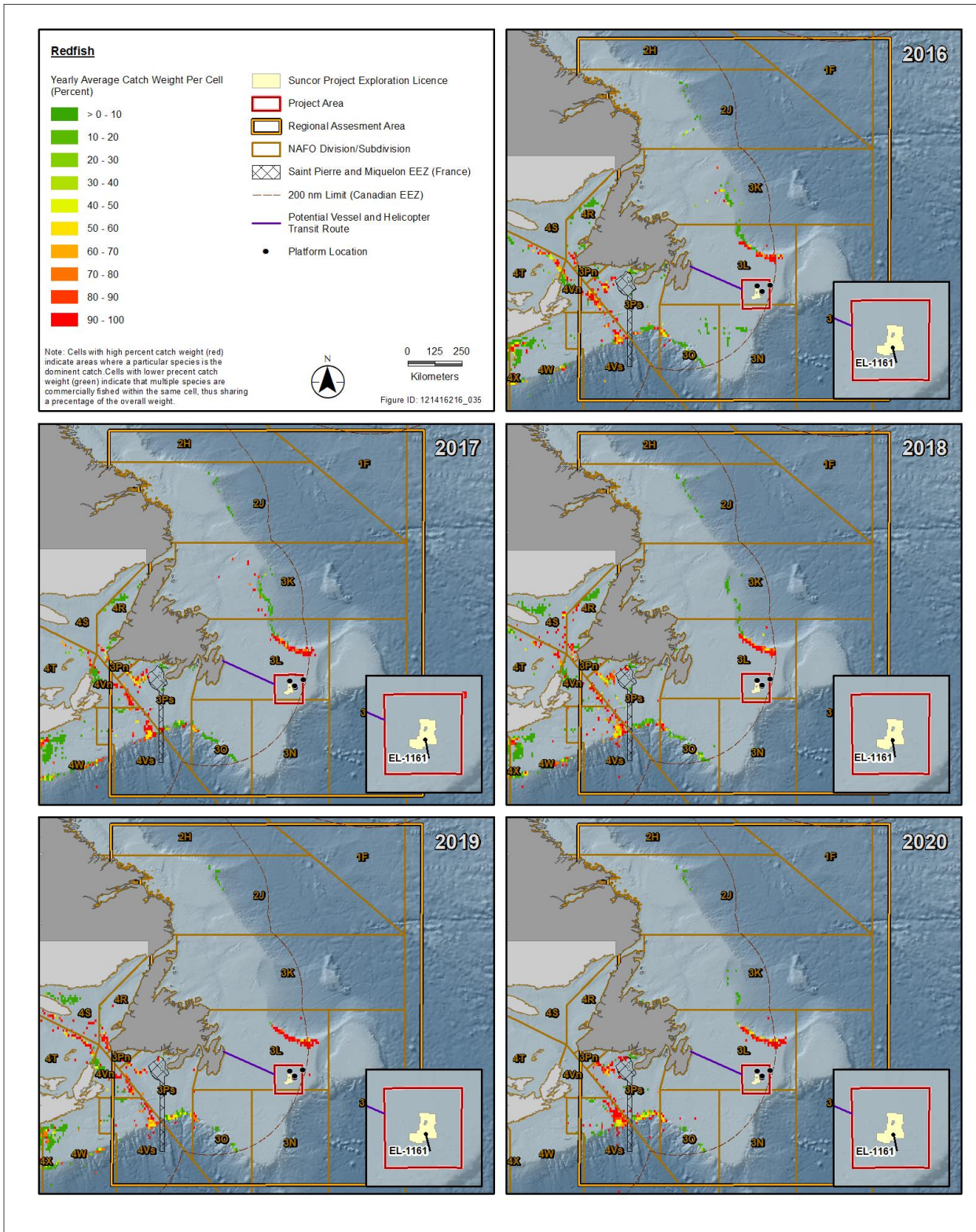


Figure 7-13 Domestic Commercial Fishing Activity, Redfish, 2016-2020



Atlantic Halibut

Atlantic halibut is managed by DFO. For areas that overlap with the RAA, there is a single stock that spans the Scotian Shelf and Southern Grand Bank (3NOPs4VWX5Zc), as well as one located in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence along the Western Coast of NL (4RST). The most recent stock assessment was carried out in 2018 by DFO and indicated that Atlantic halibut was in a healthy state (DFO 2018). Key locations for harvesting of Atlantic halibut within the RAA include the NL shelves area near the top of the nose of the Grand Banks (Figure 7-14), which shows that Atlantic halibut have not been commercially fished in the Project Area. The location of harvesting activities for Atlantic halibut reflect those for other groundfish species as there is a high occurrence of bycatch of these species from the Atlantic halibut fishery.

7.2.4.2 Shellfish

Shellfish species harvested within the RAA mainly include northern shrimp, snow crab, and lobster. Between 2016 and 2020, northern shrimp accounted for 36% of the weight and 34% of the value for shellfish species harvested by domestic fleets (Tables 7.9 and 7.10). Snow crab accounted for 31% of the weight and 52% of the value. Other shellfish species, including spider crab, rock crab, and Aesop shrimp were also harvested from 2016 to 2020 but in much smaller amounts, and combined account for only 3% of the weight and <1% of the value. Snow crab, northern shrimp, and lobster are discussed in more detail below.

Table 7.9 Catch Weight (t) for Shellfish Species Commercially Fished within NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA, 2016-2020

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Weight
Lobster	88,932	95,766	7,865	7,752	5,433	205,748	29%
Crab, Spider / Toad	535	523	287	0	0	1,345	<1%
Shrimp, <i>Pandalus borealis</i>	91,177	66,674	29,048	15,579	16,474	218,953	31%
Crab, Atlantic Rock	4,649	4,166	126	37	42	9,020	1%
Crab, Queen / Snow	81,175	91,090	30,956	31,382	33,223	267,826	38%
Shrimp, <i>Pandalus montagui</i>	577	1,005	339	0	0	1,921	<1%
Total	267,045	259,224	68,621	54,751	55,172	704,813	100%



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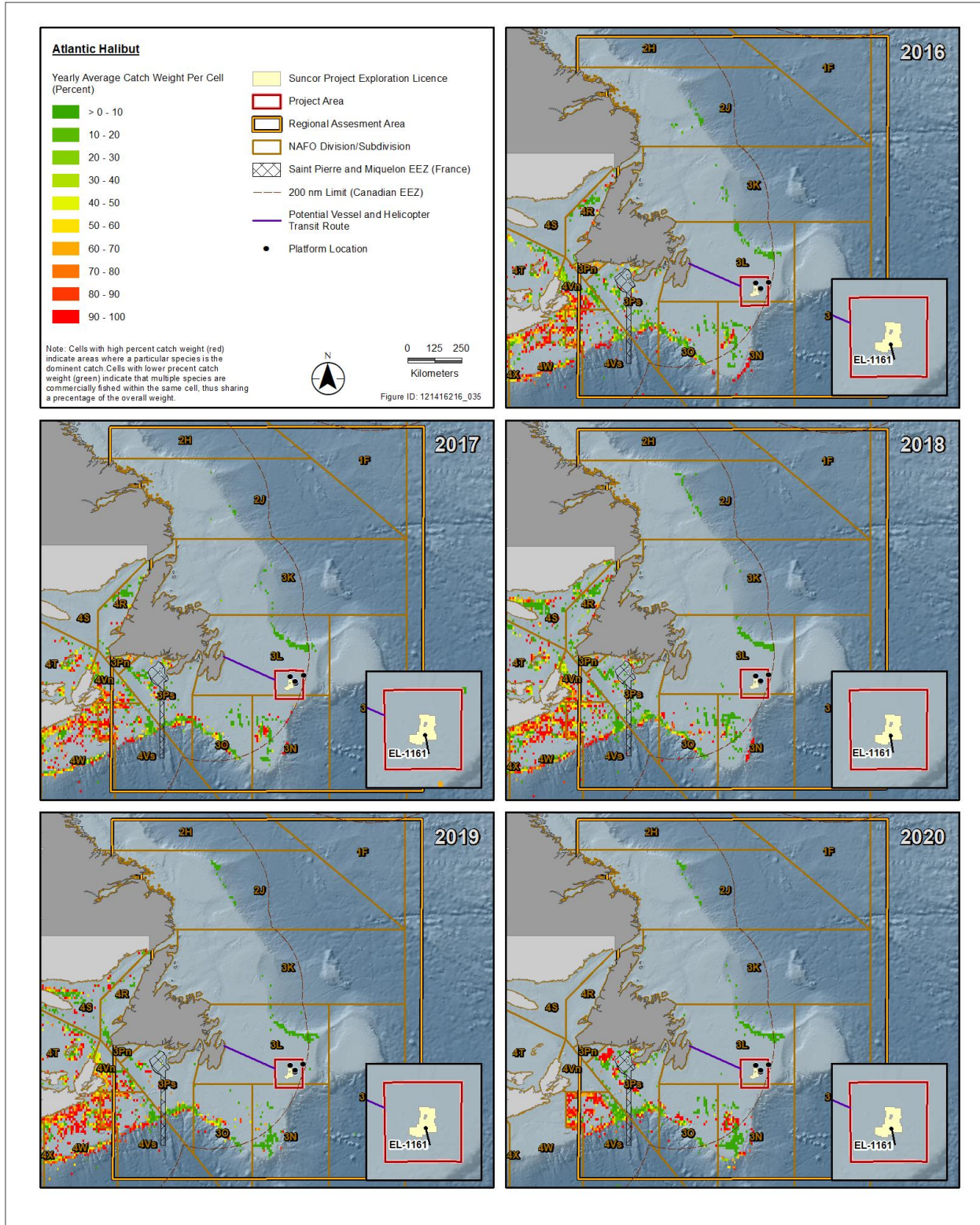


Figure 7-14 Domestic Commercial Fishing Activity, Atlantic Halibut, 2016-2020



Table 7.10 Catch Value (CAD) for Shellfish Species Commercially Fished within NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA, 2016-2020

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Weight
Lobster	\$81,320,303	\$111,351,811	\$113,703,557	\$109,627,405	\$65,367,698	\$481,370,773	19%
Crab, Spider / Toad	\$115,595	\$379,587	\$316,491	\$0	\$0	\$811,674	<1%
Shrimp, Pandalus Borealis	\$192,819,622	\$113,262,439	\$130,699,138	\$64,220,272	\$60,756,239	\$561,757,709	22%
Crab, Atlantic Rock	\$15,529	\$141,736	\$188,370	\$71,598	\$85,880	\$503,113	0%
Crab, Queen / Snow	\$304,511,759	\$356,099,670	\$327,801,992	\$251,424,740	\$256,737,472	\$1,496,575,633	59%
Shrimp, Pandalus Montagu	\$1,699,357	\$621,000	\$1,535,316	\$0	\$0	\$3,855,674	<1%
Total	\$580,482,165	\$581,856,243	\$574,244,863	\$425,344,015	\$382,947,289	\$2,544,874,576	100%

Snow Crab

Snow crab are harvested using crab pots, which are set along the seabed using buoys and markers to indicate their location. A quota system is in place for the snow crab fishery and the fishery is managed in units called Crab Management Areas (CMAs) (Figure 7-15). Each NAFO Division contains multiple CMAs, each with its own fleet sectors based on vessel size, quotas, and start and end dates. As mentioned in Section 7.2.1, DFO maintains jurisdiction over commercial fish species within Canada’s 200 NM EEZ, and all sedentary species that occur across the extent of Canada’s continental shelf, which would include management of snow crab stocks both within and outside of the EEZ. Domestic harvesting locations for snow crab from 2016 to 2020 are shown in Figure 7-16. Commercial fishing activity for snow crab has occurred within the Project Area from 2016 to 2020, mainly concentrated in the southeast corner of the Project Area. Minimal harvesting for snow crab has also occurred within EL 1161 in 2015 and 2016. More information on quantity and values of commercial fishing in the Project Area can be found in Section 7.2.6.

The most recent (2019) DFO assessment of snow crab (DFO 2021a) indicated total landings of snow crab in offshore NL (2HJ3KLNOP4R) peaked in 2009 at 53,500 t, and then declined to their lowest level in 25 years (total 26,400 t in 2019). The overall exploitable biomass of snow crab increased in 2017-2018, but remains at historic lows (DFO 2021a). Snow crab landings in NAFO Divisions 2HJ have remained low, at less than 1,700 t for the previous six years, landings in NAFO Division 3K remained relatively low in the previous four year (6,000 t in 2019), and landings in 3LNO Offshore were the lowest level in two decades (<13,000 t in 2019), due to reductions in the TAC (DFO 2021a). TACs for 2022 are shown in Table 7.11.



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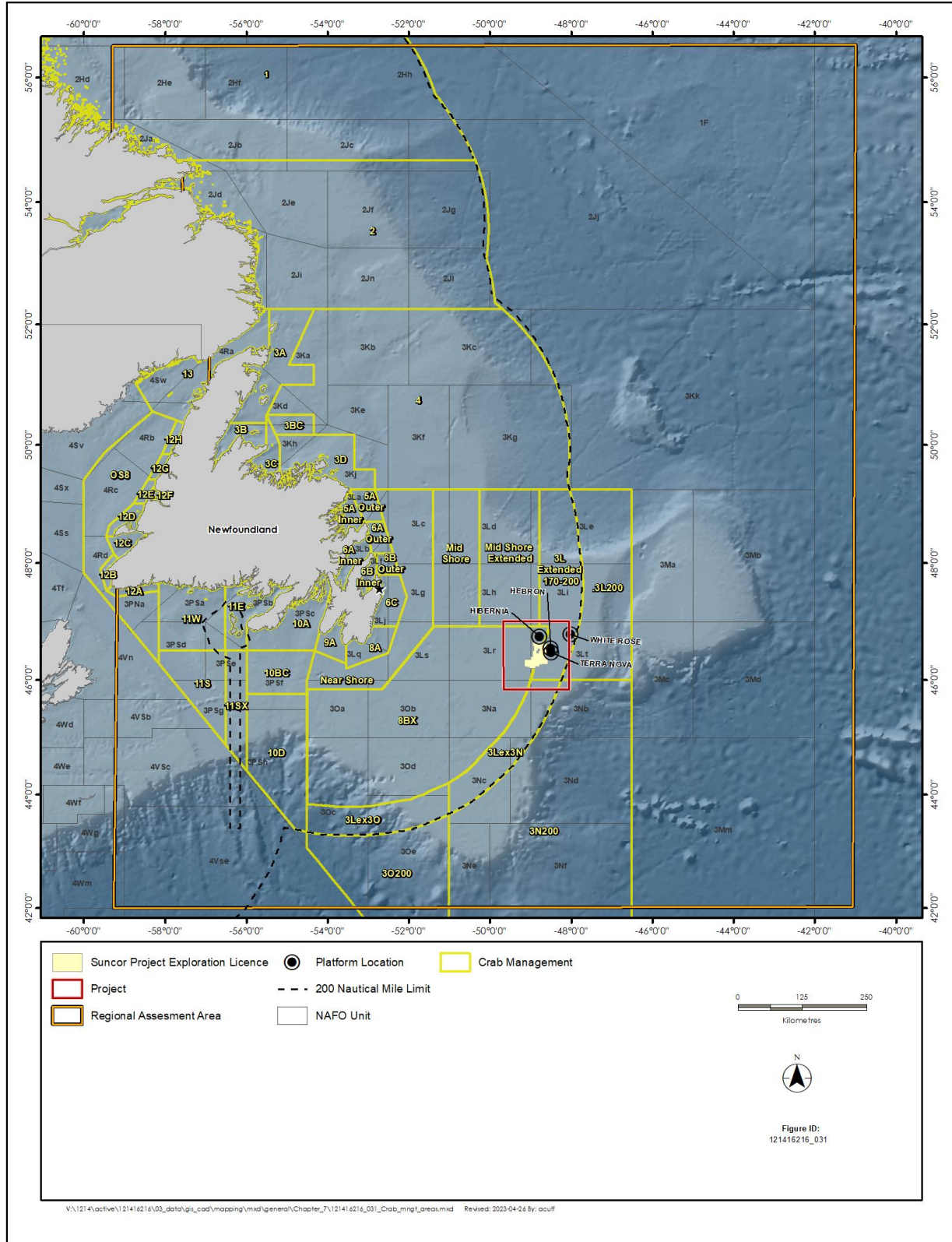


Figure 7-15 Crab Management Areas



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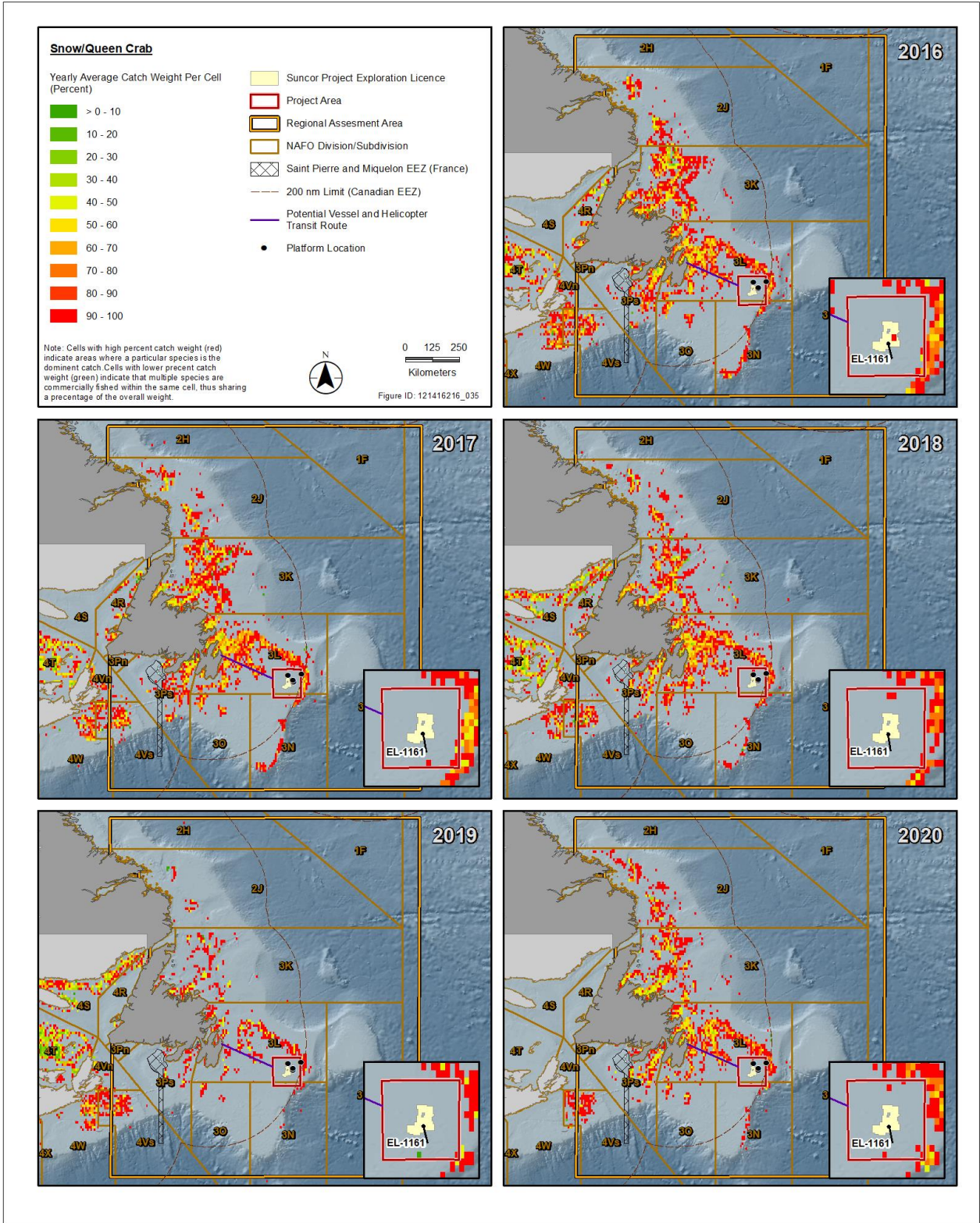


Figure 7-16 Domestic Commercial Fishing Activity, Snow Crab, 2016-2020



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Table 7.11 Total Allowable Catch for Snow Crab in Newfoundland and Labrador, 2022

Area	TAC (t)
2HJ	951
3K	9,840
3LNO	30,940
3Ps	7,768
4R3Pn	522
CPS Trap Survey	450
Total	50,470

Source: DFO 2022b

Table 7.12 shows the cumulative catch weight and values for snow crab for 2016-2020 for NAFO Divisions that overlap with the RAA. The majority (58% of weight and 60% of value) of domestic commercial fishing activity for snow crab takes place in NAFO Division 3L, which also overlaps with the Project Area.

Table 7.12 Weight (t) and Value of Snow Crab within the RAA, 2016-2020

NAFO Division	Weight (t)	% Weight	Value (CAD)	% Value
3K	30,002	18%	\$252,009,727	18%
3L	101,401	60%	\$836,561,945	58%
3N	3,461	2%	\$26,693,960	2%
3O	3,698	2%	\$30,718,321	2%
3Ps	10,683	6%	\$88,350,148	6%
4R	371	0%	\$3,197,841	0%
4Vs	15,308	9%	\$142,518,134	10%
4Vn	5,213	3%	\$51,188,337	4%
Total	170,136	100%	\$1,431,238,412	100%

Northern Shrimp

Northern shrimp are also managed by DFO. Northern shrimp are harvested using modified trawls. TACs are allocated within Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFAs) (Figure 7-17; Table 7.13,). Table 7.13 also indicates the 2019 TAC for each shrimp stock that overlaps with the RAA.



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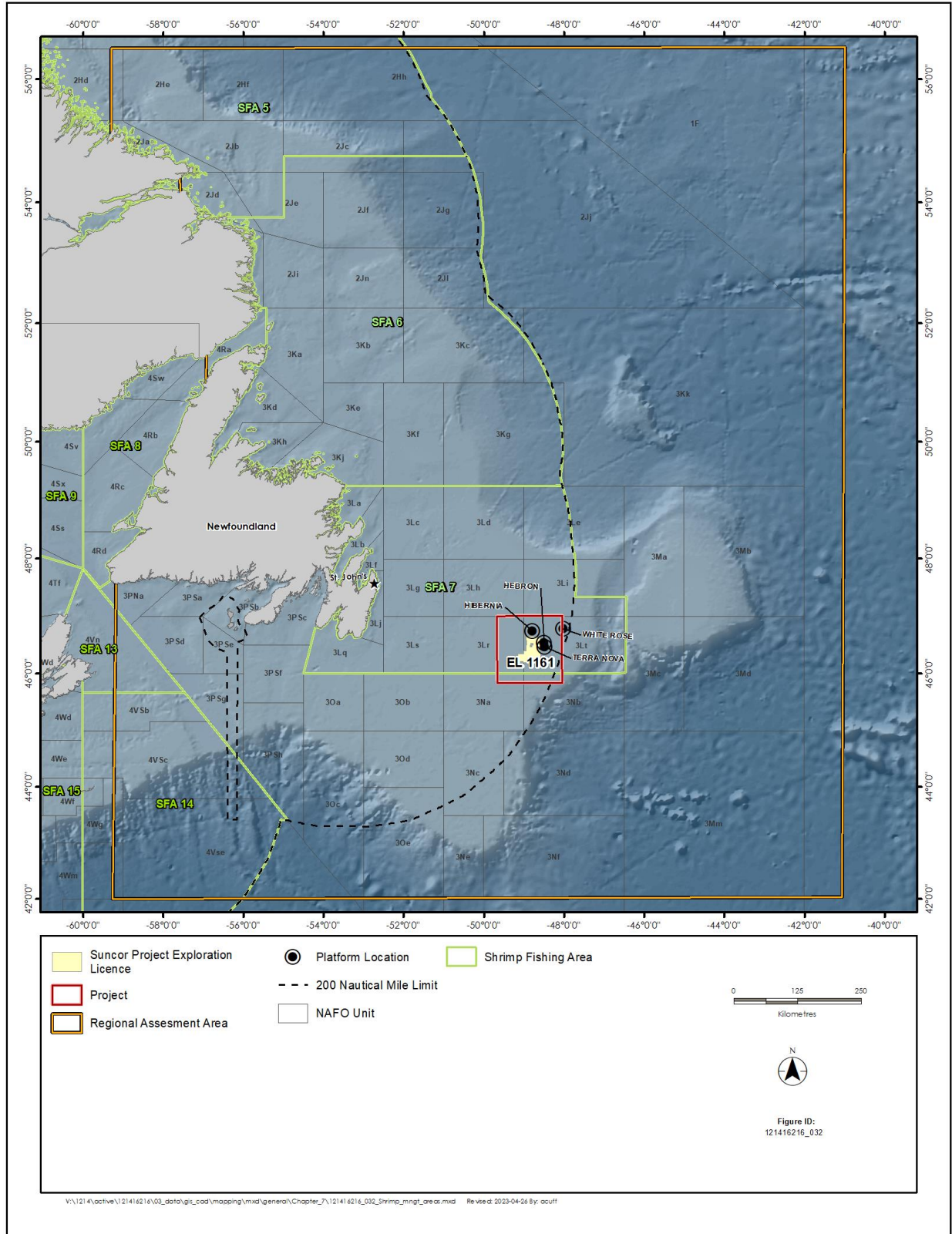


Figure 7-17 Shrimp Management Areas



Table 7.13 2019 TAC for Northern Shrimp

Stock	Managed By	TAC (t)
4	DFO (NL)	12,944 (2022-2023) ¹
5	DFO (NL)	14,200 (2022-2023) ¹
6	DFO (NL)	9,430 (2022-2023) ¹
7	DFO (NL)	Closed ²
8	DFO (NL / Gulf)	2, 980 (2022) ³
13, 14, 15, 16	DFO (Maritimes)	2,600 (2021) ⁴
Source: 1 DFO 2022c; 2 DFO 2021f; 3 DFO 2022d; 4 DFO 2022e		

Within SFA 5, shrimp stocks have been relatively healthy. Total fishable biomass in SFA 5 decreased by 20% from 2018 to 64,400 t in 2019; the female spawning stock biomass increased by 16% from 2018 to 63,700 t in 2019, among the lowest level in the 1996-2019 time series (DFO 2021b).

In SFA 6, the fishable biomass in SFA 6 declined 8% from 2018, to 82,900 t in 2019 (DFO 2021b). This was the lowest observed level between 1996 and 2019, where the total fishable biomass averaged 380,000 t. The female SSB also declined 25% from t in 2018, to 49,900 t in 2019. This was the lowest observed level from 1996 to 2019, where the female SSB averaged 238,000 t and within the critical zone (DFO 2021b).

SFA 7 has been closed to the shrimp fishery since 2016 as a conservation measure (DFO 2021g). NAFO has also prohibited directed fishing for northern shrimp in NAFO Division 3LNO (NAFO 2019) with a recommended directed fishery (5,338 t) in 3M (NAFO 2020). Domestic commercial fishing of northern shrimp from 2016 to 2020 is shown in Figure 7-18, which shows that northern shrimp have not been commercially fished in the Project Area. The closure in SFA 7 is reflected in the data as there is no fishing activity in that area beyond 2015. Shrimp fishing activity with the RAA mainly takes place along the Labrador and Fogo Shelves.

Although portions of SFA 8 overlap with the RAA, the area of commercial fishing activity for northern shrimp is not within the RAA (Figure 7-18).

Northern shrimp in SFAs 13, 14, and 15 are managed as one stock (DFO 2014). The SFA 13-15 stock is in a period of sustained high productivity characterized by high and stable catch rates and survey biomasses fluctuating at relatively high levels in response to variable recruitment (DFO 2021b).

The high intensity of activity along the Labrador and Fogo Shelves (SFAs 5 and 6) is reflected in Figure 7-18, as well as the closure in SFA 7 where there has been no fishing activity since 2016. In total, 92% of the weight and 94% of the value of all commercial fishing activity for northern shrimp within SFAs that overlap with the RAA occur in SFA 5 and 6 (Table 7.14).



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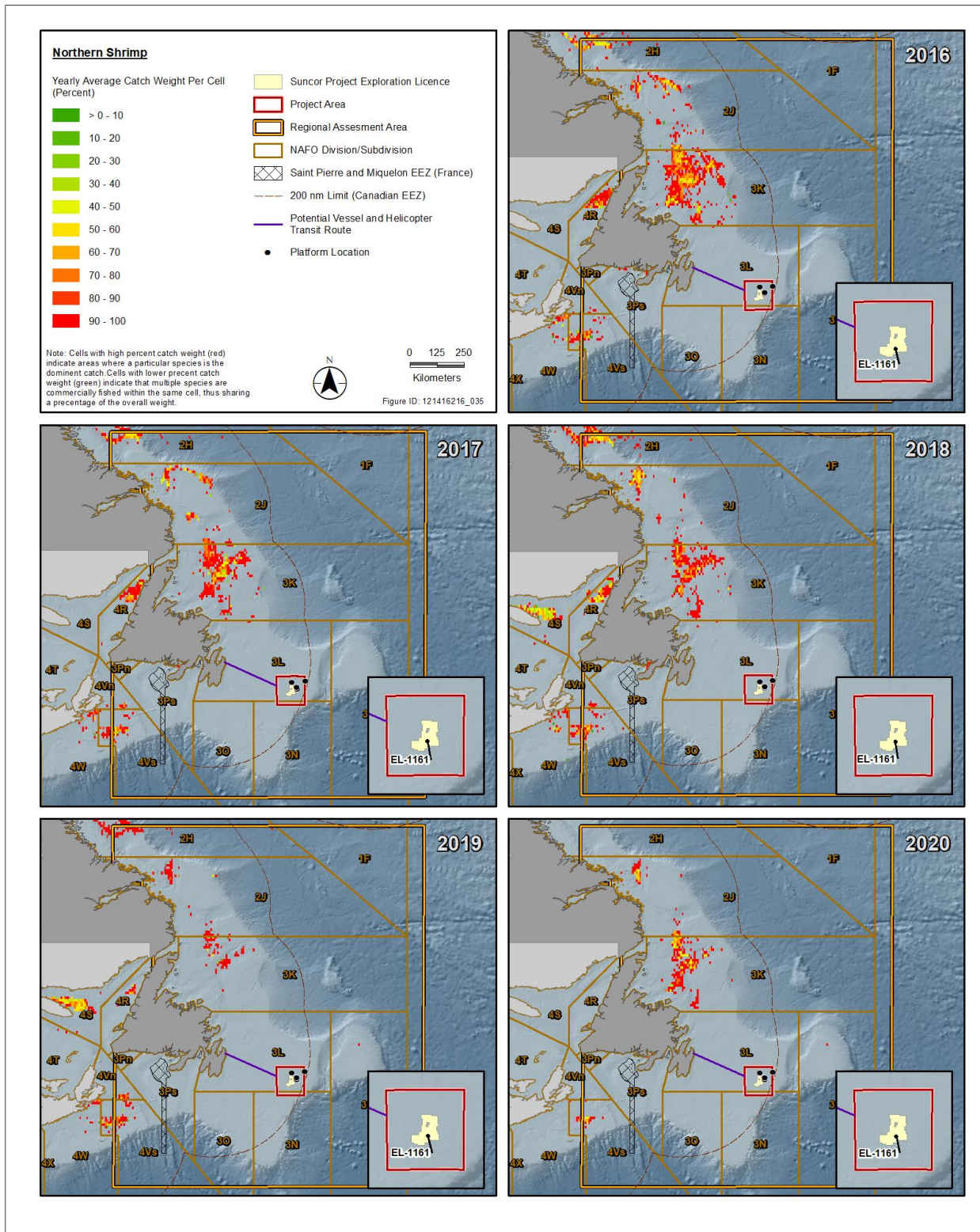


Figure 7-18 Domestic Commercial Fishing Activity, Northern Shrimp, 2016-2020



Table 7.14 Catch Weight (t) and Value (\$CAD) for Northern Shrimp within NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA, 2016-2020

NAFO Division	SFA	Weight (t)	% Weight	Value (CAD)	% Value
2H	5	48,798	36%	\$224,976,132	40%
2J	6	26,771	20%	\$120,799,781	22%
3K	7	48,387	36%	\$179,362,280	32%
4R	8	240	<1%	\$674,201	<1%
4Vn	13	2,619	2%	\$8,258,283	1%
4Vs	14	7,942	6%	\$27,687,031	5%
Total		134,757	100%	\$561,757,708	100%

Lobster

Most of the domestic commercial fishing activity for lobster occurs in NAFO Division 4Vn (71%, Table 7.15). Although this Division straddles the RAA, there are sections of it that are outside the RAA. The locations within 4Vn, where most of the lobster fishing occurs, are the inshore areas of Northern Cape Breton, which would be outside the RAA. Geo-spatial data are not available for lobster. Lobster fishing activity within the RAA is most intense in Division 3Ps, accounting for 18% of the weight and 16% of the value from 2016 to 2020.

Table 7.15 Catch Weight (t) and Value (\$CAD) for Lobster within NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA, 2016-2020

NAFO Division	Weight (t)	% Weight	Value (CAD)	% Value
3K	363,000	1%	\$4,304,116	1%
3L	476,000	2%	\$6,642,685	1%
3Ps	6,213,000	18%	\$76,176,342	16%
4R	1,496,000	4%	\$17,681,234	4%
4Vn	23,820,000	71%	\$361,979,937	75%
3Pn	1,247,000	4%	\$14,586,459	3%
Total	33,615,000	100%	\$481,370,773	100%

7.2.4.3 Molluscs

Table 7.16 indicates all species that have been harvested within the RAA between 2016 and 2020 and the NAFO Division(s) in which they were harvested. The majority of molluscs species harvested within the RAA by domestic fleets occur in NAFO Division 3Ps (see Figure 7-10). The catch weight and value for molluscs species in NAFO Division 3Ps between 2016 and 2020 are summarized in Tables 7.17 and 7.18, respectively. The tables indicate that sea cucumber account for most of the weight (76%) and value (61%) of mollusc species harvested in 3Ps. Sea scallops, Iceland scallop, and whelk are also harvested.



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Table 7.16 Mollusc Species Harvested within the RAA

Species	2H / 2J	3K	3L	3M / 3N / 3O	3Ps	4Vs / 4Vn / 4W / 4R / 3Pn
Clam, soft-shell						X
Clam, propeller				X		
Clam, Arctic surf				X		
Scallop, sea					x	X
Squid, Illex / Shortfin		X	X			X
Whelk	X	X	X		X	X
Cockle						
Scallop, Icelandic					X	X
Sea cucumber					X	
Squid, unspecified						X
Sea urchins		X	X			X

Table 7.17 Catch Weight (t) by Year for Molluscs Harvested in NAFO Division 3Ps, 2016-2020

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Weight
Scallop, sea	1,003	844	462	946	868	4,123	14%
Whelk	1,406	564	229	255	75	2,529	8%
Scallop, Iceland	48	301	163	55	52	620	2%
Sea cucumber	2,105	3,479	5,372	5,871	5,813	22,640	76%
Total	4,562	5,188	6,227	7,127	6,808	29,911	100%

Table 7.18 Value (\$CAD) by Year for Molluscs Harvested in NAFO Division 3Ps, 2016-2020

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Weight
Scallop, sea	\$3,001,324	\$2,333,279	\$1,084,326	\$2,065,822	\$1,690,495	\$10,175,246	21%
Whelk	\$3,695,598	\$1,698,436	\$622,851	\$741,309	\$199,327	\$6,957,522	14%
Scallop, Iceland	\$563,071	\$839,749	\$356,175	\$127,305	\$121,609	\$2,007,909	4%
Sea cucumber	\$2,300,705	\$3,819,541	\$7,192,750	\$9,124,799	\$7,048,699	\$29,486,494	61%
Total	\$9,560,699	\$8,691,006	\$9,256,103	\$12,059,234	\$9,060,129	\$48,627,171	100%

Arctic Surf Clams 4Vs and 3N

Commercial fishing for other mollusc species within the RAA, outside of 3Ps, include Arctic surf clams in NAFO Divisions 4Vs and 3N and in 3L in 2018 to 2020 (including inside the Project Area and EL 1161), as shown in Figure 7-19.



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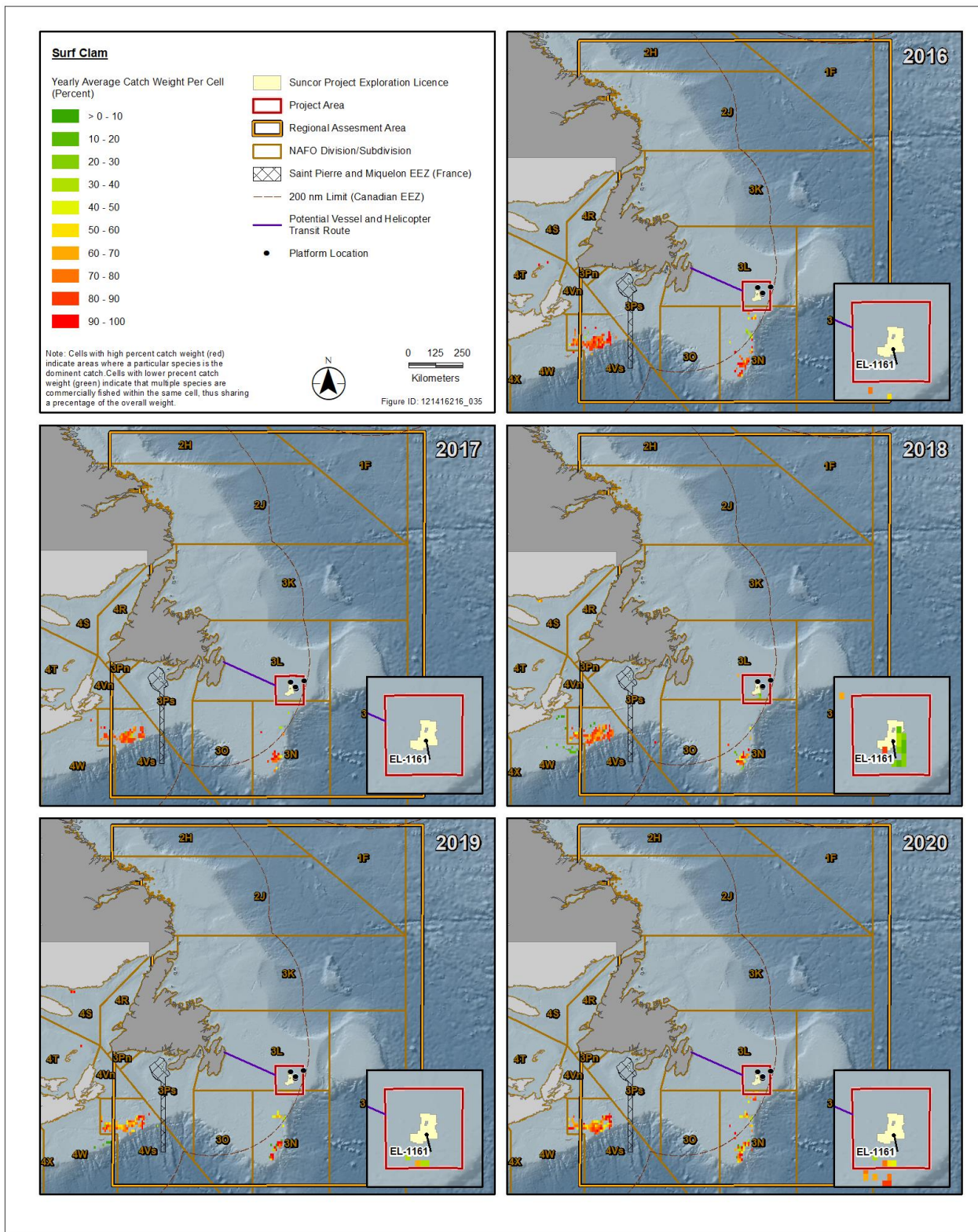


Figure 7-19 Domestic Commercial Fishing Activity, Surf Clam, 2016-2020



7.2.4.4 Small Pelagic

Small pelagic species that are commercially fished within the RAA and the NAFO Divisions / subdivision that they occur within are shown in Table 7.19. Capelin accounted for 80% of the catch weight and 79% of the values for domestic commercial fishing activity of small pelagic species between 2016 and 2020 (Tables 7.20 and 7.21). The location of commercial fishing activity for capelin is shown in Figure 7-20, which shows that capelin have not been commercially fished in the Project Area.

Table 7.19 Small Pelagic Species Commercially Fished within NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA

Species	3K	3L	3Ps	4Vn	4R
Herring, Atlantic	X	X	X	X	X
Mackerel	X			X	X
Alewife / Gaspereau				X	
Eels	X				
Capelin	X	X			X

Table 7.20 Catch Weight (t) of Small Pelagic Species Commercially Fished within NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA, 2016-2020

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Weight
Capelin	32,733	17,280	20,805	16,575	15,727	103,120	77%
Herring, Atlantic	7,297	4,510	3,866	876	3,606	20,155	15%
Mackerel	2,719	666	4,906	48	2,147	10,485	8%
Alewife / Gaspereau	29	25	20	17	42	134	<1%
Eels	10	0	31	0	0	41	<1%
Total	42,778	22,481	29,597	17,517	21,521	133,935	100%

Table 7.21 Value of Small Pelagic Species Commercially Fished within NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA, 2016-2020

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Weight
Capelin	\$12,050,360	\$5,484,923	\$7,786,146	\$15,347,580	\$9,673,218	\$50,342,226	79%
Herring, Atlantic	\$2,188,221	\$1,611,379	\$1,309,180	\$291,303	\$1,257,224	\$6,657,306	10%
Mackerel	\$1,633,766	\$483,926	\$3,219,531	\$91,316	\$1,365,576	\$6,794,114	11%
Alewife / Gaspereau	\$28,250	\$26,931	\$24,181	\$21,881	\$37,405	\$138,648	<1%
Eels	\$10,276	\$0	\$30,892	\$0	\$0	\$41,168	<1%
Total	15,900,597	7,607,158	12,339,037	15,752,079	12,333,423	63,973,465	100%



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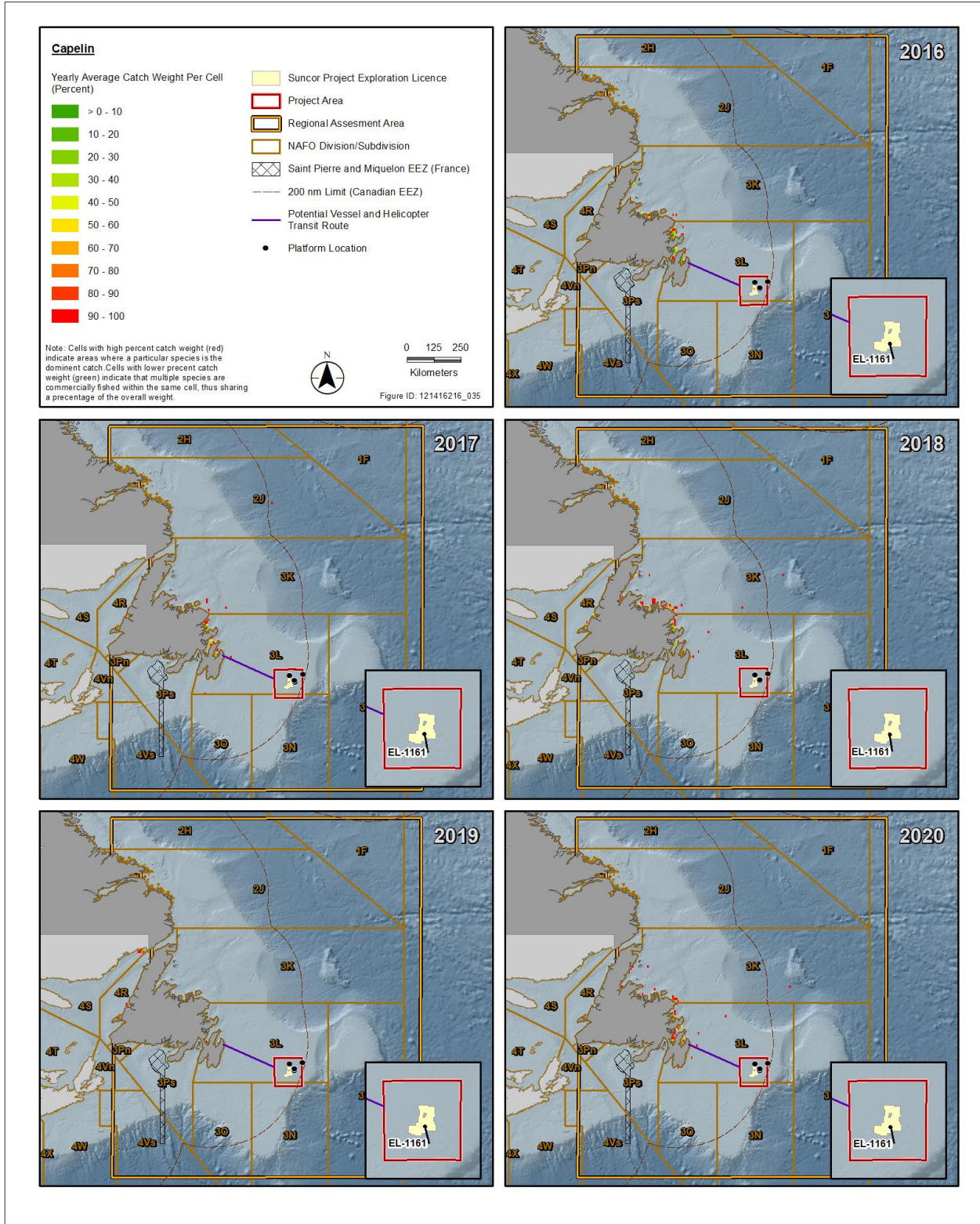


Figure 7-20 Domestic Commercial Fishing Activity, Capelin, 2016-2020



7.2.4.5 Large Pelagic

Management of highly migratory species, which include tuna, swordfish, sharks, and billfish, is enforced by NOAA. In the Atlantic Ocean, NOAA develops and implements fishery management plans, monitors commercial and recreational catches, ensures compliance with domestic and international quotas, and issues permits for commercial and recreational fishing of Highly Migratory Species (NOAA 2022). The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas work closely with NOAA and provides stock assessments for tuna, marlin, and swordfish species, and provides scientific advice for management of stocks. Large pelagic species and the NAFO Divisions where domestic fishing for these species occur are shown in Table 7.22 for 2016-2020. Most (74% weight, 76% of value) of the commercial fishing activity for large pelagic species is for swordfish, followed by tuna species (Tables 7.23 and 7.24). The location of commercial fishing activity for these species from 2016-2020 are shown in Figures 7-21 and 7-22, which shows that swordfish and tuna have not been commercially fished in the Project Area. There are also several Indigenous groups that hold commercial communal licenses for tuna in NAFO Divisions 2, 3 and 4. More information on commercial communal fishing can be found in Section 7.3.

Table 7.22 Large Pelagic Species Commercially Fished in NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA

Species	3O	3Ps	4Vs	4W
Swordfish	X		X	X
Tuna, albacore			X	X
Tuna, bigeye			X	X
Tuna, bluefin		X	X	X
Tuna, yellowfin			X	X
Mahi mahi / Dolphinfinh				X
Shark, porbeagle			X	X
Shark, mako	X		X	X



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Table 7.23 Catch Weight (t) of Large Pelagic Species Commercially Fished within NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA, 2016-2020

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Weight
Swordfish	480	304	338	379	576	2,078	76%
Tuna, albacore	6	5	7	9	1	27	1%
Tuna, bigeye	79	55	84	81	10	309	11%
Tuna, bluefin	36	9	26	29	50	150	5%
Tuna, yellowfin	7	30	6	17	1	61	2%
Mahi mahi / Dolphinfin	2	7	1	4	0	14	1%
Shark, Mako	34	34	26	14	0	108	4%
Total	646	445	487	533	638	2,747	100%

Table 7.24 Value (\$CAD) of Large Pelagic Species Commercially Fished within NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA, 2016-2020

Species	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Weight
Swordfish	\$5,641,308	\$3,257,782	\$4,395,800	\$4,926,595	\$973,966	\$19,195,451	77%
Tuna, albacore	\$21,096	\$10,664	\$15,267	\$22,308	\$2,489	\$71,823	<%
Tuna, bigeye	\$867,809	\$453,315	\$684,749	\$652,390	\$98,502	\$2,756,765	11%
Tuna, bluefin	\$391,047	\$155,824	\$340,199	\$367,834	\$638,011	\$1,892,915	8%
Tuna, yellowfin	\$45,241	\$261,997	\$43,775	\$143,046	\$4,933	\$498,992	2%
Mahi mahi / Dolphinfin	\$7,115	\$56,462	\$11,201	\$31,841	\$0	\$106,619	<1%
Shark, Mako	\$117,912	\$114,602	\$94,753	\$52,757	\$0	\$380,024	2%
Total	\$7,091,528	\$4,310,645	\$5,585,744	\$6,196,772	\$1,717,901	\$24,902,590	100%



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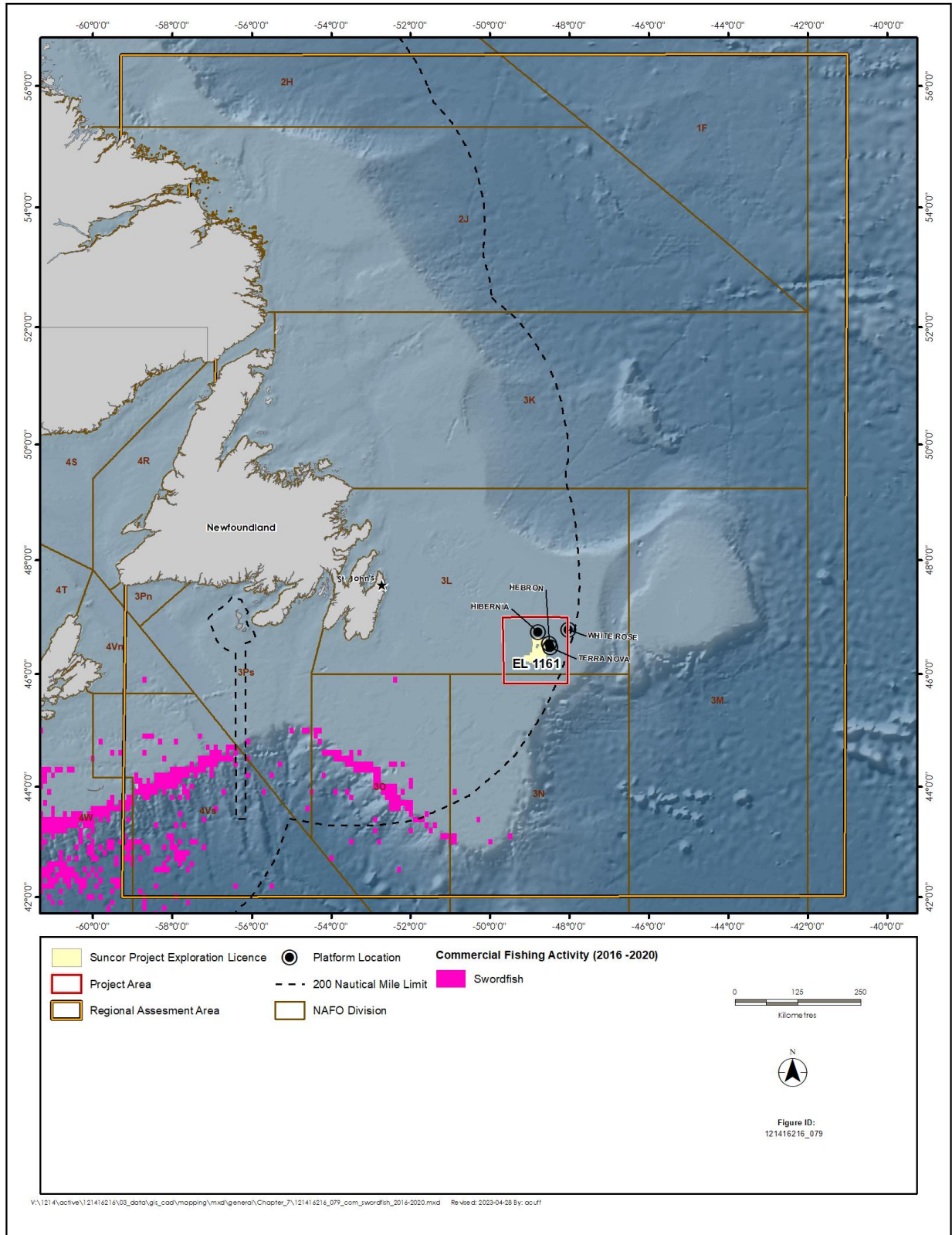


Figure 7-21 Domestic Commercial Fishing Activity, Swordfish, 2016-2020



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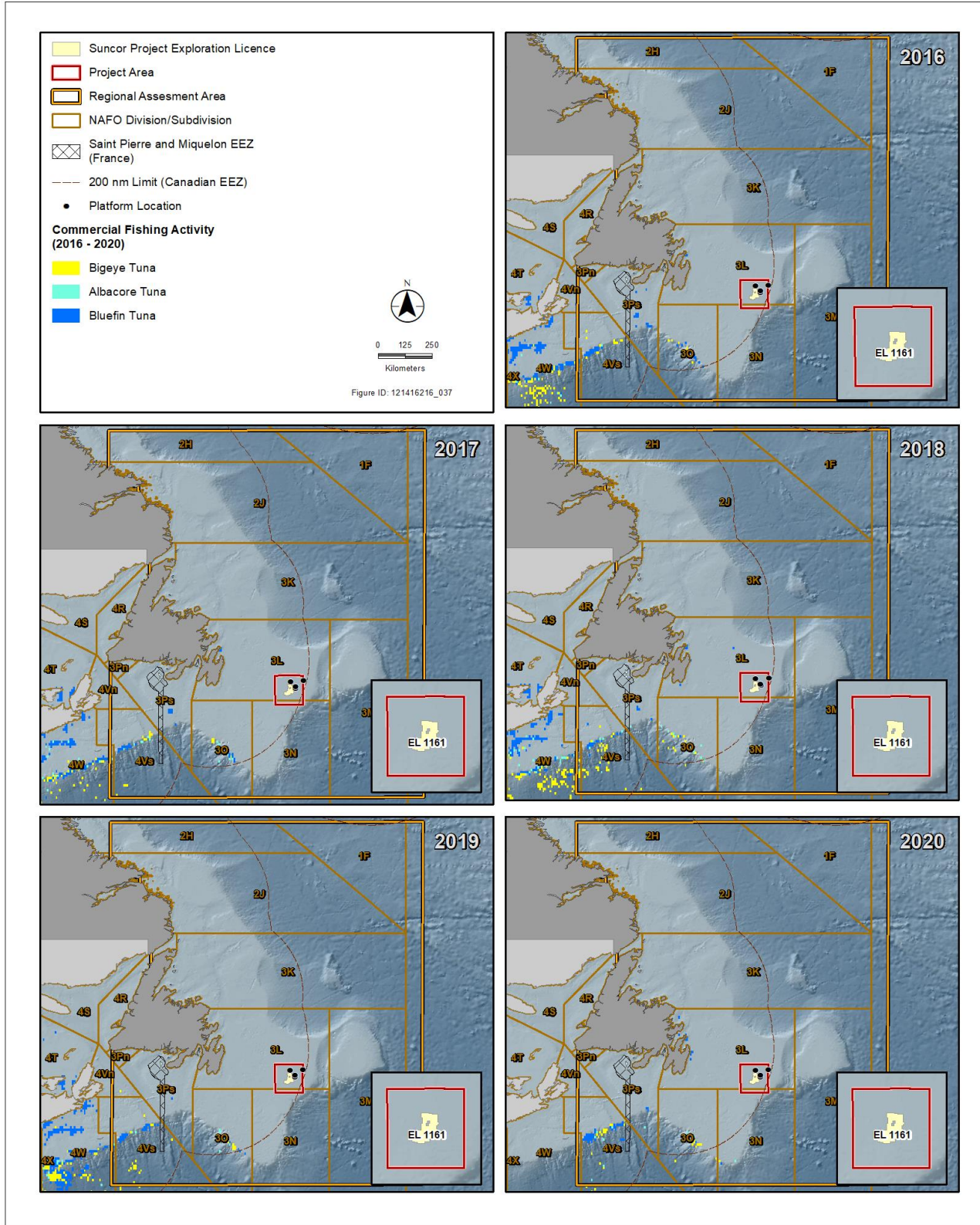


Figure 7-22 Domestic Commercial Fishing Activity, Tuna Species, 2016-2020



7.2.5 Current Overview of Foreign Commercial Fishing Activity (2016-2020)

Although the majority of all fishing activity by catch weight within NAFO Divisions that overlap with the RAA is attributed to domestic fleets (Figure 7-23), commercial fishing activity by non-domestic fleets also occurs in the RAA. These include fleets from Saint Pierre and Miquelon and other NAFO nations (excluding Canada and Saint Pierre and Miquelon), and each account for 1% and 25% of the total catch weight, respectively. The types of species fished by each nation and their locations are discussed below. Geospatial (i.e., location) data are not available for these fleets and information is summarized by NAFO Division or Subdivision only.

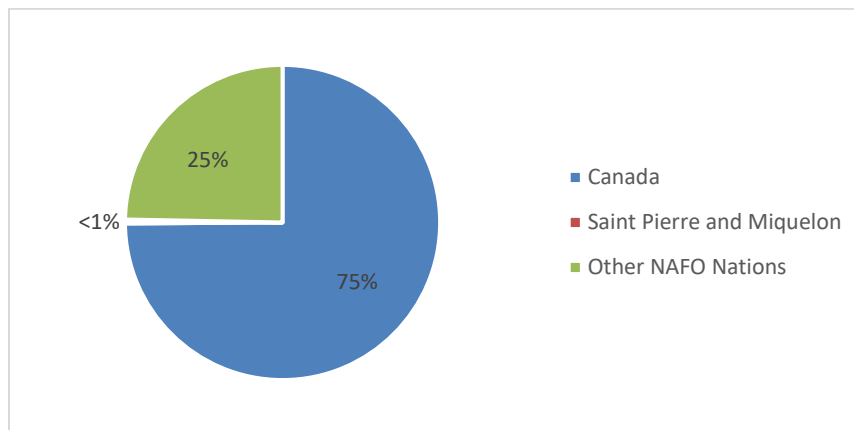


Figure 7-23 Catch Weight (t) by Domestic and Foreign Fleets within NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA

7.2.5.1 Saint Pierre and Miquelon

Most (96%, Table 7.25) of the catch weight of commercial fishing activity by fleets from Saint Pierre and Miquelon from 2016 to 2020 were for groundfish. A breakdown of groundfish stocks that are permitted to be fished by fleets from Saint Pierre and Miquelon and the NAFO divisions in which they apply are noted in Table 7.26, as derived from quota sharing agreements noted in Section 7.2.1.3 (see Tables 7.3 and 7.4).

Table 7.25 Species Groups Commercially Fished by Saint Pierre and Miquelon, 2016-2020

Species Group	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Weight
Groundfish	1,950	1,368	996	720	X	5,034	96%
Molluscs	0	7	57	9	X	73	1%
Shellfish	0	0	113	0	X	113	2%
Small pelagic	3	4	1	0	X	8	<1%
Total	1,953	1,379	1,167	729	X	5,228	100%

*Note: As of May 2022, Saint Pierre and Miquelon data for 2020 were not included in the data download from NAFO.



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Table 7.26 Groundfish Species Permitted to be Fished by Fleets from Saint Pierre and Miquelon

Species	Stock	Managing Body	Status	2019 TAC
American plaice	3Ps	DFO NL	Bycatch only	N/A
Atlantic cod	4RS-3Pn	DFO GULF	Active	349
	3Ps	DFO NL	Active	5, 900
Greenland halibut	2GHJ3K	NAFO	Bycatch only	N/A
Redfish	3O	NAFO	Active	20, 000 t
	Unit II*	DFO NL	Active	8, 500
Witch flounder	3Pn	DFO NL	Active	650
Grenadier	2+3	DFO NL	Bycatch only	N/A
Silver hake	4VWX+5	DFO M	Active	15, 000

7.2.5.2 Other NAFO Nations

Other NAFO Nations account for 25% of the total harvested catch weight between 2016 and 2020 (see Figure 7-23). Of the 26%, most (94%) is attributed to groundfish species (Table 7.27). Groundfish stocks that are managed by NAFO and the Divisions in which they apply are listed in Table 7.28. Over 90% of commercial fishing activity by NAFO fleets happens within the Fishing Footprint (Figure 7-1) (NAFO 2022). Fleets from Portugal and Spain are the two most active, accounting for 32% and 28% of the harvested weight, respectively, from 2016 to 2020, followed by Russia (15%), Estonia (7%), and Faroe Islands and Greenland (5% each) (Table 7.29).

Table 7.27 Catch Weight (t) by Species Group Harvested by Fleets from Other NAFO Nations, within NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA (Excluding 1F), 2016-2020

Species Group	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Weight
Groundfish	56,746	58,768	55,296	65,831	60,579	297,220	94%
Molluscs	19	41	181	203	774	1,218	< 1%
Shellfish	--	313	3	--	188	504	< 1%
Small pelagic	20	15	24	6	9	74	< 1%
Large Pelagic	3,208	5,025	4,823	2,380	2,005	17,441	6%
Total	59,993	64,162	60,327	68,420	63,555	316,457	100%



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Table 7.28 Stocks Managed and Commercially Fished by NAFO

Species	Stock	Managing Body	Status	2019 TAC
American plaice	3LNO	NAFO	Bycatch only	N/A
	3M	NAFO	Bycatch only	N/A
Atlantic cod	3M	NAFO	Active	17,500 t
	3NO	NAFO	Bycatch only	N/A
Greenland halibut	3LMNO	NAFO	Active	12,242 t
Redfish	3LN	NAFO	Active	18,000 t
	3O	NAFO	Active	20,000 t
	3M	NAFO	Active	10,500 t
Witch flounder	3NO	NAFO	Bycatch only	N/A
Thorny skate	3LNO	NAFO	Active	7,000 t
White hake	3NO	NAFO	Active	1,000 t
Yellowtail flounder	3LNO	NAFO	Active	17,000 t

Table 7.29 Total Catch Weight (t) and Percent Weight for Other NAFO Nations for NAFO Divisions that Overlap with the RAA, 2016-2020

Country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	% Weight
Portugal	18,221	19,448	18,330	22,633	22,765	101,397	32%
Spain	16,334	19,066	17,561	18,151	17,889	89,001	28%
Russia	8,799	7,824	8,494	10,104	11,804	47,025	15%
Estonia	3,284	4,740	5,556	5,501	2,737	21,818	7%
Faroe Islands	3,462	3,362	3,356	4,617	2,532	17,329	5%
Norway	1,350	1,253	1,046	1,685	808	6,142	2%
Japan	2,409	2,595	2,990	2,786	1,764	12,544	4%
United States of America	1,132	971	252	0	0	2,355	1%
United Kingdom	1,209	1,155	0	0	0	2,364	1%
Greenland	3,793	3,748	2,742	2,943	3,256	16,482	5%
Total	59,993	64,162	60,327	68,420	63,555	316,457	100%

Large pelagic species are also harvested within the RAA. The main species is great blue shark, accounting for 79% of the total catch weight of large pelagic species between 2016 and 2020 (Figure 7-24). Most (79%) of the total catch weight for great blue shark was caught in NAFO Divisions 3N and 3M (Figure 7-25).



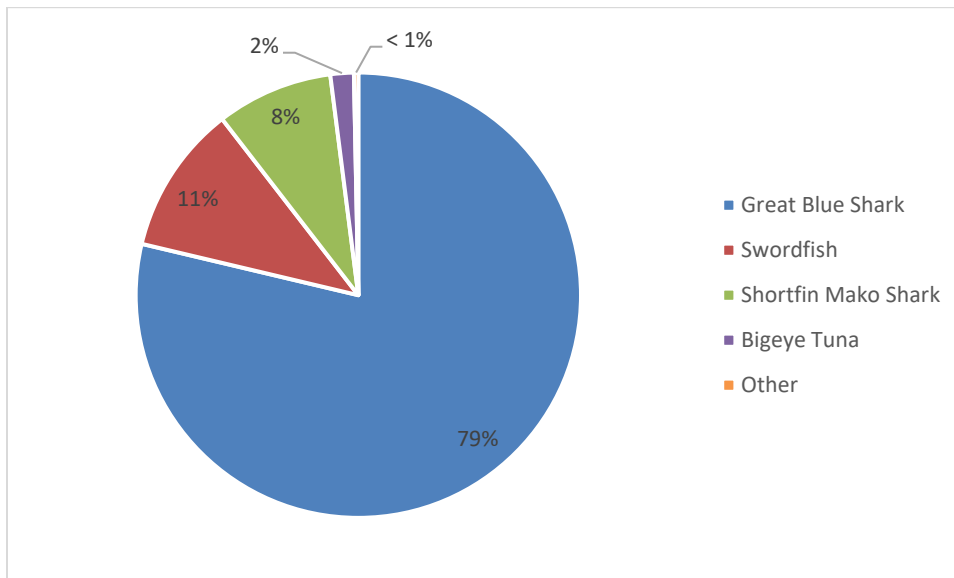


Figure 7-24 Large Pelagic Species Harvested by NAFO Fleets within NAFO Division 3MNO and 4Vs, 2016-2020

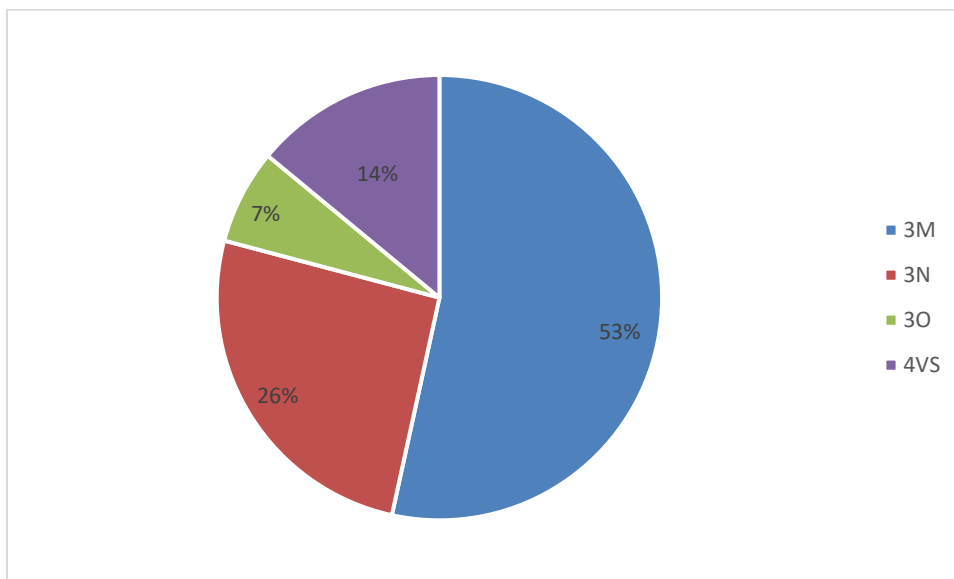


Figure 7-25 Location of Harvest for Great Blue Shark by NAFO Fleets, 2016-2120

The RAA also overlaps with NAFO Division 1F, which is exclusively fished by fleets from Greenland. Commercial fishing activity in 1F is assumed to be within the Greenland EEZ along the shelf edge closer to the shoreline where suitable habitat for groundfish stocks are located (Government of Greenland 2017).



7.2.6 Current Overview of Domestic Commercial Fishing Activity in the Project Area (2016-2020)

The Project Area intersects Unit Areas 3Lr, 3Lt, 3Na, and 3Nb. Focusing on the data within these Unit Areas provides a context for commercial fishing activity that occurs within the Project Area. From 2016 to 2020, the total catch weight decreased from 1,917 t to 648 t, a decrease of 66% (Table 7.30, Figure 7-26). During the same time period, the value decreased from \$12,606,376 to \$4,935,883, a change of 61% (Table 7.30, Figure 7-27). Commercial fishing activity for snow crab has occurred within the Project Area from 2016 to 2020 and within EL 1161 in 2016. In 2018, commercial fishing activity for propeller clam, Stimpson’s surf clam and cockle occurred. The Project Area slightly overlaps with the NRA and Fishing Footprint and commercial fishing activity by other NAFO Nations may occur within the Project Area, although most of the commercial fishing activity is on the Flemish Cap and the slope areas of the edge of the Grand Banks.

Table 7.30 Weight (t) and Value (CAD) within NAFO Unit Areas that Overlap with the Project Area, All Species, 2016-2020

Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Weight (t)	1,917	579	1,548	112	648
Value (CAD)	\$12,606,376	\$2,229,267	\$6,273,607	\$855,967	\$4,935,883

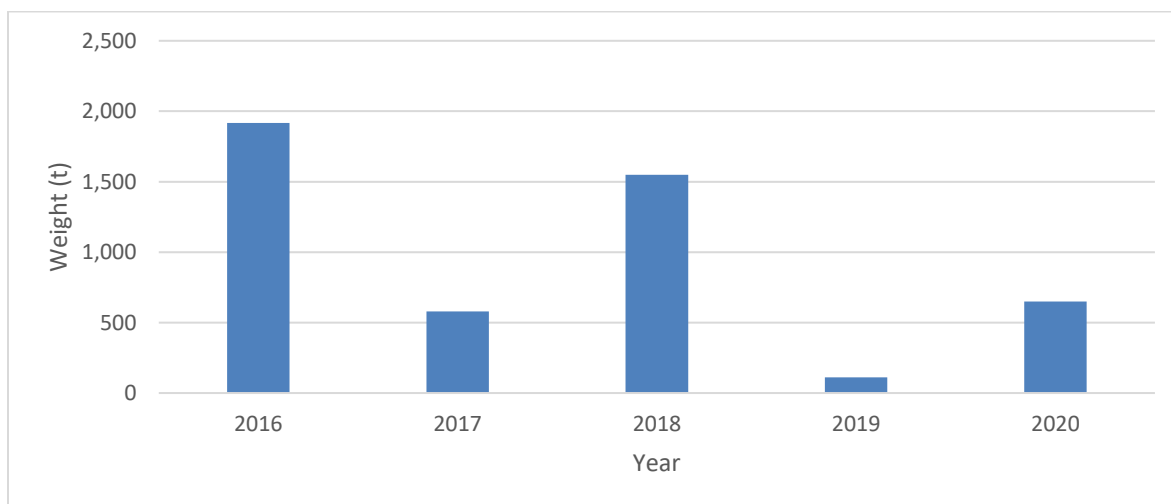


Figure 7-26 Catch Weight (t) within NAFO Unit Areas that Overlap with the Project Area, All Species, 2016-2020



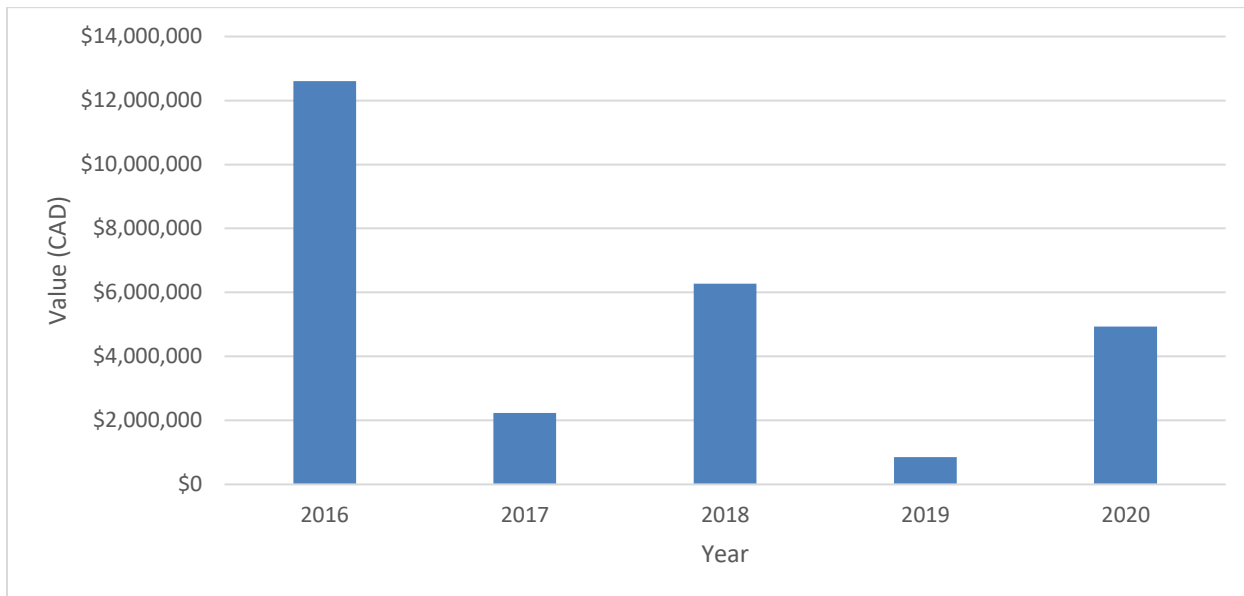


Figure 7-27 Value (CAD) within NAFO Unit Areas that Overlap with the Project Area, All Species, 2016-2020

7.2.7 Areas with Fishery Restrictions and/or Closures

There are several areas in the RAA that are currently closed to all or some commercial fishing activity, as conservation measures, or special area designation. All together, areas with restricted access cover 15% of the RAA. These restrictions are outlined in Table 7.31 and Figure 7-28. More detailed information on these areas can be found in Chapter 6 in the Special Areas section (Section 6.4).



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Table 7.31 Fishery Closure or Restriction Areas in the RAA

Closure Name	Closure Type	Jurisdiction	Fishery Restrictions	Dates of Imposed Restrictions	Source
Hawke Channel	Marine Refuge	DFO	Prohibits use of commercial fishing activity using bottom trawl, gillnet and longline	2018-present	DFO 2021g
Funk Island Deep			Prohibits use of commercial fishing activity using bottom trawl, gillnet and longline	2018-present	
Northeast Newfoundland Slope			All bottom fishing activities	2018-present	
Division 3O Coral			All bottom fishing activities	2018-present	
Hopedale Saddle			All bottom fishing activities	2018-present	
Lobster Closure Areas			Closed to all fishing of Lobster	2018-present	
Shrimp Fishing Area 7	Shrimp Fishing Area	DFO	Closed to all fishing of Northern shrimp	2016-present	DFO 2021f
Gilbert Bay	Marine Protected Area	DFO	Closed to commercial fishing activity using gillnets; no commercial fishing of cod is permitted	2005-present	DFO 2020d
Eastport		DFO	All commercial and recreational fishing activities	2005 - present	
Laurentian Channel		DFO	All commercial and recreational fishing activities	2019 - Present	
Gully		DFO	All commercial and recreational fishing activities	2004 - Present	
St. Ann's Bank		DFO	All commercial and recreational fishing activities	2017 - present	
Coral, Sponge and Seapen Closure	VME Closure Area	NAFO	All bottom fishing activities	2015 - present	NAFO 2023
Seamount Closure	VME Closure Area	NAFO	All bottom fishing activities	2015 - present	
Shrimp Closure	Conservation Measure	NAFO	Closed to all fishing of northern shrimp	2017-present	NAFO 2022a
Snow Crab Conservation	Exclusion Zones	DFO	Closed to all fishing of snow crab	2018-present	DFO 2019b



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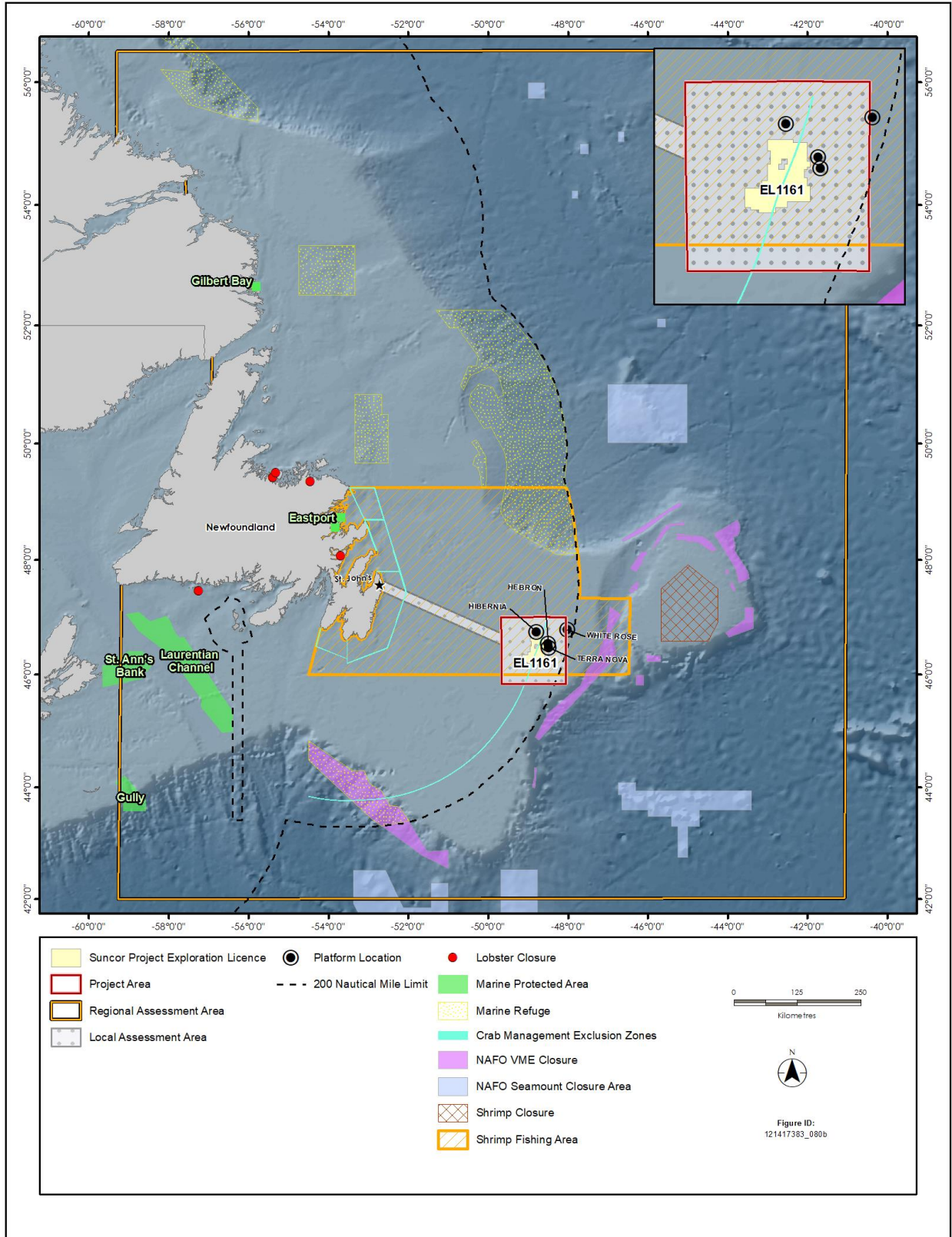


Figure 7-28 Fishery Closure or Restriction Areas in the RAA



7.2.8 Recreational Fishing

During July, August and September each year, recreational fisheries in NL take place in inland and coastal waters. Individuals may participate in a recreational fishery for groundfish species, including Atlantic cod (Table 7.32). The recreational fishery is open in all coastal areas of NAFO Divisions 2GHJ, 3KL, 3Ps, 3Pn, and 4R, except within MPAs (Gilbert Bay, Eastport and Laurentian Channel).

Table 7.32 Recreational Groundfish Harvesting Dates for 2022

Season	Dates Open
Summer	Saturday, July 2, 2022, to Monday, July 4, 2022
	Saturday, July 9, 2022, to Monday, July 11, 2022
	Saturday, July 16, 2022, to Monday, July 18, 2022
	Saturday, July 23, 2022, to Monday, July 25, 2022
	Saturday, July 30, 2022, to Monday, August 1, 2022
	Saturday, August 6, 2022, to Monday, August 8, 2022
	Saturday, August 13, 2022, to Monday, August 15, 2022
	Saturday, August 20, 2022, to Monday, August 22, 2022
	Saturday, August 27, 2022, to Monday, August 29, 2022
	Saturday, September 3, 2022, to Monday, September 5, 2022
Fall	Saturday, September 24, 2022, to Sunday, October 2, 2022
Source: DFO 2022f	

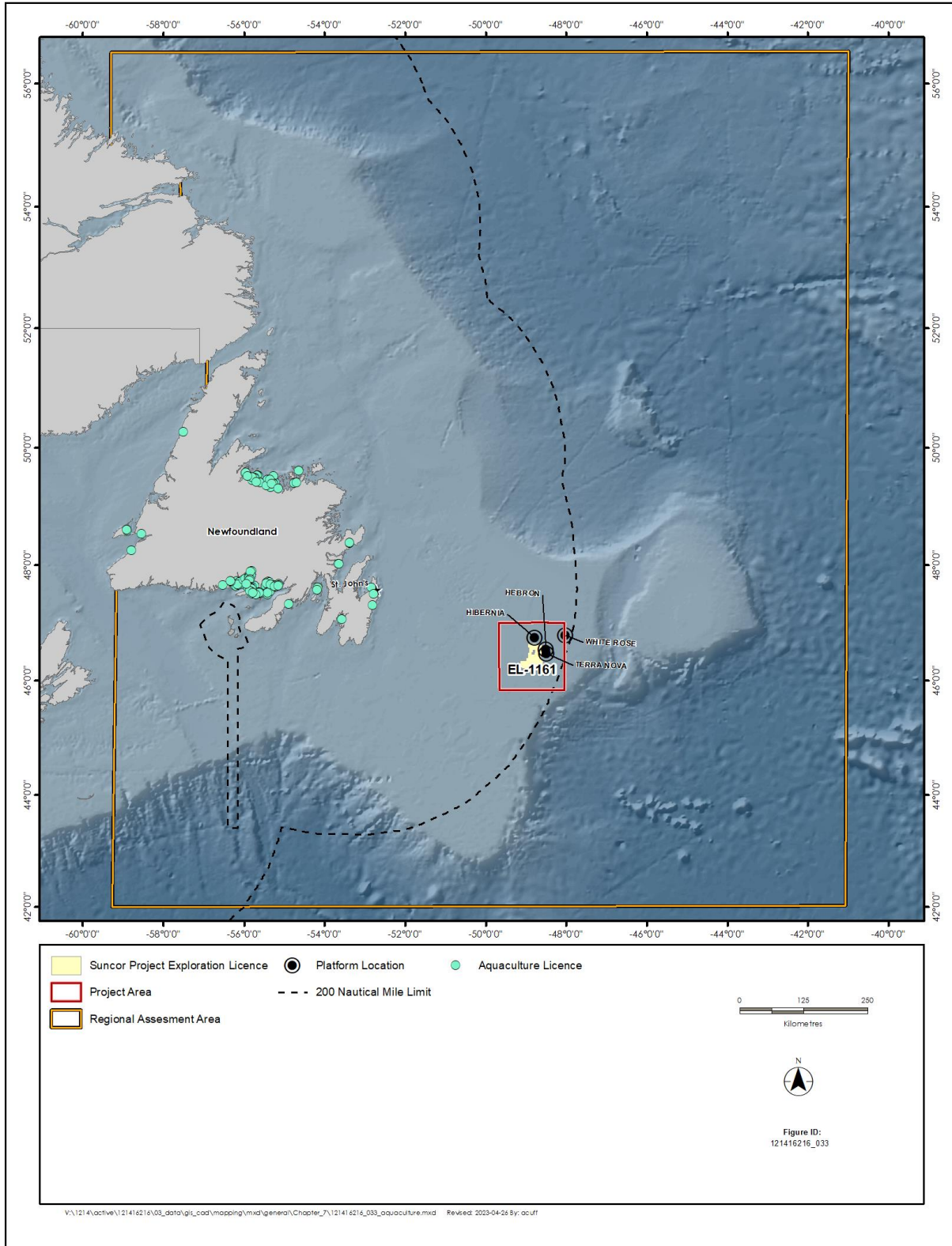
Atlantic salmon, trout, and smelt also have recreational fisheries throughout NL. Catch limits are dependent on the time of year and the location of the river.

7.2.9 Aquaculture

Atlantic salmon, steelhead trout, and blue mussels are the main species contributing to the values of the aquaculture industry in NL. Operations on the east coast of NL, within the RAA, include blue mussels, Atlantic cod, trout, and oysters (See Figure 7-29). There are no registered aquaculture operations in or near the Project Area or within St. John’s Harbour. The closest marine-based facilities to St. John’s include an Atlantic cod grow-out operated by Sapphire Sea Farms in Bay Bulls and a sea urchin hatchery owned by Green Seafoods in Winterton. Aquaculture represented 17% of the total fish and seafood industry in NL in 2018, with a market value of approximately \$204 million (Table 7.33). There was a decrease in both weight and value from 2017 to 2018, largely attributed to a decrease in salmonid production.



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Source: NL Department of Fisheries and Land Resources 2021

Figure 7-29 Aquaculture Sites in the RAA and Western Coast of NL



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Table 7.33 Total Harvested Weight and Value of Aquaculture in 2017 and 2018 in NL

Year	Weight (t)	Value (Millions \$CAD)
2017	21,712	\$221
2018	17,987	\$204
2019	17,655	169
2020	10,620	\$96

Source: NL Department of Fisheries and Land Resources 2020

7.2.10 Marine Research

DFO conducts research trawls on the offshore area of NL to collect information on the marine environment and commercial fish species. The data from the research vessel (RV) surveys inform decision making regarding the management and monitoring of resources. RV trawls conducted in the past five years are illustrated on Figure 7-30 and indicate the general areal coverage of surveys. Note that the surveys are only conducted inside the Canadian EEZ. The schedules for the 2022 surveys are listed in Table 7.34.

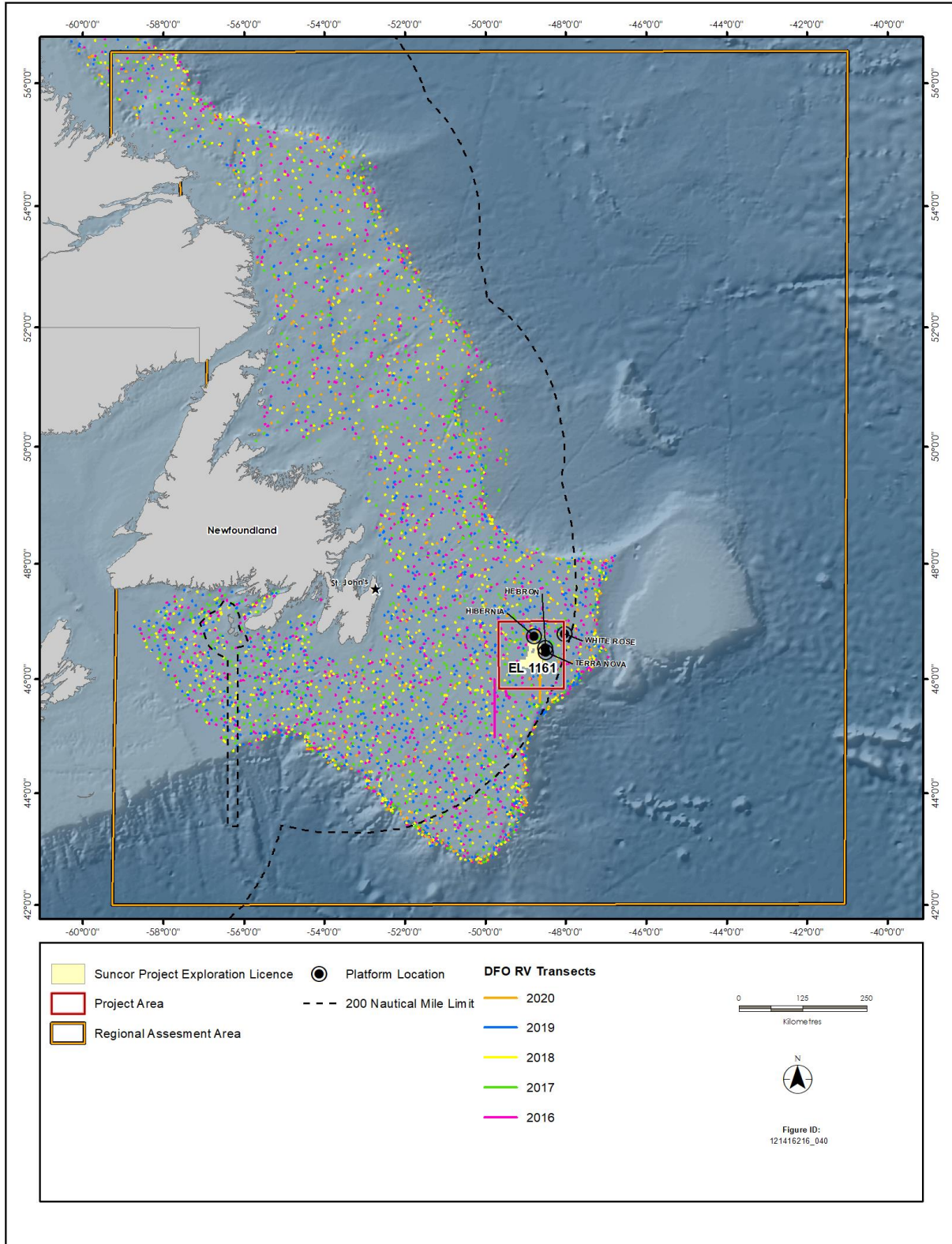
Table 7.34 DFO Research Vessel Schedule for 2022

Activity	Start Date	End Date
<i>R/V Teleost</i>		
Capelin Spring Acoustic Survey	25-Apr	31-May
NL Summer AZMP Oceanographic Survey	03-Jul	28-Jul
Fall 2021 Multispecies Survey (Div. 2HJ3K)	09-Oct	16-Dec
2023 Capelin Winter Acoustic Survey	02-Jan-2023	16-Jan-2023
<i>R/V Needler</i>		
NL Spring Survey	19-Apr	28-June
Maritime Region Summer Ecosystem Survey	03-Jul	16-Aug
Shellfish Survey	09-Sep	19-Sep
NL Fall Survey	20-Sep	16-December
<i>R/V Cartier</i>		
Fall 2022 Multispecies Survey (Div. 2HJ3K)	04-Oct	16-Dec
<i>R/V Cabot</i>		
Spring 2022 Multispecies survey	01-Apr	28-Jun
Fall 2022 Multispecies Survey (Div. 3LNO)	20-Sep	16-Dec

Source: G, Sheppard, DFO, personal communication 2022
 Note: These schedules may change due to mechanical, weather or other delays throughout the survey year



TILT COVE EXPLORATION DRILLING PROGRAM



Source: DFO 2022g

Figure 7-30 DFO RV Transect Locations, 2016-2020



TILT COVE EXPLORATION DRILLING PROGRAM

DFO also collaborates with the fishing industry to conduct the post-season crab surveys within the Newfoundland region. Trap survey locations for 2019 in NAFO Divisions 2J3KLOPs4R are shown in Figure 7-31. The fixed locations are the same each year; other stations are selected using a random stratified method and vary in location each year. Based upon consultations with FFAW-Unifor, the location of the random stratified station may change slightly; however, they are assumed to be correct at the time of publication of this report.

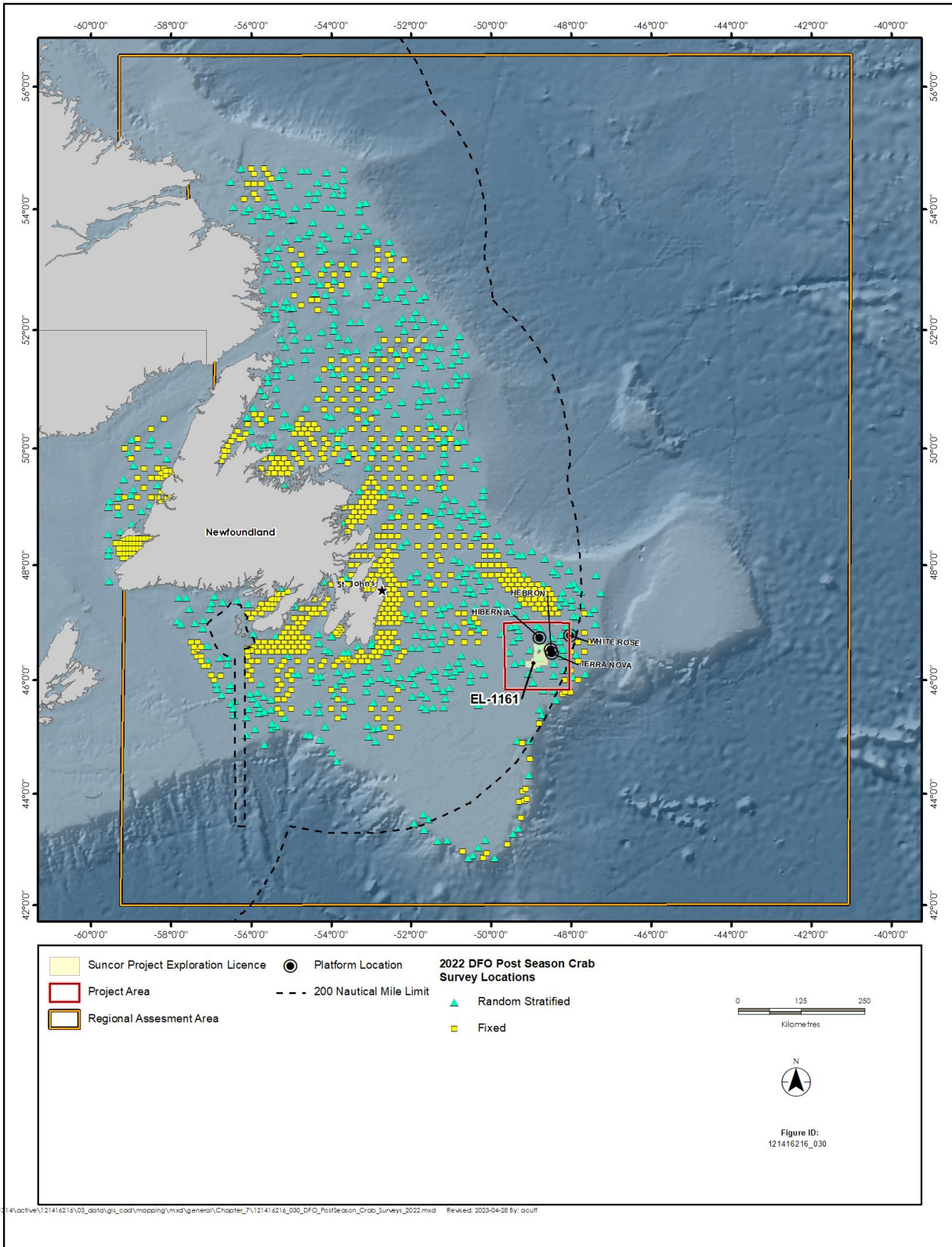
The Atlantic Halibut Survey is conducted by DFO Maritimes each year. Survey locations include both fixed and random stratified stations. The locations for 2022 are shown on Figure 7-32.

Other known surveys that occur in the region include redfish surveys conducted by the Atlantic Groundfish Council. The redfish survey is typically conducted every two years. It is assumed another survey would occur the summer of 2022; however, the locations are not yet known. The Atlantic Groundfish Council is also conducting a northern cod acoustic tracking project. In 2020, 75 acoustic receivers were deployed in NAFO 2J3KL in 13 receiver gates along the eastern continental shelf edge and 3 mid-shore gates. To date, 775 acoustic tags and over 1,500 floy tags have been deployed and genetic material and other biological data has been collected from the acoustically tagged fish (Atlantic Groundfish Council 2022).

NAFO nations other than Canada also conduct research trawls to assess stock numbers / biomass for fish species. These surveys would be located outside the Canadian EEZ and may occur within the southeast corner of the Project Area as it overlaps with the NAFO Footprint. EU-Spain RV trawls were conducted in 2019 but was not conducted in 2020 due to COVID-19 (NAFO 2021d).



TILT COVE EXPLORATION DRILLING PROGRAM

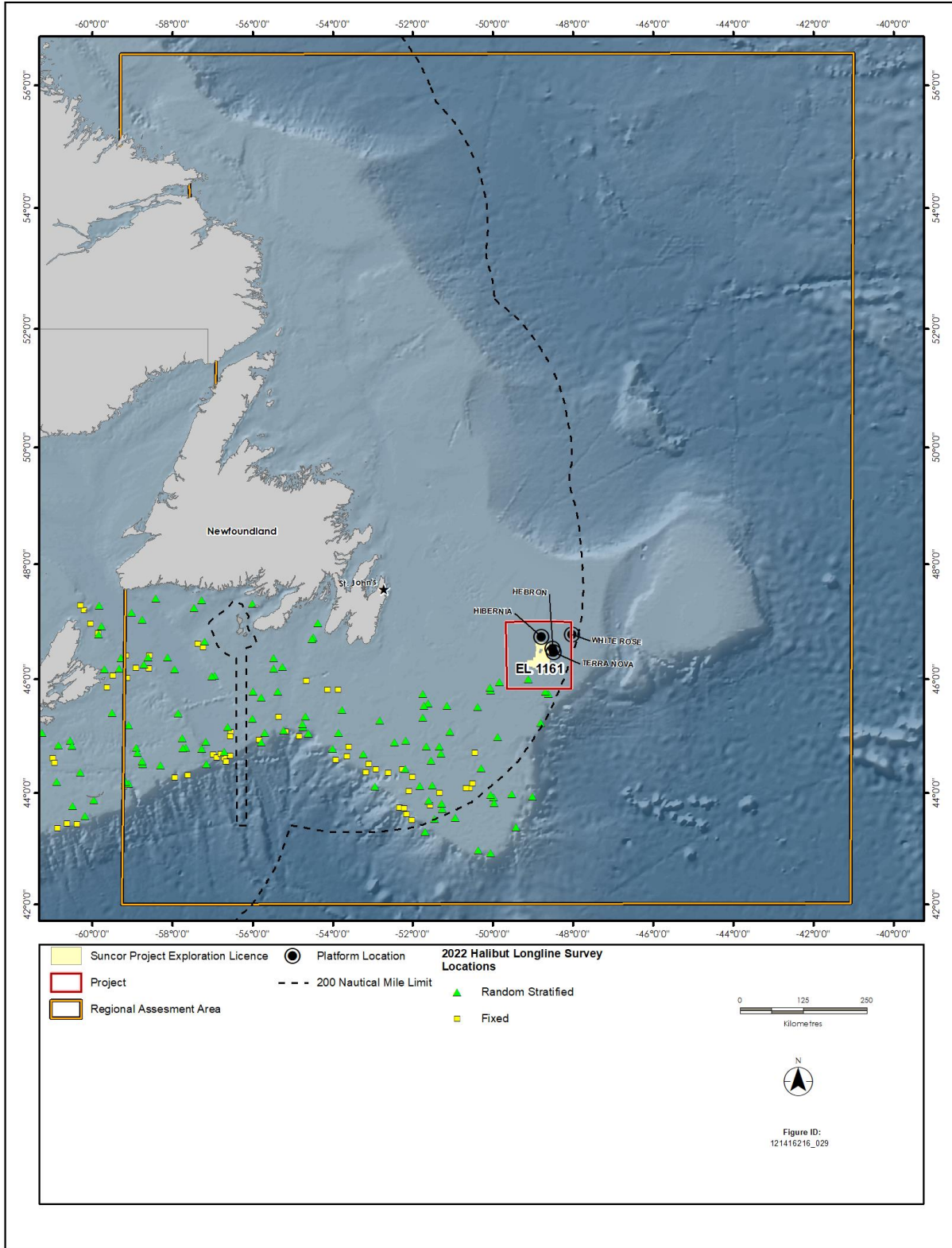


Source: DFO 2022g

Figure 7-31 2022 DFO Post-Season Crab Survey Locations



TILT COVE EXPLORATION DRILLING PROGRAM



Source: DFO 2022h

Figure 7-32 2022 Halibut Longline Survey Locations



7.3 Indigenous Peoples and Community Values

Indigenous communities in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL), Nova Scotia (NS), Prince Edward Island (PE), New Brunswick (NB), and Quebec (QC) are illustrated in Figure 7-33. Baseline conditions for Indigenous peoples are required to facilitate an evaluation of potential Project effects on the environment and how Indigenous peoples may be affected, as described in section 5(1)(c) of CEAA 2012. Specifically:

- *health and socio-economic conditions,*
- *physical and cultural heritage,*
- *the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, or*
- *any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance.*

With a focus on aspects that may have potential to interact with the Project (e.g., harvest of marine species and use of the marine environment), the following sections provide an overview of traditional activities and current socio-economic conditions of each Indigenous community. For example, the description of current land and resource use for traditional purposes (i.e., 5(1)(c)(iii) of CEAA 2012) focuses on food, social, ceremonial (FSC) fishing, hunting and gathering, and commercial-communal fishing in the marine environment.

Traditional harvesting, including FSC fishing, has been a way of life for Indigenous peoples for centuries and has been relied upon for both sustenance and trade. The right to fish traditionally (R. v. Sparrow, 1992) and for a moderate livelihood (R. v. Marshall, 1999) are recognized by past Supreme Court of Canada decisions and are protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. Indigenous groups may be issued two types of communal fishing licences by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, allowing fishing for either FSC or commercial purposes. These licences are held under the name of the Indigenous community, not under the name of a specific individual.

The Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy was introduced by DFO in 1992 to provide a regulatory framework for FSC fishing. Following conservation, fishing for FSC purposes takes precedence over other fisheries, including commercial and recreational fisheries. Given the social, spiritual, and cultural value of FSC fisheries, it reflects the very nature of Indigenous culture.

In 2000, following the Supreme Court of Canada's 1999 Marshall decision to provide increased Indigenous access to the commercial fishery through the issuance of commercial-communal licences, the Marshall Response Initiative (MRI) was implemented by DFO. The MRI was replaced by the Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (AICFI) in 2007 to sustain the public investment made in Indigenous commercial fishery. The AICFI provided eligible First Nations with capacity-building support for the successful management of Indigenous commercial-communal fisheries and effective Indigenous participation in fisheries co-management (DFO 2012a, 2012b).



TILT COVE EXPLORATION DRILLING PROGRAM

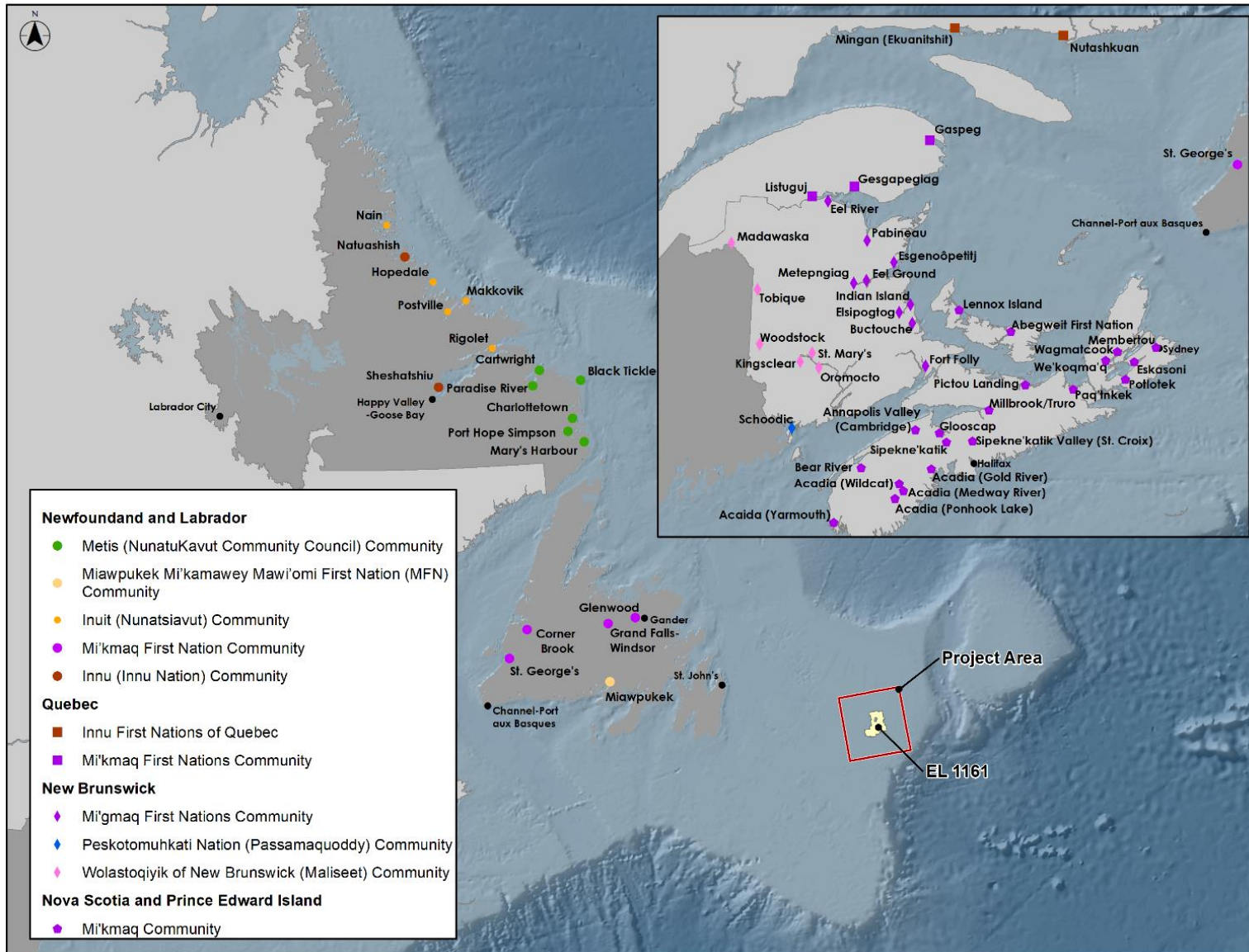


Figure 7-33 Indigenous Communities in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Maritime Provinces, and Quebec



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The value of the commercial-communal fisheries has grown and is anticipated to continue to grow since the inception of the MRI and AICFI initiatives, with commercial-communal fisheries contributing \$100 million annually to Indigenous communities in the Atlantic region. The commercial-communal fisheries comprise a high percentage of sole source revenue for many of the Atlantic Indigenous communities. This revenue is often used to fund community ventures, social programs, and benefits in Indigenous communities. Therefore, it is possible that potential Project-related effects on commercial-communal fisheries may be broader than direct economic impacts to communities.

Indigenous interests and concerns expressed during ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities on this Project and other offshore exploration drilling programs, extend beyond potential interactions and effects on commercial-communal and FSC fishing practices. Several species of cultural or spiritual significance to Indigenous peoples could occur in the Eastern Newfoundland offshore area and potentially interact with Project activities. These may include interactions with species that have been traditionally used for food, medicinal, social, or ceremonial purposes and therefore also hold cultural value. Concerns also relate to potential adverse effects on species that have ecological value as biological components contributing to overall ecosystem sustainability.

The following sections provide an overview of available information on socioeconomic conditions of each of the 41 identified Indigenous groups, focused on aspects that may have potential to interact with the Project and/or which are otherwise specified in the EIS Guidelines.

7.3.1 Approach and Key Information Sources

The information provided below describes the demographics of each community and, where available, socio-economic conditions with a focus on fisheries-related economic opportunities. Located approximately 445 km from the Project Area, the Qalipu Mi'kmaq community of Glenwood is the nearest Indigenous population to the Project Area. The nearest reserve land belongs to Miawpukek First Nation, which is located 470 km from the Project Area. Given the Project activities and components will be located offshore NL, the discussion of baseline conditions is focused on marine and migratory species of interest, including information about harvested species, seasonal information, and presence within the RAA.

A variety of sources were considered, including:

- Meetings and correspondence with Indigenous communities (including correspondence between Indigenous communities and the Agency)
- Community websites
- Publicly-available reports and studies, such as recent EAs (e.g., Newfoundland Orphan Basin Exploration Drilling Program, Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Project, Eastern Newfoundland Exploration Drilling Project, Nexen Energy ULC Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Project Environmental Impact Statement, BHP Canada Exploration Drilling Project (2019-2028) Environmental Assessment, and the West Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Project 2021-2030: Environmental Assessment, and associated traditional use information to support other resource development project assessments and supplemental information responses in the Atlantic region
- Fisheries managers from DFO's Newfoundland and Labrador, Maritimes, Scotia-Fundy, and Gulf Regions



TILT COVE EXPLORATION DRILLING PROGRAM

Where limited information was available on aspects of individual Indigenous communities, such as community health or land and resource use, more general information has been provided at the regional or provincial level. The information in Sections 7.3.2 to 7.3.7 was based on BP’s Newfoundland Orphan Basin Exploration Drilling Program Environmental Impact Statement (BP 2018), modified with new up to date information (where available). BP, in collaboration with Husky Energy, sent draft community profiles to each Indigenous group for review and comment; where comments were received, these have been incorporated in the EIS, as applicable.

7.3.2 Newfoundland and Labrador

The EIS Guidelines specify five NL Indigenous communities for engagement and inclusion in the EIS:

- Labrador Inuit (Nunatsiavut Government)
- Labrador Innu (Innu Nation)
- NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC)
- Qalipu Mi’kmaq First Nation (QMFN)
- Miawpukek First Nation (MFN)

Community profiles are provided for each Indigenous community in Table 7.35 and the locations of these Indigenous groups are provided in Figure 7-33.

Table 7.35 Newfoundland and Labrador Indigenous Groups Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Labrador Inuit (Nunatsiavut Government)	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	The Labrador Inuit’s traditional territory extends from Cape Chidley in the north, to south of Groswater Bay and west to the Labrador-Quebec border. The Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA) is approximately 950 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Following three decades of land claims negotiations between the Labrador Inuit Association (LIA) and the Governments of Canada and NL, the Nunatsiavut Government, an Inuit regional self-government, was established. On December 1, 2005, the <i>Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement</i> (LILCA) came into effect which sets out the details of land ownership, resource-sharing, and self-government within the established LISA, and provides for harvesting rights in and outside the LISA. Labrador Inuit Lands (LIL) are approximately 15,800 km ² in area, within the LISA boundary. The Nunatsiavut Government represents over 2,524 Labrador Inuit beneficiaries living in five Inuit communities: Nunainguk (Nain), Agvitok (Hopedale), Maggovik (Makkovik), KipukKak (Postville) and Tikigiaksausugisik (Rigolet) (Sikumiut Environment Management Ltd. 2011; Nunatsiavut Government 2022a). There are 7,133 Labrador Inuit Canada-wide. The Project does not overlap with any of the lands covered by this treaty.



Table 7.35 Newfoundland and Labrador Indigenous Groups Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>The Labrador Inuit communities are accessible and serviced for half the year (from July to November) by ferries operated by the Government of NL and Nunatsiavut Group of Companies (NGC) and regional airlines such as Air Borealis (Statoil 2017). There are schools within each community, administered by the NL English School District. Emergency services are provided to each community through Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) detachments and volunteer fire brigades in Nain, Rigolet, Makkovik and Hopedale (Agvituk) (Nalcor Energy 2011). Each community is visited by a physician every four to six weeks. Dominant industries for the Labrador Inuit include public administration, health care and social assistance, mining and tourism (Nalcor Energy 2011). Major employers are the Torngat Fish Producers Co-op, NGC, the Inuit Community Governments and the Voisey’s Bay Mine / Mill (Nalcor Energy 2011).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, the Nunatsiavut Government holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. In Nain, there is a fisheries operation base for the processing of char and turbot (Nalcor Energy 2011). In Postville, employment has been created through the crab, shrimp, and turbot fishery (Town of Postville 2003). There is also a fish plant in Makkovik.</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	<p>The Labrador Inuit, descendants of the prehistoric Thule, are hunters drawn to Labrador for the large number of whales and wildlife, with the earliest ancestors living primarily along the north coast (Nunatsiavut Government 2022b). They are culturally and linguistically part of the Inuit peoples who occupy the Arctic and parts of the sub-Arctic from Alaska east across northern Canada, Greenland and the Arctic edges of the former Soviet Union and are the most southern expansion of this culture (Nexen Energy ULC 2018). Pre-contact Inuit lifestyle included harvesting during all seasons for food, clothing, shelter and tools and seasonal migration to follow animals and fish which they depended on (Nexen Energy ULC 2018). From the late 19th century to the early part of the 20th century, Inuit became involved in the market economy and began to earn income from industries focused on trapping and seal hunting, as well as fishing for char, cod, and salmon (Nexen Energy ULC 2018). There are approximately 1,800 known archaeological sites within the land claim area (Torngasok 2013). There are no known sites in or near the Project Area.</p>
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>The Labrador Inuit undertake current land and resource use activities on their traditional lands within the LISA. These activities include: hunting for seals, birds, rabbits, caribou, and moose; fishing; ice fishing; and trapping and gathering (Aivek Stantec Limited Partnership 2021). Traditional food has important value beyond market criteria, due to its cultural, social, and nutritional qualities, representing an integral part of the Inuit lifestyle (Nexen Energy ULC 2018). Hunting of migratory birds is also an important part of their harvest (Aivek Stantec Limited Partnership 2021). Following the ice break-up in the spring, the Inuit also hunt or net harp, ringed, harbour, grey and bearded seals in the outer island areas and in the bays (VBNC 1997). The Labrador Shelf area is fished extensively for crab, rock cod, cod, Arctic char, sculpins, mussels, winkles, and sea urchins (Aivek Stantec Limited Partnership 2021). Although there is no commercial salmon fishery, an Indigenous traditional fishery for Atlantic salmon exists in Labrador.</p>



Table 7.35 Newfoundland and Labrador Indigenous Groups Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Commercial-communal Fishing	The Nunatsiavut Government holds several commercial-communal licences for groundfish (some licences with restrictions for lumpfish), Greenland halibut, seal, scallop, snow crab, shrimp and Arctic char. Groundfish licences are held for NAFO Divisions 2GHJ, 3KL and Greenland halibut may be harvested in 0B, 2+3K and 3LMNO (A. Jones, pers. comm. 2022). Seal licences permit harvesting in Sealing Areas 4 through 33, Atlantic-wide. Scallop licences are issued for Scallop Area 1 off the coast of Northern Labrador, and snow crab licences are issued for Snow Crab Areas 1 and 2 and an Exploratory licence for NAFO 2H. Northern shrimp licences are held for Shrimp Areas 4 and 5 and Pikalujak Fisheries Ltd. The 50/50 partnership Nunatsiavut Government and Ocean Prawns Canada Ltd. holds a licence for Shrimp Areas 4-6 and in Davis Strait West. The Nunatsiavut Government also has a commercial-communal Arctic char licence for the area from Cape Rouge to Cape Chidley in Northern Labrador (A. Jones, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	The Nunatsiavut Government holds two FSC licences including for trout, salmon, and Arctic char. These species, as well as seal and smelt may be harvested in the Upper Lake Melville Area and in the LISA (A. Jones, pers. comm. 2022). As per the LILCA (Chapter 13 – Fisheries Chapter of the Agreement), beneficiaries have the right to harvest at any time of the year throughout the LISA for any species or stock of fish or aquatic plant, up to the quantity needed for their FSC purposes. In addition, despite the commercial salmon fishery being closed in Labrador, there is an Aboriginal traditional fishery for Atlantic salmon. The Nunatsiavut Government holds FSC licences for species that may migrate between the Project area and the LISA.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Labrador Inuit have established Aboriginal rights under Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act 1982</i> , and beneficiaries of the LILCA have treaty rights within the LISA as set out in the Agreement, including the right to harvest species throughout the LISA. In addition, the Agreement allows for a negotiated arrangement for Beneficiaries residing in Labrador, outside of LISA to harvest for food social and ceremonial purposes in tidal waters of Upper Lake Melville, outside of LISA (12E area).
Labrador Innu (Innu Nation)	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	The Labrador Innu reside primarily in two communities: Sheshatshiu in Central Labrador and Natuashish on the North Coast (Statoil 2017). Small numbers of Innu also reside in Happy-Valley Goose Bay, Labrador (Statoil 2017). The Labrador Innu land claim is approximately 870 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	In September 2008, the Government of NL and Innu Nation announced the signing of the <i>Tshas Petapen</i> (“New Dawn”) Agreement. This Agreement resolved key issues between Innu Nation and the Province related to the Innu land claim, as well as impacts and benefits related to past and proposed hydroelectric developments in western and central Labrador (Statoil 2017). Since that time, the provincial and federal governments and the Innu Nation have completed detailed agreements on tripartite Labrador Innu Land Rights Agreement-in-Principle, which was signed by all three parties in 2011 (Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office n.d.). The population of the Innu of Labrador was approximately 3,200 (Innu Nation n.d.). Sheshatshiu, located on the south bank of North West River, formed part of the community of North West River until 1979, at which time the Innu established a separate community which is now a reserve with an elected Chief and Band Council. The community of Natuashish was formed following the Innu’s relocation from the previous community at Utshimassit (Davis Inlet) and is now a reserve with an elected Chief and Band Council. The Project does not overlap with any lands claimed by the Labrador Innu.



Table 7.35 Newfoundland and Labrador Indigenous Groups Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Sheshatshiu and Natuashish are relatively small communities that offer services and infrastructure to their members and residents. Sheshatshiu, the largest Innu community in Labrador, is 40 km by road from Happy Valley-Goose Bay and accessible year-round. The Natuashish community is approximately 300 km north of Happy-Valley Goose Bay and only accessible by plane or boat. Within Sheshatshiu, an elementary-secondary school, Sheshatshiu Innu School, accommodates approximately 400 students from kindergarten to grade 12 (Innu Education Inc. 2014). The community of Natuashish also has a school, the Mushuau Innu Natuashish School, accommodating approximately 450 students from kindergarten to grade 12 (Innu Education Inc. 2014). Both schools are administered by the Innu School Board. The RCMP provides emergency services to both communities. In Sheshatshiu, the RCMP and Health Canada have collaborated to establish a Sheshatshiu Crisis Intervention Team to support members of the community in times of crisis (Nalcor Energy 2011). There is a fire hall with two fire fighting vehicles in Natuashish (Nalcor Energy 2011). The Labrador Grenfell Regional Health Authority provides health and community services to both communities. In Sheshatshiu, the Health Authority and the Sheshatshiu Innu Health Commission operate a community health clinic with basic trauma and resuscitation equipment (Statoil 2017). In Natuashish, the Health Authority, in partnership with Mushua Innu Health Commission, operate a community health clinic with an emergency room bed, basic trauma and resuscitation equipment and a defibrillator (Statoil 2017).</p> <p>The Innu Business Development Centre was created to establish businesses and contribute to Innu communities. Innu Nation has invested in a variety of businesses including accommodation and food services, aircraft services, arts, entertainment, recreation, automotive, construction, waste management, forestry, and tourism.</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Innu Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. Ueushuk Fisheries Ltd. holds a mid-shore groundfish licence for various areas and a shrimp licence.</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	<p>The Labrador Innu are descendants from Algonkian-speaking hunter-gathers (Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador 2018). Traditionally, the Labrador Innu were a nomadic people; however, following the establishment of Innu settlements in the 1960s, traditional land use and harvesting practices changed considerably. In terms of culture and language, the Innu are the easternmost group of a very widespread people known as the Cree (Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador 2018). Labrador Innu culture and heritage are focused on their relationship to game animals, particularly caribou, which are the focus of their philosophical and religious beliefs (Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador 2018). Nearly 500 Innu archaeological sites are known to be throughout Northern, central and Western Labrador. These sites are generally in inland and coastal areas and were often discovered in relation to developments such as communities, roads, railway, and mining areas. There are no known sites in or near the Project Area.</p>
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>The Labrador Innu undertake current land and resource use activities on their traditional lands within Labrador (headwaters of Eagle River; the area bounded by Winnokapau Lake, Smallwood Reservoir, Seal Lake and Nipishish Lake; Shipiskan Lake, Snegamook Lake, and Shapio Lake) and parts of QC. These activities include: hunting for caribou, black bear, and small game; fishing; trapping; and gathering of wild foods. Hunting of migratory birds such as geese, eider ducks, and turrs is also an important aspect of their harvest. Important bird harvesting areas include near the Trans Labrador Highway, west of Churchill Falls, and the Labrador Shelf (Aivek Stantec Limited Partnership 2021). Innu also hunt seal in the spring, summer, and fall (VBNC 1997).</p>



Table 7.35 Newfoundland and Labrador Indigenous Groups Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Commercial-communal Fishing	Innu Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for groundfish (with some restrictions for cod and lumpfish), mackerel, capelin, herring, bluefin tuna, and shrimp. Innu Nation has access to fishing areas including 2GHJ and 3KL for groundfish, bluefin tuna in 3LNO-P.H., mackerel and capelin in Fishing Areas 1 to 11, and shrimp in Shrimp Area 4, and herring in fishing area 3-8 (A. Jones, pers. comm. 2022). Ueushuk Fisheries Limited holds an offshore groundfish licence for various areas for harvesting of a variety of species including areas within the project boundaries (3LN) (A. Jones, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Innu Nation holds several FSC licences for Sheshatshiu and Natuashish for salmon, Arctic char, and trout. The Natuashish fishing area includes all tidal waters of Labrador extending north and east from Cape Harrigan and south and east of Anaktalik Bay. The licence is restricted to these areas and within the 12-nautical mile limit. The Sheshatshiu fishing area includes all tidal waters of Labrador extending from Fish Cove Point, north to Cape Harrison, including Lake Melville and the inland waters of Little Lake and Grand Lake in Upper Lake Melville. The licence is restricted to these areas and within the 12-nautical mile limit (A. Jones, pers. comm. 2022). Despite the commercial salmon fishery being closed in Labrador, there is an Aboriginal traditional fishery for Atlantic salmon.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	Innu Nation claim Aboriginal rights and title to most of Labrador and parts of QC. Innu Nation asserts Aboriginal rights to land and resources within Labrador and to resources along the Labrador coast, including the right to hunt, fish, and gather throughout its traditional territory.
NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC)	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	The NCC claims traditional territory that extends from Central to Southeastern Labrador. NCC members primarily reside in southern and central Labrador, particularly along the southeast coast. The territory is approximately 660 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Originally established as the Labrador Metis Association in 1985, the NCC is the governing body, representing a membership of over 6,000 Inuit of south and central Labrador, collectively known as the Southern Inuit of NunatuKavut (NCC 2013). The NCC has asserted a land claim, covering most of Central and Southeastern Labrador (NCC 2013). To date, this claim has not been accepted for negotiation by the federal or provincial governments. Members primarily reside in Cartwright, Paradise River, Charlottetown, Pinsent’s Arm, William’s Harbour, Black Tickle / Domino, Norman Bay, Port Hope Simpson, St. Lewis, Mary’s Harbour and Lodge Bay (Statoil 2017; Russell 2018). Census data are not available for NCC members as a group. In 2016, the population of these communities ranged from 15 (Paradise River) to 572 (Cartwright), with five communities (Paradise River, Pinsent’s Arm, William’s Harbour, Norman Bay and Lodge Bay) having fewer than 100 people (Martin et al. 2012). The Project does not overlap with any lands claimed by the NCC.



Table 7.35 Newfoundland and Labrador Indigenous Groups Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>The Trans Labrador Highway serves the southeast coast of Labrador. Most communities are accessible by road via the Trans Labrador Highway (Nalcor Energy 2011), while some communities are only accessible by plane or boat. During the winter months, a 1,500 km winter trail system connects Southern Labrador to all communities in Labrador and provides the only transportation link for many otherwise unconnected coastal communities (Nalcor Energy 2011). Some communities have road access, airstrips, basic municipal services (i.e., waste removal and water supply) and nursing clinics while others do not (Martin et al. 2012). Health, policing, and education services also vary. RCMP travel to communities periodically from locations such as Mary’s Harbour and Cartwright (Martin et al. 2012). Most communities have schools, but Paradise River, William’s Harbour, Pinsent’s Arm and Lodge Bay do not. Students from Pinsent’s Arm and Lodge Bay travel to St. Mary’s All Grade School in Mary’s Harbour (Martin et al. 2012). Many of the communities have medical clinics, operated by Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority. Clinics typically provide primary health care services and are staffed with nurses (Nalcor Energy 2011). Generally, a physician and dentist visit each community every six weeks. The NCC is invested in seasonal and year-round businesses including hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, convenience stores and gas bars (Martin et al. 2012).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, the NCC holds several commercial-communal fishing licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The major employer in southern Labrador communities is the fishery. Employing hundreds of individuals, the Labrador Fisherman’s Union Shrimp Company has processing facilities in Cartwright, Charlottetown, Pinsent’s Arm, Mary’s Harbour and L’Anse au Loup (Labrador Shrimp Company 2014). Nunacor Development Corporation (NDC) Fisheries Limited holds quotas for 450,000 lbs. of snow crab as well as shrimp quotas and is required to hire NunatuKavut members as crew.</p> <p>A Mineral Exploration Activities Agreement was signed between Search Minerals and NunatuKavut on Aug 22, 2012. The EA is currently underway for the proposed Foxtrot Rare Earth Element Mine Project near St. Lewis.</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	<p>In the 17th Century, contact was made between the Labrador Inuit and Europeans. In southern Labrador, these interactions were based on the trade with seasonal fishers and whalers (Statoil 2017). As early as 1775, the first generation of people of mixed descent between the Labrador Inuit and European fur traders appeared (Nalcor Energy 2010). Over time, the population grew, and settlements were established throughout central and southern Labrador (Nalcor Energy 2010). In terms of culture, NCC members’ practices and resources are focused on the lands and waters of Labrador. There are no known heritage sites in or near the Project Area.</p>
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>Members of the NCC place a strong emphasis on the importance of traditional food. The core areas traditionally used by NCC members for current land and resource use activities are focused on central and southeastern Labrador, including the Churchill River Valley and extending from the Sandwich Bay region, south to Port Hope Simpson and Williams Harbour, and west to the area of the Paradise and Eagle rivers (Nalcor Energy 2011). These activities include: hunting for caribou (however, there is a current community-driven moratorium on the hunting of the George River Caribou Herd (NCC 2013)), moose, bear, hare and porcupine; fishing; trapping marten; and plant harvesting. Hunting of migratory birds such as sea duck and turr, is also an important aspect of their harvest. Important bird harvesting areas include the islands of the Backway, Table Bay, and St. Peter’s Bay (Statoil 2017). The NCC establishes annual <i>Spring Bird / Egg Harvest and Conservation Guidelines</i>, which specify the opening and closing of dates, the seasonal take of birds and gull eggs that may be harvested per household, and any associated restrictions (NCC 2013). Members of NCC also harvest marine mammals, with seals providing income and a source of meat and oil (Russell 2018).</p>



Table 7.35 Newfoundland and Labrador Indigenous Groups Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Commercial-communal Fishing	The NCC and NDC Fisheries hold several commercial-communal licences for groundfish (some licences with restrictions for lumpfish), shrimp, snow crab, capelin, herring, seal, scallops, whelk, bait and toad crab. NCC/NDC fishing licences include groundfish in NAFO 2GHJ, 3KL, and 4RS, scallop in Scallop Areas 1 and 2, shrimp in Shrimp Area 6 as well as for whelk in 2J, northern shrimp in Shrimp Area 5 and 6, snow crab, capelin, herring and toad crab in southern Labrador. The two seal harvesting licences are in Seal Fishing Areas 4 to 33 (Atlantic-wide). IMAKPIK (50/50 partnership NCC & Labrador Fishermen's Union Shrimp Co. Ltd. also holds a licence for shrimp in area 5 (A. Jones, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	The NCC holds several FSC licences including for salmon, trout, Arctic char, Atlantic cod, rock cod, herring, scallop, whelk, smelt and seal. Fishing areas are Fish Cove Point and Cape Charles in Labrador and Upper Lake Melville but is restricted to these areas and within the 12-nautical mile limit (A. Jones, pers. comm. 2022). NCC members also fish throughout central and southeastern Labrador, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Grand Lake and its tributaries, Sebaskachu Bay and Sebaskachu River, Mud Lake, Traverspine River, the mouths of Caroline Brook, McKenzie River, and lakes south of the Churchill River for Atlantic salmon. Despite the commercial salmon fishery being closed in Labrador, there is still an Aboriginal traditional fishery for Atlantic salmon.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The NCC asserts Aboriginal and treaty rights to land and resources within Labrador and to resources along the Labrador coast, including the right to hunt, fish, and gather throughout its traditional territory.
Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation (QMFN)	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	QMFN members live in 67 communities in Newfoundland, with satellite administrative offices in Glenwood, Grand Falls-Windsor, and St. George's. The Nation's central administrative office is in Corner Brook (Qalipu First Nation 2016). QMFN communities are approximately 445 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	In 2008, the Government of Canada and the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) signed the Agreement of Recognition of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq Indian Band to establish a landless band for the Mi'kmaq of Newfoundland (INAC 2022). The Qalipu Mi'kmaq do not have any recognized Aboriginal or treaty rights. The Agreement is not a treaty within the meaning of section 25 and section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> . The signed Agreement initiated the enrolment process, with approximately 25,000 applications received within the first year (Qalipu First Nation 2016). The QMFN have not signed treaties with the Crown and there is no land base associated with the Qalipu First Nation. In September 2011, the Qalipu was established as an Indian band under the <i>Indian Act</i> and 23,877 members were found eligible and registered as founding members (Qalipu First Nation 2016). The Project does not overlap with the 67 communities inhabited by members.



Table 7.35 Newfoundland and Labrador Indigenous Groups Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
<p>Health and Socio-economic Conditions</p>	<p>As Qalipu members live in 67 communities in Newfoundland, consolidated information and services, economic conditions, and community health is not readily available. Members access services and programs provided by municipal and provincial agencies, private businesses and services agencies in communities and regions where they reside. Economic and corporate development are led by the Qalipu Development Corporation (Qalipu First Nation 2016). Qalipu First Nation has several wholly-owned commercial enterprises including Mi'kmaq Commercial Fisheries Incorporated (MCF), Qalipu Management Services Incorporated, Qalipu Marine Holdings and Qalipu Project Support Services Limited. Business partnerships have been negotiated and implemented between Qalipu and several different construction firms. Marine Contractors Inc. Qalipu was created as a partnership between Qalipu and Marine Construction to enable Qalipu to bid on civil construction opportunities from Emera NL. Other business entities are Qalipu Project Support Services, Qalipu Safety and Industrial Supply, and Eastern Door Logistics. In 2020-2021, Qalipu First Nation generated over \$15 million and had total expenditures of \$14.8 million (Qalipu First Nation 2021).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, the QMFN and MCF holds several commercial-communal fishing licences for a variety of fish and marine species. Additionally, the QMFN and the MFN have developed a joint fisheries initiative, Mi'kmaq Alsumk Moiwimsikik Koqoey Association (MAMKA). MAMKA also holds commercial-communal licences for different fish and marine species.</p>
<p>Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)</p>	<p>Historical evidence demonstrates that the Mi'kmaq were living in Newfoundland by the 16th century; by the 17th century there are increasing historical references (Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador 2018). From 1600 to 1700, Mi'kmaq families hunted, fished, and trapped along Newfoundland's southwest coast to Placentia Bay (Pastore 1998). Families would travel back and forth between Cape Breton and Newfoundland (Pastore 1998). In the early 19th century, their range further expanded to include most of the interior of Newfoundland, for hunting and trapping purposes (Pastore 1998). Limited publicly available information exists on historic and cultural Qalipu sites; however, one has been identified: seal rocks near the Town of St. George's on the west coast (St. George's Indian Band 2017).</p> <p>Currently, there are 21 known Mi'kmaq archaeological sites in interior and coastal Newfoundland between the Port au Port peninsula and Clarenville (Inside Newfoundland and Labrador Archaeology 2013). In terms of culture, Qalipu First Nation's practices and resources are focused on the lands and waters of the Island of Newfoundland. There are no known heritage sites in or near the Project Area.</p>
<p>Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes</p>	<p>The Qalipu undertake current land and resource use activities on their traditional lands which are extensive areas of land, sea, and water. These activities include hunting for caribou, moose, partridge and snowshoe hares, fishing, and harvesting of wild berries (Emera Newfoundland and Labrador 2013). Hunting of marine and migratory birds such as turr is also considered an important traditional activity. The harvesting of seals and groundfish is of lesser importance, but still practiced (Emera Newfoundland and Labrador 2013).</p>
<p>Commercial-communal Fishing</p>	<p>The Qalipu holds several commercial-communal licences for groundfish (with some restrictions with lumpfish), lobster, snow crab, mackerel, herring, squid, sea cucumber, sea urchin, scallops, capelin, whelk, shrimp, eel, smelt and bait. Lobster fishing licences are for Lobster Fishing Area (LFA) 3, 4A, 4B, 13A, and 13B and snow crab licences are for Snow Crab Areas 3B, 3C, 4, 12, 12C, 12E and 12F. Qalipu also has fishing licences that give access to NAFO 2J, 3Pn, 4RST, 2GHJ, 3LNO and 3KL (A. Jones, pers. comm. 2022). MAMKA also holds several commercial-communal licences for groundfish, snow crab, herring, capelin, lobster, whelk, scallops, squid and bait (A. Jones, pers. comm. 2022).</p>



Table 7.35 Newfoundland and Labrador Indigenous Groups Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
FSC Fishing	There are currently no FSC licences issued for the QMFN (A. Jones, pers. comm. 2022).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	At this time, Suncor is unaware of the Qalipu expressing any asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights.
Miawpukek First Nation (MFN)	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi First Nation (Miawpukek First Nation or MFN)) is comprised of one reserve, located at the mouth of the Conne River on the south coast of NL (BP 2017; Statoil 2017). The MFN community is approximately 470 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Samiajij Miawpukek is approximately 224 km south of Gander with an area of 1666 ha (BP 2017). According to traditional oral history, the Samiajij Miawpukek community was established in 1870. It was officially designated as Samiajij Miawpukek Indian Reserve under the <i>Indian Act</i> in 1987 (MFN 2017). In 2013, MFN signed a Self-Government Agreement-in-principle with the provincial government, giving them the opportunity to govern their internal affairs and assume greater responsibility and control over decisions that affect their community. The Agreement is not considered a treaty or a land claims agreement within the meaning of sections 25 and 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> ; however, it is an important component to self-government for the MFN (Government of Newfoundland and Labrador 2013). The registered population of the MFN is more than 3,000 individuals, with nearly 28% living on-reserve (INAC 2022). The Project does not overlap with the reserve lands.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>The MFN community is accessible year-round by road. In 2017, a new school was opened in the community, accommodating 180 students from kindergarten to grade 12. The school also houses a dental office and daycare centre. Since 1975, MFN has been providing health services to the community.</p> <p>The Conne River Health and Social Services (CRHSS) designs and delivers a range of community-based programs such as a medical clinic, wellness centre, youth centre and nutrition centre (CRHSS 2008). The MFN community owns and operates small businesses such as Christmas tree farms, hunt camps and small fisheries, and the Miawpukek Gas Bar and Convenience Store (INAC 2012). The MFN has partnered with several outside communities and corporations in ventures including tourism and aquaculture (INAC 2012). The MFN also owns and operates the Jipuijij'kuei Kuespem Nature Park which provides camping, kayak / canoe rentals, walking trails and float plane charters (Explore Newfoundland and Labrador 2010). As described in more detail below, the MFN holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species.</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	Some historical evidence exists demonstrating that the Mi'kmaq were living in Newfoundland by the 16 th century, and by the 17 th century there are increasing historical references (Heritage Newfoundland and Labrador 2018). From 1600 to 1700, Mi'kmaq families hunted, fished, and trapped along Newfoundland's southwest coast to Placentia Bay (Pastore 1998). Families would travel back and forth between Cape Breton and Newfoundland (Pastore 1998). In the early 19 th century, their range expanded to include most of the interior of Newfoundland, for hunting and trapping purposes (Pastore 1998). Currently, there are 21 known Mi'kmaq archaeological sites in interior and coastal Newfoundland between the Port au Port peninsula and Clarendville (Inside Newfoundland and Labrador Archaeology 2013). In terms of culture, MFN's practices and resources are focused on the lands and waters of the Island of Newfoundland. There are no known sites in or near the Project Area.



Table 7.35 Newfoundland and Labrador Indigenous Groups Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi'kmaq continue to use extensive areas of land, sea, and water for recreational and subsistence purposes such as hunting for caribou, moose, partridge and snowshoe hares; fishing; and harvesting of wild berries (Emera Newfoundland and Labrador 2013). Hunting of marine and migratory birds such as turr is also an important traditional activity. The harvesting of seals and groundfish is of lesser importance (Emera Newfoundland and Labrador 2013).
Commercial-communal Fishing	The MFN holds several commercial-communal licences for groundfish, capelin, herring, mackerel, snow crab, squid, swordfish, sea cucumber, sea urchins, whelk, scallop, bait, bluefin tuna and other tuna species, and seal. MFN has enterprises that permit access to NAFO 3KL, tuna licences permitting access to 3LNOP, one seal licence permitting access to Seal Fishing Areas 4-33 (Atlantic-wide), shrimp in the Shrimp Fishing Area 7 (3L) and snow crab in 3NO. MFN also holds licences for fishing areas outside of the project boundaries including NAFO 2GHJ, 3Pn, 3Ps and 4R (A. Jones, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	The MFN holds several FSC licences for scallop, lobster, mackerel, herring, rainbow trout, brook trout, cod, eels, smelt, capelin, seals (harbour, harp and grey), snow crab, whelk, and redfish. Fishing areas are in a designated area in Western Head, Hare Bay (A. Jones, pers. comm. 2022).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The MFN asserts Aboriginal rights, including the right to hunt, fish, and gather.

7.3.3 Mi'kmaq of the Maritime Provinces

The ancestors of the Mi'kmaq historically occupied the lands upon which the provinces of NS, NB, PE, and the Gaspé Peninsula in QC are founded. They have existed on the land for more than 11,000 years, based on the earliest evidence of Indigenous peoples in the Maritimes Region (Nova Scotia Office of Aboriginal Affairs [NS OAA] 2017). The Mi'kmaq generally lived in semi-permanent and permanent settlements at resource-rich locations (Mi'kma'ki All Points Services 2013), following the seasonal cycles of the local vegetation, animals, and fish, and living a traditional life as fishers, hunters, and gatherers throughout their territory (referred to today as the Maritime Provinces) (MGS 2016). Moving to new locations when resources became scarce near an encampment (Robertson, 1969 in MGS 2016; Speck 1922, in MGS 2016), the Mi'kmaq would spend their summers in coastal camps where areas nearby would provide fish, shellfish, fowl, and eggs; and during the colder months, they would move inland to hunt for game (Speck 1922, in MGS 2016; Denys 1993, in MGS 2016).

7.3.3.1 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia

The EIS Guidelines specify 13 NS Mi'kmaq communities for engagement and inclusion in the EIS:

- Acadia First Nation
- Annapolis Valley First Nation
- Bear River First Nation
- Eskasoni First Nation
- Glooscap First Nation
- Membertou First Nation
- Paq'tnkek Mi'kmaw Nation



TILT COVE EXPLORATION DRILLING PROGRAM

- Pictou Landing First Nation
- Potlotek First Nation
- Wagmatcook First Nation
- We'koqma'q First Nation
- Sipekne'katik First Nation
- Millbrook First Nation

Established in the Peace and Friendship Treaties, the Mi'kmaq of NS have an Aboriginal right to hunt, fish and gather; as well as a Treaty right to hunt, fish and gather for a moderate livelihood. The Project does not overlap with the claimed traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq of NS, however, Glooscap, Millbrook, Paq'tnkek, Pictou Landing, Sipekne'katik, Wagmatcook, and Waycobah First Nations have commercial-communal licences to harvest swordfish and/or bigeye, yellowfin, albacore and skip jack tuna in NAFO Unit Areas which overlap with the Project Area. Additionally, Acadia, Glooscap, Millbrook, Membertou and Bear River First Nations have commercial-communal licences for bluefin tuna in NAFO Unit Areas offshore of NS but have the potential to request them for NAFO Unit Areas that overlap with the Project Area.

Following the Marshall decision in 1999, an Umbrella Agreement was signed in 2002 by the Mi'kmaq and Governments of NS and Canada to establish a "Made-in-Nova Scotia" negotiation process to resolve outstanding issues related to Mi'kmaq Treaty Rights. A Framework Agreement was signed between the three parties on February 23, 2007, to set out the process to promote efficient, effective, orderly, and timely negotiations towards a resolution of issues respecting Mi'kmaq rights and title (NS OAA 2017). After a three-year pilot period, on August 31, 2010, an historic consultation agreement was signed by the thirteen Mi'kmaq communities through the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs (ANSMC) and the Governments of NS and Canada. The Mi'kmaq-NS-Canada Consultation Terms of Reference lays out a consultation process for the parties to follow when governments are making decisions that have the potential to adversely impact asserted Mi'kmaq Aboriginal and treaty rights.

The ANSMC represent 11 of the 13 NS Mi'kmaq First Nation communities. The administrative office of the Assembly that coordinates treaty negotiations and consultation on decisions/actions that may impact Mi'kmaq Aboriginal or treaty rights is Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO). Sipekne'katik and Millbrook First Nations chose to withdraw from the TOR process, in 2013 and 2016, respectively, and currently represent themselves in consultation through their Chiefs and Councils. The Sipekne'katik First Nation and Millbrook First Nation assert the same rights as the other Mi'kmaq communities.

Community profiles of the 13 Mi'kmaq communities located in NS are provided in Table 7.36 and the locations of these Indigenous groups are provided in Figure 7-33.



Table 7.36 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Acadia First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Acadia First Nation, in southwestern NS, is comprised of five reserves, in five counties from Yarmouth to Halifax. Acadia First Nation communities range from approximately 1,165 to 1,320 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Acadia First Nation encompasses six reserves: Yarmouth 33 (3.2 km east of Yarmouth with an area of 27.7 ha), Ponthook Lake 10 (115.2 km southwest of Halifax with an area of 101.8 ha), Medway River 11 (108.8 km southwest of Halifax with an area of 4.7 ha), Wildcat 12 (111 km southwest of Halifax with an area of 465.4 ha), Hammonds Plains (32 km north of Halifax with an area of 4.9 ha), and Gold River 21 (60.8 km west of Halifax with an area of 270.2 ha) (INAC 2021). Acadia First Nation also has separate land holdings in Gardner's Mill. Acadia First Nation is represented by the ANSMC. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population for Yarmouth was 181, Ponthook Lake was 15, Wildcat was 49, Medway River was 15, and Gold River was 81 (Statistics Canada 2022).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>The availability of infrastructure within each community varies, however Acadia First Nation has experienced infrastructure growth over the past decade, including the development of housing and roads (Acadia First Nation 2019). An after-school program exists within Yarmouth, for children ages 5 – 12, attending elementary school. Health centres are in Yarmouth and Gold River. The Yarmouth Health Centre includes a dentist, Victorian Order of Nurses (VON), clinic nursing, foot care clinics and wellness and health promotion clinics (Acadia First Nation 2019). The Gold River Health Centre provides a VON, clinic nursing, wellness and health-promotion clinics, afterschool program and parent and tot groups (Acadia First Nation 2019). In Wildcat, a VON is available once a month (Acadia First Nation 2019). Recent economic developments for the Nation include administrative buildings, gaming facilities, and offices in Halifax and Milton to serve the off-reserve population.</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Acadia First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The First Nation has an established fisheries company, Kespuwick Resources, established in 2001. Kespuwick Resources' main onshore facilities are in Yarmouth (Acadia First Nation 2019).</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	The Acadia First Nation were once based in what is today's Queen's County with artifacts found along the Mersey River (KMKNO n.d.). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq of NS, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi'kmaq of NS harvest Atlantic salmon as part of their Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes (Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources [UINR] 2018). Salmon harvesting occurs throughout the year; however, efforts are concentrated during, or just prior to, salmon runs. Atlantic salmon is an integral component to Mi'kmaq culture. The practice of salmon fishing, using traditional harvesting methods, creates opportunities for traditional knowledge sharing, transmission, and adaptation, expressing Mi'kmaw values of sharing catches with the community, and other uses specific to salmon that cannot be replaced by harvesting other species (UINR 2018). The Mi'kmaq of NS also harvest American eel within Aboriginal rights-based, treaty rights-based and commercial fisheries. In addition to a rich food source, the American eel is also used for medicinal purposes.



Table 7.36 Mi’kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Commercial-communal Fishing	Acadia First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for alewives, gaspereau, groundfish, lobster, scallops, green crab, snow crab, Jonah crab, eel, herring, clams, marine worm, mackerel, quahaug, swordfish and tuna. Lobster is licensed for LFA 33 and 34 (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). The Acadia First Nation also holds commercial-communal licences for swordfish NAFO divisions that overlap with the exploration licences included in the Project Area (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Acadia First Nation holds several FSC fishing licences for blue shark, gaspereau, herring, mussel, seal, smallmouth bass, soft-shell clams, striped bass, quahaug, razor clams, eel, mackerel, shad, smelt, bar clams, haddock, pollock, white perch, yellow perch, scallop, landlocked salmon, and catfish (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). The First Nation also holds an FSC licence to fish for groundfish (cod and halibut), lobster, and crab (other than snow crab). Acadia First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon for FSC purposes. Other species harvested include brook trout, periwinkle, rainbow trout, squid, alewife, chain pickerel, and tomcod.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi’kmaq of NS have established Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This includes a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Annapolis Valley First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Annapolis Valley First Nation is comprised of two reserves within Kings County in southwestern NS. Annapolis Valley First Nation reserves range from approximately 1135 to 1175 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Annapolis Valley First Nation encompasses two reserve lands: Annapolis Valley (Cambridge) (88 km northwest of Halifax with an area of 59 ha) and St. Croix 34 (46.4 km northwest of Halifax with an area of 126.2 ha) (INAC 2021). Annapolis Valley First Nation is represented by the ANSMC. According to 202 census data, the on-reserve population was 743 (Statistics Canada 2022). Population data were not available for St. Croix.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Established in 1998, the Three Wishes Learning Centre provides a nursery school program, after school program, and culture programs (Annapolis Valley First Nation n.d.). The Annapolis Valley First Nation Health Centre has a registered community health nurse, access to prevention and weight control programs, foot care clinics, prenatal programs, massage therapy, physical activity programs, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, suicide prevention, injury / illness prevention and health and wellness promotion (Annapolis Valley First Nation n.d.). A dental hygienist is available twice a month at the health centre. Annapolis Valley First Nation’s economic initiatives include Annapolis Valley First Nation Gaming, Annapolis Valley First Nation Smoke Shop, and Annapolis Valley First Nation Gas Bar (Annapolis Valley First Nation n.d.).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, the Annapolis Valley First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The Nation also operates the Annapolis Valley Commercial Fisheries. The Annapolis Valley Commercial Fisheries operates one lobster fishing boat (BP 2017).</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	There is a long history of Mi’kmaq presence in Annapolis Royal and the surrounding areas; archeologists have identified several settlement patterns (Statoil 2017). The Mi’kmaq lived in Annapolis Valley when the Europeans arrived in the area, with lifestyles heavily influenced by the land and ecosystems and a strong tradition of innovation connected to the homelands. The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi’kmaq of NS, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.



Table 7.36 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi'kmaq of NS harvest Atlantic salmon as part of their Aboriginal rights for FSC purposes (UINR 2018). Salmon harvesting occurs throughout the year; however, efforts are concentrated during, or just prior to, salmon runs. Atlantic salmon is an integral component to Mi'kmaq culture. The practice of salmon fishing, using traditional harvesting methods, creates opportunities for traditional knowledge sharing, transmission, and adaptation, expressing Mi'kmaq values of sharing catches with the community, and other uses specific to salmon that cannot be replaced by harvesting other species (UINR 2018). The Mi'kmaq of NS also harvest American eel within Aboriginal rights-based, treaty rights-based and commercial fisheries. In addition to a rich food source, the American eel is also used for medicinal purposes.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Annapolis Valley First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for green crab, groundfish, lobster, scallops, herring, mackerel, marine worm, alewives, gaspereau, and sea urchins. Lobster is licensed for LFA 34 and 35 (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Annapolis Valley First Nation holds several FSC licences for soft-shell clams, bar clams, razor clams, mackerel, herring, eel, flounder, halibut, pollock, smallmouth bass, striped bass, gaspereau, shad, smelt, lobster, oysters, chain pickerel, and scallops. Annapolis Valley First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon for FSC purposes (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Other species harvested include alewife, brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, mussels, periwinkle, and quahaug.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'kmaq of NS have established Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This includes a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Bear River First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Bear River First Nation is comprised of three reserves within the Annapolis Valley between the towns of Annapolis Royal and Digby (KMKNO n.d.). Bear River First Nation is approximately 1265 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Bear River First Nation encompasses three reserve lands: Bear River 6 (17.7 km southeast of Digby with an area of 633.8 ha), Bear River 6A (9.6 km southeast of Annapolis Valley with an area of 31.2 ha), and Bear River 6B (6.4 km southeast of Annapolis Valley with an area of 24.3 ha) (INAC 2021). Bear River First Nation is represented by the ANSMC. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population in Bear River 6 was 141, Bear River 6A was 0, and Bear River 6B was 15 (Statistics Canada 2022).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>The majority of community members live on the Bear River 6, also known as L'sitkuk Mainland (Mainland Mi'kmaq Development Inc. 2016). In Bear River, a learning centre provides space for educational activities. There is a health centre in Bear River, offering healing services and workshops (Bear River First Nation 2016). A doctor visits the health centre monthly (Bear River First Nation 2016). Recently, an RCMP satellite office opened in the community. Bear River First Nation enterprises include a Treaty Gas bar, L'sitkuk Gas Bar Limited, and a seasonal Heritage and Cultural Centre.</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Bear River First Nation holds commercial-communal licences for lobster and tuna.</p>



Table 7.36 Mi’kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	<p>There is a long history of Bear River Mi’kmaq presence in Digby and Annapolis Counties (Mainland Mi’kmaq Development Inc. 2016). As early as 1612, the Mi’kmaq have been recorded as harvesting resources in the Annapolis River and French Bay (Bay of Fundy) (Mainland Mi’kmaq Development Inc. 2016). Traditionally, during the fall and winter, families would travel to hunt big game such as moose, deer, caribou and bear, and smaller game such as beaver, bird species, and rabbit. In the spring, families typically settled along the coast and in the summer, they harvested shellfish such as clam, mussels, and scallops as well as several fish species including cod, salmon, trout, eel, herring, and bass (Mainland Mi’kmaq Development Inc. 2016). Seals, walrus, porpoises and berries and plants were also harvested.</p> <p>Bear River First Nation was traditionally, and continues to be, well known for their artwork, specializing in embroidering porcupine quills on birchbark, leatherwork, and basketry (Mainland Mi’kmaq Development Inc. 2016).</p> <p>The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi’kmaq of NS, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.</p>
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>The Mi’kmaq of NS harvest Atlantic salmon as part of their Aboriginal rights for FSC purposes (UINR 2018). Salmon harvesting occurs throughout the year; however, efforts are concentrated during, or just prior to, salmon runs. Atlantic salmon is an integral component to Mi’kmaq culture. The practice of salmon fishing, using traditional harvesting methods, creates opportunities for traditional knowledge sharing, transmission, and adaptation, expressing Mi’kmaq values of sharing catches with the community, and other uses specific to salmon that cannot be replaced by harvesting other species (UINR 2018). The Mi’kmaq of NS also harvest American eel within Aboriginal rights-based, treaty rights-based and commercial fisheries. In addition to a rich food source, the American eel is also used for medicinal purposes.</p>
Commercial-communal Fishing	<p>Bear River First Nation holds commercial-communal licences for clams, lobster, and tuna. Lobster fishing is licensed in LFA 34 and 35 (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).</p>
FSC Fishing	<p>Bear River First Nation holds several FSC licences for bar clam, groundfish, gaspereau, herring, landlocked salmon, mackerel, mussel, quahaug, razor clam, smallmouth bass, soft-shelled clam, American eel, striped bass, shad, smelt, lobster, crab (other than snow crab) and scallop. Seal may also be harvested. Bear River First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon for FSC purposes (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Other species harvested include trout and alewife.</p>
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	<p>The Mi’kmaq of NS have established Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This includes a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.</p>
Eskasoni First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	<p>Eskasoni First Nation is comprised of three reserves along the shore of the Bras d’Or Lakes. Eskasoni First Nation is approximately 845 km from the Project Area.</p>
General Overview	<p>Eskasoni First Nation encompasses three reserves: Eskasoni 3 (40 km southwest of Sydney with an area of 3,591.1 ha), Eskasoni 3A (40 km southwest of Sydney with an area of 28.5 ha), and Malagawatch 4 (62 km southwest of Sydney with an area of 661.3 ha) (INAC 2021). Eskasoni First Nation is the largest Indigenous community in Atlantic Canada (KMKNO n.d.). Eskasoni First Nation is represented by the ANSMC. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population of Eskasoni 3 was 3,521 and Malagawatch 4 was 20 (Statistics Canada 2022).</p>



Table 7.36 Mi’kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Eskasoni First Nation has community-owned infrastructure such as a community-operated school, accommodating students from kindergarten to grade 12, a supermarket, a community rink and a cultural centre. The Eskasoni Community Health Centre provides a wide range of primary care services as well as several health programs and services such as blood collection, community health nursing, maternal child health, medical transportation, and diabetic services (Eskasoni Community Health Centre 2004). The Eskasoni Pharmacy is in the Health Centre. The pharmacy provides information to the community on drug use, Native Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counseling Association, and Mi’kmaq Family and Children’s Services. The Health Centre is staffed with a nurse, medical transcriptionist, and several physicians (Eskasoni Community Health Centre 2004). Community Health Representatives are also on-site and act as a liaison between health care providers and community members, assisting with translation and administration of health care services and programs (Eskasoni Community Health Centre 2004). Within the community there is also a fire department, with four career firefighters and 20 volunteer firefighters (Eskasoni First Nation n.d.). As described in more detail below, Eskasoni First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The community operates Crane Cove Seafoods. Crane Cove Seafoods owns 13 vessels ranging from 30 to 65 feet and employs over 100 community members, with an additional 35 community members employed at the associated processing plant (Eskasoni First Nation n.d.). Fish harvesting takes place throughout NS from Ingonish to Yarmouth.</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	<p>Chartered in 1832, Eskasoni First Nation became an official reserve in 1834. From 1845 to 1851, much of Cape Breton suffered from famine (Eskasoni First Nation n.d.). During this time, the Mi’kmaq transitioned into a more stationary lifestyle and found opportunities to provide labour, typically traveling to Sydney to work and sell wares (Eskasoni First Nation n.d.). The population of Eskasoni grew in the 1940s as the Department of Indian Affairs implemented a new policy to centralize Indigenous peoples (Eskasoni First Nation n.d.). In the 1950s, Eskasoni First Nation began controlling their own affairs and a Band Council was established in 1958 (Eskasoni First Nation n.d.).</p> <p>The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi’kmaq of NS, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.</p>
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>The Mi’kmaq of NS harvest Atlantic salmon as part of their Aboriginal rights for FSC purposes (UINR 2018). Salmon harvesting occurs throughout the year; however, efforts are concentrated during, or just prior to, salmon runs. Atlantic salmon is an integral component to Mi’kmaq culture. The practice of salmon fishing, using traditional harvesting methods, creates opportunities for traditional knowledge sharing, transmission, and adaptation, expressing Mi’kmaq values of sharing catches with the community, and other uses specific to salmon that cannot be replaced by harvesting other species (UINR 2018). The Mi’kmaq of NS also harvest American eel within Aboriginal rights-based, treaty rights-based and commercial fisheries. In addition to a rich food source, the American eel is also used for medicinal purposes.</p>
Commercial-communal Fishing	<p>Eskasoni First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for alewives, gaspereau, eel, lobster, snow crab, herring, mackerel, and shrimp. Lobster fishing is licensed in LFA 28 (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).</p>
FSC Fishing	<p>Eskasoni First Nation holds several FSC licences for soft-shell clam, bar clam, razor clam, cod, flounder, haddock, mussels, scallops, shad, smelt, trout, small mouth bass, striped bass, pollock, herring, mackerel, oysters, white perch, yellow perch, chain pickerel, quahaug, and lobster. Eskasoni First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon for FSC purposes (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).</p>



Table 7.36 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'kmaq of NS have established Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This includes a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Glooscap First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Glooscap First Nation is comprised of one reserve (Glooscap 35), northwest of Halifax. Glooscap First Nation is approximately 1145 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Glooscap 35 is 68.8 km northwest of Halifax with an area of 171.1 ha (INAC 2021). Glooscap First Nation is represented by the ANSMC. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population was 111 (Statistics Canada 2022).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Glooscap First Nation does not have any schools within the community; however, the Nation has an appointed education director who oversees primary and secondary education for on-reserve members (Glooscap First Nation 2019). There is a Health Centre in the community, offering health and healing services that focus on six components: education, health promotion, culture and language, nutrition, social support, and parent / family involvement (Glooscap First Nation 2019). Established in 2014, Glooscap Ventures was created as the economic department for the community and is owned and operated by Glooscap First Nation. Glooscap Ventures manages on-reserve businesses including the variety store / gas bar, gaming facility, and commercial fisheries. Currently, Glooscap Ventures is developing a 27-acre parcel of land, Glooscap Landing, along Highway 101 for retail purposes (Glooscap First Nation 2019). Other initiatives include the expansion of the commercial fisheries and pursuing opportunities in renewable energy (Glooscap First Nation 2019).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Glooscap First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species.</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	Established in 1984, Glooscap First Nation became the thirteenth Mi'kmaq band in NS (KMKNO n.d.). Originally, Glooscap First Nation was created following the separation of two communities, Annapolis Valley and Glooscap, that were 30 km apart (KMKNO n.d.). Glooscap First Nation was originally known as Horton but was renamed in 2001 (KMKNO n.d.). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq of NS, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>Glooscap First Nation’s traditional activity is focused on harvesting of migratory marine species, particularly for FSC and commercial-communal purposes.</p> <p>The Mi'kmaq of NS harvest Atlantic salmon as part of their Aboriginal rights for FSC purposes (UINR 2018). Salmon harvesting occurs throughout the year; however, efforts are concentrated during, or just prior to, salmon runs. Atlantic salmon is an integral component to Mi'kmaq culture. The practice of salmon fishing, using traditional harvesting methods, creates opportunities for traditional knowledge sharing, transmission, and adaptation, expressing Mi'kmaw values of sharing catches with the community, and other uses specific to salmon that cannot be replaced by harvesting other species (UINR 2018). The Mi'kmaq of NS also harvest American eel within Aboriginal rights-based, treaty rights-based and commercial fisheries. In addition to a rich food source, the American eel is also used for medicinal purposes.</p>
Commercial-communal Fishing	Glooscap First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for alewives, gaspereau, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, green crab, marine worm, clam, and tuna. Lobster fishing is licensed in LFA 34 (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Glooscap First Nation also holds 2 tuna licences in the gulf region (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).



Table 7.36 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
FSC Fishing	Glooscap First Nation holds several FSC licences for eel, alewife, blueback herring, brown bullhead, chain pickerel, cod, flounder, gaspereau, haddock, halibut, lake whitefish, lobster, mackerel, mussels, pollock, scallops, shad, smallmouth bass, striped bass, smelt, soft-shell clams, trout, white perch, yellow perch, and white sucker fish (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). In addition, Glooscap First Nation has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon for FSC purposes (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'kmaq of NS have established Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This includes a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Membertou First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Membertou First Nation is comprised of four reserves, in northeastern and southwestern Sydney. Membertou First Nation is 810 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Membertou First Nation encompasses four reserves: Membertou 28B (1.6 km south of Sydney with an area of 100.9 ha), Sydney 28A (1.6 km northeast of Sydney with an area of 5.1 ha), Caribou Marsh 29 (8 km southwest of Sydney with an area of 219.3 ha) and Malagawatch 4 (62 km southwest of Sydney with an area of 661.3 ha) (INAC 2021). Membertou First Nation is represented by the ANSMC. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population at Membertou 28B was 1,103 and at Malagawatch 4 was 20 (Statistics Canada 2022).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Membertou First Nation has one school, Maupeltuewey Kina'matno'kuom, accommodating students from kindergarten to grade 6 (Membertou First Nation n.d.). A local Cape Breton Regional Police detachment is in Membertou. The Membertou Wellness Centre delivers programs to the community that address prominent health issues such as smoking cessation, crisis prevention / intervention, addictions services, and home and community care (Membertou First Nation n.d.). The Membertou Wellness Centre also provides a family practice medical clinic with a doctor available Monday through Friday (Membertou First Nation n.d.).</p> <p>Membertou First Nation has made considerable investments in infrastructure and providing services to community members over the last decade such as a gas station, church, community centre, band office and boxing gym. Membertou First Nation also recently built the Membertou Sports and Wellness Centre, with two ice surfaces, an indoor walking track, a Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) gym and multi-purpose meeting and event rooms (Membertou Sports and Wellness Centre n.d.). Within Membertou, there is a business park including the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre, Membertou Heritage Park and Petroglyphs Gift Shop, a hotel, Kiju's Restaurant, Membertou Entertainment Centre, and private businesses. In 2002, Membertou First Nation became the first Indigenous government in the world to be International Organization for Standardization (ISO)-certified (CANDO 2018).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Membertou First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The Nation owns and operates a seafood company, First Fishermen Seafoods. The company has six fleet vessels and harvests a variety of groundfish, shellfish, tuna, and swordfish (Membertou First Nation n.d.).</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	Once known as Kings Road, Membertou was situated along the banks of Sydney Harbour. In 1926, Membertou was officially moved to its present location (Membertou First Nation n.d.). As an urban Indigenous community, few members relied solely on traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering to earn their living; instead, both men and women worked in various industries (Membertou First Nation n.d.). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq of NS, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.



Table 7.36 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi'kmaq of NS harvest Atlantic salmon as part of their Aboriginal rights for FSC purposes (UINR 2018). Salmon harvesting occurs throughout the year; however, efforts are concentrated during, or just prior to, salmon runs. Atlantic salmon is an integral component to Mi'kmaq culture. The practice of salmon fishing, using traditional harvesting methods, creates opportunities for traditional knowledge sharing, transmission, and adaptation, expressing Mi'kmaq values of sharing catches with the community, and other uses specific to salmon that cannot be replaced by harvesting other species (UINR 2018). The Mi'kmaq of NS also harvest American eel within Aboriginal rights-based, treaty rights-based and commercial fisheries. In addition to a rich food source, the American eel is also used for medicinal purposes.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Membertou First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for eel, alewives, gaspereau, snow and green crab, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, sea scallops, sea urchins, squid, whelks, and tuna (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Lobster fishing is licensed in LFA 27. Membertou First Nation also holds a tuna licence in the gulf region (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Membertou First Nation holds several FSC licences for soft-shell clams, razor clams, bar clams, cod, red crab, rock crab, stone crab, green crab, Jonah crab, eel, flounder, haddock, halibut, mussel, oyster, pollock, smelt, striped bass, mackerel, quahaugs, brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, chain pickerel, scallops, and lobster (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Membertou First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon for FSC purposes (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'kmaq of NS have established Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This includes a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Paq'tnkek Mi'kmaw Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Paq'tnkek Mi'kmaw Nation is comprised of three reserves, southeast of Amherst and east of Antigonish. Paq'tnkek Mi'kmaw Nation is approximately 940 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Paq'tnkek Mi'kmaw Nation encompasses three reserves: Franklin Manor 22 (32 km southeast of Amherst with an area of 212.5 ha), Paq'tnkek-Niktuek 23 (24 km east of Antigonish with an area of 204.8 ha), and Welnek 38 (18 km east of Antigonish with an area of 43.4 ha) (INAC 2021). Paq'tnkek is represented by the ANSMC. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population was 372 (Statistics Canada 2022).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Since 1980, the Paq'tnkek Pre-School has been in operation in Afton, NS. The nearest RCMP detachment is in Antigonish. The Paq'tnkek Health Centre provides a variety of programs and services to community members, including community health promotion, education, and prevention programming (Paq'tnkek Mi'kmaw Nation 2019). Paq'tnkek Mi'kmaw Nation has an Economic Development Department which manages all development projects within the community, including recent infrastructure development projects related to highway development and commercial opportunities. The First Nation also operates the Bayside Travel Centre, the Paq'tnkek Entertainment Centre, Gas Bar, and Smoke Shop (Paq'tnkek Mi'kmaw Nation 2019).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Paq'tnkek holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The First Nation owns and operates the Paq'tnkek Fisheries Enterprise, employing 20 community members. The enterprise has a fleet of five communal vessels and harvests lobster, snow crab, and herring (Paq'tnkek Mi'kmaw Nation 2019).</p>



Table 7.36 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	Established in 1820, Paq'tnkek, meaning “by the bay”, has been a traditional stopping point for Mi'kmaq travelling to and from Unama'ki, and a central meeting point for Chiefs across the province. Cultural and traditional practices such as spearing eels and salmon and snaring rabbits are still practiced within the community (Paq'tnkek Mi'kmaw Nation 2019). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq of NS, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi'kmaq of NS harvest Atlantic salmon as part of their Aboriginal rights for FSC purposes (UINR 2018). Salmon harvesting occurs throughout the year; however, efforts are concentrated during, or just prior to, salmon runs. Atlantic salmon is an integral component to Mi'kmaq culture. The practice of salmon fishing, using traditional harvesting methods, creates opportunities for traditional knowledge sharing, transmission, and adaptation, expressing Mi'kmaw values of sharing catches with the community, and other uses specific to salmon that cannot be replaced by harvesting other species (UINR 2018). The Mi'kmaq of NS also harvest American eel within Aboriginal rights-based, treaty rights-based and commercial fisheries. In addition to a rich food source, the American eel is also used for medicinal purposes.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Paq'tnkek Mi'kmaw Nation holds 32 commercial-communal licences for rock crab, eel, groundfish, herring, lobster mackerel, marine plants, oysters, scallops, smelts, snow crab and squid. Paq'tnkek First Nation also holds commercial-communal licences for swordfish in NAFO divisions that overlap with the exploration licences included in the Project Area. Lobster fishing is licensed in LFA 26A (M. Leger, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Paq'tnkek Mi'kmaw Nation holds FSC licences for salmon, striped bass, and eel. Paq'tnkek Mi'kmaw Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon (outer Bay of Fundy population) for FSC purposes (BP 2018).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'kmaq of NS have established Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This includes a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Pictou Landing First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Pictou Landing First Nation is comprised of five reserves on the south shore of the Northumberland Strait in Pictou County. Pictou Landing First Nation is approximately 1,010 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Pictou Landing First Nation encompasses five reserves: Franklin Manor 22 (32 km southeast of Amherst with an area of 212.5 ha), Fisher's Grant (10 km north of New Glasgow with an area of 142.7 ha), Boat Harbour West 37 (8 km north of New Glasgow with an area of 98.2 ha), Fisher's Grant 24G (3.2 km southeast of Pictou Landing with an area of 60.0 ha) and Merigomish Harbour 31 (12.8 km east of New Glasgow with an area of 14.2 ha) (INAC 2021). Pictou Landing First Nation is represented by the ANSMC. According to 2021 census data, Fisher's Grant (the main community) had a population of 449 and a small population lived in Merigomish Harbour (Statistics Canada 2022). No population data were available for the other communities.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	Pictou Landing First Nation School accommodates students from primary to grade 6. There are no police detachments or fire halls within the community. The Nation has a church, gas bar, and health centre (KMKNO n.d.). As described in more detail below Pictou Landing First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The Pictou Landing First Nation fishery is the Nation's main industry, with a fleet of 12 vessels and employing approximately 100 people (full and part time) a year (KMKNO n.d.).



Table 7.36 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	Pictou Landing First Nation has lived on a seasonal basis in and around a small tidal estuary connected by a narrow channel to the Northumberland Strait (Statoil 2017). The area provided an abundance of resources such as fish, eels, crustaceans, and shellfish as well as hunting and trapping near shore (Statoil 2017). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq of NS, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi'kmaq of NS harvest Atlantic salmon as part of their Aboriginal rights for FSC purposes (UINR 2018). Salmon harvesting occurs throughout the year; however, efforts are concentrated during, or just prior to, salmon runs. Atlantic salmon is an integral component to Mi'kmaq culture. The practice of salmon fishing, using traditional harvesting methods, creates opportunities for traditional knowledge sharing, transmission, and adaptation, expressing Mi'kmaw values of sharing catches with the community, and other uses specific to salmon that cannot be replaced by harvesting other species (UINR 2018). The Mi'kmaq of NS also harvest American eel within Aboriginal rights-based, treaty rights-based and commercial fisheries. In addition to a rich food source, the American eel is also used for medicinal purposes.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Pictou Landing First Nation holds 147 commercial-communal licences for alewives / gaspereau, clams, rock and spider / toad crab, eel, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, marine plants, oysters, scallops, seal, smelt, snow crab, squid, and bluefin tuna (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Pictou Landing First Nation also holds commercial-communal licences for swordfish in NAFO divisions that overlap with the exploration licences included in the Project Area. Lobster fishing is licensed in LFA 26AB (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Pictou Landing First Nation has access to FSC licences for salmon (kelt, black or slink), striped bass, eel and trout (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'kmaq of NS have established Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This includes a right to fish for a "moderate livelihood" which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Potlotek First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Potlotek First Nation is comprised of two reserves, southwest of Sydney. Potlotek First Nation is approximately 865 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Potlotek First Nation encompasses two reserves: Chapel Island 5 (69 km southwest of Sydney with an area of 592.5 ha) and Malagawatch 4 (62 km southwest of Sydney with an area of 661.3 ha (INAC 2021). Potlotek First Nation is represented by the ANSMC. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population at Chapel Island 5 was 405 and at Malagawatch 4 was 20 (Statistics Canada 2022).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Within the community, there is a day care and elementary school, the Mi'kmawey School. Established in 1998, it accommodates students from primary to grade 6 (Potlotek First Nation 2016, in BP 2018). An RCMP building and fire hall exist within the community. The Potlotek Volunteer Fire Department has 14 active members (KMKNO n.d.). A Health Centre is in the community, providing a variety of services and programs such as addiction services, maternal care, home care, advanced and diabetic foot care, healing programs and wellness programs (Potlotek First Nation 2016, in BP 2018). A doctor visits the Health Centre on a weekly basis (Potlotek First Nation 2016, in BP 2018). Additional infrastructure within the community includes the Chapel Island Community Hall / Kateri Chapel and a Youth Centre.</p> <p>Recently, economic developments such as the construction of a store-gas bar which includes Robins Donuts, a Rite Stop, Esso and video lottery terminals have provided employment opportunities for community members (KMKNO n.d.).</p>



Table 7.36 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
	As described in more detail below, Potlotek First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The fisheries industry plays a dominant role in the First Nation's economy, particularly in oyster cultivation. Formed in 1995, the Apaqtukewaq Fisheries Co-op includes four members and employs seven people during peak season (May to September) (Potlotek First Nation 2016, in BP 2018). An oyster plant operates within the community and the Co-op operates two fishing vessels used for harvesting of lobster and snow crab (Potlotek First Nation 2016, in BP 2018).
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	Established in 1834, Potlotek First Nation, also known as Chapel Island, is the home of the Saint Anne's Mission where each year Mi'kmaq people gather to celebrate the Feast of Saint Anne (Potlotek First Nation 2016, in BP 2018). Chapel Island is considered a sacred ground to the Mi'kmaq (Potlotek First Nation 2016, in BP 2018). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq of NS, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi'kmaq of NS harvest Atlantic salmon as part of their Aboriginal rights for FSC purposes (UINR 2018). Salmon harvesting occurs throughout the year; however, efforts are concentrated during, or just prior to, salmon runs. Atlantic salmon is an integral component to Mi'kmaq culture. The practice of salmon fishing, using traditional harvesting methods, creates opportunities for traditional knowledge sharing, transmission, and adaptation, expressing Mi'kmaq values of sharing catches with the community, and other uses specific to salmon that cannot be replaced by harvesting other species (UINR 2018). The Mi'kmaq of NS also harvest American eel within Aboriginal rights-based, treaty rights-based and commercial fisheries. In addition to a rich food source, the American eel is also used for medicinal purposes.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Potlotek First Nation (Chapel Island Band Council) and Apaqtukewag Fishermen's Co-op holds several commercial-communal licences for green crab, snow crab, groundfish, herring, lobster, sea urchin, mackerel, alewives, gaspereau, eel, squid, and shrimp (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Potlotek First Nation also holds 1 bluefin tuna licence in gulf region (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Potlotek First Nation holds several FSC licences for capelin, cod, flounder, haddock, mackerel, mussel, pollock, shad, brown trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, quahaug, smelt, soft-shelled clams, striped bass, eel, lobster, scallop, chain pickerel, and herring (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Potlotek First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon for FSC purposes (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'kmaq of NS have established Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This includes a right to fish for a "moderate livelihood" which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Wagmatcook First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Wagmatcook First Nation is comprised of three reserves, within the Bras d'Or Lakes region of Cape Breton. Wagmatcook First Nation is approximately 870 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Wagmatcook encompasses three reserves: Malagawatch 4 (62 km southwest of Sydney with an area of 661.3 ha), Margaree 25 (68.8 km northwest of Sydney with an area of 0.8 ha), and Wagmatcook 1 (51 km west of Sydney with an area of 385.0 ha) (INAC 2021). Wagmatcook First Nation is represented by the ANSMC. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population at Wagmatcook 1 was 691 and at Malagawatch 4 was 20 (Statistics Canada 2022). No population data were available for Margaree 25.



Table 7.36 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>In 1986, Wagmatcook First Nation initiated the first Indigenous secondary school in the Atlantic Region and established the first NS Mi'kmaq Day Care Centre (Statoil 2017). A new elementary-secondary education school, Wamgatcookewey School, is the first kindergarten to grade 12 Mi'kmaq First Nation school in NS (Wagmatcook First Nation 2016). There is no police detachment within the community, but there is a fire hall. The cultural centre, the Wagmatcook Enterprise and Cultural Centre, provides a variety of services to community members including an Alternate School for Youth, cultural demonstration projects, and a Fitness Centre (Wagmatcook First Nation 2016). The cultural centre also houses the TD Canada Trust Agency bank, a Canada Post office, and the Clean Wave Restaurant (Wagmatcook First Nation 2016). The band also operates a gas bar, grocery store, wharf, and warehouse.</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Wagmatcook First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The Wagmatcook commercial fishery has been in operation since 1990 and is communally owned by registered members of Wagmatcook First Nation (Wagmatcook First Nation 2016). The Wagmatcook Commercial Fishery employs 35 fishers and one shore-based manager (Wagmatcook First Nation 2016). It uses a total of eleven fishing vessels and primarily harvests groundfish, palegics, shellfish and is a producer / wholesaler of shell ice products (Wagmatcook First Nation 2016). The fishery has six Cape Islander-style lobster vessels, one groundfish vessel, two storage facilities and an ice processing facility (Wagmatcook First Nation 2016). The fishery generates the highest projected returns to the community (Wagmatcook First Nation 2016).</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	<p>The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq of NS, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.</p>
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>The Mi'kmaq of NS harvest Atlantic salmon as part of their Aboriginal rights for FSC purposes (UINR 2018). Salmon harvesting occurs throughout the year; however, efforts are concentrated during, or just prior to, salmon runs. Atlantic salmon is an integral component to Mi'kmaq culture. The practice of salmon fishing, using traditional harvesting methods, creates opportunities for traditional knowledge sharing, transmission, and adaptation, expressing Mi'kmaw values of sharing catches with the community, and other uses specific to salmon that cannot be replaced by harvesting other species (UINR 2018). The Mi'kmaq of NS also harvest American eel within Aboriginal rights-based, treaty rights-based and commercial fisheries. In addition to a rich food source, the American eel is also used for medicinal purposes.</p>
Commercial-communal Fishing	<p>Wagmatcook First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences in the Maritimes Region for alewives, gaspereau, eel, groundfish, herring, lobster, sea urchins, seal, swordfish, mackerel, snow crab, and squid (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Wagmatcook First Nation holds 14 commercial-communal licences in the Gulf Region for rock crab, spider/ toad crab, groundfish, lobster, mackerel, smelts, snow crab, squid, swordfish, and bluefin tuna (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Wagmatcook Lobster fishing is licensed in LFA 26B and 27 (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022; M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). First Nation's commercial-communal licences for swordfish is in NAFO divisions that overlap with the exploration licences included in the Project Area (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022; M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022)..</p>



Table 7.36 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
FSC Fishing	Wagmatcook First Nation holds several FSC licences for cod, eel, flounder, haddock, herring, mackerel, mussel, pollock, scallop, shad, smelt, trout, lobster, soft-shell clams, bar clams, razor clams, quahaug, and striped bass (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). In addition, Wagmatcook First Nation has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon for FSC purposes (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'kmaq of NS have established Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This includes a right to fish for a "moderate livelihood" which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
We'koqma'q First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	We'ko'kmaq (Waycobah) First Nation is comprised of two reserves within the village of Whycomomagh in Cape Breton. Waycobah First Nation is approximately 890 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Waycobah First Nation encompasses two reserves: Malagawatch 4 (62 km southwest of Sydney with an area of 661.3 ha) and Whycomomagh 2 (70 km west of Sydney with an area of 908 ha) (INAC 2021). Waycobah First Nation is represented by the ANSMC. According to 2026 census data, the on-reserve population at Whycomomagh 2 was 877 and at Malagawatch 4 was 20 (Statistics Canada 2022).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>In 2008, a new elementary-secondary school was opened within the community (Waycobah First Nation n.d., in BP 2018). A daycare facility also exists within the community as well as a RCMP station and volunteer fire department. In 2010, the Theresa Cremo Memorial Health Centre was opened, offering a variety of programs and services such as a full time Nurse Practitioner, full time clinical therapist, prenatal classes, lab collection, Reiki treatments, an Alcohol and Drug counselor, midwifery clinics, well women and men clinics, a dietician, teen health clinic and a variety of activities for members of the community of all ages (Waycobah First Nation n.d., in BP 2018). A doctor is available at the Health Centre twice a week. The Nation also owns and operates a convenience store and gas bar and a gaming centre (Waycobah First Nation n.d., in BP 2018).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Waycobah First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The First Nation has two lobster licences, shrimp trap and trawl licences, groundfish quotas and an active elver fishery (Waycobah First Nation n.d., in BP 2018). The Waycobah Fisheries employs approximately 35 community members (Waycobah First Nation n.d., in BP 2018). In 2011, a trout fish farm was re-established within the community. Although owned by Cold Water Fisheries, employees are largely Waycobah community members (Waycobah First Nation n.d., in BP 2018).</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	Established in the early 1800s, Waycobah First Nation was originally known as We'ko'kmaq. In the 1940s, the community experienced a decline in population because of the federal government's centralization policy, where many individuals were relocated to the community of Eskasoni (Waycobah First Nation n.d., in BP 2018). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq of NS, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.



Table 7.36 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi'kmaq of NS harvest Atlantic salmon as part of their Aboriginal rights for FSC purposes (UINR 2018). Salmon harvesting occurs throughout the year; however, efforts are concentrated during, or just prior to, salmon runs. Atlantic salmon is an integral component to Mi'kmaq culture. The practice of salmon fishing, using traditional harvesting methods, creates opportunities for traditional knowledge sharing, transmission, and adaptation, expressing Mi'kmaq values of sharing catches with the community, and other uses specific to salmon that cannot be replaced by harvesting other species (UINR 2018). The Mi'kmaq of NS also harvest American eel within Aboriginal rights-based, treaty rights-based and commercial fisheries. In addition to a rich food source, the American eel is also used for medicinal purposes.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Waycobah First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for groundfish, lobster, snow crab, eel, herring, mackerel, sea urchin, shrimp, seal and swordfish. Lobster fishing is licensed in LFA 27 and 29 (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). The Waycobah First Nation holds commercial-communal licences for swordfish in NAFO divisions that overlap with the exploration licences included in the Project Area. Waycobah First Nation also holds 1 bluefin tuna licence in the gulf region (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Waycobah First Nation holds several FSC licences for striped bass, soft-shell clam, razor clam, bar clam, eel, cod, flounder, haddock, pollock, herring, lobster, mackerel, mussels, scallop, shad, smelt, quahaugs, and trout (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). In addition, Waycobah First Nation has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon for FSC purposes (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'kmaq of NS have established Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This includes a right to fish for a "moderate livelihood" which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Sipekne'katik First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Sipekne'katik First Nation (also known as Indian Brook or Shubenacadie) is comprised of five reserves in Hants County, near the town of Shubenacadie. Sipekne'katik First Nation is approximately 1,100 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Sipekne'katik First Nation encompasses five reserves: Indian Brook 14 (29 km southwest of Truro with an area of 1,234.2 ha), Wallace Hills 14A (with an area of 54.8 ha), Shubenacadie 13 (32 km north of Halifax with an area of 412.0 ha), Pennal 19 (67.2 km northwest of Halifax with an area of 43.5 ha) and New Ross 20 (64 km northwest of Halifax with an area of 408.3 ha) (INAC 2021). Sipekne'katik First Nation is currently not represented by the ANSMC. Sipekne'katik First Nation asserts the same rights as other Mi'kmaq communities in NS. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population at Wallace Hills was 15, Pennal 19 was 30, and Indian Brook was 2,739 (Statistics Canada 2022). No population data were available for Shubenacadie or New Ross.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>In 2008, the L'nu Sipuk Kina'muokum school opened in the community, accommodating students from primary to grade 12. The school specializes in Mi'kmaq studies and Mi'kmaq language courses (Sipekne'katik First Nation 2016). Little Eagles Daycare Centre provides care to children ages 1 – 4 years old (Sipekne'katik First Nation 2016). The community also has the Sipekne'katik Multipurpose Centre, used for community meetings, events, and social gatherings. Local businesses within the community include a community gas-bar, tobacco shop, gaming room and convenience store.</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Sipekne'katik First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The Sipekne'katik First Nation Fisheries Department is an economic enterprise, managing 33 fishing licences for various species including lobster, crab, and groundfish (BP 2017).</p>



Table 7.36 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	Established in 1820, Sipekne'katik was originally named "Indian Brook". The area was traditionally used as a sacred site to prepare for ceremonies and hunting and fishing trips (Sipekn'katik First Nation 2016). In 1752, one of the most significant Peace and Friendship Treaties was signed at Shubenacadie District (Sipekn'katik First Nation 2016). This treaty dealt with lands, hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and trading. In 2002, a memorial was erected in honor of Chief Jean Baptiste Cope and the Treaty of 1752 (Sipekn'katik First Nation 2016). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq of NS, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi'kmaq of NS harvest Atlantic salmon as part of their Aboriginal rights for FSC purposes (UINR 2018). Salmon harvesting occurs throughout the year; however, efforts are concentrated during, or just prior to, salmon runs. Atlantic salmon is an integral component to Mi'kmaq culture. The practice of salmon fishing, using traditional harvesting methods, creates opportunities for traditional knowledge sharing, transmission, and adaptation, expressing Mi'kmaw values of sharing catches with the community, and other uses specific to salmon that cannot be replaced by harvesting other species (UINR 2018). The Mi'kmaq of NS also harvest American eel within Aboriginal rights-based, treaty rights-based and commercial fisheries. In addition to a rich food source, the American eel is also used for medicinal purposes.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Sipekne'katik First Nation (Shubenacadie Band) holds several commercial-communal licences for alewives, gaspereau, groundfish, lobster, scallops, snow crab, sea urchins, herring, mackerel, clams, tuna and swordfish (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Sipekne'katik First Nation also holds commercial-communal licences for swordfish in NAFO divisions that overlap with the exploration licences included in the Project Area. Lobster fishing is licensed in LFA 32, 33, 34, and 35.
FSC Fishing	Sipekne'katik First Nation holds several FSC licences to harvest alewife, scallops, trout, lobster, smallmouth bass, striped bass, bar clams, quahaug, razor clams, soft-shell clams, crabs (other than snow crab), eel, gaspereau, groundfish, herring, mackerel, mussels, landlocked salmon, seal, shad, and smelt (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Sipekne'katik First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon for FSC purposes.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'kmaq of NS have established Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This includes a right to fish for a "moderate livelihood" which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Millbrook First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Millbrook First Nation is comprised of seven reserves, located near the community of Truro and Halifax. Millbrook First Nation is approximately 1,065 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Millbrook First Nation encompasses seven reserves. Four reserve lands: Truro 27A, Truro 27B, Truro 27C and Millbrook 27, are near the town of Truro, with a total area of 344.9 ha (INAC n.d., in BP 2018). The remaining three are: Beaver Lake 17 (78.4 km southeast of Halifax with an area of 49.4 ha), Sheet Harbour 36 (91.2 km northeast of Halifax with an area of 32.7 ha), and Cole Harbour 30 (9.6 km east of Halifax with an area of 18.6 ha (INAC 2021). Millbrook First Nation is currently not represented by the ANSMC. Millbrook First Nation asserts the same rights as other Mi'kmaq communities in NS. According to 2021 census data, the population at Millbrook was 921, Cole Harbour 20 was 208, Veaver Lake 17 was 20, and the Sheet Harbour was 10 (Statistics Canada 2022).



Table 7.36 Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Infrastructure and services available in the community of Millbrook are the Millbrook Band Office, Millbrook Community Hall, Millbrook Ballfield, Millbrook Gym, Millbrook Early Education Centre, Millbrook Senior's Centre, and Sacred Heart Mission Church (Millbrook First Nation n.d.). The Millbrook Health Centre is also in the community, providing a variety of programs and services such as home and community care and assisted living programs, youth support, addiction services, wellness programs and community support and family enrichment programs. Millbrook First Nation owns, develops, and manages the retail park, Millbrook Power Centre, in Truro, NS. This park encompasses 68 acres of commercial land on the most traveled stretch of highway in NS, outside of Halifax (Millbrook First Nation n.d.). Since opening in 2001, the Millbrook Power Centre has approximately a dozen tenants including a multiplex theatre, several restaurants, two hotels, a recreational vehicle retailer, a service station, an aquaculture facility, a furniture store, and the Glooscap Heritage Centre (Millbrook First Nation n.d.). There have also been recent developments in the Cole Harbour community, including apartment buildings, General Dynamics Building, and a gaming centre.</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Millbrook First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. Millbrook Fisheries is an important part of the local economy, controlling eight vessels and employing over 40 staff members throughout the year.</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	<p>From the late 1700s to the early 1800s, the Mi'kmaq near Truro were settled along the banks of the Salmon River. The Mi'kmaq then relocated to their current community at Millbrook (Harvey 2003). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq of NS, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.</p>
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>The Mi'kmaq of NS harvest Atlantic salmon as part of their Aboriginal rights for FSC purposes (UINR 2018). Salmon harvesting occurs throughout the year; however, efforts are concentrated during, or just prior to, salmon runs. Atlantic salmon is an integral component to Mi'kmaq culture. The practice of salmon fishing, using traditional harvesting methods, creates opportunities for traditional knowledge sharing, transmission, and adaptation, expressing Mi'kmaw values of sharing catches with the community, and other uses specific to salmon that cannot be replaced by harvesting other species (UINR 2018). The Mi'kmaq of NS also harvest American eel within Aboriginal rights-based, treaty rights-based and commercial fisheries. In addition to a rich food source, the American eel is also used for medicinal purposes.</p>
Commercial-communal Fishing	<p>Millbrook First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for alewives, gaspereau, snow and Jonah crab, eel, hagfish, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, clams, sea urchins, seal, and tuna (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Millbrook First Nation also holds 24 commercial-communal licences in the Gulf Region for alewives, gaspereau, eel, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, oysters, scallop, smelts, squid, and bluefin tuna. Lobster fishing is licensed in LFA 26A, 32 and 35 (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022; M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).</p>
FSC Fishing	<p>Millbrook First Nation holds several FSC licences to harvest smallmouth bass, striped bass, quahaug, soft-shell clams, bar clams, razor clams, eel, lobster, oysters, scallop, smelt, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout, speckled trout, mackerel, herring, and chain pickerel (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Millbrook First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon for FSC purposes.</p>
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	<p>The Mi'kmaq of NS have established Aboriginal and Treaty rights. This includes a right to fish for a "moderate livelihood" which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.</p>



7.3.3.2 Mi’kmaq of Prince Edward Island

Abegweit First Nation and Lennox Island First Nation are the two PE Mi’kmaq communities specified in the EIS Guidelines for engagement and inclusion in the EIS. They are both represented in consultation and engagement by L’nuey. L’nuey was established in 2019 to serve as a central coordination office for consultation with the Mi’kmaq of PE.

Governmental responses to Aboriginal matters within the province are managed by PE’s Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat which was created in 2009 (MCPEI 2019). The Government of Canada, the Province of PE, and the Mi’kmaq of PE signed the Mi’kmaq – PEI – Canada Consultation Agreement on August 13, 2012 (Abegweit First Nation 2018). The tripartite consultation agreement outlines a means for Canada and PE to consult with the Mi’kmaq on proposed actions or decisions that may adversely impact asserted or established Aboriginal treaty rights (Abegweit First Nation 2018).

The Project does not overlap with traditional Mi’kmaq territory, however Abegweit and Lennox Island First Nations both have commercial-communal fishing licences to harvest swordfish in NAFO divisions that overlap with the Project Area.

Community profiles of the Mi’kmaq communities located in PE are provided in Table 7.37 and the locations of these Indigenous groups are provided in Figure 7-33.

Table 7.37 Mi’kmaq of Prince Edward Island Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Abegweit First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Abegweit First Nation is comprised of three reserves, extending along the eastern portion of PE. The community is approximately 1,015 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Abegweit First Nation encompasses three reserves: Morell Rear Reserve 2 (approximately 40 km northeast of Charlottetown with an area of 83 hectares (ha)), Rocky Point Reserve 3 (south of Charlottetown with an area of 4.8 ha), and Scotchfort Reserve 4 (24 km northeast of Charlottetown with an area of 113.1 ha) (BP 2017). Abegweit First Nation is represented in consultation and engagement by L’nuey. As of February 2022, Abegweit First Nation had a registered population of 399 (INAC 2022)
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	Abegweit First Nation has no schools within the community. As of 2015, Abegweit First Nation students were enrolled in approximately 15 different schools throughout the province (Abegweit First Nation 2018). The Abegweit First Nation’s Education Program does however play a significant role, providing a variety of programs and services such as access to upgrading and General Education Development programs, after-school tutoring programs, homework clubs, post-secondary education programs and early childhood learning (Abegweit First Nation 2018). The Abegweit First Nation Mi’kmaq Wellness Centre delivers health care services to the community, while respecting safety, cultural values, traditions, and beliefs of the community. The Wellness Centre has an interdisciplinary team including a doctor, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, registered dietician, native alcohol and drug addiction counselor and a community health representative (Abegweit First Nation 2018). The Abegweit First Nation Community Economic Development Program serves the community, its members, and businesses in many ways including proposal development, land and resource development, and economic planning (Abegweit First Nation 2018). Abegweit First Nation owns and operates the Epekwitk Gas Bar and the Redstone Truck and Marine facility (Abegweit First Nation 2018). Other economic initiatives include the Epekwitk Gardens and Preserves, Abegweit Biodiversity and Enhancement Hatchery, stream enhancement and forestry (Abegweit First Nation 2018; BP 2017).



Table 7.37 Mi'kmaq of Prince Edward Island Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
	As described in more detail below, Abegweit First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The First Nation has an established commercial fishery for lobster, snow crab, rock crab, mackerel, tuna and silverside (Abegweit First Nation 2018; BP 2017).
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	Abegweit First Nation was established in 1972 due to separation from the Lennox Island First Nation (Abegweit First Nation 2018). The first election for the band occurred in May of 1972. The Project does not overlap with traditional Mi'kmaq territory, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>The Mi'kmaq of PE are known to occupy and use the land and waters around PE, including use for travel corridors, land hunting and harvesting, and fishing for traditional purposes.</p> <p>The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PE database which is a partial inventory of existing knowledge does not indicate use of lands in the RAA for traditional purposes, although it could be that evidence of use, if it exists, has not yet been collected (MCPEI, pers. comm. 2018, in BP 2018). Refer below for details on FSC fishing practices.</p>
Commercial-communal Fishing	Abegweit First Nation holds 147 commercial-communal licences for clams, rock crab, toad / spider crab, eel, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, mussels, oysters, scallops, seal, silverside, smelts, snow crab, squid, bluefin tuna and whelks (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Abegweit First Nation also holds commercial-communal licences for swordfish in NAFO divisions that overlap with the exploration licences included in the Project Area. Lobster is licensed for LFA 24 (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Abegweit Fish Nation has access to FSC licences for clams, eel, gaspereau, herring, lobster, mackerel, mussels, oysters, quahaug, rock crab, scallops, seals, silversides, smelts, striped bass, toad crab, and trout (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Abegweit First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon (outer Bay of Fundy population) for FSC purposes.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'kmaq of PE assert an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes and hold commercial-communal licences issued by DFO as a result of the Marshall decision (1999). The rights to fish under the Marshall decision flow from the Peace and Friendship Treaties.
Lennox Island First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Lennox Island First Nation is comprised of one reserve, extending along the northwestern portion of PE, facing the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Lennox Island is approximately 1,085 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Lennox Island is 24 km north of Summerside with an area of 535.1 ha (BP 2017). Lennox Island First Nation is represented in consultation and engagement by L'nuey. As of February 2022, Lennox Island First Nation had a registered population of 1,062 (INAC 2022).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>In 1972-73, a bridge was built to Lennox Island, allowing for year-round accessibility. Established in 1981, the Mi'kmaq school, John J. Sark Memorial, accommodates approximately 50 students from kindergarten to grade 6 (Lennox Island First Nation 2013). The Lennox Island Health Centre provides the community with a variety of programs and services including basic health care services, delivery of home support services, substance abuse counselling, access to fitness and maternal health coordination. There is also a fire department in the community. The Lennox Island Development Corporation was developed by the First Nation to further economic prosperity within the community (Lennox Island First Nation 2013).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Lennox Island First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The fisheries industry is the band's largest employer. Fisherman's Pride Inc., owned and operated by Lennox Island</p>



Table 7.37 Mi'kmaq of Prince Edward Island Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
	<p>First Nation, is a primary resource harvester and seller of inshore seafood, operating on Lennox Island. In 2012, the fishery operated 32 boats and employed three shore-based personnel and 24 sea-going personnel (Lennox Island First Nation 2013). Fisherman's Pride Inc. also invests in mentoring programs for its members.</p> <p>Established in 2010, Minigoo Fisheries, is also owned and operated by the Lennox Island First Nation. Minigoo Fisheries processes wild Atlantic lobster, fished by Indigenous and non-Indigenous fishermen for international markets (Lennox Island First Nation 2013). The plant is located on Indigenous lands in PE and operates under a Government of Canada processing licence (Lennox Island First Nation 2013).</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq of PE, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>The Mi'kmaq of PE are known to occupy and use the land and waters around PE, including use for travel corridors, land hunting and harvesting and fishing for traditional purposes.</p> <p>The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PE database which is a partial inventory of existing knowledge does not indicate use of lands in the RAA for traditional purposes, although it could be that evidence of use, if it exists, has not yet been collected (MCPEI, pers. comm. 2018, in BP 2018). Refer below for details on FSC fishing practices.</p>
Commercial-communal Fishing	Lennox Island First Nation holds 271 commercial-communal licences for clams, rock crab, eel, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, mussels, quahaug, oysters, scallops, seal, porbeagle / mackerel shark, silverside, smelts, snow crab, squid, bluefin tuna and whelks (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Lennox Island First Nation also holds commercial-communal licences for swordfish in NAFO divisions that overlap with the exploration licences included in the Project Area Lobster is licensed for LFA 24 and 25 (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Lennox Island First Nation has access to FSC licences for mussels, clams (bar, soft-shell, and razor), quahaug, oysters, eel, gaspereau, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, rock crab, salmon, scallops, seals, smelt and trout (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Lennox Island First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon (outer Bay of Fundy population) for FSC purposes.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'kmaq of PE assert an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes and hold commercial-communal licences issue by DFO as a result of the Marshall decision (1999). The rights to fish under the Marshall decision flow from the Peace and Friendship Treaties.

7.3.3.3 Mi'gmaq of New Brunswick

The EIS Guidelines specify nine Mi'gmaq First Nation communities in NB for engagement and inclusion in the EIS:

- Elsipogtog First Nation
- Amlamgog (Fort Folly) First Nation
- Natoaganeg (Eel Ground) First Nation
- Oinpegitjoig (Pabineau) First Nation
- Esgenoôpetitj First Nation
- L'nui Menikuk (Indian Island) First Nation



TILT COVE EXPLORATION DRILLING PROGRAM

- Ugpig'ganjig (Eel River Bar) First Nation
- Metepenagiag Mi'gmaq Nation
- Tjipōgtōtjg (Bouctouche) First Nation

Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Incorporated (MTI) represents the nine Mi'gmaq communities in NB. MTI is a not-for-profit organization, established in late 2015, to manage consultation and promote and support the recognition, affirmation, and implementation of the inherent Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of its members. Elsipogtog First Nation conducts its own consultation and engagement, and in 2016 launched an Aboriginal title claim to the southeastern third of the province.

Lands and waters draining into the Gulf of St. Lawrence and a portion of the lands and waters draining into the Bay of Fundy are traditional territory for the Mi'gmaq in NB (MGS and UINR 2016). The traditional territory of the Mi'gmaq of NB does not overlap with the Project Area. However, Fort Folly First Nation holds commercial-communal fishing licences for swordfish and tuna in the RAA including within NAFO Unit Areas which overlap with the Project Area. In addition, Pabineau, Esgenoôpetitj, Bouctouche, Indian Island, Eel River and Elsipogtog First Nations hold commercial-communal licences to harvest bluefin tuna in the Gulf Region. Community profiles of all nine Mi'gmaq communities located in NB are provided in Table 7.38. The locations of these Indigenous groups are provided in Figure 7-33.

Table 7.38 Mi'gmaq of New Brunswick Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Fort Folly First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Fort Folly First Nation is comprised of one reserve, located near Dorchester in Westmorland County. Fort Folly is approximately 1,145 km from the Project Area
General Overview	Fort Folly 1 is 2 km southeast of Dorchester with an area of 56.1 ha (INAC 2021). Fort Folly First Nation is a Mi'gmaq Nation affiliated with the North Shore Micmac District Council and represented by MTI. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population was 36 (Statistics Canada 2022).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	The Fort Folly First Nation Pre-School is located within the community, accommodating students in kindergarten. There is no police detachment or fire hall within the community. As described in more detail below, Fort Folly First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. Fort Folly's fishing, particularly for lobster and scallops, plays an important part of the local economy (Fort Folly First Nation 2018). The First Nation owns two lobster boats (Fort Folly First Nation 2018).
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	In 1918, Fort Folly First Nation community members were relocated to Robinson, outside of Richibucto (Fort Folly First Nation 2018). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'gmaq of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi'gmaq of NB are known to occupy and use the land and waters around NB primarily for travel corridors, hunting, harvesting and fishing for traditional purposes. Although not necessarily reflective of all Mi'gmaq use of lands and resources, Indigenous knowledge studies conducted in 2016 and 2017 involving 112 MTI community members demonstrate a diversity of traditional harvesting, fishing and gathering activities occurring primarily in the province of NB, Bay of Fundy, Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence (SVS 2017). Fort Folly First Nation was also included in a Traditional Use Study conducted for the Scotian Basin



Table 7.38 Mi'gmaq of New Brunswick Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
	Exploration Drilling Project, which focused on the First Nation's commercial-communal and FSC fishing offshore NS (MGS and UINR 2016). .
Commercial-communal Fishing	Fort Folly First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for alewives, gaspereau, eel, groundfish, herring, mackerel, lobster, scallops, tuna, and swordfish (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Fort Folly First Nation's commercial-communal licences for swordfish are in NAFO Unit Areas which overlap the Project Area. Fort Folly First Nation holds lobster licences in LFA 25 and 35 (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022; M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Fort Folly First Nation holds several FSC licences to harvest eel, bar clams, razor clams, soft-shell clams, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout, burbot, chain pickerel, cod, dogfish, flounder, gaspereau, haddock, landlocked salmon, lobster, mackerel, muskellunge, plaice, pollock, quahaug, rainbow smelt, shad, smallmouth bass, striped bass, sturgeon, tomcod, whitefish, white perch, and yellow perch. (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Fort Folly First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon (outer Bay of Fundy population) for FSC purposes.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'gmaq of NB have a right to fish for a "moderate livelihood" which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Eel Ground First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Eel Ground First Nation is comprised of three reserves, along the Miramichi River near Newcastle. Eel Ground First Nation is approximately 1,215 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Eel Ground First Nation encompasses three reserves: Big Hole Tract 8 (south half) (21 km west of Newcastle with an area of 1,740.2 ha), Eel Ground 2 (5 km west of Newcastle with an area of 1,072.8 ha), and Renous 12 (27 km west of Newcastle with an area of 10.0 ha) (INAC 2021). Eel Ground First Nation is a Mi'kmaq Nation affiliated with the North Shore Micmac District Council and represented by MTI. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population for Eel Ground 2 was 545, Big Hole Tracy 8 (south half) was 16, and Renous 12 was 10 (Statistics Canada 2022).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	In 2015, a new school was built in Eel Ground First Nation, Natoaganeg School, accommodating students from kindergarten to grade 8 (Eel Ground School n.d.). There is a health centre in the community, the Eel Ground Health and Wellness Centre, offering a variety of programs and services such as women's wellness clinics, blood collection, well baby clinics and home and community care and support services (Eel Ground First Nation n.d.). A doctor visits the Eel Ground Health and Wellness Centre once a week (Eel Ground First Nation n.d.). There is no police detachment or fire hall in the community. Eel Ground First Nation is active in the forestry industry with the company Straight Arrow Specialized Lumber Products. As described in more detail below, Eel Ground First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species.
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'gmaq of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.



Table 7.38 Mi’gmaq of New Brunswick Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi’gmaq of NB are known to occupy and use the land and waters around NB primarily for travel corridors, hunting, harvesting and fishing for traditional purposes. Although not necessarily reflective of all Mi’gmaq use of lands and resources, Indigenous knowledge studies conducted in 2016 and 2017 involving 112 MTI community members demonstrate a diversity of traditional harvesting, fishing and gathering activities occurring primarily in the province of NB, Bay of Fundy, Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence (SVS 2017). Refer below for information on FSC fishing.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Eel Ground First Nation holds 36 commercial-communal licences for alewives / gaspereau, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, marine plants, oysters, sea urchins, snow crabs, striped bass and soft-shell clams. Lobster fishing is licensed for LFA 25 (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Eel Ground First Nation has access to FSC licences for clams, mussels, eels, gaspereau, herring, lobster, mackerel, oysters, quahaug, salmon, shad, smelts, striped bass, and brook trout (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi’gmaq of NB have a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Pabineau First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Pabineau First Nation is comprised of one reserve, located south of Bathurst. Pabineau First Nation is approximately 1,210 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Pabineau 11 is 8 km south of Bathurst with an area of 429.1 ha (INAC 2021). Pabineau First Nation is a Mi’gmaq Nation affiliated with the North Shore Micmac District Council and represented by MTI. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population was 133 (Statistics Canada 2022).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>A daycare program is offered to members of the community, accommodating children 2 – 5 years of age (Pabineau First Nation n.d.). The Pabineau First Nation Health Care Centre was opened in 2011, providing a variety of programs and services to community members including a Community Health Nurse, addictions counselling, diabetes prevention, a visiting Nurse Practitioner and foot care service (Pabineau First Nation n.d.). There is a police detachment within the community, but no fire hall or school. Community-owned and operated businesses include the Pabineau Seafood Takeout, Pabineau Smoke Shop, and Pabineau Gas Bar (Pabineau First Nation n.d.).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Pabineau First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. Pabineau First Nation is involved in collaborative efforts to support the enhancement of healthy salmon populations within the Nepisiguit and Pabineau Rivers (Pabineau First Nation n.d.). Since 1981, Pabineau First Nation has been involved in the operation and management of a salmon counting and brood stock collection fence (Pabineau First Nation n.d.). The Pabineau Salmon Enhancement Centre employs approximately 10 community members each summer and fall (Pabineau First Nation n.d.).</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi’gmaq of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.



Table 7.38 Mi'gmaq of New Brunswick Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi'gmaq of NB are known to occupy and use the land and waters around NB primarily for travel corridors, hunting, harvesting and fishing for traditional purposes. Although not necessarily reflective of all Mi'gmaq use of lands and resources, Indigenous knowledge studies conducted in 2016 and 2017 involving 112 MTI community members demonstrate a diversity of traditional harvesting, fishing and gathering activities occurring primarily in the province of NB, Bay of Fundy, Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence (SVS 2017). Limited publicly available information exists on current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes for Pabineau First Nation. Pabineau First Nation has a long history of fishing Atlantic salmon in the Little River system (Nexen Energy ULC 2018). Refer below for more information on FSC fishing.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Pabineau First Nation holds 24 commercial-communal licences for rock crab, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, oysters, scallops, snow crab and bluefin tuna. Lobster fishing is licensed for LFA 23 (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Pabineau First Nation has access to FSC licences including for clams (soft-shell, bar, and razor), quahaugs, herring, mackerel, mussels, oysters, salmon, striped bass and trout (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Pabineau First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon (outer Bay of Fundy population) for FSC purposes
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'gmaq of NB have a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Esgenoôpetitj First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Esgenoôpetitj (Burnt Church) First Nation is comprised of three reserves, located southwest of the village of Neguac in Kent County. Esgenoôpetitj is approximately 1,175 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Esgenoôpetitj First Nation encompasses three reserves: Esgenoôpetitj Indian Reserve 14 (32 km northeast of Chatham with an area of 985.4 ha); Pokemouche 13 (64 km east of Bathurst with an area of 151.4 ha); and Tabusintac 9 (40 km northeast of Chatham with an area of 3,268.7 ha) (INAC 2021). Esgenoôpetitj First Nation is a Mi'kmaq Nation affiliated with Mawiw Council and represented by MTI. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population of Esgenoôpetitj Indian Reserve 14 was 1,223 and Tabusintac was 20 (Statistics Canada 2022). No population data exist for Pokemouche.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	The Esgenoôpetitj School accommodates students from kindergarten to grade 8. There is no police detachment but there is a fire hall. Publicly-available information on economic development for the Esgenoôpetitj First Nation could not be found. As described in more detail below, Esgenoôpetitj First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species.
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'gmaq of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi'gmaq of NB are known to occupy and use the land and waters around NB primarily for travel corridors, hunting, harvesting and fishing for traditional purposes. Although not necessarily reflective of all Mi'gmaq use of lands and resources, Indigenous knowledge studies conducted in 2016 and 2017 involving 112 MTI community members demonstrate a diversity of traditional harvesting, fishing and gathering activities occurring primarily in the province of NB, Bay of Fundy, Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence (SVS 2017). Refer below for information on FSC fishing.



Table 7.38 Mi’gmaq of New Brunswick Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Commercial-communal Fishing	Esgenoôpetitj First Nation holds 163 commercial-communal licences for bar clams, rock and spider / toad crab, eel, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, marine plants, mussels, oysters, quahaugs, scallops, smelts, snow crab, soft shell clams and bluefin tuna. Lobster is licensed for LFA 23 (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Esgenoôpetitj First Nation has access to FSC licences for soft-shell and bar clams, bay quahaug, eel, herring, lobster, mackerel, mussels, oysters, salmon, smelts, striped bass and trout (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Esgenoôpetitj First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon (outer Bay of Fundy population) for FSC purposes.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi’gmaq of NB have a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Bouctouche First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Bouctouche First Nation is comprised of two reserves, located near the town of Bouctouche. Bouctouche First Nation is approximately 1,155 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Bouctouche 16 is 3 km southwest of Bouctouche with an area of 62.3 ha and Bouctouche Micmac Band Extension, located in NB, has an area of 89.6 ha (INAC 2021). Bouctouche First Nation is a Mi’gmaq Nation affiliated with the North Shore Micmac District Council and represented by MTI. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population was 101 (Statistics Canada 2022).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Bouctouche First Nation has a pre-school, Bouctouche First Nation Health Centre, and a fire hall in the community; there is no police detachment. Bouctouche First Nation has an economic development program that focuses on band-owned business opportunities (Bouctouche MicMac Band n.d.). The program provides community members with employment and training opportunities (Bouctouche MicMac Band n.d.). The Bouctouche Micmac Band Forestry Department administers the distribution of royalties received through the Band’s annual allocation by the Province of NB (Bouctouche MicMac Band n.d.). The band also owns and operates the River of Little Fire Incorporated Gas Bar (Bouctouche MicMac Band n.d.).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Bouctouche First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species.</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	Established in 1810, Bouctouche First Nation was abandoned in 1924 then re-established in 1958. Historically, it is thought that the Band’s traditional fishing, trapping, and hunting territories expanded to the western portion of PE, through the coast of NB from the Miramichi Bay along the Northumberland Strait, southeast between NS on the Bay of Fundy to the border of Maine. Throughout the winter, traditional territory also encompassed inland areas around Fredericton, Grand Lake, Moncton and Miramichi (Bouctouche MicMac Band n.d.). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi’gmaq of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi’gmaq of New Brunswick are known to occupy and use the land and waters around NB primarily for travel corridors, hunting, harvesting and fishing for traditional purposes. Although not necessarily reflective of all Mi’gmaq use of lands and resources, Indigenous knowledge studies conducted in 2016 and 2017 involving 112 MTI community members demonstrate a diversity of traditional harvesting, fishing and gathering activities occurring primarily in the province of NB, Bay of Fundy, Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence (SVS 2017). Refer below for information on FSC fishing.



TILT COVE EXPLORATION DRILLING PROGRAM

Table 7.38 Mi'gmaq of New Brunswick Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Commercial-communal Fishing	Bouctouche First Nation holds 32 commercial-communal licences for alewives / gaspereau, bar clams, rock and spider / toad crab, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, oysters, scallops, seal, porbeagle / mackerel shark, smelts, snow crab, soft shell clams and bluefin tuna. Lobster is licensed for LFA 25 (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Bouctouche First Nation has access to FSC licences for striped bass, clams, oysters, brook trout, mackerel, salmon, and eels (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Bouctouche First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon (outer Bay of Fundy population) for FSC purposes.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'gmaq of NB have a right to fish for a "moderate livelihood" which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Indian Island First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Indian Island First Nation is comprised of one reserve, located near Miramichi Bay on the eastern coast of NB. Indian Island First Nation is approximately 1,155 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Indian Island 28 is 8 km northeast of Rexton with an area of 38.4 ha (INAC 2021). Indian Island First Nation is a Mi'kmaq Nation affiliated with the North Shore Micmac District Council and represented by MTI. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population is 116 (Statistics Canada 2022).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	Within the community, there is no police detachment, fire hall or school. As described in more detail below, Indian Island First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. Since 2007, the Indian Island Aquaculture Development Corporation has been growing oysters (Indian Island First Nation 2015). As of 2015, there have been approximately 2.6 million oysters on-site (Indian Island First Nation 2015). The Corporation has four leases, three are used as grow-out leases and one as an overwintering lease (Indian Island First Nation 2015). Indian Island Aquaculture Development Corporation employs five seasonal fulltime employees and up to two summer students (Indian Island First Nation 2015). The Corporation has over\$600,000 in assets (Indian Island First Nation 2015).
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'gmaq of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi'gmaq of NB are known to occupy and use the land and waters around NB primarily for travel corridors, hunting, harvesting and fishing for traditional purposes. Although not necessarily reflective of all Mi'gmaq use of lands and resources, Indigenous knowledge studies conducted in 2016 and 2017 involving 112 MTI community members demonstrate a diversity of traditional harvesting, fishing and gathering activities occurring primarily in the province of NB, Bay of Fundy, Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence (SVS 2017). Refer below for information on FSC fishing.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Indian Island First Nations holds 44 commercial-communal licences for alewives / gaspereau, rock crab, eel, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, oysters, scallops, smelts, snow crab, soft shell clams and bluefin tuna. Lobster is licensed for LFA 25. (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).



Table 7.38 Mi’gmaq of New Brunswick Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
FSC Fishing	Indian Island First Nation has access to FSC licences for soft shell clams, mussels, eel, gaspereau, herring, lobster, rock crab, mackerel, oysters, quahaug, salmon, smelts, striped bass and trout (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Indian Island First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon (outer Bay of Fundy population) for FSC purposes.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi’gmaq of NB have a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Eel River Bar First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Eel River Bar First Nation is comprised of three reserves, located near Dalhousie. Eel River Bar First Nation is approximately 1,270 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Eel River Bar First Nation encompasses three reserves: Eel River 3 (3 km south of Dalhousie with an area of 122.0 ha), Indian Ranch (2 km south of Dalhousie with an area of 45.7 ha), and Moose Meadows (32 km south of Dalhousie with an area of 404.7 ha) (INAC 2021). Eel River Bar First Nation is a Mi’gmaq Nation affiliated with the North Shore Micmac District Council and represented by MTI. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population of Eel River 3 was 342 and Indian Ranch was 134 (Statistics Canada 2022). No population data exists for Moose Meadows.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Within the community there is a pre-school, but no police detachment or fire hall. The Uqpi’ganjig Health Centre provides a variety of programs and services such as substance abuse prevention programs, maternal child health, home and community care, chronic disease prevention, children’s oral health initiative, aboriginal diabetes initiative and injury prevention programs (Eel River Bar First Nation 2019). Eel River Bar First Nation has a forestry department that oversees and provides support for woodlot management (Eel River Bar First Nation 2019). The First Nation owns and operates the Osprey Truck Stop which consists of a convenience store, restaurant, commercial road transportation services and video lottery terminals (Eel River Bar First Nation 2019).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Eel River Bar First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species.</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	Traditionally, members of the Eel River Bar community would annually migrate from the sheltered in-land areas of the territory after winter to a summer encampment in the area around Benjamin and Eel Rivers (Eel River Bar First Nation 2019). The area provided access to Heron Island, where traditional burials would take place. Historically, the Eel River Bar community would harvest resources of the land, oceans, and lakes and rivers which provided a variety of fish, seals, shellfish, moose, deer, bear, small animals, and birds. The community would fish in the waters of the Bay of Chaleur and dig for clams on the shores of Eel River Bar. In 1963, flooding, due to the construction of a dam, resulted in the loss of fishing and harvesting of clam along Eel River (Eel River Bar First Nation 2019). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi’gmaq of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi’gmaq of NB are known to occupy and use the land and waters around NB primarily for travel corridors, hunting, harvesting and fishing for traditional purposes. Although not necessarily reflective of all Mi’gmaq use of lands and resources, Indigenous knowledge studies conducted in 2016 and 2017 involving 112 MTI community members demonstrate a diversity of traditional harvesting, fishing and gathering activities occurring primarily in the province of NB, Bay of Fundy, Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence (SVS 2017). Refer below for information on FSC fishing.



Table 7.38 Mi'gmaq of New Brunswick Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Commercial-communal Fishing	Eel River Bar First Nation holds 52 commercial-communal licences for rock crab, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, mussels, oysters, scallops, sea urchins, shrimp, smelts, snow crab, soft shell clams and bluefin tuna. Lobster is licensed for LFA 23 (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Eel River Bar First Nation has access to FSC licences for soft shell clams, herring, salmon, lobster and striped bass (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Eel River Bar First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon (outer Bay of Fundy population) for FSC purposes.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'gmaq of NB have a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq First Nation is comprised of three reserves, on the Miramichi River near Newcastle. Metepenagiag First Nation is approximately 1,235 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Metepenagiag First Nation encompasses five reserves: Indian Point 1 (19 km west of Newcastle with an area of 41.2 ha), Red Bank 4 (23 km west of Newcastle with an area of 1,457.0 ha), Red Bank 7 (24 km west of Newcastle with an area of 1,011.7 ha), Big Hole Tract 8 (north half) (20.8 km west of Newcastle with an area of 1396.2 ha), and Metepenagiag Uta'nk (East side of Douglastown Boulevard and south side of King George Highway, City of Miramichi with an area of 1.10 ha) (INAC 2021.). Metepenagiag First Nation is a Mi'gmaq Nation affiliated with the North Shore Micmac District Council and represented by MTI. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population for Red Bank 4 was 400 and Big Hole Tract 8 (north half) was 30 (Statistics Canada 2022). No population data exist for Red Bank 7, Indian Point 1, or Metepenagiag Uta'nk.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>The Metepenagiag School accommodates students from kindergarten to grade 6 within the community. There is no police detachment or fire hall. Publicly available information on economic development for the Metepenagiag First Nation could not be found.</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Metepenagiag First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species.</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	<p>Traditionally, the Miramichi River served as a travel route and meeting place for the Mi'kmaq people in NB (MMFN n.d., in BP 2018). Metepenagiag First Nation developed a heritage park containing two of the most important Indigenous heritage archaeological sites in eastern Canada: the Augustine Mound National Historic Site and the Oxbow National Historic Site (Metepenagiag First Nation 2018). Archeological sites at these two locations demonstrate that the area has been inhabited by Mi'gmaq people for over 3,000 years (Metepenagiag First Nation 2018). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'gmaq of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.</p>
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>The Mi'gmaq of NB are known to occupy and use the land and waters around NB primarily for travel corridors, hunting, harvesting and fishing for traditional purposes. Although not necessarily reflective of all Mi'gmaq use of lands and resources, Indigenous knowledge studies conducted in 2016 and 2017 involving 112 MTI community members demonstrate a diversity of traditional harvesting, fishing and gathering activities occurring primarily in the province of NB, Bay of Fundy, Northumberland Strait and Gulf of St. Lawrence (SVS 2017). Refer below for information on FSC fishing.</p>



Table 7.38 Mi'gmaq of New Brunswick Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Commercial-communal Fishing	Metepenagiag First Nation holds 18 commercial-communal licences for alewives / gaspereau, rock crab, herring, lobster, mackerel, oysters, scallops, shrimp, and snow crabs. Lobster is licensed for LFA 25 (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Metepenagiag First Nation has access to FSC licences for eel, salmon, shad, striped bass, and brook trout (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Metepenagiag First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon (outer Bay of Fundy population) for FSC purposes.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'gmaq of NB have a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Elsipogtog First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Elsipogtog First Nation is comprised of two reserves, located near Rexton and Moncton. Elsipogtog First Nation is approximately 1,175 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Elsipogtog First Nation encompasses two reserves: Richibucto Reserve (8 km southwest of Rexton with an area of 1956.20 ha), and Soegao Reserve (5 km west of Moncton with an area of 130.1 ha) (INAC 2021). Elsipogtog First Nation is a Mi'gmaq Nation affiliated with the Mawiw Council Inc. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population for Richibucto First Nation was 2,062 (Statistics Canada 2022). No population data exists for Soegao Reserve.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	The Elsipogtog School accommodates students from kindergarten to grade 8 within the community (Elsipogtog First Nation n.d.). There is no police detachment or fire hall. The two primary economic developments within the community are the River of Fire Market and Elsipogtog Pharmasave (Elsipogtog First Nation n.d.). As described in more detail below, Elsipogtog First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species.
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi'gmaq of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	The Mi'gmaq of NB are known to occupy and use the land and waters around NB primarily for travel corridors, hunting, harvesting and fishing for traditional purposes. Refer below for information on FSC fishing.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Elsipogtog First Nation holds 334 commercial-communal licences for alewives / gaspereau, bar clams, rock crab, eel, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, marine plants, mussels, oysters, quahaugs, scallops, seals, smelts, snow crab, soft shell clams and bluefin tuna. Lobster is licensed for LFA 25 (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Elsipogtog First Nation has access to FSC licences for clams, eel, gaspereau, herring, lobster, mackerel, mussels, oysters, bay quahaug, rock crab, salmon, scallops, seals, shad, smelts, striped bass, and trout (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Elsipogtog First Nation also has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon (outer Bay of Fundy population) for FSC purposes.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Mi'gmaq of NB have a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties, and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.



7.3.4 Wolastoqiyik of New Brunswick (Maliseet)

The Wolastoqiyik reside predominantly in the west and northwest areas of the province along the Saint John River (Wolastoq). The WNNB was established in 2016 and represents the six Wolastoqiyik Nations in consultation and engagement.

The EIS Guidelines specify six Wolastoqiyik communities in NB for engagement and inclusion in the EIS:

- Kingsclear (Pilick) First Nation
- Madawaska (Matawaskiye) Maliseet Nation
- Oromocto (Welamukotuk) First Nation
- Tobique (Nekotkuk) First Nation
- St. Mary's (Sitansisk) First Nation
- Woodstock (Wotstak) First Nation

The Wolastoqiyik traditional territory is bordered by the Mi'kmaq traditional territory to the east and Passamaquoddy traditional territory along the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf of Maine coast and Penobscot traditional territory to the west (MGS and UINR 2016). The Project does not overlap with the claimed traditional territory of the Wolastoqiyik of NB. However, St. Mary's First Nation and Woodstock First Nation hold commercial-communal fishing licences for swordfish and tuna within NAFO Unit Areas that overlap the Project Area. Additionally, the Outer Bay of Fundy Designatable unit of Atlantic salmon was an important dietary staple of all the Wolastoqiyik. While the majority of the communities' salmon fishing activity has been restricted for the purposes of conservation, the community of Madawaska still fishes the culturally important fish from the St. Lawrence (WNNB, pers. comm. 2018, in BP 2018).

The Wolastoqiyik traditionally only supplemented their diet with hunting, fishing, and gathering fruits, berries, and nuts and primarily were an agricultural and forestry-based community (Madawaska Maliseet First Nation n.d., in BP 2018).

The Peace and Friendship Treaties were established between 1725 and 1779 to assist in peace and trade relations between the Mi'kmaq, the Wolastoqiyik, the Peskotomuhkati, and British settlers (AANDC 2013). These treaties guarantee rights to maintain a moderate livelihood and hunt and fish throughout the region.

Community profiles for the six Wolastoqiyik Nation communities located in NB are provided in Table 7.39. The locations of these Indigenous groups are provided in Figure 7-33.



Table 7.39 Wolastoqiyik of New Brunswick (Maliseet) Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Kingsclear First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Kingsclear First Nation is comprised of two reserves, in York County along the Saint John River. Kingsclear First Nation is approximately 1,325 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Kingsclear First Nation encompasses two reserves: Kingsclear 6 (14 km west of Fredericton with an area of 374.7 ha), and The Brothers 18 (on two small islands in Kennebecasis Bay 3 km north of Saint John with an area of 4.0 ha) (INAC 2021). The Brothers 18 is also affiliated with Woodstock First Nation, Tobique First Nation, and Madawaska First Nation. Kingsclear First Nation is a Wolastoqiyik Nation and represented by WNNB. According to the 2021 census, 518 people living on-reserve at Kingsclear (Statistics Canada 2022), According to Kingsclear’s registry administrator there are currently an additional 310 living off reserve (WNNB, pers. comm. 2018, in BP 2018). No population data exists for The Brothers 18.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>The Kingsclear First Nation Education Program accommodates students from kindergarten to grade 12, and includes a band operated school, Wulastukw Elementary, accommodating students from kindergarten to grade 5. In addition, post-secondary support is provided through Kingsclear First Nation (Kingsclear First Nation 2019). A health centre provides a variety of services and programs to community members such as prenatal / postnatal programs, well baby clinics, chronic disease screening and education, home care nursing, prevention (additions) and mental wellness and children’s oral health programs (Kingsclear First Nation 2019). A physician visits the health centre once a week to provide primary care for members of the community (Kingsclear First Nation 2019). Kingsclear First Nation is active in the forestry industry, cutting their allocation under the Allowable Annual Cut arrangement with the provincial government, generally cut by contractors under agreement with the Band (Kingsclear First Nation 2019). This activity results in significant return and capital for community members (Kingsclear First Nation 2019). Kingsclear First Nation also owns and operates the Wulastukw Convenience store and a video lottery terminal lounge.</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Kingsclear First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. Kingsclear is exploring opportunities to expand their fisheries operations, particularly in aquaculture for eel and sea urchin production (Kingsclear First Nation 2019). The Band is also considering developing whale watching and guided tours along the Saint John River (Kingsclear First Nation 2019).</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	The Maliseet were traditionally known to be hunters, trappers, and gatherers, who travelled along the St. John River valley depending on the season to find sustenance and shelter, as well as to trade with Europeans. The community of Kingsclear was established in 1795. Prior to settling at its current location, the Maliseet people lived in a village known as Ekwpahak located a few miles downriver of Kingsclear (Nicholas 2013). During late spring and summer, wigwams were set up on the adjacent island known as Ekwpahak Island. This area was used by the Maliseet for spearing salmon, bass, and sturgeon, planting corn, and gathering foods and medicines such as fiddleheads, berries, butternut, grapes, and wild potatoes (Nicholas 2013). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Wolastoqiyik of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	Wolastoqiyik First Nations continue to harvest, hunt, and consume traditional foods including moose, deer, fish, fiddleheads and berries, and use resources from the local landscape for medicinal and ceremonial purposes. Refer below for information on FSC fishing.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Kingsclear First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for rock crab, groundfish, herring, lobster, scallops, and sea urchins (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).



Table 7.39 Wolastoqiyik of New Brunswick (Maliseet) Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
FSC Fishing	Kingsclear First Nation holds several FSC licences for striped bass, salmon, and lobster (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Wolastoqiyik have Aboriginal rights under Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> , and Peace and Friendship Treaty rights, which include the right to fish for a “moderate livelihood”.
Madawaska Maliseet First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Madawaska First Nation is comprised of two reserves along the Saint John River. Madawaska First Nation is located approximately 1,410 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Madawaska First Nation encompasses two reserves: St. Basile 10 (2 km east of Edmundson with an area of 344.6 ha), and The Brothers 18 (on two small islands in the Kennebecasis Bay, 3 km north of Saint John with an area of 4.0 ha) (INAC 2021). The Brothers 18 is affiliated with Kingsclear First Nation, Tobique First Nation, and Woodstock First Nation. Madawaska First Nation is affiliated with Wolastoqey Tribal Council and represented by WNNB. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population of St. Basile was 369 (Statistics Canada 2022) although the membership clerk declares only 168 on-reserve (WNNB, pers. comm. 2018, in BP 2018). No population data exists for The Brothers 18.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	Madawaska Maliseet First Nation has no school, police detachment, or fire hall. A health centre exists within the community, staffed by a doctor and a nurse (Madawaska Maliseet First Nation n.d., in BP 2018). The Madawaska Maliseet Economic Development Corporation focuses on business development, attracting new businesses and visitors, and investing with regional partners (Madawaska Maliseet First Nation n.d., in BP 2018). Businesses within the community include gas stations, restaurants, car dealerships and the Grey Rock Casino (Madawaska Maliseet First Nation n.d., in BP 2018). The Grey Rock Power Centre also exists within the community, along the Trans-Canada Highway (Madawaska Maliseet First Nation n.d., in BP 2018). As described in more detail below, Madawaska First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species.
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	The Maliseet were known to be traditional hunters, trappers, and gatherers, who travelled along the St. John River valley depending on the season to find sustenance and shelter, as well as to trade with Europeans. The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Wolastoqiyik of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	Wolastoqiyik First Nations continue to harvest, hunt, and consume traditional foods including moose, deer, fish, fiddleheads and berries, and use resources from the local landscape for medicinal, arts, crafts, instruments and other ceremonial purposes. Refer below for information on FSC fishing.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Madawaska First Nation holds 15 commercial-communal licences for rock crab, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel and scallops. Lobster is licensed for LFA 23 and 25 (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Madawaska First Nation has access to FSC licences for lobster, salmon, and trout (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). In addition, Madawaska First Nation has an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon (outer Bay of Fundy population) for FSC purposes (WNNB pers. comm. 2018, in BP 2018).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Wolastoqiyik have Aboriginal rights under Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> and Peace and Friendship Treaty rights, which include the right to fish for a “moderate livelihood”.



Table 7.39 Wolastoqiyik of New Brunswick (Maliseet) Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Oromocto First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Oromocto First Nation is comprised of one reserve, located in Sunbury County near the town of Oromocto. Oromocto First Nation is approximately 1,300 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Oromocto 26 is adjacent to Gagetown with an area of 100.7 ha (INAC 2021). Oromocto First Nation is a Wolastoqiyik Nation affiliated with the Wolastoqey Tribal Council Incorporated (WTCI) and represented by WNNB. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population was 295 (Statistics Canada 2022) but has since grown.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>The Oromocto First Nation Health Centre is staffed by a Director, Assistant Director, a community health nurse, an alcohol and drug worker, a Medical Trans / Equipment Coordinator and an Admin Clerk (Oromocto First Nation 2019). There is no school, police detachment, or fire hall within the community; there is a community centre. Oromocto First Nation economic initiatives include forestry, fisheries (Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy, Oromocto First Nation Fishing Enterprise), a lounge (Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy Lounge), and a gas station (Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy Fuels) (Oromocto First Nation 2019).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Oromocto First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species.</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	The Maliseet were known to be traditional hunters, trappers, and gatherers, who travelled along the St. John River valley depending on the season to find sustenance and shelter, as well as to trade with Europeans. The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Wolastoqiyik of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	Wolastoqiyik First Nations continue to harvest, hunt, and consume traditional foods including moose, deer, fish, fiddleheads and berries, and use resources from the local landscape for medicinal and ceremonial purposes. Refer below for information on FSC fishing.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Oromocto First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for alewives, gaspereau, lobster, sea scallops, sea urchins, shad, smelts, herring, mackerel, and groundfish (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Oromocto First Nation holds several FSC licences for alewife, blueback herring, chub, lamprey eel, American eel, muskellunge, pike, salmon, sucker fish, sunfish, whitefish, trout, gaspereau, shad, striped bass, sturgeon, white perch, yellow perch, smelt, burbot, catfish, chain pickerel and lobster (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Wolastoqiyik have Aboriginal rights under section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> and Peace and Friendship Treaty rights, which include the right to fish for a "moderate livelihood".
St. Mary's First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	St. Mary's First Nation is comprised of two reserves in the Saint John River Valley near Fredericton. St. Mary's First Nation is approximately 1,305 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	St. Mary's First Nation encompasses two reserves: St. Mary's 24 (6 km east of Fredericton with an area of 1.0 ha), and Devon 30 (6 km east of Fredericton with an area of 125.9 ha) (INAC 2021). St. Mary's First Nation is a Wolastoqiyik Nation affiliated with the WTCI and represented by the WNNB. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population was 1,070 (Statistics Canada 2022).



Table 7.39 Wolastoqiyik of New Brunswick (Maliseet) Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Within the community, an elementary school, Chief Harold Sappier Memorial Elementary, accommodates students from kindergarten to grade five. There is no police detachment, health centre, or fire hall. St. Mary's First Nation businesses include the St. Mary's Entertainment Centre, the St. Mary's Retail Sales (which includes a gas bar, smoke shop, supermarket, coffee shop, a fish and chip shop and a fine dining restaurant), and there are a number of band member privately owned businesses (WNNB, pers. comm. 2018, in BP 2018). The St. Mary's Entertainment Centre is in Fredericton and includes one of the largest bingo facilities in Atlantic Canada (St. Mary's First Nation n.d.). St. Mary's First Nation is also engaged in the forestry industry. Initiated in 1998, the St. Mary's Logging Program was established to create employment for band members with an interest in working in the forestry industry (St. Mary's First Nation n.d.).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, St. Mary's First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. St. Mary's First Nation owns six active commercial fishing vessels. The Nation is currently not equipped to fish tuna, swordfish or shrimp and these licences are typically leased to others for a percentage of the catch (Nexen Energy ULC 2018).</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	<p>The Wolastoqiyik were known to be traditional hunters, trappers, and gatherers, who travelled along the St. John River valley depending on the season to find sustenance and shelter, as well as to trade with Europeans. Although the St. Mary's First Nation community was not recognized until 1867, it was documented as an encampment site as early as 1818. The Maliseet people would travel the Saint John River, and it is believed that Maliseet from Kingsclear, Madawaska, Tobique, Woodstock and Meductic would assemble in the area to sell furs and trade handmade goods. The St. Mary's Maliseet maintained migratory practices by hunting, fishing, and trapping downriver each summer. Once the Oromocto First Nation was established in 1895, some Maliseet from St. Mary's relocated, but most remained within the community (St. Mary's First Nation n.d.). The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Wolastoqiyik of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.</p>
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>Wolastoqiyik First Nations continue to harvest, hunt, and consume traditional foods including moose, deer, fish, fiddleheads and berries, and use resources from the local landscape for medicinal and ceremonial purposes. Refer below for information on FSC fishing.</p>
Commercial-communal Fishing	<p>St. Mary's First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for herring, lobster, scallops, sea urchins, shrimp, swordfish, alewives, gaspereau, shad and tuna (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). The St. Mary's First Nation holds commercial-communal licences for swordfish in NAFO divisions that overlap with the exploration licences included in the Project Area (Licensing Services, DFO, pers comm 2022). They also hold 3 commercial-communal licences for bluefin tuna in the Gulf region (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).</p>
FSC Fishing	<p>St. Mary's First Nation holds several FSC licences for eel, smallmouth bass, trout, gaspereau, shad, striped bass, groundfish, lobster, soft-shell clams, salmon alewife, blueback herring, and scallops (A. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).</p>
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	<p>The Wolastoqiyik have Aboriginal rights under section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> and Peace and Friendship Treaty rights, which include the right to fish for a "moderate livelihood".</p>



Table 7.39 Wolastoqiyik of New Brunswick (Maliseet) Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Tobique First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Tobique First Nation is comprised of two reserves in Victoria County on the northside of the Tobique River. Tobique First Nation is approximately 1,375 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Tobique First Nation encompasses two reserves: Tobique 20 (27 km south of Grand Falls with an area of 2,724.0 ha), and The Brothers 18 (on two small islands in Kennebecasis Bay, 3 km north of Saint John with an area of 4.0 ha) (INAC 2021). The Brothers 18 is affiliated with Kingsclear First Nation, Madawaska First Nation, and Woodstock First Nation. Tobique First Nation is a Wolastoqiyik Nation affiliated with Mawiw council and represented by WNNB. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population for Tobique 20 was 1,080 (Statistics Canada 2022). No population data exists for The Brothers 18.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	Within the community, the Mah-Sos School accommodates students from kindergarten to grade 5. There is a fire hall. The Neqotkuk Health Centre promotes, educates, and provides primary health care services to community members (Tobique First Nation n.d.). Community-owned enterprises include the Tobique Gaming Centre, Tobique Bingo, Two Rivers Restaurant, Tobique Youth Centre, The Paul Pyres Community Hall and Tobique Convenience and Gas Bar (Tobique First Nation n.d.). Other businesses within the community include tobacco shops, take-out restaurants, and convenience stores (Tobique First Nation n.d.). As described in more detail below, Tobique First Nation holds one commercial-communal licence.
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	The Maliseet were known to be traditional hunters, trappers, and gatherers, who travelled along the St. John River valley depending on the season to find sustenance and shelter, as well as to trade with Europeans. The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Wolastoqiyik of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	Wolastoqiyik First Nations continue to harvest, hunt, and consume traditional foods including moose, deer, fish, fiddleheads and berries, and use resources from the local landscape for medicinal and ceremonial purposes. Refer below for information on FSC fishing.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Tobique First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for Jonah crab, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, quahaug, scallops, and sea urchins in the Maritimes region (Licensing Services, DFO, pers comm 2022) and one commercial-communal licence for bluefin tuna in the Gulf region (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Tobique First Nation has access to two FSC licences for smallmouth bass and trout (M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Wolastoqiyik have Aboriginal rights under section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> and Peace and Friendship Treaty rights, which include the right to fish for a “moderate livelihood”.
Woodstock First Nation	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Woodstock First Nation is comprised of two reserves, located on the Saint John River near Woodstock. Woodstock First Nation is approximately 1,380 km from the Project Area.



Table 7.39 Wolastoqiyik of New Brunswick (Maliseet) Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
General Overview	Woodstock First Nation encompasses two reserves: Woodstock 23 (5 km south of Woodstock with an area of 159.8 ha), and The Brothers 18 (on two small islands in Kennebecasis Bay, 3 km north of Saint John with an area of 4.0 ha) (INAC 2021). The Brothers 18 is affiliated with Kingsclear First Nation, Tobique First Nation, and Madawaska First Nation. Woodstock First Nation is a Wolastoqiyik Nation affiliated with the WTCI. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population for Woodstock 23 was 435 (Statistics Canada 2022). No population data exists for The Brothers 18.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>The Woodstock First Nation Pre-School exists within the community. There is no police detachment or fire hall. The Woodstock First Nation Health Centre provides a variety of programs and services such as family support program, footcare, children’s oral health initiative, a community health nurse and home and community care. A Nurse Practitioner is also available to community members who do not have a primary health care provider (Woodstock First Nation n.d.). Woodstock First Nation economic enterprises include three gas stations / convenience stores and the Eagle’s Nest Gaming Place. Woodstock First Nation is engaged in the forestry industry, owning Woodstock First Nation Logging (Woodstock First Nation n.d.).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, Woodstock First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The Woodstock First Nation began commercial fishing operations in 1996, and they have become a significant source of employment and revenue for the First Nation. The First Nation has expanded operations and now includes the harvesting of scallop, lobster, sea urchins, swordfish, and tuna with four commercial fishing vessels (Woodstock First Nation n.d.).</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	The Maliseet were known to be traditional hunters, trappers, and gatherers, who travelled along the St. John River valley depending on the season to find sustenance and shelter, as well as to trade with Europeans. The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Wolastoqiyik of NB, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	Wolastoqiyik First Nations continue to harvest, hunt, and consume traditional foods including moose, deer, fish, fiddleheads and berries, and use resources from the local landscape for medicinal and ceremonial purposes. Refer below for information on FSC fishing.
Commercial-communal Fishing	Woodstock First Nation holds several commercial-communal licences for lobster, scallops, sea urchins, herring, mackerel, swordfish, tuna and groundfish (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). The Woodstock First Nation holds commercial-communal licences for swordfish in NAFO divisions that overlap with the exploration licences included in the Project Area (Licensing Services, DFO, pers comm 2022).
FSC Fishing	Woodstock First Nation holds several FSC licences for alewife, blueback herring, smallmouth bass, smelt, gaspereau, striped bass, trout, lobster, eel, landlocked salmon, chain pickerel and scallops (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). In addition, the CEA Agency identified Woodstock First Nation as having an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon (outer Bay of Fundy population) for FSC purposes.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Wolastoqiyik have Aboriginal rights under section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> and Peace and Friendship Treaty rights, which include the right to fish for a “moderate livelihood”.



7.3.5 Peskotomuhkati Nation (Passamaquoddy)

The EIS Guidelines specify the inclusion of the Peskotomuhkati Nation for engagement and inclusion in the EIS. All lands and waters of the St. Croix River watershed, Machia River watershed and the Magaguadavic River watershed, draining into the Bay of Fundy and Gulf of Maine are included in the traditional territory of the Passamaquoddy (Bassett 2014, in MGS and UINR 2016). The territory was bordered on the northeast by the Wolastoqiyik traditional territory of all lands and waters draining the Saint John River watershed and bordered on the west by the Penobscot traditional territory of the Penobscot River watershed and Union River watershed in Maine, USA (MGS and UINR 2016).

The majority of the members currently live on the USA side of the border, but the Canadian side of the community is located in St. Andrews, NB. The Passamaquoddy assert title to territories along the Maine and NB border (Table 7.20). They are specifically named in the Marshall decision (1999) based on the Peace and Friendship Treaties which provides them the Treaty right to fish. The Passamaquoddy have submitted a land claim to the federal government which has currently been accepted for review.

A community profile for Peskotomuhkati Nation provided in Table 7.40 and the location of this Indigenous group is provided in Figure 7-33.

Table 7.40 Peskotomuhkati Nation (Passamaquoddy) Community Profile

Community Indicator	Description
Peskotomuhkati Nation in New Brunswick	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Peskotomuhkati Nation is located in St. Andrews. Peskotomuhkati Nation is approximately 1,355 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	The homeland of the Peskotomuhkati people is centered around the Passamaquoddy Bay, the drainage area of the Schoodic (St. Croix) River, and the Fundy Islands (in Canada and the United States) (Nexen Energy ULC 2018). In 2013, it was estimated that the Schoodic Band numbered 300 residing in NB, primarily in the southwestern portion of the province along the Maine and NB border. A larger group of Peskotomuhkati live in the State of Maine. No census information is available specifically for Peskotomuhkati Nation in NB.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	Limited information is available on the health and socio-economic conditions of the Peskotomuhkati as a group because they do not live on a reserve or in a separate community.
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	Limited information is available on the physical and cultural heritage of the Peskotomuhkati. However, evidence suggests that their ancestors inhabited their traditional territory from Machias, Maine to Point Lepreau, NB for the last 13,000 years. More than 70 known pre-contact archaeological sites, on the Canadian side of the Peskotomuhkati’s traditional territory, hold artifacts demonstrating continuous occupancy. Many more sites are believed to be underwater. Seasonal journeys within their traditional territory, which extended inland north along the Schoodic River to the Chipputnecook Lakes, involved harvesting natural resources throughout the year (Nexen Energy ULC 2018). In the spring, Peskotomuhkati people occupied a field at Salmon Falls on the Schoodic River to take advantage of the runs up-river by salmon, eels, and alewives. Passamaquoddy Bay was also an important fishing area for its abundance of pollock. Gran Manan was also considered an important fishing and hunting location.



Table 7.40 Peskotomuhkati Nation (Passamaquoddy) Community Profile

Community Indicator	Description
	At least three Peskotomuhkati communities were established in Charlotte County, NB in the 19 th and early 20 th centuries. Established in 1785, the Schoodic Reserve, located in Milltown, NB, was an important fishing place and tribal burial ground. The Canoose Reserve, at the confluence of the Canoose and Schoodic Rivers, was created in 1851. The St. Croix Reserve was created in 1881 on the St. Croix River. At least two other tracts of land in St. Andrews and Gran Manan Island were known to be gathering places and were the subject of various petitions for reserve status but were never formalized. The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Peskotomuhkati, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	Peskotomuhkati communities were traditionally located along the coast and its people were mainly a seafaring nation of fishermen and harvesters migrating to and from the coast within rivers and valleys (Bassett 2014, in MGS and UINR 2016).
Commercial-communal Fishing	Peskotomuhkati Nation has no commercial-communal licences.
FSC Fishing	Peskotomuhkati Nation (Passamaquoddy Recognition Group) holds FSC licences for striped bass, smallmouth bass, eel, gaspereau, white perch, yellow perch, shad, rainbow smelt, sturgeon, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, burbot, whitefish, landlocked salmon, bar clams, razor clams, soft-shell clams, bay quahaugs, and chain pickerel (M. Folkins, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). In addition, the CEA Agency identified them as having an Aboriginal right to fish for Atlantic salmon for FSC purposes.
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Peskotomuhkati Nation asserts Aboriginal rights to land and resources, including the right to hunt, fish, and gather throughout its traditional territory. The Peskotomuhkati are named as beneficiaries of the Peace and Friendship Treaties in the <i>1999 Marshall Decision</i> .

7.3.6 Mi’gmaq and Innu of Québec

7.3.6.1 Mi’gmaq of Québec

Three Mi’gmaq First Nation groups were identified in the EIS Guidelines for engagement and inclusion in the EIS:

- Micmacs of Gesgapegiag
- La Nation Micmac de Gespeg
- Listuguj Mi’gmaq Government

Mi’gmawei Mawiomi Secretariat (MMS) represent these three Indigenous communities in negotiations with the Governments of Canada and Québec, and in consultation and engagement. In 2007, the MMS formally submitted a statement of claim to the federal and provincial governments and formal agreements to pursue land claim negotiations between the Mi’kmaq, Québec and Canada began in 2008. A framework agreement and a consultation agreement were signed in 2012. The three parties are currently negotiating an agreement-in-principle that should eventually lead to a final agreement (MMS 2019).

The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Mi’gmaq of QC (the Gespe’gewa’gi), which includes virtually all of the Gaspé Peninsula and a large part of NB, and adjacent waters.



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Community profiles for the three Mi'gmaq communities located in QC are provided in Table 7.41 and the locations of these Indigenous groups are provided in Figure 7-33.

Table 7.41 Mi'gmaq of Quebec Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Micmacs of Gesgapegiag	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Micmacs of Gesgapegiag is comprised of one reserve, located on the south shore of the Gaspé Peninsula, at the intersection of the Gesgapegiag River estuary and the Baie des Chaleurs. Micmacs of Gesgapegiag is approximately 1,230 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Gesgapegiag is 56 km east of Restigouche, on the north shore of Cascapedia Bay with an area of 222 ha (INAC 2021). Gesgapegiag is represented by the MMS. According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population of the Micmacs of Gesgapegiag was 637 (Statistics Canada 2022). The population of the Gesgapegiag community decreased from 2016 to 2021, which may be attributed to the result of a lower birth rate or possible out-migration, as approximately half of the registered population of Gesgapegiag live off-reserve (Nexen Energy ULC 2018).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>The Micmacs de Gesgapegiag Band Council provides education, health care, social services, fire and police services, public works, economic development, and employment through community employment projects. The Wejgwapniag School exists within the community, providing primary and secondary education. Established in 1996, the Gesgapegiag Health and Community Services provides a variety of programs and services through a medical centre, healing lodge, and youth centre (Micmacs of Gesgapegiag [MOG] 2019). In addition, the Mawiommi Treatment Centre in Gesgapegiag specializes in the treatment of substance, drug, and alcohol abuse (Statoil 2017). Also located within the community is the Walgwan Treatment Centre, which is one of a network of nine First Nation treatment centres in Canada to provide culturally-based treatment services for dependence on solvents and other substances as well as addictive behaviour to First Nations and Inuit youth (Statoil 2017).</p> <p>The Micmacs of Gesgapegiag are engaged in the forestry industry, through a Forest Management Agreement with the provincial government to harvest 15,000 cubic meters of softwood to be sold to a local sawmill (MOG 2019). The Band's forestry industry employs 25 – 28 individuals on a seasonal basis. Other economic activities include construction, tourism, handicraft production and outfitting services for sport fishing and hunting (CDPDJ 2009). In 2011, the largest employer within the community was Public Administration, employing approximately 42% of the workforce.</p> <p>As described in more detail below, the Micmacs of Gesgapegiag have an agreement with the provincial government for communal fishing, which occurs primarily in the Cascapedia River mouth as well as in the Petite rivière Cascapedia and its mouth (MMAFMA 2017). Established in 2012, the Mi'gmaq Maliseet Aboriginal Fisheries Management Association (MMAFMA), in partnership with the QC School of Fisheries and Aquaculture, assists the Micmac of Gesgapegiag in commercial fishing initiatives. The MMAFMA has a commercial fishing vessel and administers training programs for fishing mackerel, herring and bluefin tuna, pelagic species for which it holds commercial-communal licences. The boat is also used for training programs in groundfish (Atlantic halibut, Greenland halibut, redfish) fisheries through a program with QC School of Fisheries and Aquaculture. The Micmac of Gesgapegiag are engaged in a joint aquaculture initiative to grow and process kelp products and they also co-manage sport salmon fishing in the Cascapedia River through Société Cascapedia inc. (MOG 2019; Saumon Quebec 2017). The Gesgapegiag Fisheries Department manages the Band's participation in commercial seafood harvesting. The Gesgapegiag Fisheries Department employs 48 registered First Nations members and nine non-Indigenous people in the fishing industry, seasonally. Fishers harvest lobster, shrimp, and crab off the coast of the Gaspé Peninsula.</p>



Table 7.41 Mi'gmaq of Quebec Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	Traditionally, the Mi'kmaq lived by hunting, fishing, and gathering throughout their territory, which covered the southeastern portion of the Gaspé Peninsula, NS, PE, most of NB, southern NL. Mi'kmaq hunters and fishers were also known to travel to Anticosti Island and the shore of the North Coast and the Magdalen Islands (CDPDJ 2009). Traditional camps of the QC Mi'gmaq were located along the shores of the St. Lawrence River. The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Micmacs of Gesgapegiag, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>Various fish species have traditionally been fished by the Mi'gmaq in the Gulf of St. Lawrence through the seasons, including winter flounder as the ice begins to melt, then spawning runs of anadromous and catadromous fish including smelt in March, alewife in April, sturgeon and salmon in May, July and August, eel in September and Atlantic tomcod as late as December (Morrison 2018). During spring and summer, the Mi'gmaq also harvest marine invertebrates including oysters, scallops, quahog or hard clam, soft clam, American lobster, and northern crab (Morrison 2018).</p> <p>Traditionally, the Micmacs of Gesgapegiag used Atlantic salmon for barter, spiritual, and ceremonial practices. Fishing occurred from late May to early November. From 1984 to 2008, the Micmac of Gesgapegiag annually harvested salmon in the Cascapedia River for subsistence purposes. The Gesgapegiag have not taken salmon in the Cascapedia River since 2009 pursuant to an agreement with the provincial government to cease fishing salmon in return for monetary compensation (Nexen Energy ULC 2018). Eel harvesting is a traditional Mi'kmaq activity, beginning in May and ending when the ice forms. According to members of the Micmac of Gesgapegiag, eel is largely harvested in the mouth and estuary of the Cascapedia River. Harvesting sites extend along the coast from Carleton to Bonaventure including the Nouvelle area (Nexen Energy ULC 2018). Cod fishing has been an important aspect to the economic and cultural landscape of the Gaspé Peninsula but is now restricted due to low stocks. Members of Gesgapegiag have reported catching cod in the Cascapedia River estuary in recent years. Members have also reported that striped bass is captured mostly as by-catch in the Cascapedia River estuary, along the shoreline near Carleton and New Richmond. The marine area of the Banc des Américains has been identified as being of economic, ecological, and cultural importance for the Mi'kmaq communities. The area is used to harvest crab, lobster, mackerel, herring, cod, and waterfowl (MMAFMA 2017).</p>
Commercial-communal Fishing	The Micmacs of Gesgapegiag hold commercial-communal fishing licences for bait, lobster, herring, groundfish, rock crab, whelk, mackerel, snow crab, sea cucumber, seal and shrimp (Statistics Division, QC, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Other commercial licences held include cod and turbot, halibut, and winter flounder (Morrison 2018).
FSC Fishing	FSC fishing rights exercised through their commercial-communal fisheries (Statistics Division, QC, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). The Micmacs of Gesgapegiag participate in fishing for FSC purposes. The First Nation has an agreement with the provincial government for communal fishing, which occurs principally in the Cascapedia River mouth as well as the Petite riviere Cascapedia and its mouth (MMAFMA 2017).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The MMS signed a Framework Agreement for a comprehensive claim with Canada (2012) that includes the Gaspé Peninsula and westward down the St. Lawrence River as well as Anticosti Island. Mi'gmaq First Nations have a right to fish for a “moderate livelihood” which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
La Nation Micmac de Gespeg	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	La Nation Micmac de Gespeg has no land base; members live throughout the Gaspé Peninsula and in other areas. La Nation Micmac de Gespeg is approximately 1,125 km from the Project Area.



Table 7.41 Mi'gmaq of Quebec Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
General Overview	La Nation Micmac de Gespeg is represented by the MMS. In 2019, la Nation Micmac de Gespeg had 1,011 registered members living throughout the Gaspé Peninsula and in other areas (INAC 2021). No census information is available specifically for La Nation Micmac de Gespeg.
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Publicly available information of the health and socio-economic conditions of the Micmac de Gespeg could not be found.</p> <p>La Nation Micmac de Gespeg is actively engaged in the fishing industry, through the MMAFMA who holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The MMAFMA has a commercial fishing vessel and administers training programs for fishing mackerel, herring and bluefin tuna, pelagic species for which it holds commercial-communal licences. The vessel is also used for training programs in groundfish (Atlantic halibut, Greenland halibut, redfish) fisheries through a program with QC School of Fisheries and Aquaculture. La Nation Micmac de Gespeg is also engaged in a joint aquaculture initiative to grow and process kelp products.</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	Traditionally, the Mi'kmaq lived by hunting, fishing, and gathering throughout their territory, which covered the southeastern portion of the Gaspé Peninsula, NS, PE, most of NB, southern NL. Mi'kmaq hunters and fishers were also known to travel to Anticosti Island and the shore of the North Coast and the Magdalen Islands (CDPDJ 2009). Traditional camps of the QC Mi'gmaq were located along the shores of the St. Lawrence River. No specific information is available of the physical and cultural heritage of la Nation Micmac de Gespeg. The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of la Nation Micmac de Gespeg, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>Various fish species have traditionally been fished by the Mi'gmaq in the Gulf of St. Lawrence with different species being targeted in certain seasons, including winter flounder as the ice begins to melt, followed by spawning runs of anadromous and catadromous fish including smelt in March, alewife in April, sturgeon and salmon in May, July and August, eel in September and Atlantic tomcod as late as December (Morrison 2018). During spring and summer, the Mi'gmaq also harvest marine invertebrates including oysters, scallops, quahog or hard clam, soft clam, American lobster, and northern crab (Morrison 2018).</p> <p>Traditionally, the people of la Nation Micmac de Gespeg used Atlantic salmon for barter, spiritual, and ceremonial practices. Fishing occurred from late May to early November. Members of Gespeg took salmon in the Saint-Jean, Dartmouth, York, and Malbaie Rivers and in the mouth of the Dartmouth River (MMAFMA 2017).</p> <p>According to some members, cod is also harvested in the Gaspé Bay, particularly in the southern and northern portions. Striped bass is also harvested at locations between Gaspé and the Malbaie River, generally from May to October. Eel harvesting is a traditional Mi'kmaq activity, beginning in May and ending when the ice forms.</p>
Commercial-communal Fishing	La Nation Micmac de Gespeg holds commercial-communal licences for shrimp, lobster, snow crab, sea cucumber, rock crab, herring, mackerel, bait, and groundfish (Statistics division, QC, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). The MMAFMA also holds commercial-communal licences for bluefin tuna (Nexen Energy ULC 2018).
FSC Fishing	FSC fishing rights exercised through their commercial-communal fisheries (Statistics Division, QC, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). La Nation Micmac de Gespeg participate in fishing for FSC purposes. The First Nation has an agreement with the provincial government for harvesting salmon on the Saint-Jean, Dartmouth, and York Rivers. Most of the salmon harvested is distributed to elders. Eel harvesting sites reported by the Gespeg First Nation include the shoreline between Gaspé and Perce (MMAFMA 2017, in Statoil 2017).



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Table 7.41 Mi'gmaq of Quebec Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The MMS signed a Framework Agreement for a comprehensive claim with Canada (2012) that includes the Gaspé Peninsula and westward down the St. Lawrence River as well as Anticosti Island. Mi'gmaq First Nations have a right to fish for a "moderate livelihood" which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.
Listuguj	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	Listuguj is comprised of one reserve, located at the mouth of the Restigouche River in the southwestern area of the Gaspé Peninsula. Listuguj is approximately 1,295 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Listuguj is 118 km southwest of Bonaventure, on the north shore of the Restigouche River with an area of 4,344 ha (INAC 2021). Listuguj is represented by the MMS (INAC 2021). According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population of the Listuguj was 1,514 (Statistics Canada 2022). The population of Listuguj decreased from 2011 to 2016, which may be attributed to the result of a lower birth rate or possible out-migration, because approximately half of the registered population of Listuguj live off-reserve (Nexen Energy ULC 2018).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government (LMG) provides facilities and programs to the community in housing, education, community and social services, health, community health, fire safety, policing, restorative justice, drinking water, wastewater management, solid waste management, roads, and natural resource management. Established in 1997, the Alaqsitew Gitpu School exists within the community, accommodating 250 students from nursery to grade 8 (LMG 2017). The Band Council provides additional educational support through the Post-Secondary Student Support Program and Mi'kmaq language and culture programs (LMG 2017). The community also has a variety of community health services, provided by the Listuguj Community Health Services, including the Listuguj Health Centre, women's shelter, a long-term care facility for the elderly and a youth group home (LMG 2017). The LMG is actively engaged in the forestry industry and Listuguj members are employed in the LMG silvicultural and forestry operations and as independent loggers (LMG 2017). In 2011, the largest employer in the Listuguj community was Public Administration, employing approximately 31% of the workforce (BP 2018).</p> <p>As described in more detail below, the Band Council holds several commercial-communal licences for a variety of fish and marine species. The fisheries sector is an important element for Listuguj First Nation. Listuguj Fisheries directly employs community members and owns 13 fishing vessels (Listuguj Fisheries n.d.). Listuguj Fisheries is also involved in fisheries training, employment, and policy development (Listuguj Fisheries n.d.).</p>
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	The Mi'kmaq traditionally lived by hunting, fishing, and gathering throughout their territory, which covered the southeastern portion of the Gaspé Peninsula, NS, PE, most of NB, southern NL. Mi'kmaq hunters and fishers were also known to travel to Anticosti Island and the shore of the North Coast and the Magdalen Islands (CDPDJ 2009). Traditional camps of the QC Mi'gmaq were located along the shores of the St. Lawrence River. The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Listuguj, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.



Table 7.41 Mi'gmaq of Quebec Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>Various fish species have traditionally been fished by the Mi'gmaq in the Gulf of St. Lawrence with different species being targeted in certain seasons, including winter flounder as the ice begins to melt, followed by spawning runs of anadromous and catadromous fish including smelt in March, alewife in April, sturgeon and salmon in May, July and August, eel in September and Atlantic tomcod as late as December (Morrison 2018). During spring and summer, the Mi'gmaq also harvest marine invertebrates including oysters, scallops, quahog or hard clam, soft clam, American lobster, and northern crab (Morrison 2018).</p> <p>The Mi'gmaq have traditionally relied upon marine resources. Since 1984, Listuguj have taken approximately 1,000 salmon annually in the Restigouche River (Nexen Energy ULC 2018). Eel harvesting is a traditional Mi'gmaq activity, beginning in May and ending when the ice forms.</p>
Commercial-communal Fishing	<p>Listuguj holds commercial-communal licences for bait, groundfish, herring, lobster, rock crab, shrimp, and snow crab (Statistics division, QC, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Other commercial fishing licences have been held for cod, turbot and halibut (Morrison 2018).</p>
FSC Fishing	<p>FSC fishing rights are exercised through their commercial-communal fisheries licences (Statistics division, QC, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Salmon is also harvested for FSC purposes as per an agreement with the provincial government (Statoil 2017).</p>
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	<p>The MMS signed a Framework Agreement for a comprehensive claim with Canada (2012) that includes the Gaspé Peninsula and westward down the St. Lawrence River as well as Anticosti Island. Mi'gmaq First Nations have a right to fish for a "moderate livelihood" which flows from the Peace and Friendship Treaties and an Aboriginal right to fish for FSC purposes.</p>

7.3.6.2 Innu of Québec

Two Innu communities were identified in the EIS Guidelines for engagement and inclusion in the EIS:

- Première Nation des Innus de Ekuanitshit
- Première Nation des Innus de Nutashkuan

Traditionally nomadic people, the Innu depended on the products of hunting, fishing, and gathering activities for their subsistence. Their ancestral territory covers the entire region between Québec City and Labrador and extends north of Schefferville. At the end of the 19th century the Innu established permanent communities in the south of their territory to participate in the fur trade and expansion of the forestry and mining industries. The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Innu of QC.

The Atikamekw and Montagnais Council, created in 1975, initiated Québec Innu land claim negotiations in 1979. The Atikamekw and Montagnais Council was created to represent nine Québec Innu Nations and three Atikamekw Nations; however, was dissolved due to differences of opinion, mainly with respect to recognition of Aboriginal rights and certainty. Agreement-in-Principle of General Nature (APGN) was signed by the Chiefs of the Essipit First Nation, Mashteuiatsh First Nation, Nutashkuan First Nation and Pessamit First Nation and the governments of Québec and Canada during negotiations with the Mamuitun mak Nutashkuan Tribal Council in 2004 (Tremblay 2011). The land claims APGN is significant in that the Innu First Nations would not surrender title over their traditional territory and would no longer be subject to the *Indian Act*; instead, a form of self-government would be determined (National Post 2016). In 2010, this Tribal Council was renamed the Regroupement Petapan Inc. Negotiations towards a Final Agreement are



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still underway (INAC 2016). The Pessamit First Nation no longer participates in the negotiations and the Regroupement Petapan now represents the other three First Nations, including the Innus de Nutashkuan (RP 2017).

For the four "Montagnais" Innu First Nations of the Lower North Shore (i.e., Ekuanitshit, Nutashkuan, Unamen Shipu and Pakua Shipu), the Regroupement Mamit Innuat Tribal Council (MICT) was formed in 1982 as an advisory body to create a common development structure. The MICT represents the interests of the First Nations in public, provincial, national, and international initiatives (MICT 2011). In 1994, the Innu communities of Ekuanitshit, Unamen Shipu and Pakua Shipu were represented by the Mamu Pakatatau Mamit Assembly, created to aid in land claims negotiations, which took place from 1995 to 2007 with Canada and Québec. However, the three member-communities ceased the negotiation process in 2008, in favour of a litigation approach (INAC 2016).

Community profiles are provided in Table 7.42 and community locations are provided in Figure 7-33.

Table 7.42 Innu of Quebec Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Les Innus de Ekuanitshit	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	The Innu of Ekuanitshit is comprised of one reserve, at the confluence of the Mingan River and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Innu of Ekuanitshit community is approximately 1,120 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Mingan is 28 km west of Havre-Saint-Pierre with an area of 3,838 ha (INAC 2021). The Innu of Ekuanitshit is represented by MICT (INAC 2021). According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population of the Mingan reserve was 552 (Statistics Canada 2022).
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Within the community, Ecole Teueikan accommodates students from pre-kindergarten to grade 4. A health centre provides emergency and preventive care and community health services. Five nurses are available on-reserve, and a nutritionist, psychologist and dentist visit regularly. The Council of the Ekuanitshit First Nation is responsible for the provision of health services to community members, after this responsibility was transferred by Health Canada. The Innu Mukutan Economic Development Corporation is responsible for economic development for Innu communities under its jurisdiction, including the Innu of Ekuanitshit.</p> <p>The main economic activities in the community are the public sector, outfitting, commercial fishing and handicrafts (Englobe 2018). In 2011, the largest employer for community members was Public Administration, employing approximately 31% of the workforce.</p> <p>The community has commercial fishing enterprises, but limited information is publicly available. Ekuanitshit co-manages Pêcheries Shipek with the Pakua Shipu Innu First Nation. Pêcheries Shipek commercially harvests scallops, crab, halibut, sea cucumber and whelk, and sells its products to three fish stores. Ekuanitshit operates six boats and its commercial fishing activities employ some 40 persons on a full- or part-time basis (Nexen Energy ULC 2018). The Innu communities of Nutashkuan, Ekuanitshit, Pakua Shipu and Unamen Shipu are planning to develop a fish processing plant (Nexen Energy ULC 2018).</p>



Table 7.42 Innu of Quebec Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
<p>Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)</p>	<p>Innu culture and heritage are based on their relationship with game and fish and the seasonal migrations and locations of various species, particularly caribou and salmon. The spring hunt for migratory birds, seal hunting, and fishing for Atlantic salmon has been practiced by the Innu of Ekuanitshit for several thousand years (Englobe 2018). There are numerous coastal sites dating from approximately a thousand years ago showing intensive spring harvesting of migratory bird species, including the Canada Goose and common eider (Englobe 2018). Innu people travelled across a vast territory that encompassed the entire St. Lawrence catchment area between the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Labrador (Nexen Energy ULC 2018). Of the approximately 8,000 archaeological sites discovered in QC, over 1,600 are in traditional Innu territory. Two important Innu sites have been discovered. The first is approximately 60 km from the coast, on the northern shore of Lake Jourdain, and was used as a staging area for lengthy portages. The second site, on the shore of the Jean-Pierre River, demonstrates Innu relationships with groups to the West, North-West and North (MRCN 2010). These archaeological sites are located along the shores of lakes and rivers that were used as encampment areas and travel routes for the Innu. None of these locations are located within or near the Project Area. The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the Innu of QC, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.</p>
<p>Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes</p>	<p>Traditional hunting, fishing and gathering activities continue to support the domestic economy as well as local traditions for Les Innus de Ekuanitshit (Englobe 2018). The Innu continue to use resources of the St. Lawrence for food and communal purposes. Activities include fishing for Atlantic salmon, herring, and brook trout; collecting goose eggs in the peat bogs between the River and its tributaries; collecting other bird eggs; hunting waterfowl; gathering edible plants; fishing for lobster and scallops; collecting other shellfish along the coast; and harp seal hunting (Piétacho 2018; CIE 2014).</p> <p>Fishing, particularly for Atlantic salmon, has played an important role and continues to have a prominent place in contemporary Innu culture on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence River and estuary.</p> <p>Salmon harvesting continues to be a family and community activity, and the respect and sharing of salmon remain strong community values. The Innu demonstrate their respect for the salmon in several ways: fishers only take what they need; they respect the quotas they set for catching fish for their own food purposes rather than commercial fishing; and they do not waste the salmon. Sharing the salmon with all community members is also part of pow-wow and St. Anne (Fête de la Sainte-Anne) festivities (Ekuanitshit Innu Council, pers. comm. 2018, in BP 2018).</p> <p>The run of salmon in rivers in June traditionally coincided with the arrival of the Innu on the shore, with salmon fishing marking the transition from living on land during winter in small family groups, to the summer on the coast where the entire community gathered (Piétacho 2018). The Innu of Ekuanitshit have identified 35 harvesting areas and 21 camps for salmon fishing along the Romaine River and its main tributary, the Puyjalon River. They also take salmon in the Jupitagon, Magpie, Saint-Jean, Mingan and Manitou Rivers (HQP 2007). Salmon fishing (subsistence and sport) in the Romaine River is now closed because of scarcity (MFFP 2017). On the Romaine River, immediately downstream of Grande Chute, hunting is practiced by the Innu of Ekuanitshit using motorized canoe and snowmobiles. Trapping activities are focused on beaver, otter, and muskrat. Various species of ducks are also hunted, particularly in the Grande Hermine Bay (HQP 2007).</p> <p>Migration patterns of some of these species, namely salmon, marine mammals and birds pass through or are in close proximity to the Project Area.</p>



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Table 7.42 Innu of Quebec Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Commercial-communal Fishing	Les Innus de Ekuanitshit have commercial-communal licences in its own name, as a member of the Agence Mamu Innu Kaikusseht, and through the Pêcheries Shipék fishing company. These three entities have commercial-communal fishing licences for several species of fish and shellfish and are important economic levers for their community (Ekuanitshit Innu Council, pers. comm. 2018, in BP 2018). Species fished with commercial-communal licences reported in 2022 by DFO include bait, whelk, mackerel, and scallop (Statistics division, QC, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
FSC Fishing	Les Innu de Ekuanitshit holds FSC licences for cod, Atlantic halibut, Greenland halibut, plaice, lumpfish, mackerel, herring, whelk, capelin, soft-shell clam, lobster seal, and redfish (Statistics division, QC, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	The Innus of Ekuanitshit assert Aboriginal rights, including the right to hunt, fish, and gather throughout its traditional territory. The Innus of Ekuanitshit claim a territory that extends over parts of Labrador and QC, including Anticosti Island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan	
Location and Proximity to Project Area	The Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan is comprised of one reserve, at the mouth of the Natashquan River in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Nutashkuan is approximately 965 km from the Project Area.
General Overview	Nutashkuan is 336 km east of Sept-Îles with an area of 118.9 ha (INAC 2021). Nutashkuan is represented by MICT (INAC 2021). According to 2021 census data, the on-reserve population of the Natashquan was 915 (Statistics Canada 2022). The Project does not overlap with any Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan reserve lands. Nitassinan, its traditional territory, covers 51,950 km ² .
Health and Socio-economic Conditions	<p>Within the community, Ecole Uauitshitun accommodates students from kindergarten to secondary V (grade 11). The Band Council provides medical care and fire protection. Policing services are provided by the Sureté du QC. A health centre provides front-line, emergency, and preventive health services as well as community health services. Patients requiring hospitalization are transferred to regional centres. Five nurses are available on-reserve, and a nutritionist, psychologist and dentist visit regularly. Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan manages health services. The Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan has recently established its own Economic Development Office. Economic initiatives within Nutashkuan include handicraft production, trapping, tourism, construction, transportation, and outfitting. In 2011, the largest employer for community members was Public Administration, employing approximately 31% of the workforce.</p> <p>The community has commercial fishing enterprises, which have several fishing licences. The Council of the Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan owns two boats: Lady Rachel and C.N.M. Nutashkuan (Ekuanitshit Innu Council, pers comm 2018, in BP 2018). The Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan commercially fish crab, clams, lobster and groundfish and owns two fishing vessels (Nexen Energy ULC 2018). Pêcheries Commerciales Nutashkuan, which was established by the Band Council in 1994, employs between six and 25 individuals (FNQLEDC 2019). The Innu First Nation of Nutashquan is planning to develop a fish processing plant in cooperation with Ekuanitshit, Pakua Shipi and Unamen Shipu (Nexen Energy ULC 2018).</p>



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Table 7.42 Innu of Quebec Community Profiles

Community Indicator	Description
Physical and Cultural Heritage (including archaeological, paleontological, historical, or architectural sites)	<p>Innu culture and heritage are based on their relationship with game and fish and the seasonal migrations and locations of various species, particularly caribou and salmon. Innu people travelled across a vast territory that encompassed the entire St. Lawrence catchment area between the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Labrador (Nexen Energy ULC 2018). Of the approximately 8,000 archaeological sites discovered in QC, over 1,600 are in traditional Innu territory. Two important Innu sites were discovered along the shores of lakes and rivers that were used as encampment areas and travel routes for the Innu. None of these sites are located within or near the Project Area. The Project does not overlap with the traditional territory of the QC Innu, therefore there are no known physical and cultural heritage sites in or near the Project Area.</p>
Current Use of Lands for Traditional Purposes	<p>The Innu continue to use the resources of the St. Lawrence for food and communal purposes. Activities include fishing for Atlantic salmon, herring, and brook trout; collecting goose eggs in the peat bogs between the River and its tributaries; collecting other bird eggs; hunting waterfowl; gathering edible plants; fishing for lobster and scallops; collecting other shellfish along the coast; and harp seal hunting (CIE 2014). Fishing, particularly for Atlantic salmon, played and continues to play an important role in Innu life on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence River, estuary, and Gulf.</p> <p>The waterways contemporarily used by the Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan include the Nutashquan Romaine, De la Corneille, Piashit, Quetachou, Nabisipi and Aguanish Rivers. The southern portion of the land use area extends from the coast to Wakeham, Forgues, Pauline and Metivier Lakes. Trapping and small game hunting in that portion is facilitated by transportation routes. Along the shore, west of Baie-Johan-Beetz, harvesting activities occur up to the Havre-Saint-Pierre region. Lobster and scallops are taken from Nickerson Bay. Canada geese and eider are also hunted from the shoreline or by motorized boat, and waterfowl are hunted along the shore. Many hunting areas and encampments are located at the Grande Hermine and Nickerson Bays, as well as on the coastal plain of the Romaine River, particularly on either side of Route 138. Beaver trapping and gathering of small fruit occur on the Romaine coastal plain. Porcupine is often hunted near the shore along Route 138 and other roads leading north. Members from both communities at times harvest together or rely on one another (HQP 2007).</p> <p>The Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan have continued to be mobile and still cover a large territory but travels are not as expansive as they have been historically.</p>
Communal Fishing	<p>The Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan holds commercial-communal licenses for bait, groundfish, herring, lobster, mackerel, scallop, seal, snow crab and Stimpson’s Surf clam (Statistics division, QC, DFO, pers. comm. 2022). Other species listed by Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan include cod, Atlantic halibut, Greenland halibut, fluke, whelk, Arctic surf clam and scallop (Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan, pers. comm. 2018, in BP 2018).</p>
FSC Fishing	<p>The Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan holds FSC licences for cod, Atlantic halibut, Greenland halibut, flounder, lumpfish, mackerel, herring, whelk, soft-shell clam, blue mussel, lobster, sculpins, and seal (Statistics division, QC, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).</p>
Asserted or Established Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights	<p>The Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan asserts Aboriginal rights, including the right to hunt, fish, and gather throughout its traditional territory. The Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan claim a territory that extends over parts of Labrador and QC, including part of Anticosti Island and Jacques Cartier Strait in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.</p>



7.3.7 Harvested Species

Potential interactions between Project activities and Indigenous peoples, given the offshore location and distance from Indigenous communities, are with species of cultural or commercial importance, migrating through or resident in the RAA, and/or non-migratory coastal species that could potentially be impacted in the unlikely event of a major spill (refer to Section 16.2 for more information on fate and behaviour of spills and likelihood and locations of potential shoreline interactions).

7.3.7.1 Commercial-communal Fisheries

Within the offshore waters of NL, the Project Area and RAA, there are several species that are fished commercially, including species that Indigenous groups may hold commercial-communal licences to harvest. The summaries provided in Sections 7.3.2 to 7.3.6 outline commercial-communal fishing activity and licences for Indigenous groups. Table 7.43 provides further detail, tabulating the Indigenous groups within NL that hold commercial-communal licences within the Project Area and RAA. Species harvested for commercial-communal purposes within the RAA include capelin, groundfish, herring, mackerel, seal, shrimp, snow crab, tuna, and whelk. Landings locations for large pelagic commercial fisheries are shown in Figures 7.22 and 7.23 and described in Section 7.2.4.5 (commercial fisheries). These figures demonstrate that commercial fishing activities are occurring within the Project Area or RAA, including those that are carried out under a commercial-communal licence by Indigenous groups.

While species such as capelin, herring and mackerel are typically harvested in coastal areas, key species which are potentially commercially fished in and near the Project Area, include shrimp, snow crab, and groundfish. Most harvesting occurs between April and August, with some activity occurring year-round. The type of commercial fishing gear used in offshore NL generally depends on the species that is being harvested and can include a combination of stern otter trawls, mobile or fixed gillnets, and longlines (e.g., baited hooks). Snow crab are fished using crab pots and northern shrimp, using shrimp trawls.

Indigenous groups in NL typically harvest seals (harp, grey, hooded and ringed) between late March and mid-May. However, harvesting times can vary each year depending on the species and environmental and biological conditions (DFO 2011). The Canadian Inuit primarily harvest the ringed seal, while in Greenland the harp seal is commonly harvested (DFO 2011). In recent years, the Greenland harvest has surpassed the Canadian commercial harvest because older animals are typically harvested there, which are unavailable in the Canadian commercial harvest (DFO 2011). Greenland Inuit, particularly along the east coast, also harvest hooded seals for subsistence (DFO 2011). Grey seals are generally harvested around the Gulf of St. Lawrence and coastal areas of NS. In addition to the commercial-communal fishery, Indigenous groups can harvest seals throughout the year for FSC purposes.



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Table 7.43 Commercial-communal Fishing Licences Issued to Newfoundland and Labrador Indigenous Groups for Fishing in the Regional Assessment Area

Indigenous Group	Commercial-communal Fishing Licence															
	Capelin	Ground-fish	Herring	Lobster	Mackerel	Scallop	Sea Cucumber	Sea Urchin	Seal	Shrimp	Snow Crab	Squid	Swordfish	Toad Crab	Tuna	Whelk
	Capelin Fishing Area	NAFO Unit	Herring Fishing Area	Lobster Fishing Area	Mackerel Fishing Area	Scallop Fishing Area	NAFO Unit	Lobster Fishing Area	Sealing Area	Shrimp Fishing Area	Crab Fishing Area	Squid Fishing Area	NAFO Unit	Crab Fishing Area	NAFO Unit	NAFO Unit
Innu Nation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 , 9, 10, 11	2HJ, 3K , <u>LMNO</u> , Ps, 4VnsW	3,4,5,6,7, 8	-	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 , 9, 10, 11	-	-	-	-	5, 6	-	-	-	-	3LN OP	-
Nunatsiavut Government	-	2HJ, 3K , <u>LMN</u> , OPns	-	-	-	1	-	-	4, 5, 6, 7 , 8 , 9, 11, 27, 33	5, 6	1, 2	-	-	-	-	-
NCC	2	2HJ, 3K , <u>L</u> , 4R	1,2	-	-	1,2	-	-	4, 5, 6, 7 , 8 , 9, 11, 27, 33	5, 6	2 (and 3NO)	-	-	2	-	2J
MFN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 , 9, 10, 11	2HJ, 3K , <u>L</u> , 3Pns, 4R	11	-	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 , 9, 10, 11	3,4,5,6, 7 , 8 , 9, 10, 11	3Ps	11	4, 5, 6, 7 , 8 , 9, 11, 27, 33	7	10, 11	10	3LNO P	-	3LN OP	3Ps
QMFN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 , 8 , 9, 10, 11, 12, 14	2HJ, 3K , <u>L</u> , 3Pn, 4R	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 , 14	3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 , 9, 10, 11, 12, 14	3,4,5,6, 7 , 8 , 9, 10, 12, 14	3LNO	12, 14	-	6	3BC, 4, 12	3, 4	-	-	-	3K (and 14)
MAMKA ¹	10	2HJ, 3K , <u>L</u> , 3Pns, 4R	10	-	-	3,4,5,6, 7 , 8 , 9, 10, 11	-	-	-	-	10, 11, 12	-	-	-	-	3Ps

Notes:
¹ formed by MFN and QMFNB under DFO's Aboriginal and Aquatic Resources Management Program
Bolded and underlined text indicates areas within the Project Area.
 Data provided by DFO (A. Jones, pers. comm. 2022)



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Commercial-communal licences for areas within the RAA are also held by Indigenous groups in the Maritime provinces, including commercial-communal licences for swordfish and tuna. Table 7.44 provides a summary of Indigenous groups in the Maritime provinces that hold commercial-communal licences in the RAA. Details for each of these species is provided below.

Table 7.44 Commercial-communal Fishing Licences Issued to Maritime Indigenous Groups for Fishing in the Regional Assessment Area

Indigenous Group	Swordfish	Tuna
	NAFO Unit	NAFO Unit
Glooscap First Nation	-	Maritimes Region and Gulf Region*
Membertou First Nation	-	Maritimes Region and Gulf Region*
Millbrook First Nation	-	Maritimes Region and Gulf Region*
Mimej Seafoods Ltd	3LMNOPs , 4VnsW	Maritimes Region and Gulf Region*
Paq'tnkek First Nation	3 LMNOPs , 4VnsW	-
Pictou Landing First Nation	3 LMNOPs , 4VnsW	Gulf Region*
Sipekne'katik First Nation	3LMNOPs , 4VnsW	Maritimes Region*
Wagmatcook First Nation	3LMNOPs , 4VnsW	Gulf Region*
We'koqma'q First Nation	3LMNOPs , 4VnsW	Gulf Region*
Abegweit First Nation	3 LMNOPs , 4VnsW	Gulf Region*
Acadia First Nation	3LMNOPs , 4VnsW	Maritimes Region*
Bear River First Nation	-	Maritimes Region*
Lennox Island First Nation	3 LMNOPs , 4VnsW	Gulf Region*
Native Council of PEI	3 LMNOPs , 4VnsW	Gulf Region*
Bouctouche First Nation	-	Gulf Region*
Eel River Bar First Nation	-	Gulf Region*
Elsipogtog First Nation	-	Gulf Region*
Esgenoôpetitj First Nation	-	Gulf Region*
Fort Folly First Nation	3LMNOPs , 4VnsW	Maritimes Region*
Indian Island First Nation	-	Gulf Region*
Pabineau First Nation	-	Gulf Region*
St. Mary's First Nation	3LMNOPs , 4VnsW	Maritimes Region and Gulf Region*
Tobique First Nation	-	Gulf Region*
Woodstock First Nation	3LMNOPs , 4VnsW	Maritimes Region*
Potlotek First Nation	-	Gulf Region*
NB Aboriginal Peoples Council	-	Gulf Region*

Notes:
Bolded and underlined text indicates areas within the Project Area.
 *While tuna are caught under communal-commercial licences, information on current fishing areas are not available due to year-to-year variation in fishing location. Variation is caused by unpredictable changes in distribution, schooling behaviour, patchiness of prey, and age-specific preference for waters of certain temperatures associated with annual variability in hydrographic / oceanographic conditions (DFO 2019; Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).
 Data provided by DFO (Licensing Services, DFO, pers. comm. 2022; M. Leger, DFO, pers. comm. 2022).



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Swordfish

Swordfish is a migratory species distributed widely throughout the Atlantic Ocean. There are commercial-communal fishing licences for swordfish issued to several Indigenous groups, including NAFO subdivisions 3LMNOPs and 4VnsW, which overlap the Project Area and RAA (Table 7.44). However, harvesting locations have not been close to the Project Area. Figure 7.22 illustrates the primary commercial landing locations for swordfish, between 2011 and 2017, including those landings fished under a commercial-communal licence. The landings have occurred outside the Project Area, in NAFO subdivisions 3O and the southern part of 3N. While commercial landings for swordfish can be a proxy for swordfish distribution, the species has a wide range and can be found along the edge of the continental shelf. Swordfish migrate on a daily basis and there is potential for them to move throughout the Project Area during certain times of the year. Based on the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) records (refer to Section 6.1.3.6.3), swordfish have been found in the Project Area, but cases are rare and the potential for occurrence within the Project Area is considered low.

Tuna

Like swordfish, tuna is a migratory species that Indigenous groups within Atlantic Canada hold commercial-communal licences to harvest and can occur in offshore NL waters. Also similar to swordfish and illustrated in Figure 7.23, landings for tuna species within offshore waters of NL have occurred outside the Project Area, concentrated within NAFO area 3O, within the southwest portion of the RAA. There is potential that tuna species (albacore, bigeye, and bluefin) could migrate through the Project Area in search of prey species and have been recorded near or within the Project Area (Section 6.1.3.6.3). However, DFO data indicate that the potential for occurrence within the Project Area was low (see Figure 7.23).

7.3.7.2 Food, Social, Ceremonial Fisheries

Sections 7.3.2 to 7.3.6 outlined the various species harvested by Indigenous groups for FSC purposes, many of which are harvested inshore and/or in freshwater systems, and unlikely to interact with Project activities. Some of the species listed above include, but are not limited to gaspereau, trout, Atlantic salmon, bass, mackerel, eel, shad, groundfish (e.g., flounder, halibut, pollock), Arctic char, smelt, blue shark, herring, mussel, clams, periwinkle, soft-shell clams, squid, tomcod, quahaug, razor clams, lobster, crab and scallops. Some species harvested for FSC purposes are anadromous and can potentially migrate through the RAA and/or Project Area. Of particular concern, in regard to potential interaction with Project activities are American eel and Atlantic salmon. These species, including their significance to Indigenous peoples and their potential for occurrence in the RAA, is described below.

American Eel

The American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) (*Katew*) has a broad distribution throughout the northwest Atlantic Ocean, stretching from Venezuela to Greenland and Iceland (COSEWIC 2012). It lives primarily within freshwater and estuarine environments and is a catadromous (i.e., migrating down rivers to the sea to spawn) fish. The specific migration patterns of American eel are not well known (see Section 6.1.3.6.1), but it is known that currents play a major role in their movement throughout the Atlantic Ocean to Greenland, Iceland, or to NL.

Katew is an important traditional food source with medicinal properties and has spiritual significance to the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik and Passamaquoddy (Parks Canada 2017; UINR 2015a; Prosper and Paulette



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2002). The type of gear typically depends on the season, but stone eel weirs and different types of spears are used by Indigenous groups when fishing Katew including (Prosper and Paulette 2002). The Mi'kmaq do not waste or over-exploit the eel and practice Netukulimk, or “take what is needed” ethics (Denny 2014). Traditionally all parts of the eel were used, with skin used as boot/moccasin soles, ties, and bindings and used to wrap sprains and provide relief from cramps, rheumatism, headaches, and lameness (Parks Canada 2017; UINR 2015a; Prosper and Paulette 2002). Eel skin was also used to create decorative ornaments (Parks Canada 2017). Tails are used as bait and oils from larger eels were used to treat ear infections and loosen ear wax (UINR 2015a). Eel was often consumed three times a day for days to weeks and was the main source of food during winter. It remains an important, dependable source of food because it is available year-round (Denny 2014).

Due to dramatic declines over a significant portion of its distribution, the American eel is assessed by COSEWIC as threatened (COSEWIC 2012) and is considered Vulnerable under the NL ESA. Habitat loss, dams, overfishing, disease, and possibly global warming have been identified as factors contributing to threats to the American eel (UINR 2015a; Parks Canada 2017; COSEWIC 2012). An exotic swim bladder nematode parasite is a relatively new threat which may also be adversely affecting the eel (COSEWIC 2012; Parks Canada 2017). Mi'kmaq eel fishers have observed declines in traditional fishing areas as an increased effort or time to provide the same amounts to feed their families and provide for cultural events (Denny et al. 2012, in Denny and Kavanagh 2018).

Atlantic Salmon

Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) are distributed throughout Atlantic Canada, eastern Québec, and the northeastern seaboard of the United States, in freshwater systems where they breed and spend the early part of their life cycle. Within these freshwater systems they are typically found in brooks and rivers with a rocky bottom of gravel and cobble (UINR 2015b). Salmon (or Plamu as it is known to the Mi'kmaq) were historically a staple, dependable and predictable food source (Denny and Fanning 2016) and remain important for the Mi'kmaq today. They are generally harvested using rods, spear, snare, seines, or weirs. Plamu harvesting locations were shared among families, and sometimes other tribes, and fished on a rotational basis (Ladner 2005, in Denny and Fanning 2016; Marshall 2014, in Denny and Fanning 2016). In recent years salmon are generally reserved for special occasions such as feasts, powwows, and other celebrations due to the decline in salmon populations (UINR 2015b; Denny and Fanning 2016). Mi'kmaq grew up harvesting Plamu with family, learning about sustainability and the harvesting practices. The overall experience of the salmon harvest is, therefore, an important part of Mi'kmaq culture (UINR 2015b). Mi'kmaq use all parts of the salmon, with little to no waste and any unusable parts would be buried so that the spirit and body of the salmon would be recycled (UINR 2015b; Denny and Fanning 2016). The traditional Mi'kmaq concept of conservation is known as “Netukulimk” and was and continues to be the guiding principle to harvesting salmon, with fishers governing themselves in accordance with their interactions and relationships with their environment (Giles et al. 2016, in Denny and Fanning 2016). Atlantic salmon is designated under COSEWIC, with several populations designated as endangered (Table 6.7).

7.3.7.3 Hunting and Gathering

An important component of Indigenous groups' harvest is the terrestrial hunting and gathering including such activities as hunting for birds, seals, rabbits, caribou and moose, and trapping (Nalcor Energy 2011). Given the cultural, social, and nutritional qualities of country food and its integral part of the Inuit lifestyle, it cannot be replaced or substituted and cannot only be measured by market criteria. This section focuses on



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species that have potential to migrate through the Project Area because the Project is located in an offshore marine environment at considerable distances from the hunting and gathering of non-migratory species. Migratory birds, hunted in marine and inland areas, represent an important component of the overall subsistence harvest (Natcher et al. 2010), have long been an important source of food in traditional diets (IAAC 2021), and have the potential to migrate through the Project Area.

Bird hunting is permitted in Canada under the *Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations*. Species commonly harvested by Indigenous groups include goose, duck, loon, and seagull, and are hunted year round, when available (Nalcor Energy 2011). Other migratory birds that are traditionally harvested include murre (also referred to as turrs), mergansers, and scoters (Aivek Stantec Limited Partnership 2021). Murre migrate to or from their breeding ground in the Arctic, along the coast of Labrador, where it has the potential to be harvested. The Grand Banks is a potential over-wintering location for approximately 16.5% of the estimated 1,080,000 breeding thick-billed murre in the Canadian Arctic (Frederiksen et al. 2016). Thick-billed murre, which are harvested off the coast of Labrador, north of Groswater Bay, have the potential to migrate through the RAA and/or Project Area.

The Nunatsiavut Government undertook an initiative to determine the Inuit domestic harvest level following the *Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act* which came into effect in 2005. The initiative included a survey of migratory bird species commonly harvested by the Inuit. Between 2006 and 2007, the Nunatsiavut migratory bird harvest reported 5,468 birds, with common eiders representing 30%, followed by Canada geese (20%) and black ducks (19%) (Natcher et al. 2010). Approximately 75% of the migratory bird harvest occurs in the fall. In 2007, a survey was undertaken to understand the harvest of migratory bird eggs (Natcher et al. 2012). A total of 9,346 eggs were reported as being harvested, common eider eggs representing 36% of the eggs harvested, followed by gulls (32%), terns (20%), and common guillemot (12%) (Natcher et al. 2012).

Like egg harvesting, berry and plant harvesting is common throughout Labrador along access routes and river valleys in the mid- to late-summer. Common types of berries and plants harvested (including medicinal plants) are blueberries, partridge berries, bakeapples, the inner and outer bark of trees, herbs, flowers, mosses, and lichens (Nalcor Energy 2011).

Indigenous groups also harvest seals throughout the year for FSC purposes. The Northwest Atlantic harp seal population is at approximately 7.4 million (95% Confidence Interval: 6,475,800 to 8,273,600; Hammill et al. 2015), which has leveled off since 2008. Harp seal whelping areas may have been pushed farther north due to climate change associated declines in sea ice (Stenson and Hammill 2014). This population of harp seals are hunted for commercial (in their whelping locations) and subsistence purposes by Inuit in Labrador, Arctic Canada, and Greenland, with the majority of the approximately 80,000 subsistence animals harvested in Greenland. Based on studies conducted by Andersen et al. (2012, 2013, 2014), hooded seals are likely to be common in the Project Area, as satellite relay data loggers outfitted on hooded seals showed movements throughout the Project Area during spring and late-fall / winter of 2004-2008. Andersen et al. (2012) suggested that hooded seals prefer areas with topographic and oceanographic conditions off the coast of Newfoundland that produce good feeding conditions.



7.4 Other Ocean Users

Other human-related activities in the RAA that may interact with Project-related activities include marine research, shipping related activities, military operations, other offshore oil and gas projects, and marine infrastructure.

7.4.1 Marine Shipping

Vessel transit activity for the North Atlantic in 2017 is shown on Figure 7-34 and includes all vessel types (e.g., cargo, ferry, offshore supply boats). The RAA overlaps with one of the main trans-Atlantic shipping routes as well as shipping routes into the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

St. John’s Harbour accommodates both domestic and foreign vessels and is the main service port for the offshore oil and gas industry. In 2017, the most recently available data, the Port of St John’s accommodated 1,344 vessel visits and 1.7 million pounds of cargo (St. John’s Port Authority 2018).

7.4.2 Other Offshore Oil and Gas Activities

There are currently four producing oil fields within NL’s offshore waters: Hibernia (Hibernia Management and Development Company); Terra Nova (Suncor Energy Inc.); White Rose (Cenovus Energy Inc.); and Hebron (EMCP) (Figure 7-35). The proximity of the existing producing oil fields to EL 1161 and the Project Area is indicated in Table 7.45. The proposed Bay du Nord development project (Equinor), located in the Flemish Pass, is approximately 227 km from EL 1161.

Table 7.45 Existing Oil Fields and their Proximity to the Project

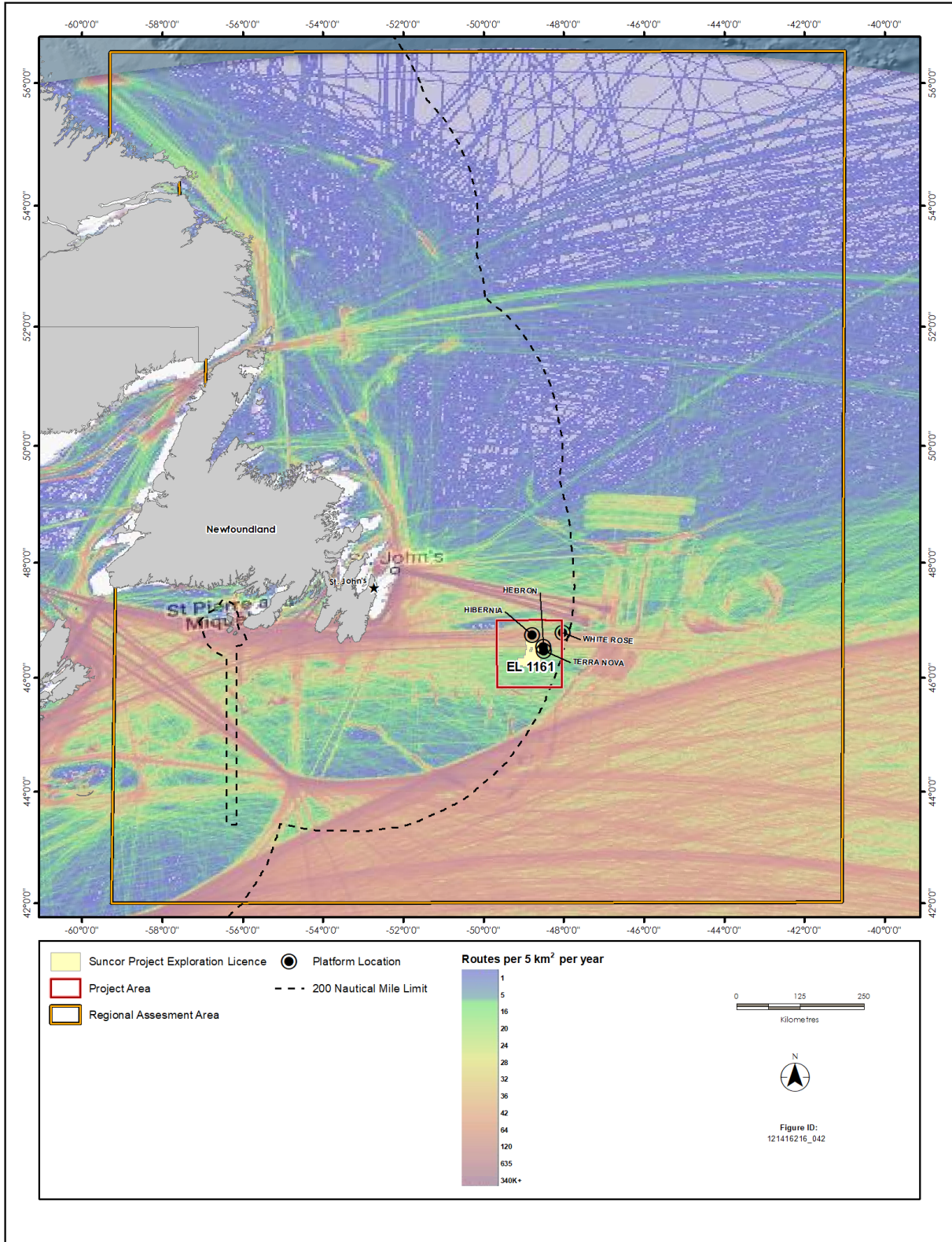
Existing Oil Field	Nearest Distance to EL 1161 (km)	Nearest Distance to Project Area (km)
Hebron	7.1	Within
Terra Nova	8.1	Within
Hibernia	11.4	Within
White Rose	49.2	2.2

As of January 31, 2020, a total of 484 wells have been drilled in the NL offshore, including 173 exploration wells, 59 delineation wells, and 254 development wells (C-NLOPB 2022a). As of January 2020, there were 32 ELs, 56 Significant Discovery Licences (SDLs) and 12 Production Licences (PLs) within offshore NL (C-NLOPB 2022b). There are two SDLs within EL 1161. There are 7 suspended / abandoned wells within EL 1161 and 268 within the Project Area.

Seismic activity and collection of geophysical data and wells for geochemistry data occurs routinely in offshore NL (Figure 7-35). There are currently 15 environmental assessments approved for offshore seismic activity spanning from 2012 to 2025, apart from the one seismic environmental assessment for Hibernia, which is valid for the life of the field.



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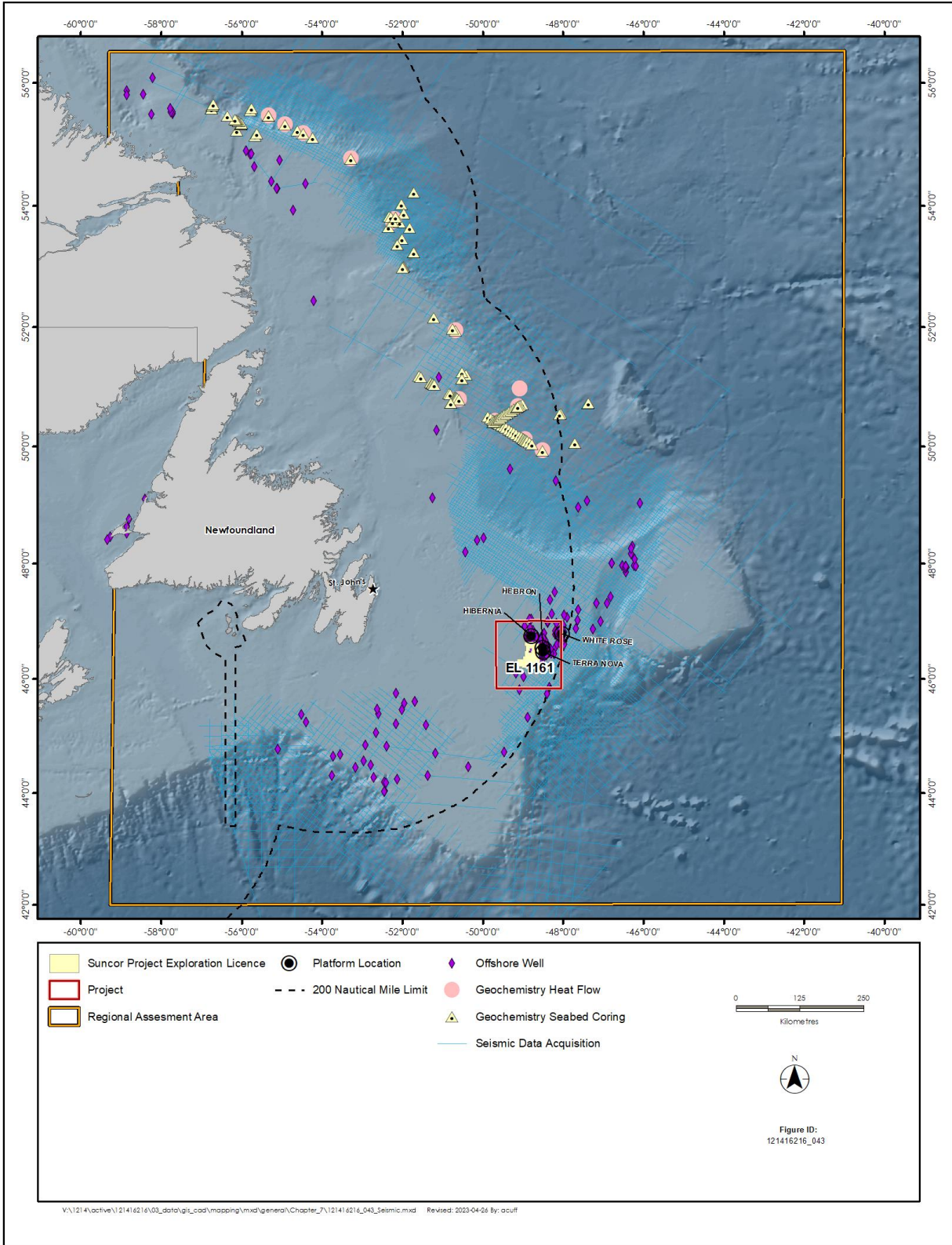


Source: Marine Traffic 2022

Figure 7-34 Vessel Transit Activity for 2017 within the RAA



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Source: Offshore wells – C-NLOPB 2022a; Seismic and Geochemistry data – Nalcor Energy 2019

Figure 7-35 Offshore Oil and Gas Activity within the RAA



7.4.3 Marine Infrastructure

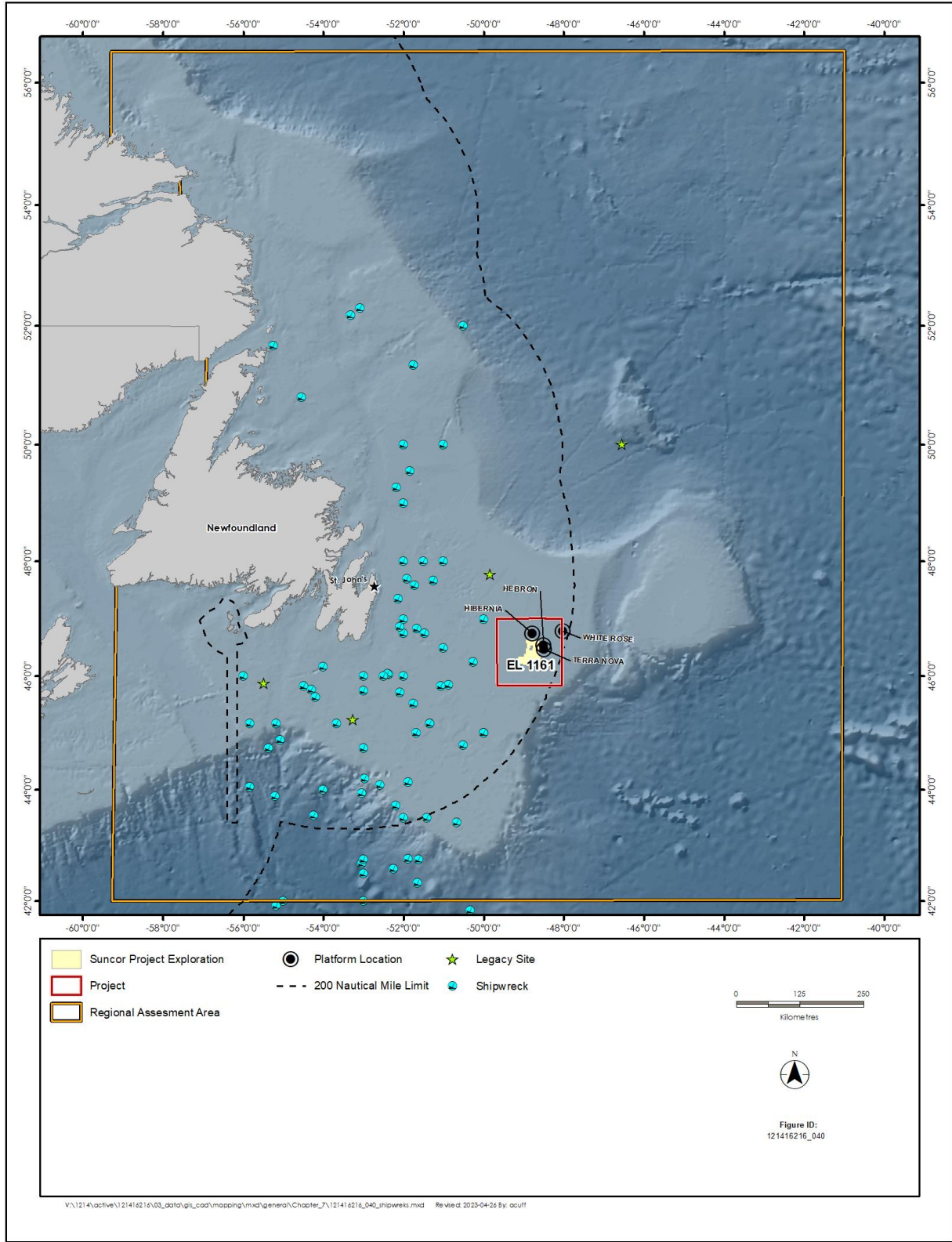
The Department of National Defence (DND), including the Royal Canadian Navy and Air Force, conduct training exercises and surveillance operations in Canadian waters, within the 200 NM EEZ. These operations involve both the use of aircraft and marine vessels, and have the potential to occur in or near the Project Area.

Some of the training activities conducted by DND involve the use of weapons, and together with the history of the Northwest Atlantic during World War II, legacy sites may contain unexploded ordnance. Figure 7-36 shows known legacy and shipwreck sites off the east coast of Newfoundland (Defense Construction Canada 2019). There are no known sites within the Project Area.

In addition to shipwrecks and legacy sites that may exist, multiple subsea cables, both active and abandoned, are located in offshore NL. The active cables are predominantly subsea fibre optic cables installed to provide high-speed internet and telecommunications between insular Newfoundland and Canada to countries across the Atlantic Ocean. Figure 7-37 shows marine cables in the waters of offshore NL. The Grand Banks Offshore Optical Capable intersects with the Project Area and crosses EL 1161 in the northern section of the EL.



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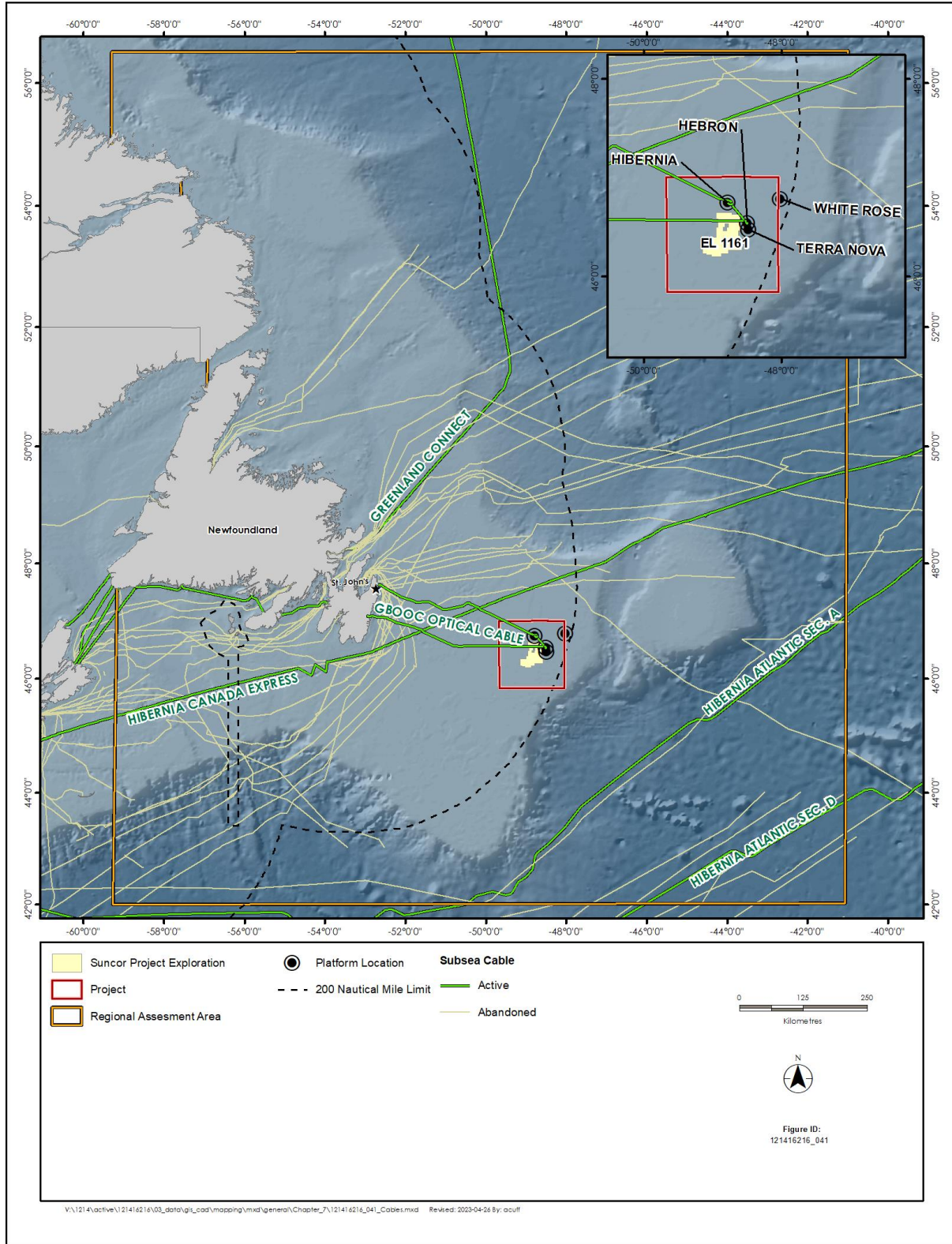


Source: Defense Construction Canada 2019

Figure 7-36 Legacy Sites and Shipwrecks



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Source: DFO 2015

Figure 7-37 Subsea Cables



7.5 References

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