

Study Areas

1. What informs the methodology for determining the study areas (e.g., wind speeds, land proximity, water depth, currents, etc.) for the regional assessment?

The Regional Assessment Study Areas are very much still under development, and the definition and eventual finalization of their boundaries is being informed and influenced by any input received from Indigenous and stakeholder groups and the public as part of the on-going regional assessment planning process, as well as technical input received from relevant authorities such as Natural Resources Canada, the Provinces and others, based on the principles and considerations outlined below.

The Study Areas for the Regional Assessment will comprise parts of the NS and NL Offshore Areas where future wind development activities may be technically and economically feasible, based on current and foreseeable technologies. The definition of these areas will not reflect whether or not particular locations will or should be subject to future offshore wind development activities. Similarly, it will not include or exclude locations based on potential environmental, health, social or economic effects, in order to allow the Regional Assessment to provide a complete and fulsome analysis of issues across the regions. Rather, the Study Area is the geographic region within which the Regional Assessment will inform future planning and decision-making. The Committee will also consider larger ecological and social characteristics and systems, and the potential spatial extent of effects beyond the Study Area.

2. Are setbacks from marine protected areas, prohibition areas, etc. required or anticipated for offshore wind development and, if so, what will be those setbacks?

As noted above, the Study Area will comprise parts of the NS and NL Offshore Areas where future wind development activities may be technically and economically feasible, based on current and foreseeable technologies. It will not include or exclude specific locations or features (including marine protected areas) based on potential environmental, health, social or economic effects, as this will allow the Regional Assessment to provide a complete and fulsome analysis of these issues across this region, to inform future decision-making. Consideration of potential areas where offshore wind should not occur, and possible setback areas / buffer zones from existing protected areas and other features, is an issue that would be analyzed as part the Regional Assessment process and can be brought forward to the Committee by participants. The Committee may eventually make recommendations on these matters in its Report.

3. Please provide any further information respecting the determination of the study areas

Please see response to Question #1 for an overview of key principles and other factors being considered in defining the Study Area. We are seeking and welcome input related to the definition of the Study Areas and other aspects of the Regional Assessment design as part of the ongoing engagement process.

4. Please provide a provincial government and/or utility contact for both NL and NS respecting determination of the study area boundaries.

As noted above, the Study Area boundaries will be determined with consideration of input and suggestions from Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders, and the public during this Regional Assessment planning and engagement process, and during the eventual Indigenous and public review of the Draft Agreement(s) and Terms of Reference.

As noted in the engagement sessions, IAAC is in discussions with Governments of NS and NL regarding Regional Assessment cooperation, including on-going negotiations towards Draft Regional Assessment Agreement(s) / Terms of Reference. Key provincial contacts are:

Chris Carter
 Director, Regulatory Affairs
 Department of Industry, Energy and Technology
 Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
 t. 709.729.1509
 f. 709.729.2508
 chriscarter@gov.nl.ca

Alison Tracy
 Director, Strategic Priorities
 Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables
 t. 902-499-6409
 Alison.Tracy@novascotia.ca

The electrical utilities in NL and NS are not currently involved in this process, and therefore we are unable to provide contacts for these.

NS Study area map

5. What informs the methodology for determining this study area, and is the methodology consistent with that for the NL study area?

Please refer to the answer provided to Question #1. The Study Area for the Newfoundland and Labrador portion of the Regional Assessment will be determined the same way as part of the on-going Regional Assessment planning process, including input and feedback received during the planning and engagement process.

6. Why are inshore regions omitted from consideration in the study area?

The boundaries of the Study Area will comprise a portion of, and therefore fall within, the boundaries of the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Area as defined by the *Accord Acts*.

Inshore regions (or “inner waters” under the *Accord Acts*) fall outside the boundaries of the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Area, and as a stated goal of the Regional Assessment is to inform the future licencing regime under the *Accord Acts*, these areas were excluded from the Study Area. Outside the joint Regional Assessment with the federal government, the Province could undertake engagement on these regions under jurisdiction of the provincial *Marine Renewable Energy Act*.

Any feedback on where the final boundaries should be, is welcome and encouraged.

7. Why does the study area not extend to the 200 nm limit?

The Study Area for the Regional Assessment will comprises the portion of the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Area where future offshore wind development activities may be technically and economically feasible, based on current and foreseeable technologies. Water depths are a consideration in determining such feasibility, and the current draft Study Area is based on those locations where water depths may be suitable for offshore wind development.

As noted, the map shown is very much a draft potential Study Area, and we welcome input and suggestions on this as part of the current planning and engagement process.

NL Study area map

8. Please provide a copy of the NL Study area map or indicate when such a map will be available

As discussed in the recent engagement sessions, the definition of a Study Area for NL is at an earlier stage than in NS, and there is currently no similar map available for NL. Again, we welcome input on areas that should be included, based on the principles and considerations outlined above. A map showing a potential Study Area in the NL offshore will be shared in future engagement sessions once available, and will certainly be include in the Draft Regional Assessment Agreement(s) and TOR that is released for Indigenous and public review and comment.

9. What informs the methodology for determining this study area, and is the methodology consistent with that for the NS study area?

Please refer to the answers provided above.

10. Provide any details relevant to omissions from the study area of regions within the Canada-NL offshore area

Please refer to the answers provided above.

Adjacent Areas

11. If available, please provide maps (or locations of maps) of the offshore regions and boundaries for QC, PE and NB

Such maps are not currently available.

The boundaries of the Study Areas will comprise portions of, and therefore fall within, the boundaries of the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Area and the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Areas, as defined by the *Accord Acts*.