

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT IN NOVA SCOTIA – UPDATE

July 2023

Since the last update the Committee has been focussed on the completion of guiding procedures, drafting of Participation Plans, and planning and undertaking initial engagement activities with Indigenous groups, non-government organizations (NGOs), public stakeholders, and federal and provincial authorities. Planning for initial meetings with Advisory Groups (expected in late July) was also undertaken.

The Committee completed its [Operational Procedures](#) and [Confidentiality Procedure](#), which will guide the Regional Assessment in a manner that promotes transparency and encourages public input and participation. Any comments or input on these procedures can be submitted to the Committee via the email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) or [public commenting tool](#).

The Public and Stakeholder Participation Plan; Fisheries Participation Plan; and Indigenous Participation Plan were drafted. These draft Participation Plans will be further developed and implemented with advice from the Advisory Groups. The Committee will further collaborate with Indigenous peoples on the development and implementation of the Indigenous Participation Plan. The Participation Plans have been posted to the Registry and will be updated regularly by the Committee, with advice from the Advisory Groups, to ensure that participants are aware of planned participation approaches and upcoming activities.

Four virtual public open house sessions were held in July. The Committee used this time to introduce themselves, provide information about the Regional Assessment process, and gather initial input and answer questions from participants. A Public Notice about these sessions was posted on the Regional Assessment Registry page. The Committee greatly appreciated the participation in these sessions and encourages participants to reach out, via the email (OffshoreWindNS-EolienneExtracotiereNE@iaac-aeic.gc.ca), to ensure that they are part of the Stakeholder List to stay up to date on Committee activities as the Regional Assessment progresses.

One-on-one meetings were also held with government departments, a fisheries group, and Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office. These meetings have focussed on introductions, information sharing about the Regional Assessment and the process, and initial discussions on key topics. A summary of participant meetings will be added to the tracking tables within the Participation Plans.

The Committee has also been meeting weekly with the Secretariat to discuss and plan aspects of the Regional Assessment and has implemented an additional weekly session to continue their topic briefings. A [Summary of Regional Assessment Committee Meetings](#) conducted to date can be found on the Registry page.

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