



***ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
JOINT 2010 WORK PLAN ACTIVITIES***

***CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD
FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA
AND
ENVIRONMENT CANADA***

Introduction

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) and Environment Canada (EC) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on March 31, 1999, to work co-operatively to meet the shared objective of environmental protection in the Nova Scotia offshore area. On July 26, 2001 a similar agreement was signed between the CNSOPB and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), to work co-operatively to enhance current mechanisms and practices for delivering environmental protection and conservation measures in the offshore environment of Nova Scotia. In April 2004, the MOU between the CNSOPB and DFO was amended to formally include DFO Gulf Region as a signatory.

Under the MOUs, one of the deliverables is this annual report to the Executive Committee, which summarizes the progress of joint projects defined in the 2010 Annual Work Plan.

Discussion

In 2010, the CNSOPB, DFO and EC agreed to continue to work collaboratively on a tri-partite work plan, with the objective of enhancing current mechanisms and practices for delivering environmental protection and conservation measures in the offshore environment.

The 2010 work plan included a total of 8 projects, the majority of which are complete, while some are anticipated to continue into 2011. Table 1 provides a summary of the progress for each project.

TABLE 1: Summary of Progress

PROJECT	ALL / MOST DELIVERABLES COMPLETED	SOME DELIVERABLES COMPLETED	NO SIGNIFICANT DELIVERABLES COMPLETED
1- Joint Priority Setting and Planning	X		
2 - Environmental Assessment	X		
3 – Environmental Effects Monitoring		X	
4 – Ongoing Activities	X		
5 – Integrated Management and Conservation Initiatives	X		
6 – Air Emissions	X		
7 – Ocean Disposal			X
8 – Reporting on Progress	X		

Progress was made on all projects planned for 2010. Major collaborative activities that took place in 2010 included the exchange of information and advice regarding DFO's Area of Interest selection process, review and approval of the ExxonMobil Seabed Survey EA, and participation in the Sable Island National Park designation decision making process. Other issues that staff members from the three signatory organizations exchanged information on in a timely and effective manner included: review and approval of EPP/EEMPs and follow-up documents related to EnCana's Deep Panuke – 2010 Flow Line installation activities, and review of ExxonMobil's 2010 Environmental Effects Monitoring program and the results of their 2009 program.

A summary of the status and progress of each project in the work plan is included in Appendix 1.

Representatives of the three organizations reviewed and discussed the status of various projects under the 2010 work plan throughout the year. Overall, the progress on work plan deliverables was very good. Some deliverables under Project 3 – Environmental Effects Monitoring are ongoing. The 2009 Sable Project EEM program review is complete and awaiting outstanding study results from COOGER before final submission. The Deep Panuke production EPP was submitted late in 2010, and the EEMP is anticipated for early 2011. Project 7 remains ongoing.

Approvals

For Fisheries and Oceans Canada:



Odette Murphy, A/Regional Director
Oceans, Habitat, and Species at Risk Branch
Maritimes Region

Dec. 14, 2010

Date

for 

Roland Cormier, Regional Director
Oceans and Habitat Division
Gulf Region

Dec 14, 2010

Date

For Environment Canada:


for

I.R. Geoffrey Mercer
Regional Director
Environmental Protection Operations Directorate
Atlantic

14 Dec, 2010

Date

For the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board:



Keith Landra, Director
Operations/Health, Safety & Environment

14 Dec 2010

Date

APPENDIX 1

STATUS REPORT ON CNSOPB/DFO/EC 2009 JOINT PROJECTS

The following summarizes the progress on the eight joint projects defined in the 2009 CNSOPB/DFO/EC Work Plan.

PROJECT 1- Joint Priority Setting and Planning

Project Team Leader: Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Project Team Resources:

Geoff Mercer (EC)

Roland Cormier and Odette Murphy (DFO)

Deliverables:

- Discussions of issues/areas requiring collaborative work, and an estimate of associated workloads.
- Continued input into research objectives of various funding groups [e.g. Environmental Studies Research Fund (ESRF), Program of Energy and Research Development (PERD)].
- Development of a joint 2011 Annual Work Plan, coordinated by the CNSOPB with DFO and EC.

Status: Complete

The three organizations were effective in working towards the achievement of the deliverables identified under this project. Progress was made on all of the deliverables. Research priorities were considered through the Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association (OEER), the Environmental Studies Research Fund (ESRF) and the Program of Energy and Research Development (PERD), as well as discussions with the Centre for Offshore Oil and Gas Environmental Research (COOGER). The 2011 MOU Work Plan has been drafted.

PROJECT 2 - Environmental Assessment

Project Team Leader: Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Project Team Resources: Elizabeth MacDonald (CNSOPB)
Jayne Roma and Jeff Corkum (EC)
Donald Humphrey and Ross Alexander (DFO)

Deliverables:

- Ongoing cooperation between the parties in fulfilling their respective obligations under the CEEA.
- Cooperation in addressing post-EA commitments on the Deep Panuke project, including the review of additional information submitted by the proponent.

Status: Some deliverables completed and there are annual ongoing projects.

There was ongoing cooperation between DFO, EC and CNSOPB to ensure obligations under CEEA and CNSOPB policy continue to be met during the review of post-EA commitments for the Deep Panuke project. Several items have been reviewed by the MOU signatories this year (e.g. an environmental assessment, and an environmental protection plan/environmental effects monitoring program).

Efficient and effective cooperation in Q1/Q2 2010 allowed for review and approval of the ExxonMobil Seabed Survey EA.

PROJECT 3 – Environmental Effects Monitoring

Project Team Leader: Elizabeth MacDonald (CNSOPB)

Project Team Resources: Sue Ellen Maher (EC)
Donald Humphrey and Ross Alexander (DFO)

Deliverables:

- Ongoing review of EEM programs and results on an as-needed basis, following the *Environmental Effects Monitoring Coordination Framework* developed by the CNSOPB, DFO and EC.

Status: Ongoing

In accordance with the 2005 EEM Coordination Framework, a review of ExxonMobil's 2009 EEM results and 2010 EEM Plan was completed during the year. However the 2009 EEM report is awaiting outstanding study results from COOGER before it will be submitted in its final form. 2010 data collection is currently underway.

The Deep Panuke – 2010 Flow Line Installation EPP/EEM was reviewed and approved.

PROJECT 4 – Ongoing Activities

Team Co-leads: Glen Herbert and Marcia Penney (DFO), Wayne Barchard (EC), and Elizabeth MacDonald (CNSOPB), for the SARA Working Group, Julie McKnight (EC), Don Logan (CNSOPB), and Sophie Bastien-Daigle (DFO)

Deliverables:

- EC and the CNSOPB will endeavor to undertake joint compliance verification activities each year, including monitoring and audits, under their respective mandates.
- Exchange of information between EC and the CNSOPB regarding response to offshore spills.
- The CNSOPB will continue to participate in SARA recovery strategy discussions and recovery planning teams initiated by DFO and Environment Canada.
- The SARA Working Group will continue to meet and share information to help interpret SARA requirements and provide guidance.

Status: Ongoing

Both the CNSOPB and EC are monitoring Halocarbon Regulation compliance in particular in 2010. The exchange of information to ensure enforcement response to offshore spills/incidents continues. EC and DFO continue to participate on the Board's SARA working group; however more emphasis needs to be placed on forward planning in regards to species at risk issues and recovery strategies.

PROJECT 5 – Integrated Management and Conservation Initiatives

Project Team Leaders: Odette Murphy and Roland Cormier (DFO), Kevin Davidson (EC)

Project Team Resources: Elizabeth MacDonald and Don Logan (CNSOPB)
Glen Herbert and Ross Alexander (DFO)

Deliverables:

- The CNSOPB will collaborate with DFO on initiatives and governance structures developed under the *Oceans Act*, including the Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) and Gulf Region processes and related working groups.
- The CNSOPB and DFO will collaborate in support of the management and conservation of the Gully Marine Protected Area (MPA).
- The CNSOPB will continue to participate in DFO's candidate MPA Area of Interest consultation processes, as appropriate. Once the Areas of Interest have been identified, the CNSOPB will provide information, as appropriate, for DFO's technical and regulatory site assessments.
- The CNSOPB and EC will collaborate in support of the conservation of Sable Island and will participate in the evaluations and consultations associated with the proposed conservation initiative.

Status: Ongoing

The CNSOPB participated in a number of the ESSIM Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings this year. There was ongoing implementation of the Gully MPA Management Plan as it relates to CNSOPB activities. The CNSOPB also continues to participate in Gully Advisory Committee meetings. A number of meetings have been held with respect to the current DFO-led MPA Area of Interest (AOI) processes underway for both the Gulf Region and Maritimes Region. The CNSOPB has provided advice and comments on the proposed areas prior to the AOI selection and continues to provide input into the AOI planning process. The CNSOPB participated on the Sable Island Fed/Prov MOU Task Group during Q1, providing advice and information during the National Park/ National Wildlife Area decision making process.

PROJECT 6 – Air Emissions

Project Team Leader: Michael Hingston (EC)

Project Team Resources: Elizabeth MacDonald (CNSOPB)

Deliverables:

- Environment Canada and other partners in the Sable Air Monitoring Agreement will complete and report on the analysis. The results of this analysis will be used to decide on the ongoing future of the monitoring project.

Status: Ongoing

Partners have approved the draft monitoring report and it has been submitted to the ESRF Management Board for review and approval before being posted to the ESRF website. Sable data continues to be collected, and there is another ESRF proposal in the works to expand the air monitoring program on Sable.

PROJECT 7 – Ocean Disposal

Project Team Leader: Jeff Corkum (EC)

Project Team Resources: Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Deliverables:

- Following completion of the internal review of a 2008 study which examined the applicability of the Disposal at Sea requirements, EC will initiate discussions with the CNSOPB on the development of a guidance document.

Status: Ongoing

Meeting held in September to discuss.

PROJECT 8 – Reporting on Progress

Project Team Leader: Keith Landra (CNSOPB)

Project Team Resources: Geoff Mercer (EC), Odette Murphy and Roland Cormier (DFO)

Deliverables:

- Bi-annual summary of progress
- Annual Report to Executive Committee

Status: Complete

The bi-annual summary was completed in October, 2010. This Annual Progress Report satisfies the second deliverable outlined under this project.