



**TO:** All Media

**DATE:** June 17, 1999 (4:00 P.M.)

**FOR:** Immediate Release

**SUBJECT: Board Announces NS99-1 Call for Bids**

**Halifax, N.S.** - In response to expressions of interest from the petroleum industry the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board has issued Call for Bids No. NS99-1. This Call is for eleven exploration licences with a total area of approximately 1,221,567 hectares located offshore Nova Scotia (Attachment #1).

This call will remain open until Thursday, October 28, 1999. Bidding on each land parcel will be based solely on the amount of money proposed to be spent on exploration of the lands during the first period of the nine year Exploration Licence. The minimum bid to be considered for each land parcel is \$1-million (Canadian).

Successful bidders will be required to post security in the form of a guaranteed promissory note equal to 25% of the work expenditure bid. This Work Deposit is refundable to the extent of 25% of allowable expenditures, determined in accordance with set rates. The first period of each licence will be five years, but this may be extended to six years by posting an additional deposit of \$250,000 as security for the drilling of a well. If a well is drilled during the first period of the licence, the term of the licence will be extended to a total of nine years.

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board is the independent joint agency of the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia responsible for the regulation of petroleum activities and resources in the Nova Scotia offshore area.

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Detail Map of Parcels 1-3

