



# **ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT JOINT 2009 WORK PLAN ACTIVITIES**

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

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### **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 2009 Annual Work Plan.


### **Discussion**

In 2009, 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.

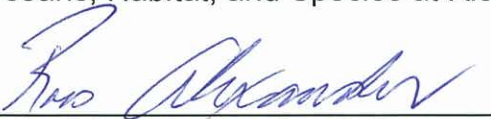
The 2009 work plan included a total of 8 projects, the majority of which are complete, while some are anticipated to continue into 2010. Table 1 provides a summary of the progress for each project.

### Approvals

For Fisheries and Oceans Canada:


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

  
Date

*for -*  
  
Roland Cormier, Regional Director  
Oceans and Habitat Division  
Gulf Region

  
Date

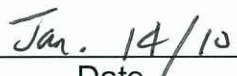
For Environment Canada:

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

  
Date

For the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board:

  
Keith Landra, Director  
Operations/Health, Safety & Environment

  
Date

## **PROJECT 2 - Environmental Assessment**

Project Team Leader: Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Project Team Resources: Elizabeth MacDonald (CNSOPB)

Jayne Roma (EC)

Kristian Curran and Ross Alexander (DFO)

### **Deliverables:**

- Ongoing cooperation between the parties in fulfilling their respective obligations under the CEAA.
- Cooperation in addressing post-EA commitments on the Deep Panuke project, including the review of additional information submitted by the proponent, such as proposed survey methods and results, project design details, and mitigation plans.
- A pilot project that provided enhanced guidance to operators through the scoping process began with the Canadian Superior scoping documents. A post-mortem on the process will be developed, pending finalization of the EAs within 2009.
- EC and DFO participation on the CNSOPB's technical advisory groups (TAGs) for the Regional Environmental Assessment (REA) data gap analysis study and stakeholder consultation analysis study.

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

There was ongoing cooperation between DFO, EC and CNSOPB to ensure obligations under CEAA 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. environmental protection plans/environmental effects monitoring plans and the Roseate tern monitoring study).

There were no new EAs this year; however, the BEPCo CSR was validated as it had been 5 years since it was originally approved. EAs were not received from Canadian Superior, therefore the pilot project on enhanced guidance through the scoping process was not completed. EC and DFO participated on the CNSOPB's technical advisory groups (TAGs) for the REA data gap analysis study and stakeholder consultation analysis study.

**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**

A joint inspection between EC and the CNSOPB of ExxonMobil's compliance with the Federal Halocarbon Regulations was completed in 2009. The exchange of information to ensure enforcement response to offshore spills/incidents continues. The CNSOPB continues to participate in and comment on the Recovery Strategies for species at risk, and continues to co-chair the SARA working group.

**PROJECT 5 – Oceans Act and Marine Conservation Initiatives**

Project Team Leaders: Mike Murphy and Roland Cormier (DFO)

Project Team Resources: Elizabeth MacDonald (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 and DFO will collaborate in the identification and assessment of candidate Marine Protected Areas, as appropriate.

## **PROJECT 7 – Ocean Disposal**

Project Team Leader: Adrian MacDonald (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**

EC internal review is ongoing.

## **PROJECT 8 – Reporting on Progress**

Project Team Leader: Eric Theriault (CNSOPB)

Project Team Resources: Geoff Mercer (EC), Mike 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 July, 2009. This Annual Progress Report satisfies the second deliverable outlined under this project.