

## **CNSOPB releases Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment**

July 05, 2005

**Halifax, NS** - The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB, the Board) today released its draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Misaine Bank area offshore Cape Breton.

The assessment provides an overview of the existing environment in the Misaine Bank area. Moreover, it discusses the potential environmental effects associated with offshore oil and gas exploration activities, identifies knowledge and data gaps, highlights issues of concern, and makes recommendations for mitigation and planning in the area. Information from the SEA will assist the CNSOPB in determining whether exploration rights should be offered in whole or in part for the Misaine Bank, and may also help to identify appropriate general restrictive or mitigative measures applicable to exploration activities.

The Board will now begin a 30 day public consultation period, seeking written input on this draft report from all interested parties. Also, a Public Workshop on the assessment will be held at the Delta Hotel in Sydney, Cape Breton on Thursday, July 14th at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend this workshop, but attendees are asked to R.S.V.P. for planning purposes. Written comments are also welcome, as the Board considers such public input essential to completing this evaluation of the offshore area. Copies of the draft SEA are available from the Board and will also be available at the workshop. In addition, the document can be found on the Board's website, [www.cnsopb.ns.ca](http://www.cnsopb.ns.ca) under "What's New".

-30-

For more information, to R.S.V.P. for the workshop or for a copy of the Draft SEA, please contact:

*Neal Dawe*  
*Public Information Coordinator*  
*Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board*  
*Office: (902) 496-0744*  
*Cell: (902) 222-7915*  
*Email: [ndawe@cnsopb.ns.ca](mailto:ndawe@cnsopb.ns.ca)*

Please submit written comments on the Draft SEA to:

*Beth Vardy*  
*Environmental Analyst*  
*Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board*  
*6th Floor - TD Centre*  
*1791 Barrington Street*  
*Halifax, Nova Scotia*  
*B3J 3K9*  
*Email: [bvardy@cnsopb.ns.ca](mailto:bvardy@cnsopb.ns.ca)*