



**ExxonMobil Canada Ltd.
2023 Eastern Newfoundland Offshore
Exploration Drilling Project –
EL1167 and EL 1169**

Fisheries Communication Plan

FINAL REPORT

Submitted by:

ExxonMobil Canada Ltd.
20 Hebron Way,
St. John's, NL, Canada
A1A 0L9

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1 INTRODUCTION

ExxonMobil Canada Ltd. (ExxonMobil) is undertaking an offshore exploration drilling program at exploration licence (EL) 1167 and a visual seabed survey at EL 1169, in the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Offshore Area (hereinafter also referred to as the Projects). ExxonMobil has committed to developing and implementing a Fisheries Communications Plan (the “Plan”) in the Jeanne D’Arc Basin Exploration Drilling Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as well as in commitments in the Decision Statement, Issued under Section 54 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 for the Jeanne D’Arc Basin Exploration Drilling Projects.

2 FISHERIES COMMUNICATION PLAN OVERVIEW

As per condition 5.1 of the Decision Statement, ExxonMobil is required to demonstrate readiness for operations (including in the unlikely event of an emergency), by developing a fisheries communication protocol with commercial fisher groups prior to commencing operations. The Plan outlines communication protocols and processes leading up to and during the operational period of the exploration drilling programs; and, how communication would take place in the event of an emergency (accident, malfunction or unauthorized hydrocarbon spill). Please note this plan was written as a supplement to the Indigenous Fisheries Communication Plan: Operations and Emergency Response – Offshore Exploration: Eastern Newfoundland.

As part of the plan, ExxonMobil must meet the following conditions:

Condition 5.1 - The Proponent shall develop and implement a Fisheries Communication Plan in consultation with the Board, Indigenous groups and commercial fishers. The Proponent shall develop the Fisheries Communication Plan prior to the start of the drilling program and implement it for the duration of the drilling program. The Proponent shall include in the Fisheries Communications Plan:

Condition 5.1.1 - procedures to notify Indigenous groups and commercial fishers of planned drilling activity, a minimum of two weeks prior to the start of drilling of each well;

Condition 5.1.2 - procedures to determine the requirement for a Fisheries Liaison Officer and/or fisheries guide vessel during drilling installation movement and geophysical programs;

Condition 5.1.3 – procedures to notify Indigenous groups and commercial fishers in the event of a spill or unplanned release of oil or any other substance, and communicate the results of the monitoring and any associated potential health risks referred to in condition 6.10;

Condition 5.1.4 – procedures to engage in two-way communication with Indigenous groups and commercial fishers in the event of a spill requiring a tier 2 or tier 3 spill response over the duration of the spill response; and

Condition 5.1.5 – the type of information that will be communicated to Indigenous groups and commercial fishers, and the timing of distribution of this information, that will include but not be limited to:

Condition 5.1.4.1 - a description of planned Designated Project activities;

Condition 5.1.4.2 - location(s) of safety exclusion zones;

Condition 5.1.4.3 - anticipated vessel traffic schedule;

Condition 5.1.4.4 - anticipated vessel routes; and

Condition 5.1.4.5 - locations of suspended or abandoned wellheads.

3 PROJECT LOCATION

The Project Area (see Figure 1) includes EL 1167 (Gale N-66 well location) in the Jeanne D'Arc Basin area at a water depth of approximately 170 m and EL 1169 in the Orphan Basin area at a water depth of approximately 3000 m.

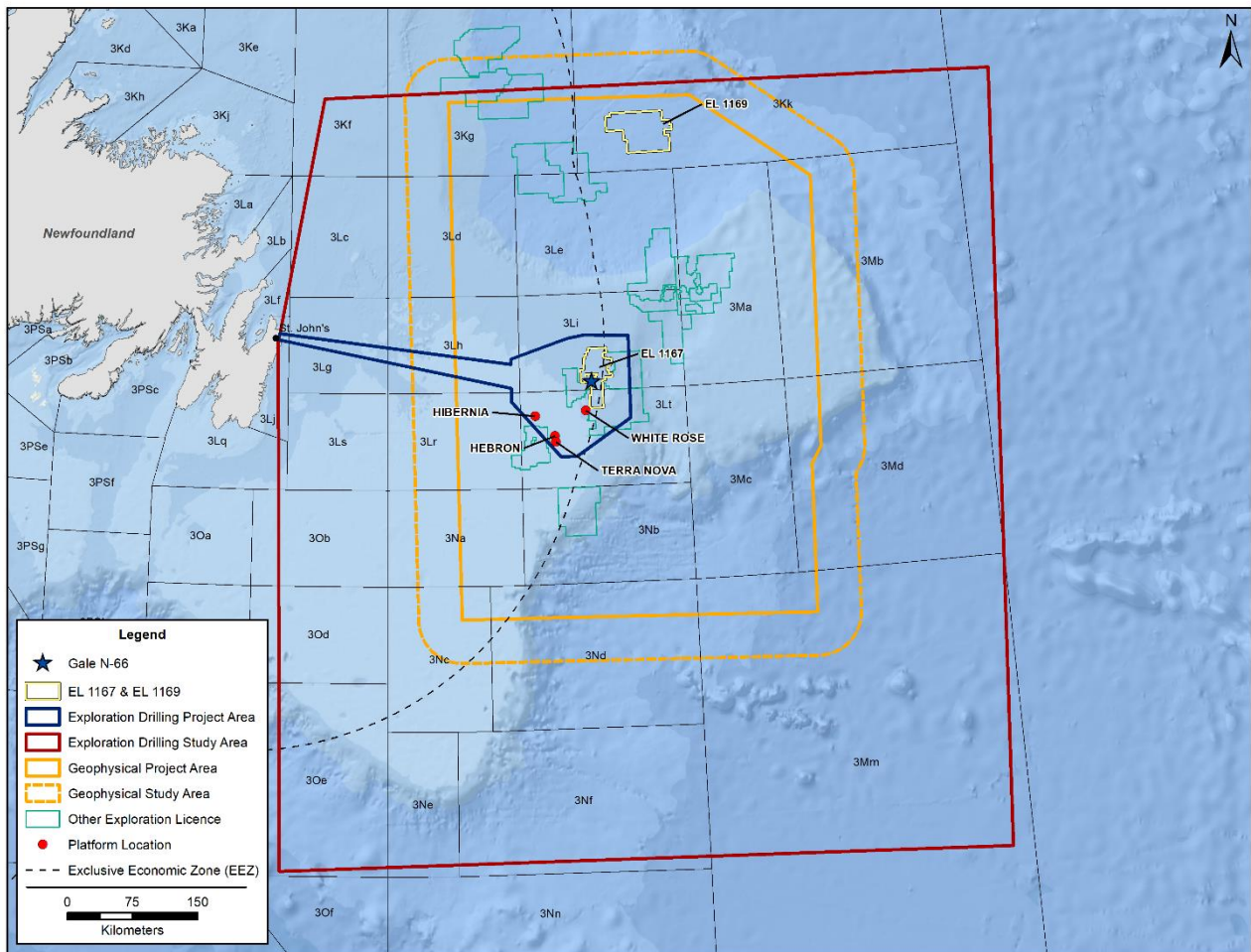


Figure 1.0 Project Area

4 COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Fishing industry members are key stakeholders, with which ExxonMobil has ongoing communication and engagement to keep them apprised of offshore oil and gas activity in their fishing areas and to foster an enhanced working relationship and information exchange. Commercial fishing entities in

Newfoundland and Labrador include the Fish Food and Allied Workers-Unifor (FFAW-Unifor), the Association of Seafood Producers (ASP), and the Atlantic Groundfish Council (AGC). One Ocean is the liaison organization established by and for the fishing and petroleum industries of Newfoundland and Labrador. Its objective is to assist the fishing and petroleum industries in understanding each sector's operational activities. Members of One Ocean Board and working groups include representatives from these fishing entities and offshore oil and gas operators.

Fisheries are a key area of focus for the Project, and on-going Project planning and implementation will continue to place a high degree of emphasis on addressing the potential for interactions with commercial fishing activity within and near the activity area. For administrative purposes, the Northwest Atlantic is divided into a series of North Atlantic Fisheries Organizations (NAFO) Divisions, subdivisions and unit areas (Figure 1.0), and although fish harvesting activities and fisheries management responsibilities extend across these areas and their boundaries, they are generally used to regulate and manage fishing activity.

5 COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

5.1 Communication During Operations

Beginning at a minimum of two months prior to planned exploration activities, two weeks prior to the commencement of drilling, and throughout the exploration drilling program for each approved well, ExxonMobil will provide commercial fisher contacts with emailed updates on operational activities (see list of operational activities below). The operational updates will be sent to the main contact(s) provided by the various fishery groups. The identified group contact will be provided by One Ocean as outlined in the [One Ocean Communication Protocol for Exploratory Drilling Projects in the Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore](#). ExxonMobil will provide the contact information for the primary contact responsible for communications during exploration activities. The identified fisheries group representative will be responsible for any further dissemination of the information within their organizations.

ExxonMobil will provide monthly e-mailed operational updates that contain the following information and, when the following activities take place, to identified contacts:

1. Mobilization of the rig, including planned traffic routes
2. Name and photos of drilling rig/ship
3. Requirements for Fisheries Liaison Officer and/or Fisheries Guide Vessel for transit route
4. Rig location (coordinates) / map of area
5. Safety zone – description, location and purpose
6. Supply and safety vessels / identification / call signs / routes
7. Anticipated vessel traffic schedule
8. Commencement of exploration drilling (spud)
9. Schedule of activities (e.g. Blowout Preventer installation, Vertical Seismic Profiling)
10. Abandonment of well
11. Demobilization/rig movement
12. Two-week notice post completion of exploration drill program
13. Notification of posting to external website the results of any monitoring or follow-up programs such as the results of environmental monitoring programs related to birds, marine mammals, fish

and fish habitat including links to documents and reports (e.g. C-NLOPB website, company websites).

14. Company contact

Operational details will also be provided to marine communications and traffic services for broadcasting and publishing in the National Navigational Warning (NAVWARN) of the NAFO Secretariat and to the Canadian Hydrographic Services for future nautical charts and planning. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans will also be notified prior to project commencement to avoid any potential conflict with any research surveys being completed in the drilling areas.

5.2 Communication in the Event of an Accident or Malfunction

In the case of an accident or malfunction that may result in adverse environmental effects, ExxonMobil, according to their emergency response plan, will:

1. Within 48 hours of the incident or spill, notify by telephone, the representatives identified by interested Fishery groups.
2. Following initial contact described in point 1 above, ExxonMobil will, via email, provide an emergency information update bulletin twice weekly in the initial phases of the incident, and then as operations and other activities resume, updates will be sent as new information becomes available to representatives identified by interested fisher groups.

The information to be included in the emergency information update bulletin (when available) will include the following:

- Situational/event overview
- Map of area
- Location of event
- Timing of event
- Actions currently underway
- Any known restrictions or health, safety or environment considerations
- Impacts to fisheries
- Results of monitoring programs
- Next scheduled update
- Contact information for Company

Communication protocols have also been outlined in the One Ocean Oil Spill Communication Protocol (OOOSCP). These protocols have been developed by One Ocean members to have an agreed process in place to notify the fishing industry, through One Ocean, of significant petroleum, hydrocarbon spill event directly, versus notification through the media. Direct communication will enable senior fishing industry representatives to inform their organizations that direct and ongoing communication has been made with the Operator and ensure factual information is disseminated within their organizations. This protocol will be actuated in the event of an oil spill incident that triggers the activation of ExxonMobil's onshore emergency response center.

ExxonMobil will also report on an annual basis to the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) on any known incidents of lost or damaged fishing gear attributed to the Project activities. This includes actual losses that might occur to harvesters and processors from damage to fishing gear and vessels as a result of interaction with Project vessels/debris outside the safety zone, or from oil spills originating within the Project area.

6 UTILIZATION OF FISHERIES LIASION OFFICERS/FISHERIES GUIDE VESSELS

A Risk Management Matrix Guideline for the Utilization of Fisheries Liaison Observers (FLO) and Fisheries Guide Vessels (FGV) for the fishing and petroleum industries was developed by One Ocean (Figure 2.0). The One Ocean Matrix includes the provision of FLOs and offers considerations for the use of FGVs. FGVs may be deployed for transit and tow operations to support the operator scout vessel in monitoring and safeguarding fishing activity and gear. In consultation with the fishing industry, ExxonMobil will utilize the Risk Management Matrix Guidelines to assess if and/or when a FLO and/or FGV will be used during the Project work scope. Depending on the timing of any movement of the mobile offshore drilling unit there will need to be adequate time to develop contracts to support the use of FLOs and/or FGVs. The parties will keep in regular contact in advance of the prescribed two week communication timeline to provide as much notice as possible to support logistical elements of mitigation efforts, if needed. The matrix can also be accessed through the following link <http://www.oneocean.ca/pdf/Matrix.pdf>



Risk Management Matrix Guidelines

for the utilization of Fisheries Liaison Officers and Fisheries Guide Vessels for the Fishing and Petroleum Industries of Newfoundland and Labrador

LEVEL OF FISHING ACTIVITY	SEISMIC OPERATIONS					TRANSIT-TOW OPERATIONS			
	VSP	EMS	WSS	2D	3D	Drill Ship	Drill Rig	FPSO	GBS
Fishery Closed in Area	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Fishery Open- No Recent Fishing in Area	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red
Fishery Open-Area Actively being Fished	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red

- The Petroleum Industry Liaison at the Fish, Food and Allied Workers (FFAW) Union should be notified in advance of all seismic, transit and tow operations outside of the Field Safety Zone
- The use of a Fisheries Liaison Officer should be considered in consultation with the FFAW
- The use of a FLO and Fisheries Guide Vessel should be considered in consultation with the FFAW

NOTES:

1. The Matrix provides useful criteria and considerations for mitigative and safe practices for the fishing and petroleum industries. The Matrix is a guideline for industry consultations and does not in any way replace them.
2. The Matrix is designed for seismic, transit and tow operations located outside a field or exploration operation safety zone.
3. Fisheries Guide Vessels will be commercially registered fishing vessels and part of the FFAW’s Guide Vessel Program.
4. Fishing activity referenced in the Matrix refers to fixed fishing gear/equipment only.
5. Operators accept liability for compensation of any fisheries gear damage that is directly attributable to an operation.

Acronyms:

- 2D Two-Dimensional Seismic
- 3D Three-Dimensional Seismic
- EMS Electromagnetic Survey
- FPSO Floating Production Storage Offloading Vessel
- GBS Gravity Base Structure
- VSP Vertical Seismic Profiling
- WSS Well Site Survey

One Ocean was established in 2002 as the inter-industry liaison organization for the fishing and petroleum industries in Newfoundland and Labrador. Its mandate is to facilitate cooperation, communication and information exchange between the two marine sectors. The Risk Management Matrix Guidelines for the Utilization of Fisheries Liaison Observers and Fisheries Guide Vessels for the Fishing and Petroleum Industries in NL, (Matrix) was developed by members of One Ocean. Its application should be developed in collaboration with industry, regulators and One Ocean. Contact One Ocean at 709 778 0511.

For more information on regulations please reference the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) Geophysical, Geological Environmental and Geotechnical Program Guidelines 2008: <http://www.cnlopb.nl.ca/pdfs/guidelines/ggegpg.pdf> The C-NLOPB is the authority responsible for the administration of the regulations pertaining to all exploration for, and production of, hydrocarbons in the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore area.

Figure 2.0 Once Ocean Risk Management Matrix Guidelines

7 CONSULTATION

As part of its on-going and planned operations in the Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area, ExxonMobil has engaged key stakeholders that have an interest in offshore oil and gas operations. Fish harvesters and processors are a key stakeholder, with which ExxonMobil have ongoing communication and engagement to keep them apprised of offshore oil and gas activity in their fishing areas and to address any concerns they may have.

A summary of the recent Project-related engagement initiatives involving stakeholder groups is provided below:

Table 1.0 Engagement Activities undertaken between ExxonMobil and Fisheries Stakeholders

Date:	Stakeholder Group:	Engagement Activity:
October 2022	One Ocean	Program update provided at October 2022 One Ocean committee meeting.
October 2022	One Ocean	Program update provided at October 2022 One Ocean working group meeting.
October 2022	One Ocean	Program update provided to One Ocean Director.

October 2022	FFAW-Unifor	Program update provided to FFAW-Unifor.
October 2022	Ocean Choice International (OCI), AGC, ASP	Program update provided to OCI, AGC and ASP.
January 2023	One Ocean	Program update provided at January 2022 One Ocean committee meeting.
January 2023	One Ocean	Program update provided at January 2022 One Ocean working group meeting.
March 2023	One Ocean	Program update provided to One Ocean Director.
March 2023	FFAW-Unifor	Program update provided to FFAW-Unifor.
March 2023	OCI, AGC and ASP	Program update provided to OCI, AGC and ASP.
April 2022	FFAW-Unifor	2022 program update provided to FFAW-Unifor.
May 2023	One Ocean	Program update provided to One Ocean Director.
May 2023	FFAW-Unifor	Program update provided to FFAW-Unifor.
May 2023	OCI, AGC and ASP	Program update provided to Ocean Choice International (OCI), AGC and ASP.
May 2023	One Ocean	Provided updated copy of Fisheries Communication Plan.
May 2023	FFAW-Unifor	Provided updated copy of Fisheries Communication Plan.
May 2023	OCI, AGC, ASP	Provided updated copy of Fisheries Communication Plan.

8 REFERENCES

Environment and Climate Change Canada. 2019. [Decision Statement Issued under Section 54 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 for the Jeanne D'Arc Basin Exploration Drilling Projects.](#)

One Ocean. 2010. One Ocean Initiatives. *One Ocean Risk Management Matrix Guidelines*. Available online at <http://www.oneocean.ca/pdf/Matrix.pdf>

One Ocean. 2019. *One Ocean Oil Spill Communication Protocol (OOOSCP)*.

One Ocean. 2021. *One Ocean Communication Protocol for Exploratory Drilling Projects in the Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore*. Available online at [2021_OOPED_June.pdf \(oneocean.ca\)](#)