



**ExxonMobil Canada Ltd.
2019-2020 Eastern Newfoundland Offshore
Exploration Drilling Project –
EL 1165A and EL 1165B**

Seabird Monitoring Results

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1 INTRODUCTION

ExxonMobil Canada Ltd. (EMCL) undertook an offshore exploration drilling program at Exploration Licences (EL) 1134 (Hampden Well) and 1135 (Harp Well - later consolidated and herein referred to as 1165A and 1165B, respectively), in the eastern portion of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Offshore Area. EMCL committed to complying with conditions set out in the Decision Statement for exploration drilling activities at EL 1165A & EL 1165B. The following report highlights actions completed in accordance with the ExxonMobil Canada Ltd. 2019 Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Exploration Drilling Project – EL1134 and EL 1135 Follow-up Program – Migratory Birds (the Plan).

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

EMCL conducted an exploration drilling project within offshore exploration licenses located in the Flemish Pass Basin. The Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Exploration Drilling Project took place between 2019 and 2020, to determine the presence, nature and quantities of the potential hydrocarbon resource in EL 1165A, EL 1165B and EL 1137. While an Environmental Assessment was conducted for all of the potential drilling areas, drilling activities in EL 1137 within the Jeanne d'Arc (JdA) Basin were not included in this exploration drilling program.

The Harp well was an undrilled prospect ~400 kilometres east of St John's, Newfoundland within EL1165B. The EMCL operated Harp L-42 exploration well (and associated sidetrack - L42A) was drilled by the Seadrill West Aquarius Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) under Operations Authorization (OA) no. 24020-020-OA06 in a water depth of 315 metres. The primary objective of the Harp L-42 well was to evaluate a late tithonian amplitude anomaly (~3696 m md).

The Hampden well was an undrilled prospect ~400 kilometres east of St John's, Newfoundland within EL1165A. The EMCL operated Hampden K-41 exploration well was drilled by the Seadrill West Aquarius MODU under Operations Authorization (OA) no. 24020-020-OA06 in a water depth of 1180 metres. The primary objective of the Hampden K-41 well was to evaluate a late tithonian amplitude anomaly (~3696 m md).

2.1 Project Location

Harp L42A is located in the southern Flemish pass located, at 47° 31' 41.151" N; 47° 22' 20.671" W. The Project Area includes the Sackville Spur areas off the Eastern Grand Banks of NL and is located in EL 1165B, which is within the total exploration area of 2,661 km² water depths of approximately 240-1,180 metres (m). The wellsite is located in the southwestern portion of the EL at approximately 315 m water depth.

Hampden K-41 is located in the southern Flemish pass located, at 47° 0' 31.163" N; 46° 51' 50.653" W. The Project Area includes the Sackville Spur areas off the Eastern Grand Banks of NL and is located in EL 1165A, which is within the total exploration area of 2,661 km² with water depths of approximately 240-1,180 metres (m). The wellsite is located in the southern portion of the EL at approximately 1,180 m water depth.

3 APPLICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT DECISION STATEMENT CONDITIONS

Table 1: Conditions Applicable to Seabird Monitoring

Cond. #	Condition
2.8	The Proponent shall cause to be published on the Internet the reports and the executive summaries referred to in condition 2.7, the coral and sponge survey results referred to in condition 3.6, the communication plan referred to in condition 5.1, the well and wellhead abandonment plan referred to in condition 5.2, the well control strategies referred to in condition 6.5, the spill response plan referred to in condition 6.6, the Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment referred to in condition 6.10, the implementation schedule referred to in condition 7.1, monitoring and follow-up results for marine mammals, fish and fish habitat, and migratory birds and any update(s) or revision(s) to the above documents, upon submission of these documents to the parties referenced in the respective conditions. The Proponent shall notify Indigenous groups of the availability of these documents within 48 hours of their publication.

4.1	The Proponent shall carry out the Designated Project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall be in compliance, where applicable, with the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994, the Migratory Birds Regulations and with the Species at Risk Act, 2002 and shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's Avoidance Guidelines.
4.3	<p>The Proponent shall develop, prior to the start of the drilling program and in consultation with Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Board, follow-up requirements, pursuant to condition 2.4, to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment as it pertains to migratory birds and to determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures implemented by the Proponent to avoid harm to migratory birds, their eggs and nests, including the mitigation measures used to comply with conditions 4.1 and 4.2. The Proponent shall implement these follow-up requirements for the duration of the drilling program. As part of the follow-up, the Proponent shall:</p> <p>4.3.1 monitor daily for the presence of marine birds from the drilling installation using a trained observer following Environment and Climate Change Canada's Eastern Canada Seabirds at Sea Standardized Protocol for Pelagic Seabird Surveys from Moving and Stationary Platforms; and</p> <p>4.3.2 monitor the drilling installation and supply vessels daily for the presence of stranded birds and follow Environment and Climate Change Canada's Procedures for Handling and Documenting Stranded Birds Encountered on Infrastructure Offshore Atlantic Canada.</p>

4 BIRD OBSERVATIONS

Daily seabird monitoring during the Harp (EL 1165B) and Hampden (EL 1165A) exploration programs was limited to stranded seabird searches. These searches were carried out by the weather observer onboard the West Aquarius MODU. Each of the three weather observers that rotated onboard the West Aquarius during the exploration program took an abbreviated version of the Eastern Canada Seabirds at Sea (ECSAS) training, focusing on survey and recovery. Daily live bird monitoring surveys from stationary/moving platform/vessels were not conducted.

Searches for stranded and deceased birds were conducted on both the MODU and supply vessels as per section 6.3 of the Plan throughout the duration of the 2019-2020 drilling program. No stranded or deceased birds were observed onboard the supply vessels during the drilling programs for Harp and Hampden wells. Searches onboard the MODU resulted in 43 strandings at the Harp well location and no strandings at the Hampden well location (Section 5). Additionally, there were no strandings on the MODU during the transits to and from the well locations. No bird strandings occurred onboard the standby supply vessels during the exploration drilling program.

Transit times during this exploration program were relatively short in duration and occurred mainly during hours of darkness. The transit from North West Wedge (NWW) to Harp was 24 hours in duration and included a total of 11 daylight hours (including morning and evening twilight times). The transit from Harp to Hampden also occurred overnight, departure from Harp at 1800 on April 29th arriving at Hampden 0600 on April 30th therefore all but 2.5 hours of the transit was during nighttime and outside the normal migration period for Leach's Storm Petrels and other migratory birds. As a result there were no migratory birds observed during transit periods.

The stranded bird surveys were conducted as per conditions and protocols associated with CWS issued bird handling permit for stranded birds and followed the requirements outlined in the *Procedure for Handling and Documenting Stranded Birds Encountered on Infrastructure Offshore Atlantic Canada* (Environment Canada, 2016). Results of these observations are recorded below in Table 5.1.

5 STRANDED BIRD REPORT

Table 5.1: Stranded Bird Encounters for Harp and Hampden Wells

Stranded Bird Encounters for Harp and Hampden Wells

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Location of stranding (Lat/Long, or Name)	Bird species	TOTAL # stranded birds	Found dead			Captured Alive						
				# Oiled	Fate		Oiled			Not oiled			
					# disposed of at sea	# sent ashore	# died in care	# released alive	# sent ashore	# died in care	# released alive	# sent ashore	
9/26/2019	Harp	Cinnamon or Blue Wing Teal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
10/13/2019	Harp	Storm Petrel	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
10/18/2019	Harp	Storm Petrel	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/25/2019	Harp	Storm Petrel	21	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0
10/26/2019	Harp	Storm Petrel	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
10/31/2019	Harp	Storm Petrel	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
11/1/2019	Harp	Yellow Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/13/2019	Harp	Storm Petrel	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2/13/2020	Harp	Dovekie (Little Auk)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
4/2/2020	Harp	Owl	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1*	0	1
TOTALS:			45	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	2

* Owl died in care at onshore facility due to unrelated causes

6 CONCLUSION

The Eastern Newfoundland Offshore Exploration Drilling Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) assessed the potential effects to marine and migratory birds which are known, or likely to be found, within the project area and may be affected by planned project components and activities.

The EIS highlighted that the primary mechanisms of interaction that may have negative effects on marine and migratory birds, included platform and vessel attraction associated with lighting and increased foraging opportunities, and potential hydrocarbon sheening. While these interactions may have led to increased potential for mortality or injury of individuals, the disturbances (and thus, effects) were anticipated to be negligible to minor, due to the localized nature of Project activities. With 15 bird mortalities for the entire duration of the exploration program at Harp it is unlikely that the project had population-level effects within the project area.

The drilling program at the Hampden well location included only the top-hole portion being completed in 2020. The drilling program at the Hampden well location may continue at a future date at which time seabird surveys and searches as outlined in the Follow-up Program-Migratory Birds (EMCL 2019) will be conducted.

As required by seabird handling permit SC4039 all original data was submitted to the Canadian Wildlife Services within the specified reporting timelines.