

## Equinor Canada Ltd. Indigenous Fisheries Communications Plan

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## 1 Objective, target group and provision

The Indigenous Fisheries Communication Plan<sup>1</sup> (the Plan) outlines how Equinor Canada Ltd. (the “Company”) will communicate with Indigenous groups<sup>2</sup> during exploration drilling operations, and in case of an incident or spill that may result in adverse environmental effects during offshore exploration programs in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The target group for this document is personnel engaged in supporting Equinor Canada Ltd. (Equinor) activities Offshore Newfoundland.

This document is provided for in FR11 – Sustainability.

## 2 Purpose

The Plan covers the period beginning at a minimum two weeks prior to the start of the operator’s exploration drilling program and will terminate with well completion and abandonment.

Recognizing the concerns expressed by Indigenous groups during engagement on the environmental assessment for the proposed exploration drilling program, Equinor Canada’s conditions of authorization under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA 2012) for their proposed offshore Newfoundland exploration drilling programs specified:

*“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 drilling and implement it for the duration of the drilling program. The Proponent shall include in the Fisheries Communications Plan:*

*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;*

*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;*

*5.1.3 procedures to communicate with Indigenous groups and commercial fishers, in the event of an accident or malfunction, the results of the monitoring and any associated potential health risks referred to in condition 6.9; and*

*5.1.4 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:*

*5.1.4.1 a description of planned Designated Project activities; 5.1.4.2 location(s) of safety exclusion zones;*

*5.1.4.3 anticipated vessel traffic schedule;*

*5.1.4.4 anticipated vessel routes; and*

*5.1.4.5 locations of suspended or abandoned wellheads.”*

In May 2019, Equinor cooperated with four other companies to develop and coordinate a joint Indigenous Fisheries Communication Plan. Engagement with Indigenous groups was conducted under one process (see Appendix A for engagement record), rather than consult separately on five identical Plans.

<sup>1</sup> The requirement for Condition 5.1 is to develop a Fisheries Communication Plan with Indigenous Groups and nonIndigenous commercial fishers. The Companies will be engaging commercial fishers in Newfoundland and Labrador in a separate process to develop a communication plan for commercial fishers.

<sup>2</sup> Indigenous groups refer to the 41 Indigenous communities identified by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency as potentially impacted by the proposed exploration drilling programs. See [CEAA Project Guidelines](#) and sub-section of this document titled Participants.

In February 2020, Equinor provided the Plan described above, with modifications, to Indigenous groups for additional review and comment. The record of engagement is included in Appendix A.

### 3 Participants

#### **Equinor Canada Ltd.**

ExxonMobil Canada Ltd  
BP Canada Energy Group ULC  
CNOOC International  
Husky Oil Operations Ltd

Beginning in May 2017, and applicable to the exploration projects currently undergoing an environmental assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, the Agency identified 39 Indigenous groups to which the duty to consult applied, and two Indigenous groups that should be engaged for reasons of good governance (GG).

#### **Newfoundland and Labrador:**

Nunatsiavut Government  
Innu Nation of Labrador  
Nunatakavut Community Council  
Qalipu First Nation (GG)  
Miawpukek First Nation (GG)

#### **Nova Scotia:**

Millbrook First Nation  
Sipekne'katik First Nation  
Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs:  
Paqt'nekek First Nation  
Potlotek First Nation  
Annapolis Valley First Nation  
Bear River First Nation  
Glooscap First Nation  
Membertou First Nation  
Wagmatcook First Nation  
Waycobah First Nation  
Acadia First Nation  
Pictou Landing First Nation  
Eskasoni First Nation

#### **Prince Edward Island:**

L'Nuey  
Lennox Island First Nation  
Abegweit First Nation

#### **New Brunswick:**

Elsipogtog First Nation  
Mi'gmawe' Tplu'taqn Incorporated (MTI)  
Amlamgog (Fort Folly)  
Natoaganeg (Eel Ground)  
Oinpegitjoig (Pabineau)  
Esgenoôpetitj (Burnt Church)  
Tjipôgtôtjg (Bouctouche)  
L'nui Menikuk (Indian Island)  
Ugpi'ganjig (Eel River Bar)  
Metepenagiag (Red Bank)

Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick (WNNB)  
Madawaska  
Kingsclear  
Oromocto  
St. Mary's  
Tobique  
Woodstock  
Peskotomuhkati Nation at Skutik

**Quebec:**

Mig'mawei Mawiomi Secretariat (MMS)  
Listiguj  
Gespeg  
Gesgapegiag  
Innu First Nation of Ekuanitshit  
Innu First Nation of Nutashkuan

#### 4 Communication during Operations

Beginning at a minimum two weeks prior to the commencement of drilling, and throughout the exploration drilling program for each approved well, the Company will provide Indigenous contacts with emailed updates on operational activities (see list of operational activities below). The Company will begin the communication process according to its exploration program's timelines. The operational updates will be sent to the main contact(s) provided by interested Indigenous groups. The identified Indigenous group contact will be responsible for any further dissemination of the information within their own communities and organizations.

**The Company 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
2. Rig location (coordinates)
3. Safety zone – description, location, and purpose
4. Supply and safety vessels / identification / call signs / routes
5. Anticipated vessel traffic schedule
6. Commencement of exploration drilling (spud)
7. Schedule of activities (e.g., BOP installation, Vertical Seismic Profiling)
8. Abandonment of well
9. Demobilization/rig movement
10. Links to documents and reports: (e.g., CNLOPB website, Company websites)
11. Company contact.

When available, the operators will include the following information in monthly operational updates:

12. Updates on the results of environmental monitoring programs related to birds, marine mammals, fish and fish habitat.

As per Condition 2.8, the Company will publish the following reports and executive summaries on the Internet and notify Indigenous groups within 48 hours that they have been published.

- Annual report (Condition 2.7)
- Coral and sponge survey results (Condition 3.6)
- Indigenous and Fisheries Communication Plans (Condition 5.1)
- Well and wellhead Abandonment Plan (Condition 5.2)
- Well control strategies (Condition 6.5)
- Spill response plan (Condition 6.6)
- Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (Condition 6.10)
- Implementation schedule (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.

The Company will provide annual updates on any operator-led research initiatives related to Atlantic salmon, and share any information related to ESRF Atlantic salmon research initiatives, if they are provided to the operators by the ESRF Board.

The Company will provide one point of main contact for all operational and emergency response issues, to ensure coordination of a timely response. The contact will be provided in the monthly operational updates.

## 5 Communication in the Event of an Incident or Spill

In the case of an incident or spill that may result in adverse environmental effects, the Company will, according to its Emergency Response Plan:

1. Within 48 hours of the incident or spill requiring a Tier 2 or 3 response, the Company main point of contact shall notify by telephone, the representatives identified by interested Indigenous groups. Contact information for Company main point of contact will be provided in the monthly operational updates
2. Following initial contact described in point 1 above, the Company will, via email, provide an Emergency Information Update Bulletin twice weekly in the initial phases of the incident. As operations and other activities resume, updates will be sent as new information becomes available to representatives identified by interested Indigenous groups.

As appropriate, Equinor will meet with Indigenous groups to share information, answer questions, and discuss concerns.

### Information to be included in the Emergency Information Update Bulletin (when available):

1. Situational/event overview
2. Location of event
3. Timing of event
4. Actions currently underway
5. Any known restrictions or health, safety or environment considerations
6. Impacts to fisheries
7. Results of monitoring programs
8. Next scheduled update
9. Contact information for Company

Emergency communications process, in the event of a spill, is outlined in the WR0595 Equinor Canada Ltd. Oil Spill Response Plan, which can be found on the Company website <https://www.equinor.com/sustainability/impact-assessments-canada-offshore-exploration-drilling-program>.

## App A Record of Engagement with Indigenous Groups

### INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT PROCESS:

A draft Indigenous Fisheries Communication Plan (the “Plan”) was jointly developed by Equinor Canada Ltd, ExxonMobil Canada Ltd, BP Canada Energy Group ULC, CNOOC International and Husky Oil Operations Ltd (the “Companies”) in April 2019 that outlines a protocol for communicating with Indigenous Groups and communities during exploration operations, and in the case of an incident or spill that may result in adverse environmental effects. Indigenous groups reviewed and provided input to the Plan in May 2019 and the final Plan was shared with Indigenous groups in August 2019.

In February 2020, Equinor revised the Plan and shared it with Indigenous groups for comment between February 19 and March 20, 2020.

Table 1 below lists the engagement activities undertaken by the Companies between April 15 and June 15, 2019. Table 2 lists the engagement activities by Equinor between February 19 and March 20, 2020.

**Table 1 - List of Engagement Activities during Development of Indigenous Fisheries Communications Plan**

DATE	INDIGENOUS GROUP(S)	ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY
April 16, 2019	39/41 Indigenous Groups <sup>3</sup>	Emailed draft Indigenous Fisheries Communication Plan for review and comment
April 17, 2019	CNLOPB, Agency	Emailed draft Indigenous Fisheries Communication Plan for review and comment (Agency for information only)
April 23, 2019	Nutashkuan Innu First Nation Ekuanitshit Innu First Nation	Emailed French language draft Indigenous Fisheries Communication Plan for review and comment
April 23, 2019	Nutashkuan Innu First Nation	Responded with input
May 14, 2019	Qalipu First Nation	Responded with input
May 14, 2019	Nunatsiavut Government	Responded with input
May 15, 2019	KMKNO (representing 11 Mi'kmaq First Nations in NS)	Responded with input (telephone)
May 15, 2019	WNNB (representing 6 Maliseet First Nations in NB)	Responded with input
May 16, 2019	MMS, Ekuanitshit, MCPEI, Passamaquoddy, Elsipogtog, MTI, Sipekne'katik, Millbrook, Innu Nation, NCC	Reminder email asking for input on draft Plan
May 22, 2019	CNLOPB	Preliminary views provided at a face-to-face meeting
May 28, 2019	MCPEI	Responded with input
June 4, 2019	CNLOPB	Responded with input
June 7, 2019	ALL 41 Indigenous Groups CNLOPB CEAA	Emailed Indigenous Feedback Report and reminder for those groups that had not already provided input.
June 28, 2019	ALL 41 Indigenous Groups CNLOPB CEAA	Emailed final Indigenous Fisheries Communication Plan.

<sup>3</sup> See Participant List on pgs 4-5 for a full list of Indigenous groups contacted by the Companies.

**Table 2 – Engagement Activities April 16 – June 28, 2019**

DATE	INDIGENOUS GROUP(S)	ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY
February 19, 2019	41 Indigenous Groups	Emailed draft Indigenous Fisheries Communication Plan for review and comment. Requested feedback/input by March 20, 2020.
March 2, 2019	NunatuKavut Community Council	Responded with input.
March 3, 2019	Qalipu First Nation	Responded with input.

**FEEDBACK RECEIVED AND ACTIONS TAKEN:**

During the first round of engagement by the Companies in April/May 2019, feedback was received from 22/41 Indigenous groups. All Indigenous groups that responded to the request for feedback have provided contact information for operational communication and in the case of an emergency. Indigenous groups that did not participate in the engagement process always have the opportunity to contact the Companies and have their contact names added to the operations and emergency contact lists.

Tables 3 and 4, below, capture (unattributed) input/feedback from Indigenous groups and the C-NLOPB received by June 15, 2019, and the actions taken by the Companies to incorporate feedback in the final Indigenous Fisheries Communication Plan.

Additional input provided during engagement by Equinor between February 19 and March 20, 2020 is highlighted in **bold**.

**Table 3 – Feedback on OPERATIONAL COMMUNICATION:**

COMMENTS/INPUT BY INDIGENOUS GROUPS	RESPONSE BY COMPANIES
Recommend regular frequency for operational updates. Suggested: 1) every three weeks; and, 2) monthly	Incorporated – monthly.
Include updates on the ongoing results of environmental monitoring in monthly updates.	When available, the Companies will include the following information in monthly operational updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updates on the results of environmental monitoring programs related to birds, marine mammals, fish and fish habitat.</li> </ul>
There are too many emails from different companies coming at once – please coordinate all exploration operational communication reports into one.	To the extent possible (not all Companies will be in operations at the same time) the Companies will coordinate updates through their shared Indigenous Relations Advisor.
Provisions for communication as per Conditions 2.8 and 3.13 should be included in the operations section of the communications plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List obligations under 2.8 to share the following (within 48 hours of publication): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report outlined in Condition 2.7</li> <li>coral and sponge survey results (3.6)</li> <li>Indigenous Fisheries Communications Plan (5.1)</li> <li>well and wellhead abandonment plan (5.2)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Obligations under Condition 2.8 included in the Plan. See page 6.  Companies will provide any updates on research related to Atlantic salmon undertaken directly by the companies themselves, when available.  It is anticipated that the ESRF will communicate directly with Indigenous groups regarding any research pertaining to Atlantic salmon under their program. If the ESRF provides the Companies with updates/information on Atlantic salmon



COMMENTS/INPUT BY INDIGENOUS GROUPS	RESPONSE BY COMPANIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- well control strategies (6.5)</li> <li>- spill response plan (6.6)</li> <li>• 3.13 – Although not strictly required by the condition, encourage proponents to communicate more often than once per year on any projects related to Atlantic salmon (incl. ESRF). It was IG concerns that brought this issue to the forefront, and their rights that stand to be diminished from any adverse impacts to Atlantic salmon</li> </ul>	research – the Companies will forward those updates to Indigenous groups.
Ensure that communication as per this plan does not replace any required ongoing engagement with Indigenous groups or the Crown's duty to consult, where applicable.	<p>The Companies assume that the Crown will fulfill its duty to consult, where applicable.</p> <p>The Companies will continue to engage with Indigenous groups, as required. The purpose of the Indigenous Fisheries Communication Plan is to provide ongoing operational information to Indigenous groups regarding their offshore exploration drilling programs in Eastern Newfoundland, and to establish a communication protocol in the event of an incident or spill that may result in adverse environmental effects.</p>
Most Indigenous fishers in NL/Labrador are not part of the FFAW and OneOcean – proponents need to ensure Indigenous fishers are engaged as well on the Fisheries Communication Plan.	The Companies will be engaging with commercial fishers in a separate process on the Fisheries Communication Plan and will ensure engagement includes Indigenous fishers in NL/Labrador that are not part of the FFAW and OneOcean.
Identify a point of contact for raising concerns to the Companies.	A main point of contact for the Companies will be provided in each operational update.
Identify the "safety zone" and its purpose in the operational updates.	The description, location and purpose of the "safety zone" will be provided in each operational update to Indigenous groups.
Condition 5.1.4 indicates that the Plan should contain vessel route/schedule information.	Incorporated.

**Table 4 - Feedback on EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION**

COMMENTS/INPUT BY INDIGENOUS GROUPS	RESPONSE BY COMPANIES
Maximum time between an incident and the first telephone contact with Indigenous groups should be no more than two days.	Incorporated.
There should be a separate protocol for Tier 1 spills, not just Tier 2 and 3.	<p>According to the CNLOPB's "Policy Respecting Public Disclosure of Incidents and Related Information", and the "Incident Disclosure Guidelines" found here: <a href="https://www.cnlopb.ca/wpcontent/uploads/prpdi.pdf">https://www.cnlopb.ca/wpcontent/uploads/prpdi.pdf</a>, operators are required to report <u>all</u> incidents to the CNLOPB. Hydrocarbon spills that are equal to or less than one litre, unauthorized gaseous releases and unauthorized discharges are reported in aggregate on a quarterly basis on the C-NLOPB website found here: <a href="https://www.cnlopb.ca/incidents/">https://www.cnlopb.ca/incidents/</a>.</p> <p>Each hydrocarbon spill over one litre is reported on the website above within 24 hours or the next business day,</p>

	<p>after receipt of the written notification. The link to this website will be included in each operational update.</p> <p>Those incidents or spills that may result in adverse environmental effects, and as a result trigger the Company's Emergency Response Plan, will be communicated to Indigenous Groups as per the Emergency Communication section of this Plan.</p>
Each company should provide contact details, as well as a timeline for responding to concerns. This should include a contact for emergency communication, and a fisheries contact.	<p>A main point of contact for each of the Companies will be provided to all Indigenous groups. The Contact will be provided in each operational update.</p> <p>Each company has an Emergency Response Plan that describes their approach to oil spill response. The Companies use the Incident Command System (ICS) which identifies a specific Liaison to Indigenous Communities that will act as the main point of contact.</p>
What organization will be overseeing and holding the proponent accountable for emergency communication?	This Plan is a condition of authorization under <i>CEAA, 2012</i> . Conditions of authorization are monitored for compliance by the Agency and by the CNLOPB.
Recommend frequency of updates on emergency incident: minimum of twice weekly.	Incorporated.
Oil and gas companies with production facilities should develop an emergency communication protocol with Indigenous groups.	Equinor is a non-operating partner in the Hebron, and Hibernia production fields, as well as the developer of the proposed Bay du Nord project. Equinor has shared this concern/feedback with the production field operators.
Requested communications plan flowchart that graphically represents the reporting chain/protocol in the event of an emergency.	<p>Emergency communications flowchart can be found on p. 6 of the final Indigenous Fisheries Communication Plan.</p> <p><b>Note Update to 2022 plan</b> – the Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) includes the notification matrices for spill events. The flowchart on page 6 was removed and a reference to the OSRP is now included in the Communications Plan.</p>
Suggested a strategy be put in place in the case of ongoing excessive small releases requiring a tier 1 response. For example, if the proponent is regularly reporting small 50 L or less spills this should trigger a tier 2 response, and a notification should be sent to the liaison.	Tier 1 spills are reported as per the <a href="#">C-NLOPB Incident Reporting and Investigation Guidelines</a> . A direct link to the <a href="#">Incident Disclosure</a> section on the CNLOPB website will be included in each monthly operational update.