

**Equinor Canada Ltd.
2025 Seabed Survey Program
EA Decision Statement Conditions Closure
Report**

October 2025

Table of contents

1 Introduction 4

2 Project Description 4

3 Closure Response to Decision Statement Conditions 6

Condition 2.1 6

Condition 2.2 6

Condition 2.3 7

Condition 2.4 7

Condition 2.5 7

Condition 2.6 8

Condition 2.7 8

Condition 2.8 8

Condition 2.9 9

Condition 2.10 9

Condition 2.11 9

Condition 2.12 9

Condition 3.1 9

Condition 3.2 10

Condition 3.3 10

Condition 3.4 10

Condition 3.5 10

Condition 3.6 10

Condition 3.7 11

Condition 3.8 11

Condition 3.9 11

Condition 3.10 12

Condition 3.11 12

Condition 3.12 12

Condition 3.13 13

Condition 4.1 13

Condition 4.2 13

Condition 4.3 14

Condition 5.1 14

Condition 5.2 14

Condition 5.3 15

Condition 5.4 15

Condition 6.1 15

Condition 6.2 15

Condition 6.3 16

Condition 6.4 16

Condition 6.5 16



Condition 6.6	16
Condition 6.7	16
Condition 6.8	17
Condition 6.9	17
Condition 6.10	17
Condition 6.11	17
Condition 6.12	18
Condition 6.13	18
Condition 6.14	18
Condition 6.15	18
Condition 7.1	18
Condition 7.2	19
Condition 7.3	19
Condition 7.4	19
Condition 8.1	19
Condition 8.2	19
Condition 8.3	19
References.....	20

1 Introduction

In 2025 Equinor Canada Ltd. (ECL) carried out geophysical seabed survey and a geotechnical coring program on EL 1070 and SDLs 1055, 1059 and 1060 in the Flemish Pass area of the Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) offshore area under the Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Energy Regulator (C-NLOER) Operations Authorisation (OA) 25000-OA06.

The survey activities were captured in the scope of activities assessed in the “Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Program Environmental Impact Statement” (Statoil Canada 2017). While many of the environmental assessment (EA) conditions per the EA Decision Statement, issued under Section 54 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) 2012 (ECCC, 2019) for the project are applicable, some of these conditions are not applicable. Non-applicable EA conditions are noted herein.

Pursuant to EA Decision Statement Condition 2.7, and Environmental Assessment (EA) Conditions Closure Report is required.

Condition 2.7 of the EA Decision Statement states the following:

Condition 2.7 The Proponent shall, within 90 days of the completion of the drilling program for a single year program, or annually within 90 days of the end of each calendar year of a multi-year drilling program, submit to the Board and the Agency a report, including an executive summary of the report in both official languages. The Proponent shall document in the report:

- 2.7.1: the activities undertaken by the Proponent in the reporting year to comply with each of the conditions set out in this Decision Statement;*
- 2.7.2: how the Proponent complied with condition 2.1;*
- 2.7.3: for conditions set out in this Decision Statement for which consultation is a requirement, how the Proponent considered any views and information that the Proponent received during or as a result of the consultation;*
- 2.7.4: the information referred to in Conditions 2.4 and 2.5 for each follow-up program*
- 2.7.5: the results of the follow-up program requirements identified in conditions 3.12 and 4.3;*
- and*
- 2.7.6 any modified or additional mitigation measures implemented or proposed to be implemented by the Proponent, as determined under condition 2.6.*

The report fulfils Condition 2.7 and includes information regarding how applicable conditions in the EA Decision Statement have been addressed.

2 Project Description

Equinor Canada Ltd. conducted a two-stage seabed survey program in the Flemish Pass area of the NL offshore area on EL 1070 and SDLs 1055, 1059 and 1060 (refer to Figure 1-1), approximately 450 km offshore. The survey program was conducted under OA No. 25000-OA06.

Stage one of the program was carried out by the RV Fugro Brasilis, using an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) to collect detailed bathymetric data of the seafloor and collect photographic data of the seabed to determine abundances of coral and sponges in the survey area. Stage 1 commenced on July 1, 2025, and was completed on July 22, 2025.

Stage two of the survey was a geotechnical soil investigation program using a portable remote drilling unit (PROD) installed on the Atlantic Kestel to collect boreholes and cone penetration tests. The geotechnical survey commenced on July 11, 2025 and was completed on August 14, 2025. The retrieval of previously deployed acoustic monitoring devices was also carried out during this stage of the survey.

Water depths in the survey area ranged from approximately 600 m to 1200m.

Coordinates for the survey area are provided in Table 2.1. Figure 2-1 illustrates the survey area location in relation to the approved project area from the Flemish Pass Drilling EIS.

Table 2.1 2025 Survey Area Coordinates

Corner	WGS 84 Longitude	WGS 84 Latitude	Easting NAD83(CSRS) UTM23N	Northing NAD83(CSRS) UTM23N
1	47.829537	-47.019129	348889	5299327
2	47.976876	-47.024869	348889	5315713
3	47.986354	-46.386815	396523	5315713
4	47.838967	-46.382882	396523	5299327

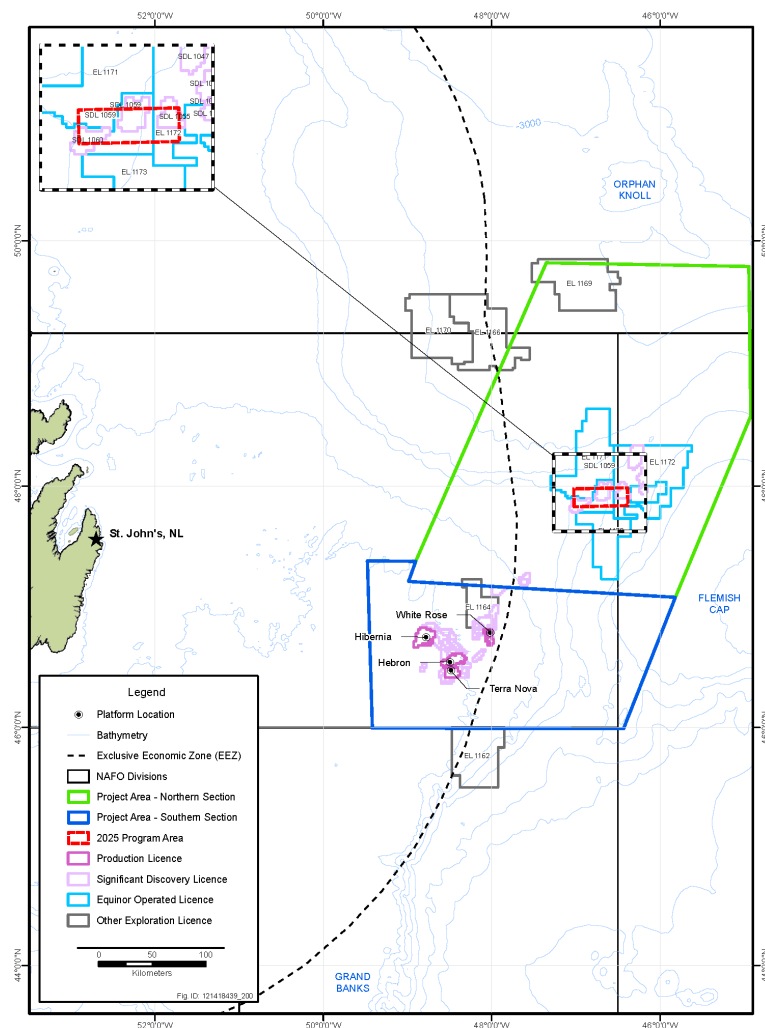


Figure 2-1 Flemish Pass Project Areas and 2025 Survey Area

3 Closure Response to Decision Statement Conditions

Condition 2.1

The Proponent shall ensure that its actions in meeting the conditions set out in this Decision Statement during all phases of the Designated Project are considered in a careful and precautionary manner, promote sustainable development, are informed by the best information and knowledge available at the time the Proponent takes action, including community and Indigenous traditional knowledge, are based on methods and models that are recognized by standard-setting bodies, are undertaken by qualified individuals, and have applied the best available economically and technically feasible technologies

Response:

ECL met all applicable conditions in the Decision Statement relating to the 2025 Seabed survey program through the development and implementation of various plans and procedures as required under the C-NLOPB's authorization process, including but not limited to the following:

- Environmental Protection Plan
- Chemical Screening Plan
- Seabird Observation & Handling Protocol
- Fisheries Communications Plan
- Indigenous Fisheries Communications Plan

These plans were developed, reviewed and accepted by the C-NLOPB during the regulatory approval process. Engagement with regulatory departments and agencies, Indigenous groups, and other stakeholders has provided valuable feedback to assist in the continuous improvement process.

Condition 2.2

The Proponent shall, where consultation is a requirement of a condition set out in this Decision Statement:

- 2.2.1 provide a written notice of the opportunity for the party or parties being consulted to present their views and information on the subject of the consultation;
- 2.2.2 provide sufficient information on the scope and the subject matter of the consultation in a period of time that allows the party or parties being consulted, to prepare their views and information;
- 2.2.3 undertake an impartial consideration of all views and information presented by t
- 2.2.4 advise in a timely manner the party or parties being consulted on how the views and information received have been considered by the Proponent.

Response:

ECL recognizes the importance of communication and engagement with Indigenous groups, fishers and stakeholders and has been engaging with Indigenous groups in Atlantic Canada since 2017.

As outlined in Equinor Canada Ltd. Fisheries Communication Plan and Equinor Canada Ltd. Indigenous Fisheries Communication Plan, ECL has maintained an ongoing information exchange with Indigenous groups and fishers, including pre-commencement operational updates, notification on the completion of survey activities, and regular outreach. All engagement is logged in Equinor Canada's engagement tracking tool.

When consultation was a requirement of this Decision Statement, written notification of opportunity for participation was provided.

Applicable information reports, pursuant to EA Decision Statement Conditions, were posted to the ECL website and notifications of the postings were sent to the Indigenous Groups. Fishers and Indigenous groups were notified in April of the planned seabed survey, including timing, duration, scope and names of vessels engaged in the survey.

ECL met with the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Energy Regulator (C-NLOER) regularly throughout the planning and approval preparation stage of the program. Meetings were also held with Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) regarding the planning for coral and sponge seabed survey.

Condition 2.3

The Proponent shall, where consultation with Indigenous groups is a requirement of a condition set out in this Decision Statement, communicate with each Indigenous group with respect to the manner by which to satisfy the consultation requirements referred to in condition 2.2, including methods of notification, the type of information and the period of time to be provided when seeking input, the process to be used by the Proponent to undertake impartial consideration of all views and information presented on the subject of the consultation, the period of time to advise Indigenous groups of how their views and information were considered by the Proponent and the means by which Indigenous groups will be advised.

Response

EA conditions where consultation is required with Indigenous groups were not applicable to this survey program.

Condition 2.4

The Proponent shall, where a follow-up program is a requirement of a condition set out in this Decision Statement, determine the following information, for each follow-up program:

- 2.4.1 the methodology, location, frequency, timing and duration of monitoring associated with the follow-up program as necessary to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment predictions as they pertain to the particular condition and to determine the effectiveness of any mitigation measure(s);
- 2.4.2 the scope, content and frequency of reporting of the results of the follow-up program;
- 2.4.3 the levels of environmental change relative to baseline conditions and predicted effects as described in the Environmental Impact Statement, that would require the Proponent to implement modified or additional mitigation measure(s), including instances where the Proponent may be required to stop Designated Project activities; and
- 2.4.4 the technically and economically feasible mitigation measures to be implemented by the Proponent if monitoring conducted as part of the follow-up program shows that the levels of environmental change have reached or exceeded the limits referred to in condition 2.4.3.

Response

Follow-up programs were not required for the survey program.

Condition 2.5

The Proponent shall submit the information referred to in condition 2.4 to the Board prior to the implementation of each follow-up program. The Proponent shall update that information in consultation with relevant authorities during the implementation of each follow-up program and shall provide the updated information to the Board within 30 days of the information being updated.

Response

Follow-up programs were not required for the survey program.

Condition 2.6

The Proponent shall, where a follow-up program is a requirement of a condition set out in this Decision Statement:

- 2.6.1 conduct the follow-up program according to the information determined pursuant to condition 2.4;
- 2.6.2 conduct the follow-up undertake monitoring and analysis to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment as it pertains to the particular condition and/or to determine the effectiveness of any mitigation measure(s);
- 2.6.3 determine whether modified or additional mitigation measures are required based on the monitoring and analysis undertaken pursuant to condition 2.6.2; and
- 2.6.4 if modified or additional mitigation measures are required pursuant to condition 2.6.3, develop and implement these mitigation measures in a timely manner and monitor them pursuant to condition 2.6.2.

Response:

Follow-up programs were not required for the survey program.

Condition 2.7

The Proponent shall, within 90 days of the completion of the drilling program for a single year program, or annually within 90 days of the end of each calendar year of a multi-year drilling program, submit to the Board and the Agency a report, including an executive summary of the report in both official languages. The Proponent shall document in the report:

- 2.7.1 the activities undertaken by the Proponent in the reporting year to comply with each of the conditions set out in this Decision Statement;
- 2.7.2 how the Proponent complied with condition 2.1;
- 2.7.3 for conditions set out in this Decision Statement for which consultation is a requirement, how the Proponent considered any views and information that the Proponent received during or as a result of the consultation;
- 2.7.4 the information referred to in conditions 2.4 and 2.5 for each follow-up program;
- 2.7.5 the results of the follow-up program requirements identified in conditions 3.12 and 4.3; and
- 2.7.6 any modified or additional mitigation measures implemented or proposed to be implemented by the Proponent, as determined under condition 2.6.

Response:

This report addresses Condition 2.6 and was submitted within 90-days of the completion second stage of the survey. An executive summary, in both official languages will be posted to the Equinor Canada website upon acceptance by the C-NLOER.

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.

Response:

Of the documents listed in Condition 2.8, only the posting of implementation schedule (Condition 7.1) is applicable to the seabed survey. The implementation schedule was posted to Equinor Canada's website (<https://www.equinor.com/sustainability/impact-assessments-canada-offshore-exploration-drilling-program>) on and Indigenous groups and fishers were notified of its posting within 48-hours of its publication to the website.

Condition 2.9

When the development of a plan is a requirement of a condition set out in this Decision Statement, the Proponent shall submit the plan to the Board prior to the start of the drilling program, unless otherwise required through the condition.

Response:

Per the scope of the seabed survey, the seabed survey design plan was the only plan applicable to the seabed survey. This plan was submitted to the CNLOER for review and acceptance in advance of the planned survey start date.

Condition 2.10

The Proponent shall notify the Agency and Indigenous groups in writing no later than 60 days after the day on which there is a change of operator for the Designated Project.

Response:

There was no change of operator for this Designated Project.

Condition 2.11

The Proponent shall consult with Indigenous groups prior to initiating any material changes to the Designated Project that may result in adverse environmental effects and shall notify the Board and the Agency in writing no later than 60 days prior to initiating the change(s).

Response:

There were no material changes to this Designated Project that may have resulted in adverse environmental effects.

Condition 2.12

In notifying the Board and the Agency pursuant to condition 2.11, the Proponent shall provide the Board and the Agency with a description of the potential adverse environmental effects of the change(s) to the Designated Project, the proposed mitigation measures and follow-up requirements to be implemented by the Proponent and the results of the consultation with Indigenous groups.

Response:

This condition is not applicable per response to Condition 2.11.

Condition 3.1

The Proponent shall treat all discharges from offshore drilling into the marine environment which, at a minimum, will meet the volumes and concentration limits identified in the Offshore Waste Treatment Guidelines, issued jointly by the National Energy Board, the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board, and any other legislative requirements, where applicable.

Response:

An Environmental Protection Plan was submitted to the C-NLOER which addresses all discharges associated with vessel activities engaged in the conduct of the seabed survey program.

Condition 3.2

The Proponent shall dispose of spent or excess synthetic-based drilling muds that are not re-used at an approved on-shore facility.

Response:

Not applicable to seabed survey program.

Condition 3.3

The Proponent shall apply, at a minimum, the standards identified in the Offshore Chemical Selection Guidelines for Drilling & Production Activities on Frontier Lands, issued jointly by the National Energy Board, the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board and the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board, to select lower toxicity chemicals for use and discharge into the marine environment, including drilling fluid constituents, and shall submit any necessary risk justification pursuant to the Guidelines to the Board for acceptance prior to use.

Response:

All chemicals or fluids that were intended for release to sea were screened in accordance with the Equinor Canada's WR3062 Chemical Screening Procedure, which address the requirement of the C-NLOPB *Guidelines Respecting the Selection of Chemicals Intended to be used in Conjunction with Offshore Drilling & Production Activities on Frontier Lands (OCSG)*. Chemicals were approved via Equinor's internal chemical screening process.

Condition 3.4

The Proponent shall treat all discharges from supply vessels into the marine environment in accordance with the International Maritime Organization's International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and any other legislative requirements, where applicable.

Response:

All supply vessels followed the *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)* which outlines all discharge requirements. All marine discharges were addressed in the 2025 Seabed Survey Environmental Protection Plan, submitted with the OA application on 14-Mar-25.

Condition 3.5

The Proponent shall conduct a pre-drill survey with qualified individual(s) at each well site to confirm the presence or absence of any unexploded ordnance or other seabed hazards. If any such ordnance or seabed hazard is detected, it shall not be disturbed and the Proponent shall contact the Canadian Coast Guard's Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Halifax and the Board to determine an appropriate course of action, prior to commencing drilling.

Response:

Not applicable to seabed survey program.

Condition 3.6

The Proponent shall develop and conduct, in consultation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Board, a coral and sponge survey to confirm the presence or absence of any aggregations of habitat-forming corals or sponges or any other environmentally sensitive features. The equipment used to conduct the surveys shall be

operated by a qualified individual. Survey transect length and pattern around well sites shall be based on applicable drill cutting dispersion model results. Transects around anchor sites should extend at least 50 metres from the extent of the anchor pattern.

Response:

The 2025 Seabed survey program included a scope of work to collect coral and sponge data in the defined survey area. A coral and sponge seabed survey plan was submitted to the C-NLOER for review on 12-Mar-25. The survey plan was accepted by C-NLOER on 9-May-25.

Condition 3.7

If the survey(s) conducted in accordance with condition 3.6 confirm(s) the presence of aggregations of habitat-forming corals or sponges, or if other environmentally sensitive features are identified by a qualified individual, the Proponent shall change the location of the well on the seafloor or redirect drill cuttings discharges to avoid affecting the aggregations of habitat-forming corals or sponges, unless not technically feasible, as determined in consultation with the Board. If not technically feasible, the Proponent shall consult with the Board and Fisheries and Oceans Canada prior to commencing drilling to determine an appropriate course of action, subject to the approval of the Board, including any additional mitigation measures.

Response:

Coral and sponge survey data are under review and analysis. A report on the abundances of coral and sponges in relation to the survey area will be provided to C-NLOER and DFO in late 4Q 2025 or early 1Q2026.

Condition 3.8

The Proponent shall apply Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Statement of Canadian Practice with Respect to the Mitigation of Seismic Sound in the Marine Environment during the planning and the conduct of vertical seismic surveys. In doing so, the Proponent shall establish a safety zone of a minimum radius of 500 metres from the seismic sound source.

Response:

Not applicable to seabed survey program.

Condition 3.9

The Proponent shall develop, in consultation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Board, a marine mammal monitoring plan that shall be submitted to the Board at least 30 days prior to the commencement of any vertical seismic survey. The Proponent shall implement the plan during the conduct of vertical seismic surveys. As part of the plan, the Proponent shall:

- 3.9.1 develop and implement marine mammal observation requirements, including the use of passive acoustic monitoring, or equivalent technology, and visual monitoring by marine mammal observers throughout vertical seismic surveys;
- 3.9.2 ensure that observation requirements specify the requirement for shut down of the seismic sound source if any marine mammal or sea turtle is observed within the 500 metre safety zone; and
- 3.9.3 submit the results of the activities undertaken as part of the marine mammal observation requirements to the Board within 60 days of the end of the vertical seismic surveys.

Response:

Not applicable to seabed survey program.

Condition 3.10

The Proponent shall implement measures to prevent or reduce the risks of collisions between supply vessels and marine mammals and sea turtles, including:

- 3.10.1 requiring supply vessels to use established shipping lanes, where they exist; and
- 3.10.2 requiring supply vessels to reduce speed to a maximum of 7 knots when a marine mammal or sea turtle is observed or reported within 400 metres of a supply vessel, except if not feasible for safety reasons.

Response:

Vessel reporting procedures were included in the 2025 Seabed Survey Environmental Protection Plan.

Condition 3.11

The Proponent shall report any collisions of a supply vessel with marine mammals or sea turtles to the Board, Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Canadian Coast Guard Regional Operations Centre, and any other relevant authorities as soon as reasonably practicable but no later than 24 hours following the collision, and notify Indigenous groups within three days.

Response:

There were no vessel collisions with marine mammals or sea turtles during the 2025 Seabed survey program.

Condition 3.12

The Proponent shall develop and implement follow-up requirements, pursuant to condition 2.4, to verify the accuracy of the predictions made during the environmental assessment as it pertains to fish and fish habitat, including marine mammals and sea turtles, and to determine the effectiveness of mitigation measures identified under conditions 3.1 to 3.11. As part of these follow-up requirements, for the duration of the drilling program, the Proponent shall:

- 3.12.1 for every well, measure the concentration of synthetic-based drilling fluids retained on discharged drill cuttings as described in the Offshore Waste Treatment Guidelines to verify that the discharge meets, at a minimum, the performance targets set out in the Guidelines and any applicable legislative requirements, and report the results to the Board;
- 3.12.2 for the first well in each exploration licence, and for any well where drilling is undertaken in an area determined by coral and sponge surveys to be sensitive benthic habitat, and for any well located within a special area designated as such due to the presence of sensitive coral and sponge species, or a location near a special area where drill cuttings dispersion modelling predicts that drill cuttings deposition may have adverse effects, develop and implement, in consultation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Board, follow-up requirements to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment and effectiveness of mitigation measures as they pertain to the effects of cuttings discharges on benthic habitat. Follow-up shall include:
 - 3.12.2.1 measurement of sediment deposition extent and thickness post-drilling to verify the drill waste deposition modeling predictions;
 - 3.12.2.2 benthic fauna surveys to verify the effectiveness of mitigation measures; and
 - 3.12.2.3 The Proponent shall report the information collected, as identified in conditions 3.12.2.1 and 3.12.2.2, including a comparison of modelling results to in situ results, to the Board within 60 days following the drilling of the first well in each exploration licence; and
- 3.12.3 for the first well in each exploration licence, develop and implement, in consultation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Board, follow-up requirements to verify the accuracy of the environmental assessment as it pertains to underwater noise levels. As part of the development of these follow-up requirements, the Proponent shall determine how underwater noise levels shall be monitored through

field measurement by the Proponent during the drilling program and shall provide that information to the Board prior to the start of the drilling program.

Response:

Not applicable to seabed survey program.

Condition 3.13

The Proponent shall submit to the Board a letter, prior to drilling, confirming its intent to participate in research pertaining to the presence of Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) in the Jeanne d'Arc Basin and the Flemish Pass and update the Board and Indigenous groups annually on related research activities.

Response:

ECL submitted a letter addressing the requirements of Condition 3.13 to the C-NLOPB on May 12, 2025.

Condition 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 and shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's Avoidance Guidelines.

Response:

Equinor Canada Ltd. obtained a Handling and Salvage of Seabirds Permit (Number LS 2677), issued from June 15, 2025 to October 15, 2025. This permit was issued under Section 4 (1) of the Migratory Birds Regulations in Accordance with Section 19.

Condition 4.2

The Proponent shall implement measures to avoid harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds, including:

- 4.2.1 using formation testing while tripping, or similar technology, rather than formation testing with flaring, where acceptable by the Board;
- 4.2.2 limiting flaring to the length of time required to characterize the wells' hydrocarbon potential and as necessary for the safety of the operation;
- 4.2.3 flaring as early as practicable during daylight hours to limit flaring that occurs during nighttime;
- 4.2.4 operating a water curtain barrier around the flare during flaring;
- 4.2.5 notifying the Board at least 30 days in advance of planned flaring to determine whether the flaring would occur during a period of migratory bird vulnerability and to determine how the Proponent plans to avoid adverse environmental effects on migratory birds;
- 4.2.6 requiring supply and other support vessels to maintain a minimum lateral distance of 300 metres from Cape St. Francis and Witless Bay Islands Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, unless there is an emergency situation; and
- 4.2.7 requiring supply helicopters to fly at altitudes greater than 300 metres above sea level from active bird colonies and at a lateral distance of 1000 metres from Cape St. Francis and Witless Bay Islands Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas except for approach, take-off and landing maneuvers, as required under the Canadian Civil Aviation Regulations or if not feasible for safety reasons.

Response:

Conditions 4.2.1 to 4.2.5 and 4.2.7 are not applicable to seabed survey program. For Condition 4.2.6, this mitigation was included in the EA Update for the survey program.

Condition 4.3

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.

- 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
- 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.

Response:

ECL submitted the WR3063 Equinor Canada Ltd. Offshore Newfoundland Seabird Survey, Handling and Observation Protocol to the C-NLOER prior to the start of survey operations. As the 2025 Seabed Survey Program was a vessel-based program, Condition 4.3.1 was not applicable. Stranded seabird searches were carried out by trained vessel crew on a daily basis. No stranded bird were found during the 2025 Seabed Survey Program.

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.

Response:

Condition 5.1 is not applicable to a vessel-based survey program. However, notifications regarding the planned seabed survey were provided to Indigenous Groups and fishers in April 2025. Regular updates regarding program start date were provided to fishers as more information became available.

Condition 5.2

The Proponent shall develop and implement a well and wellhead abandonment plan and submit it to the Board for acceptance at least 30 days prior to abandonment of each well. If the Proponent proposes to abandon a

wellhead on the seafloor in a manner that may interfere with Indigenous or commercial fisheries, the Proponent shall develop the wellhead abandonment strategy in consultation with commercial fishers and potentially affected Indigenous groups with fishing licences that overlap with the Designated Project Area, identified in consultation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Response

Not applicable to planned survey activities.

Condition 5.3

The Proponent shall provide the details of its operation, including the safety exclusion zones during drilling and testing, and the location information of abandoned wellheads if left on the seafloor, to the Marine Communications and Traffic Services for broadcasting and publishing in the Notices to Shipping, to the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization Secretariat, and to the Canadian Hydrographic Services for future nautical charts and planning.

Response:

Throughout the 2025 seabed survey program, the vessel maintained a safety zone. Navigational warnings were sent in to the CCG Marine Traffic Call Centre notifying mariners of the survey operations by the Fugro Brasilis and the Atlantic Kestrel with Mariners requested to maintain a wide berth.

Condition 5.4

The Proponent shall report annually to the Board on known incidents of lost or damaged fishing gear attributed to the Designated Project.

Response:

There were no known incidents of lost, or damaged fishing gear attributed to the 2025 Seabed Survey Program.

Condition 6.1

The Proponent shall take all reasonable measures to prevent accidents and malfunctions that may result in adverse environmental effects and shall implement emergency response procedures and contingency plans developed in relation to the Designated Project in the event of an accident or malfunction. This shall include the development and implementation of operating procedures including thresholds for cessation of a work or activity, with respect to meteorological and oceanographic conditions experienced at the project location, and which reflect the facility's design limits and limits at which any work or activity may be conducted safely and without causing adverse environmental effects. These conditions include poor weather, high sea state, and presence of sea ice or icebergs.

Response:

Protocols for cessation of work are included in the vessels' operating plans.

Condition 6.2

The Proponent shall develop, in consultation with the Board and Environment and Climate Change Canada, and implement for the duration of the drilling program, a physical environment monitoring program, in accordance with the Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Drilling and Production Regulations that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Offshore Physical Environmental Guidelines (September 2008). The physical environment monitoring program shall be submitted to the Board for approval prior to commencing drilling.

Response:

Not applicable to planned survey activities.

Condition 6.3

The Proponent shall prepare a plan for avoidance of drilling installation collisions with vessels and other hazards that may reasonably be expected in the Designated Project Area and submit the plan to the Board for acceptance prior to drilling.

Response:

Not applicable to planned survey activities.

Condition 6.4

The Proponent shall prepare an Ice Management Plan that will include measures for avoidance of collisions with icebergs and submit the plan to the Board for acceptance prior to drilling.

Response:

Not applicable to planned survey activities as the survey commenced in early July 2025.

Condition 6.5

The Proponent shall prepare and submit to the Board well control strategies that include:

- 6.5.1 measures for well control and containment and the drilling of a relief well, as well as options to reduce overall response timeline; and
- 6.5.2 measures to quickly disconnect the marine drilling riser from the well in the event of an emergency or extreme weather conditions.

Response:

Not applicable to planned survey activities.

Condition 6.6

After considering the views of Indigenous groups, the Proponent shall prepare and submit a Spill Response Plan to the Board for acceptance prior to drilling. The Spill Response Plan will include the following:

- 6.6.1 procedures to respond to and mitigate the potential environmental effects of a spill of any substance that may cause adverse environmental effects, including spill containment and recovery procedures;
- 6.6.2 reporting thresholds and notification procedures;
- 6.6.3 measures for wildlife response, protection and rehabilitation, including procedures for the collection and cleaning of marine mammals, migratory birds, sea turtles and species at risk, and measures for shoreline protection and clean-up; and
- 6.6.4 roles and responsibilities for offshore operations and onshore responders.

Response:

Not applicable to planned survey activities.

Condition 6.7

The Proponent shall conduct an exercise of the Spill Response Plan prior to drilling activities as recommended in the Newfoundland Offshore Drilling and Production Guidelines, document any deficiencies observed during this exercise and provide these deficiencies to the Board for review, and adjust the plan to the satisfaction of the Board to address any deficiencies identified during the exercise.

Response:

Not applicable to planned survey activities.

Condition 6.8

The Proponent shall review the Spill Response Plan prior to the drilling of each well to verify that it continues to be appropriate and shall update the plan as necessary and in a manner acceptable to the Board.

Response:

Not applicable to planned survey activities.

Condition 6.9

In the event of a spill or unplanned release of oil or any other substance that may cause adverse environmental effects, the Proponent shall notify the Board and any other relevant authorities as soon as possible, and implement its Spill Response Plan, including procedures for notification of Indigenous groups and commercial fishers. As required by and in consultation with the Board, this may include monitoring the environmental effects of a spill on components of the marine environment until specific endpoints identified in consultation with relevant authorities are achieved. As applicable, this may include:

- 6.9.1 sensory testing of seafood for taint, and chemical analysis for oil concentrations and any other contaminants, as applicable;
- 6.9.2 measuring levels of contamination in recreational, commercial and traditionally harvested fish species with results integrated into a human health risk assessment, to be submitted to relevant authorities, to determine the fishing area closure status;
- 6.9.3 monitoring for marine mammals, sea turtles and birds for signs of contamination or oiling and reporting results to the Board; and
- 6.9.4 monitoring benthic organisms and habitats in the event of a spill or other event that could result in smothering or localized effects to the benthic environment.

Response:

There were no emergency events which required the implementation of the oil spill response plan.

Condition 6.10

The Proponent shall undertake a Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment to identify spill response options that will be implemented in the case of a spill to provide for the best opportunities to minimize environmental consequences, and provide it to the Board for review prior to drilling.

Response

Not applicable to planned survey activities.

Condition 6.11

The Proponent shall provide Indigenous groups with the results of the exercise conducted pursuant to condition 6.7, following its review by the Board.

The Proponent shall provide the final Spill Response Plan to Indigenous groups prior to drilling and any updates to the Spill Response Plan pursuant to condition 6.8.

Response:

Not applicable to planned survey activities.

Condition 6.12

In the event of a sub-sea well blowout, the Proponent shall begin the immediate mobilization of subsea containment and capping equipment to the blowout location. Simultaneously, the Proponent shall commence mobilization of a relief well drilling installation.

Response:

Not applicable to planned survey activities.

Condition 6.13

If drilling is anticipated in water depths in excess of 2 500 m, the Proponent shall undertake further analysis to confirm the capping stack technology selected can be operated safely at the proposed depth and submit this analysis to the Board for approval.

Response:

Not applicable to planned survey activities.

Condition 6.14

In the event of an accident or malfunction, the Proponent shall comply with the requirements of the Accord Acts and the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Financial Requirement Regulations, and the requirements described in the Compensation Guidelines Respecting Damages Relating to Offshore Petroleum Activity.

Response:

This condition is not applicable as there were no accidents or malfunctions which would trigger compensation requirements.

Condition 6.15

The Proponent shall report annually to the Board on the effectiveness of operating procedures and cessation of a work or activity thresholds, established for operating in poor weather, high sea state, and sea ice or iceberg conditions. The report shall include a description of any modifications to operations implemented in response to adverse environmental conditions, in accordance with the Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Drilling and Production Regulations.

Response:

A summary of actions taken by survey vessels regarding the cessation of survey activities is provided for in the end-of-survey environmental report, which will be submitted to the C-NLOPB within 90-days of end of survey.

Condition 7.1

The Proponent shall submit to the Board a schedule for each condition set out in this Decision Statement at least 30 days prior to the start of a drilling program. This schedule shall detail all activities planned to fulfill each condition set out in this Decision Statement and the commencement and estimated completion month(s) and year(s) for each of these activities.

Response:

ECL provided regular updates to EA Compliance Implementation Schedule to the C-NLOER and the final schedule was posted to the ECL website.

Condition 7.2

The Proponent shall submit to the Board a schedule outlining all activities required to carry out all phases of the Designated Project no later than 30 days prior to the start of the drilling program. The schedule shall indicate the commencement and estimated completion month(s) and year(s) and duration of each of these activities.

Response:

A schedule of activities was provided with the OA application.

Condition 7.3

The Proponent shall submit to the Board in writing an update to schedules referred to in conditions 7.1 and 7.2 every year no later than June 30, until completion of all activities referred to in each schedule.

Response:

Updates were provided as required during OA update meetings with the C-NLOER.

Condition 7.4

The Proponent shall provide to the Board revised schedules if any change is made to the initial schedules referred to in condition 7.1 and 7.2 or to any subsequent update(s) referred to in condition 7.3, upon revision of the schedules.

Response:

Updates, as may have been required, were provided as required during OA update meetings with the C-NLOER.

Condition 8.1

The Proponent shall maintain all records required to demonstrate compliance with the conditions set out in this Decision Statement. The Proponent shall provide the aforementioned records to the Board or the Agency upon demand within a timeframe specified by the Board or the Agency.

Response:

ECL will retain all required documentation and will be available to regulatory agencies upon request.

Condition 8.2

The Proponent shall retain all records referred to in condition 8.1 at a facility in Canada. The records shall be retained and made available for a minimum of five years after completion of the Designated Project, unless otherwise specified by the Board. The Proponent shall inform the Board of the location of the facility where records are retained and notify the Board and the Agency at least 30 days prior to any change to the location of the facility.

Response:

ECL will maintain an electronic copy of records that demonstrate compliance with the conditions set out in the Decision Statement at the ECL St. John's office.

Condition 8.3

The Proponent shall notify the Board and the Agency of any change to the contact information of the Proponent included in the Decision Statement.

Response:

Noted. ECL will notify the C-NLOER and the Agency if there is a change in the contact information for Equinor, as proponent.

References

ECCC. (2019). *Decision Statement Issued under Section 54 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2020.*

ECCC. (2019). *Environment and Climate Change Canada. Decision Statement Issued under Section 54 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2020.*

Fisheries and Oceans. (2023). *Regional Guidance on Measures to Protect Corals and Sponges.*

Statoil Canada. (2017). *Flemish Pass Exploration Drilling Program Environmental Impact Statement.*