

Nova Scotia Offshore Wind Roadmap

Module 3

July 2025



Introduction	3
Update on the Province's path for offshore wind development	4
Engagement	6
Timeline of offshore wind development in Nova Scotia	8
What we learned	26
Summary of key offshore wind interests	27
Perspectives	28
Response to input and perspectives	43
What's next	49
Conclusion	50
Appendices	51



We would like to thank the following for providing imagery for this report:

Nova Scotia's Department of Energy, Net Zero Atlantic, and stock photography from iStock.

Introduction

Nova Scotia is entering a pivotal moment in its clean energy transition. In 2022, the Province of Nova Scotia made a commitment to issue licences for up to five gigawatts of offshore wind energy in the Canada–Nova Scotia offshore area by 2030, with the first Call for Bids planned by the end of 2025. Through subsequent legislation and other important work, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada are signaling strong support in pursuit of a net-zero future.

Offshore wind presents a transformative opportunity for Nova Scotia to diversify its energy mix, strengthen its economy, improve energy security, and contribute to national and global climate goals. Thanks to its world-class wind resources, Nova Scotia is uniquely positioned to lead in offshore wind development.

As momentum in the development of the offshore wind sector builds, so does the need for thoughtful, inclusive engagement that ensures all perspectives are heard. Through engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and other interested parties, several high-level areas of interest have emerged. Topics such as economic benefits, research, and innovation capture the promise of offshore wind development. Coexistence with ocean users, environmental and ecological health, and infrastructure interest areas demonstrate the complexity of the path ahead.

These diverse perspectives underscore a shared recognition: offshore wind is not just an energy project; it is a community conversation, a land-and-sea stewardship responsibility, and a generational opportunity. Ensuring that development proceeds equitably, ecologically responsibly, and community-informed will be critical to its short- and long-term success in Nova Scotia.

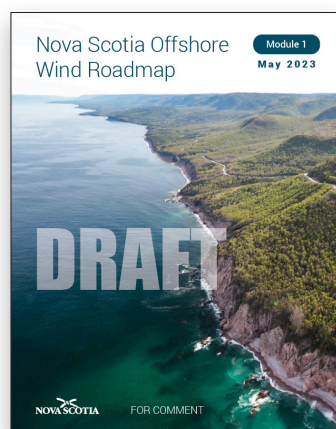
NOTE: Nova Scotia started pursuing offshore wind development under the former Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. Since December 12, 2024, the Department of Energy has led this work following the government's decision to create this new department. For simplicity, this document refers only to the Department of Energy except when specific dates are associated with the former Department of Natural Resources and Renewables.



Update on the Province's path for offshore wind development

Nova Scotia's Offshore Wind Roadmap is structured into three modules, each addressing a critical aspect of developing the province's offshore wind sector:

Module 1: Regulatory and legislative framework (released spring 2023)



Module 1 provides an overview of the regulatory and legislative path for offshore wind development in Nova Scotia. It outlines the roles and responsibilities of both the federal and provincial governments, detailing the processes for site selection, seabed licensing, and establishing support mechanisms.

The module aims to provide clarity for industry by mapping the regulatory landscape. It identifies critical steps required to facilitate offshore wind projects, ensuring that the Mi'kmaq and interested parties are well informed about the procedural requirements and guidelines. By providing a thorough understanding of the regulatory environment, this module serves as a crucial resource for interested parties seeking to navigate the complexities of offshore wind development.

Module 2: Supply chain and infrastructure (released spring 2024)



Module 2 focuses on the critical role of economic development in establishing a resilient supply chain and infrastructure to support the development of offshore wind in Nova Scotia. It emphasizes the importance of strategic initiatives, including preparing ports, training a skilled workforce, and ensuring equitable access to opportunities. This module also discusses how to leverage Nova Scotia's strengths in marine industries to position the province as a leader in offshore wind energy. By utilizing local expertise, promoting innovation, and facilitating collaboration among the Mi'kmaq and interested parties, Nova Scotia aims to maximize its potential in the offshore wind sector.

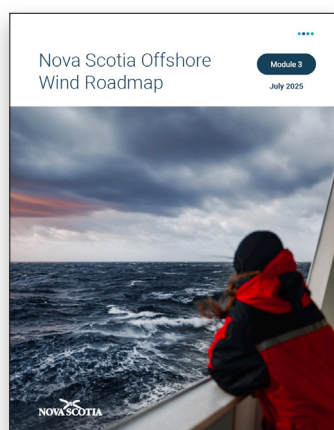
Through infrastructure advancement and supply-chain empowerment, this module articulates a vision for a sustainable and prosperous offshore wind sector, ensuring that Nova Scotia keeps pace with industry advancements and sets a benchmark for excellence.

“

“Building a strong, inclusive, and future-ready supply-chain is essential to realizing Nova Scotia’s offshore wind opportunity. Module 2 of the Roadmap underscores the critical role of infrastructure, workforce development, and local expertise in positioning the province as a leader in this sector. Marine Renewables Canada is committed to supporting collaboration, innovation, and investment that empower communities and ensure that Nova Scotia is not only ready for offshore wind - but poised to lead.”

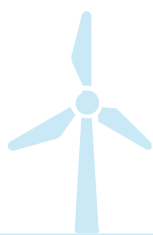
Elisa Obermann, Executive Director, Marine Renewables Canada

Module 3: Community perspectives



This third module synthesizes the conversations and perspectives gathered from the Mi’kmaq and a broad range of interested parties beginning in 2022 when efforts to advance the establishment of an offshore wind industry in Nova Scotia began to move forward. This module encompasses the Mi’kmaq, including Mi’kmaw communities and organizations, and many interested parties, including fisheries, rural communities, environmental non-governmental organizations, developers, industry associations, and educational institutions – each contributing their unique perspectives, expertise, and experiences.

By thoughtfully integrating these diverse perspectives and insights, this module aims to provide a substantive foundation for the ongoing development of offshore wind. This module emphasizes the critical importance of recognizing and addressing environmental, social, and economic considerations in a comprehensive and balanced manner. Recognizing the perspectives of the Mi’kmaq and interested parties by prioritizing engagement and information sharing contributes to building a sustainable and equitable offshore wind sector that will meet energy demands, protect natural resources and ecosystems, and support local communities.



Engagement

Since the Province of Nova Scotia announced its commitment to advancing offshore wind in 2022, joint-management between provincial and federal governments has guided the sector's development. From the outset, engagement with the Mi'kmaq, coastal communities, fishers and fishing organizations, environmental non-profits, industry stakeholders, and other interested parties has been, and continues to be, central to shaping the regulatory and development processes.

Engagement with the Mi'kmaq and interested parties remains ongoing, therefore not all engagement will be captured in Module 3.

Approach

The engagement approach employed by the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada aims to support inclusivity, transparency, and offer timely opportunities to share information and obtain feedback, recognizing that meaningful dialogue must be embedded early in the groundwork and development phases. Efforts were made, and continue to be made, to directly connect with those who have a vested interest in the development of offshore wind.

The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia & interested parties

Conversations were undertaken with the Mi'kmaq and a wide range of interested parties including, fisheries, rural communities, environmental non-governmental organizations, the offshore wind development community, industry and research associations, and educational and workforce development institutions representing varied interests and expertise. Mi'kmaw communities and organizations, and interested parties include:

Mi'kmaw communities and organizations

Chiefs and Councils, tribal councils, and organizations representing Mi'kmaw interests.

Fisheries

Harvesters, community organizations, and commercial operators across coastal regions.

Rural communities

Local municipalities, residents, and community-based groups across Nova Scotia and neighbouring provinces.

Environmental non-governmental organizations

Organizations with mandates in conservation, climate action, and biodiversity.

Offshore wind development community

Planners, project proponents, and supply chain organizations.

Industry and research associations

Sectoral organizations representing a diverse range of specialized interests.

Educational institutions and workforce development organizations

Colleges, training institutions, and labour market groups.

The Mi'kmaq and interested parties are primarily from Nova Scotia, however, others from across Canada were also active in some conversations. For a full breakdown of interested parties, please refer to Appendix #1.

Process

The timeline presented in this module outlines key activities and milestones with respect to the development of offshore wind to date. Engagement took many forms, including community workshops, events, research forums, formal written submissions, and meetings. The perspectives, comments, and sentiments of all those involved have been structured around five categories :

- 1 **Engagement**
- 2 **Legislation, regulation, and policy**
- 3 **Research and innovation**
- 4 **Sector development**
- 5 **Education and workforce development**



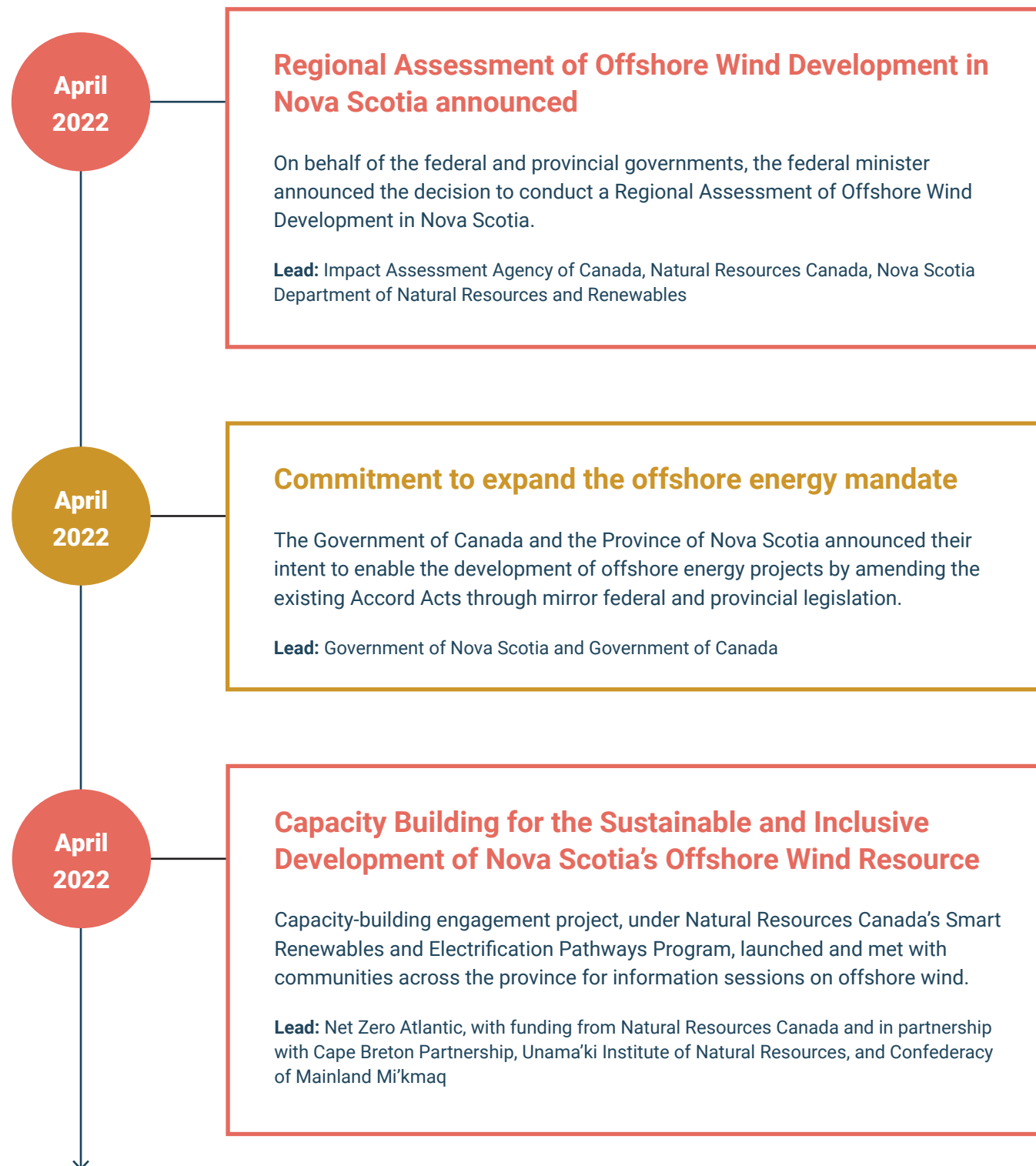
This framework provided clarity on capturing the perspectives and key interests of different groups, surfacing concerns, and building shared understanding.



Timeline of offshore wind development in Nova Scotia

2022-2026 | Past milestones and future momentum

● Engagement ● Legislation, regulation, and policy ● Research and innovation ● Sector development ● Education and workforce development



**August
2022**

Canada-Germany Hydrogen Alliance signed

Significant milestone in the partnership between Canada and Germany for the market for green hydrogen.

Lead: Government of Canada

**September
2022**

Engagement on proposed amendments to the Accord Acts

Between September 2022 and January 2023, the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables and Natural Resources Canada reached out to the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia to inform them of the proposed amendments to the Accord Acts, as well as offer opportunities for discussion, information sharing, and engagement. In parallel, Natural Resources Canada reached out to Indigenous governments, communities, and organizations across the rest of Atlantic Canada to inform them of the proposed amendments to the Accord Acts and to offer the same opportunity to share information and discuss.

Lead: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (for groups in Nova Scotia) and Natural Resources Canada

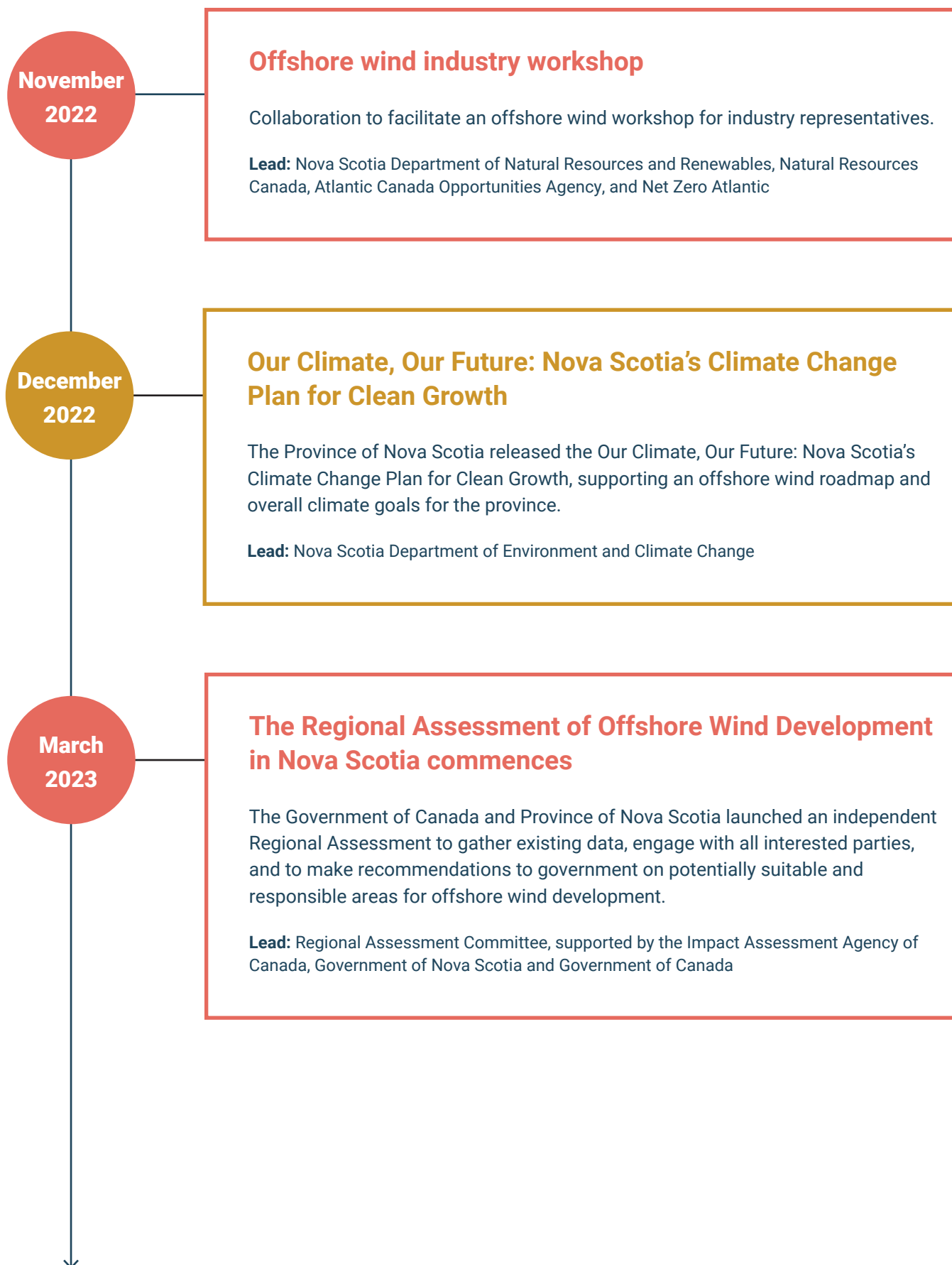
**October
2022**

Regional Energy Resources Table

Natural Resources Canada added the Province of Nova Scotia and Kwikmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO) to the initiative.

Lead: Natural Resources Canada and Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables





May
2023

Amendments to the Canada-Nova Scotia Accord Act tabled in the House of Commons (Bill C-49)

Bill C-49: An Act to amend the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Atlantic Accord Implementation Act and the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act.

Lead: Natural Resources Canada

May
2023

Engagement on Bill C-49

The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables and Natural Resources Canada reached out to the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia to inform them of proposed Bill C-49, as well as offer opportunities for discussion, information sharing, and engagement. In parallel, Natural Resources Canada reached out to Indigenous governments, communities, and organizations across the rest of Atlantic Canada to inform them of Bill C-49 and to offer the same opportunity to share information and discuss.

Lead: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables and Natural Resources Canada

June
2023

Release of the Offshore Wind Roadmap Module 1

Official launch of Offshore Wind Roadmap Module 1 - regulatory and legislative framework.

Lead: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables





October
2023

Community Capacity Building Phase 1

The engagement project, titled “Capacity Building for the Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Nova Scotia’s Offshore Wind Resource,” met with communities across the province for information sessions on offshore wind.

Lead: Net Zero Atlantic, with funding from Natural Resources Canada and in partnership with Cape Breton Partnership, Unama’ki Institute of Natural Resources, and Confederacy of Mainland Mi’kmaq

December
2023

Green Hydrogen Action Plan

The Province of Nova Scotia released the Green Hydrogen Action Plan, supporting the development of green hydrogen in Nova Scotia.

Lead: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables

January
2024

Regional Assessment engagement summary

Summary of engagement from the Regional Assessment Committee engagement program, including engagement with Indigenous communities and public open houses in Nova Scotia, Charlottetown, and Moncton.

Lead: Regional Assessment Committee

February
2024

Standing Committee on Natural Resources for Bill C-49

The Mi’kmaq and other interested parties provided statements regarding Bill C-49 to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources.

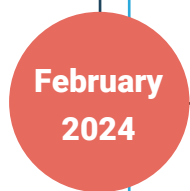
Lead: Standing Committee on Natural Resources



Ongoing conversations: February 2024-Present

Since February 2024, the Province of Nova Scotia's Department of Energy and the Government of Canada's Department of Natural Resources have continued to build on earlier engagement efforts by holding regular conversations with Mi'kmaw communities and organizations, fisheries, rural communities, environmental non-governmental organizations, the offshore wind development community, industry and research associations, and educational institutions.

These ongoing discussions aim to seek feedback and explore key questions, concerns, and opportunities related to offshore wind development in Nova Scotia.



Canada Offshore Renewable Energy Regulations were pre-published in Canada-Gazette Part I

The public was invited to submit comments on proposed Canada Offshore Renewable Energy Regulations.

Lead: Government of Canada



Launch of Atlantic Canada Offshore Wind Grid Integration and Transmission Study

Net Zero Atlantic launches the Atlantic Canada Offshore Wind Integration and Transmission Study.

Lead: Net Zero Atlantic with funding from Natural Resources Canada

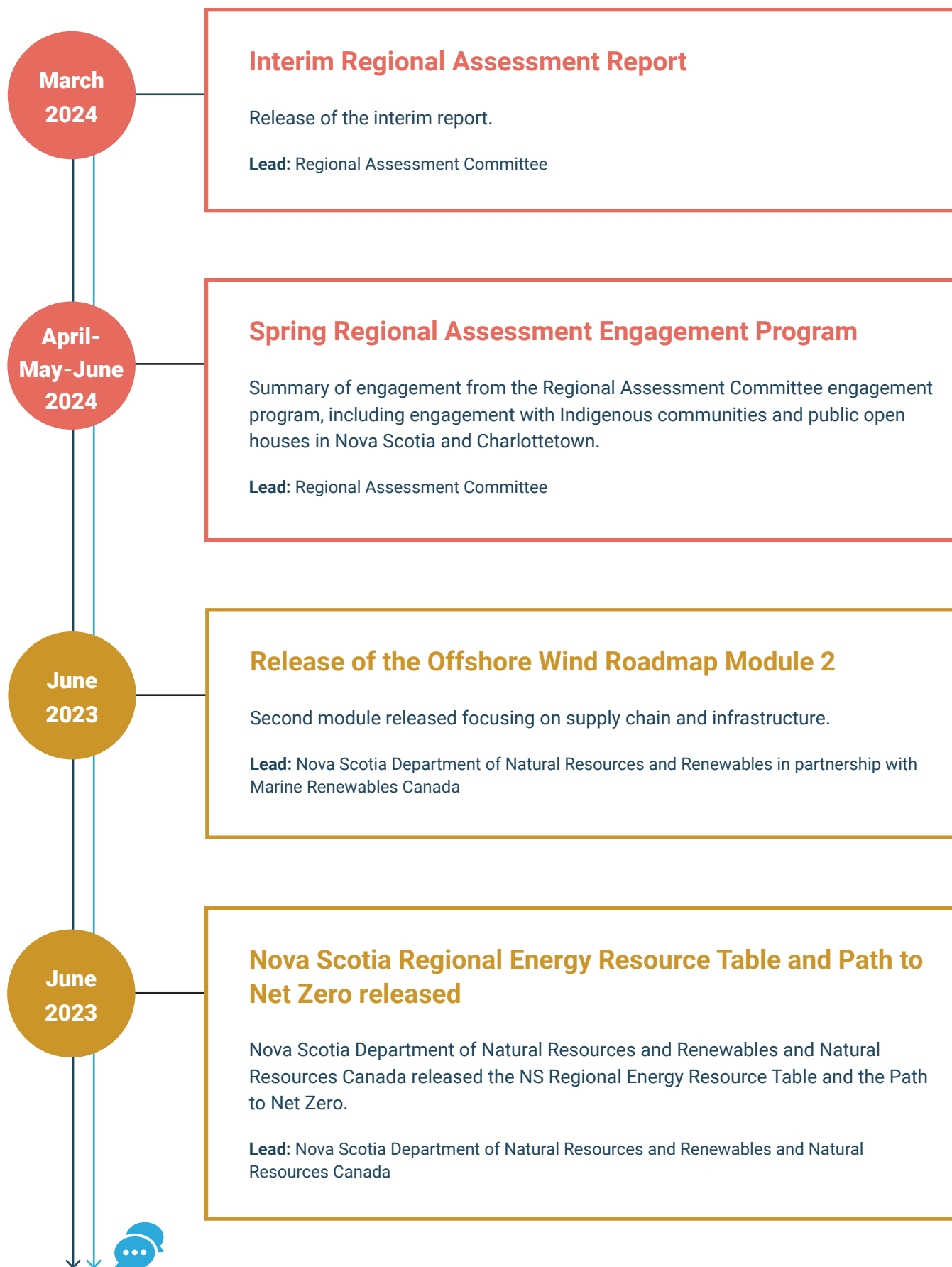


Funding announcement

Funding announced for the Municipality of the County of Richmond and the Town of Port Hawkesbury for the development of a Local Port and Infrastructure Strategy, and a concept plan for an Offshore Wind Centre for Excellence.

Lead: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables and Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency





August
2024

Phase 1 What We Heard report on offshore wind engagement in Nova Scotia

The engagement project, titled “Capacity Building for the Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Nova Scotia’s Offshore Wind Resource,” met with communities across the province for information sessions on offshore wind. The ‘What We Heard Report’ was released, outlining key learnings to date from the engagement.

Lead: Net Zero Atlantic, with funding from Natural Resources Canada and in partnership with Cape Breton Partnership, Unama’ki Institute of Natural Resources, and Confederacy of Mainland Mi’kmaq

August
2024

Offshore Wind Supply Chain Forum

An event in Halifax that brought together businesses, communities, and interested parties to explore opportunities and strategies for building a strong offshore wind industry in Atlantic Canada.

Lead: Marine Renewables Canada

September
2024

Bill 471 introduced

Nova Scotia’s Bill 471, known as the Advancing Nova Scotia Opportunities Act, is legislation to facilitate the development of offshore wind energy in the province. Introduced as companion legislation to the federal Bill C-49, it amends the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act to incorporate offshore renewable energy, including offshore wind.

Lead: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables



**September
2024**

Submissions to the Senate Standing Committee

The Mi'kmaq and other interested parties provided briefs and statements to the Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources.

Lead: Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs and other interested parties

**September
2024**

Royal Assent of Bill 471

Nova Scotia's Bill 471, known as the Advancing Nova Scotia Opportunities Act passed the provincial legislative process.

Lead: Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables

**September
2024**

Community Capacity Building Phase 2

The engagement project, titled "Capacity Building for the Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Nova Scotia's Offshore Wind Resource," met with communities across the province for information sessions on offshore wind. Phase 2 engagement sessions; preparing an offshore wind knowledge hub.

Lead: Net Zero Atlantic, with funding from Natural Resources Canada and in partnership with Cape Breton Partnership, Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, and Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq

**October
2024**

Royal Assent of Bill C-49

Bill C-49 passes in Federal Parliament.

Lead: Government of Canada



October
2024

Analysis of Global Offshore Wind Seabed Leasing/ Auction Frameworks and Recommendations for the Canadian Context

A report released by OWC outlines a detailed report on how seabed leasing rounds for offshore wind projects may be structured, designed and implemented in Canada.

Lead: OWC Ltd. (specialized global offshore wind consultancy), Canada's Ocean Supercluster, Marine Renewables Canada

October
2024

Draft Regional Assessment Final Report

Release of draft Regional Assessment final report.

Lead: Regional Assessment Committee

November
2024

Nova Scotia Offshore Wind Research and Development Forum

The event brought together a wide variety of interested groups together for presentations and networking.

Lead: Net Zero Atlantic, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables

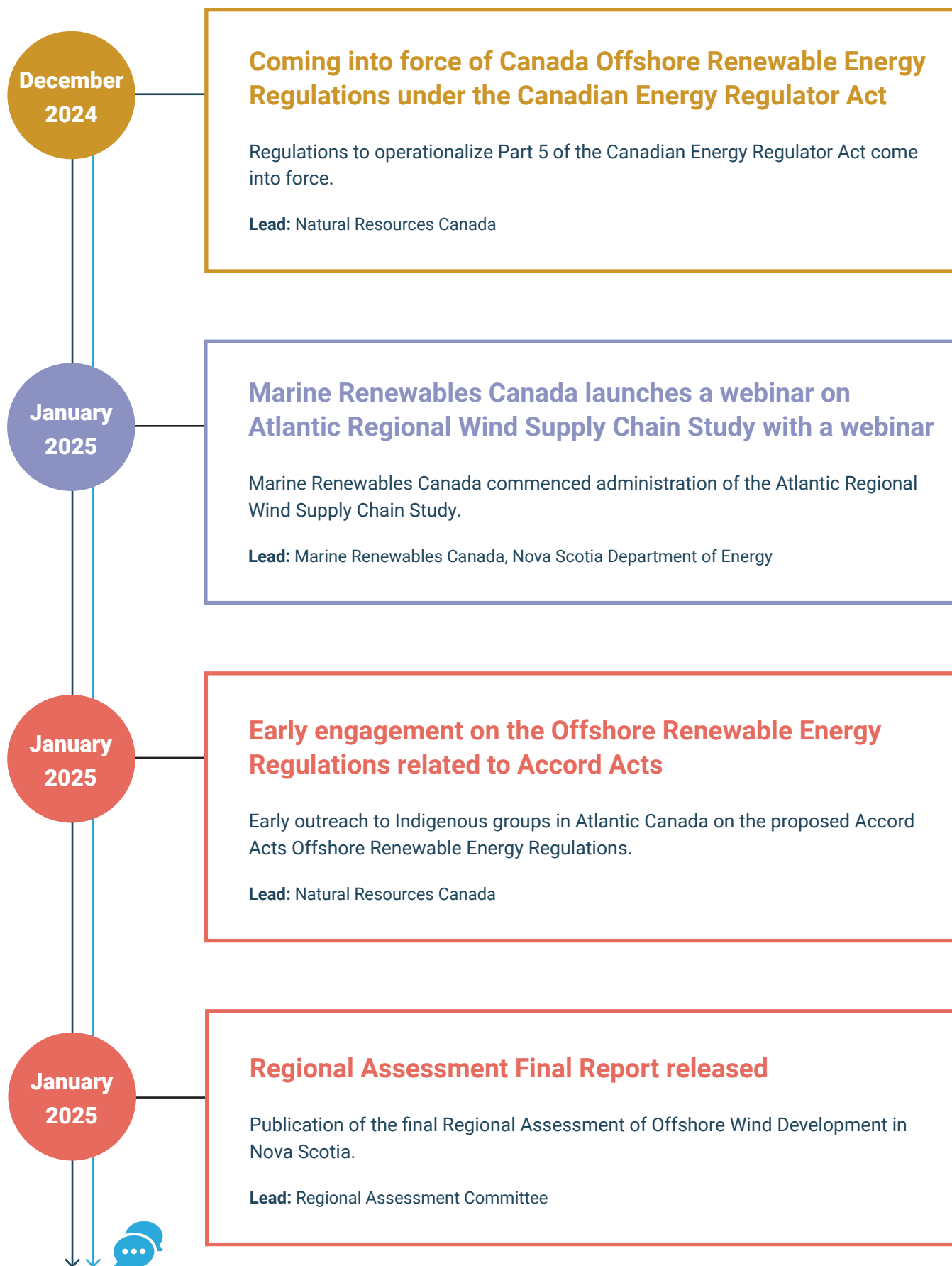
November
2024

Marine Renewables Conference 2024

Conference for interested parties to engage and exchange on topics of interest and opportunities within Canada's offshore wind, tidal, wave, and river current energy sector.

Lead: Marine Renewables Canada, sponsored by the Province of Nova Scotia





**January
2025**

The Accord Act amendments were proclaimed and came into force

On January 1, 2025 the Accord Act amendments for the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore areas come into force. This activated the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator to have authorization of offshore renewable energy.

Lead: Government of Nova Scotia and Government of Canada

**February
2025**

Global Offshore Wind Alliance membership announced

The Province of Nova Scotia, Government of Canada, and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador jointly announced their respective Global Offshore Wind Alliance memberships.

Lead: Province of Nova Scotia, Government of Canada, and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador

**March
2025**

Response to the Regional Assessment Report

Nova Scotia Department of Energy and Natural Resources Canada published their response to the Regional Assessment Report.

Lead: Nova Scotia Department of Energy and Natural Resources Canada



March
2025

Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator receives joint directive on Call for Bids

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator received a joint directive from the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia regarding the roles, responsibilities and next steps for administering Call for Bids for offshore wind in Nova Scotia.

Lead: Government of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada

March
2025

Moratorium for Georges Bank

Nova Scotia Department of Energy and Natural Resources Canada provided a joint directive to the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator to prohibit the issuance of submerged land licences for the offshore wind energy at Georges Bank.

Lead: Government of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada

March
2025

Release of proposed offshore wind energy areas

Proposed wind energy areas were released to the public for feedback.

Lead: Nova Scotia Department of Energy and Natural Resources Canada

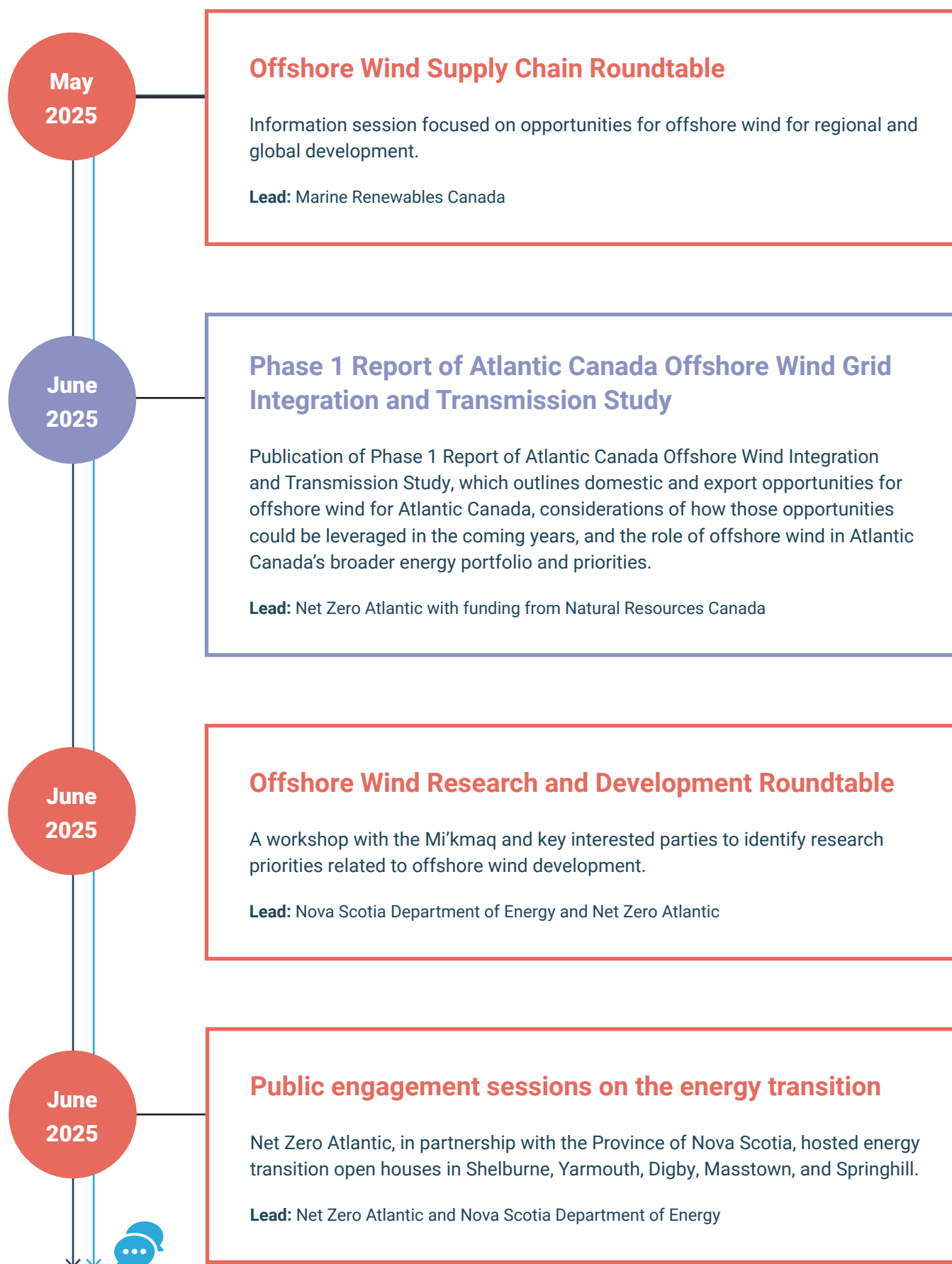
April
2025

Smart Energy Conference and Hydrogen East Halifax

Events in Halifax where energy leaders, innovators, and policymakers gathered to accelerate community decarbonization and showcase clean technology solutions.

Lead: Smart Energy Conference, Hydrogen East





July
2025

Phase 2 summary report and analysis on offshore wind engagement in Nova Scotia

The engagement project, titled “Capacity Building for the Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Nova Scotia’s Offshore Wind Resource,” met with communities across the province for information sessions on offshore wind. The ‘What We Heard Report’ was released, outlining key learnings from engagement with rural communities.

Lead: Net Zero Atlantic, with funding from Natural Resources Canada and in partnership with Cape Breton Partnership, Unama’ki Institute of Natural Resources, and Confederacy of Mainland Mi’kmaq

July
2025

Release of Offshore Wind Roadmap Module 3

Third module released reflecting feedback received through the Regional Assessment and other ongoing conversations with the Mi’kmaq, fishers, and other interested parties.

Lead: Nova Scotia Department of Energy

July
2025

Designate wind energy areas

The Government of Nova Scotia and Government of Canada jointly designated wind energy areas.

Lead: Government of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada





Late
2025

Call for Bids

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator will make a Call for Bids for licences for approximately 2.5 gigawatts of offshore wind energy as directed by joint management ministers.

Lead: Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator

Expected
September
2026

Nova Scotia Community College launches new programs

Nautical Institute plans to launch new programs, such as Wind Turbine Technician Certificate, to prepare the workforce for the green energy future.

Lead: Nova Scotia Community College



What we learned

The development of offshore wind energy in Nova Scotia offers transformative potential. However, it is also a challenging undertaking. It is widely accepted by the Mi'kmaq and interested parties that developing a diverse and clean energy sector will support economic development, but perspectives differ when looking at environmental stewardship, regulatory effectiveness, inclusivity, and equitable benefit sharing.






Given the sector's complex nature, there is both optimism and uncertainty. A collaborative and evidence-based approach will be critical to ensuring that Nova Scotia's offshore wind ambitions translate into long-term, sustainable success.

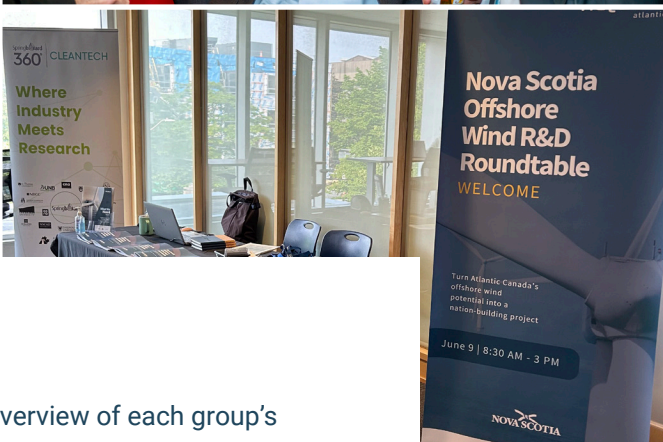
The perspectives shared in this document summarize insights gathered from a range of previous conversations but likely do not represent the full diversity of views held by the Mi'kmaq and all interested parties. This engagement is part of an ongoing process, and community input will continue to be sought and valued throughout the subsequent phases of work.



Summary of key offshore wind interests

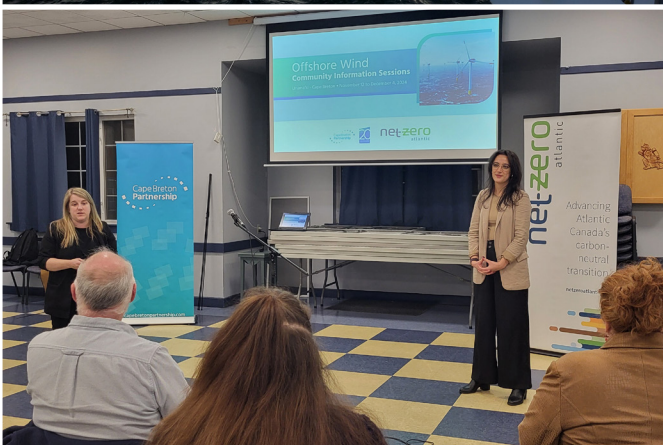
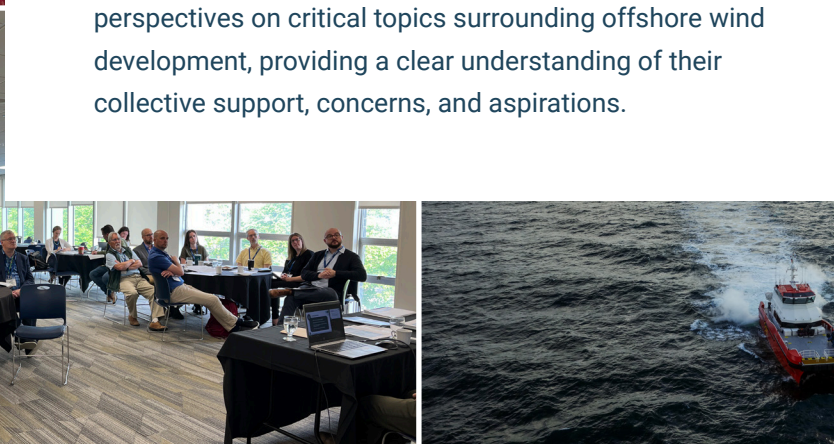
Through extensive engagement with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and other interested parties, several high-level interest areas have emerged.

 <p>Governance, Regulation, and Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Clear, coordinated regulatory framework » Inclusive and timely engagement » Adoption or adaptation of best practices 	 <p>Indigenous Consultation and Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Potential impacts to rights and the duty to consult » Mi'kmaw fisheries and Indigenous knowledge » Equity and economic participation
 <p>Coexistence with Ocean Users</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Fisheries and traditional marine activities » Marine spatial planning » Planning for potential shifts in fishing activities » Cumulative effects impacts 	 <p>Environmental and Ecological Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Baseline data collection » Environmental monitoring » Biodiversity and sensitive areas » Cumulative impacts
 <p>Economic Benefits and Equity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Jobs, training, and experiential learning » Local benefits » Equity in access and ownership 	 <p>Research and Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Data transparency and sharing » Phased and adaptive development » Informed decision-making with data » Learnings from other jurisdictions » Cumulative impacts
 <p>Infrastructure and Energy Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Transmission and port infrastructure » End use of offshore wind energy, grid integration and energy planning » Local, provincial, national, and international considerations » Construction, operations, and decommissioning impacts to communities 	



Perspectives

The following provides an overview of each group's perspectives on critical topics surrounding offshore wind development, providing a clear understanding of their collective support, concerns, and aspirations.



MI'KMAW COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Mi'kmaq communities and organizations that shared their perspectives on offshore wind generally support the transition to clean energy, but express concerns regarding the need for offshore wind development and potential for impacts to their constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights, in particular the rights concerning fishing and harvesting, as well as to areas of cultural significance.

Engagement and consultation

The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia have been actively engaging in conversations regarding offshore wind. It is important for Mi'kmaq communities to be involved in a meaningful way, as community members want to ensure their perspectives are included in all phases of offshore wind development.

Both the Government of Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia are committed to upholding the legal duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate the Mi'kmaq when they contemplate decisions that have the potential to adversely impact asserted or established Aboriginal or treaty rights, and to maintaining the Honour of the Crown, derived from Section 35 of Canada's Constitution Act, 1982.

Contemplated decisions related to possible future projects will likely require the provincial and federal governments to fulfill duty to consult obligations. Each of those decisions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis consistent with common law to determine if a proposed government decision has the potential to adversely impact asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights.

Legislation, regulation, and policy

Mi'kmaq communities advocate for respect of their constitutionally recognized and affirmed rights. With respect to Mi'kmaq fisheries, there is strong emphasis on ensuring respect for Mi'kmaq fishing rights, including fishing and harvesting for food, social, and ceremonial purposes, and their right to moderate livelihood fisheries.

Research and innovation

Mi'kmaq representatives emphasize the importance of studies exploring the cumulative impacts of offshore wind on Mi'kmaq rights and advocate for research methodologies incorporating Indigenous knowledge.

There is a general concern about the perceived lack of data to make informed decisions. The Mi'kmaq emphasize the importance of engaging with Mi'kmaq organizations with scientific capacity and collecting and integrating information from Indigenous knowledge holders.

Sector development

Mi'kmaq communities and organizations generally view the development of the offshore wind sector as an opportunity. They support equity partnerships, job creation, and strong environmental protections, but maintain that their rights, knowledge, and values must shape the industry's foundation.

Education and workforce development

The Mi'kmaq advocate for the development of the offshore wind sector to transparently include opportunities for Mi'kmaq youth and ensure equitable access to jobs and training in the clean energy sector. There has been an

interest in education and workforce development programs designed to build skills relevant to traditional practices and the emerging clean energy industry.

Key Interests

- » Concern about impacts to Mi'kmaw rights, as well as social and economic effects
- » Compensation for impacts to fisheries
- » Equitable access to economic opportunities and involvement in the offshore wind industry
- » Long-term stability for communities
- » Meaningful dialogue
- » Environmental sustainability
- » Assessment of cumulative impacts
- » Programs for youth in clean energy
- » Ecological impacts associated with construction, operations, and decommissioning
- » Impacts on water and wildlife
- » Responsible management of offshore wind to avoid unintended environmental impacts
- » Conservation and marine protected sites

In summary, protecting and respecting Mi'kmaw rights while addressing offshore wind's social, environmental, and economic impacts is critical to developing the sector. Central to this is addressing potential impacts to Mi'kmaw rights, facilitating equitable access to economic opportunities, and supporting active involvement in the offshore wind sector, which will all foster long-term stability for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia.

FISHERIES

Fisheries groups express mixed sentiments regarding offshore wind development in Nova Scotia. They acknowledge the need for clean energy but are apprehensive about potential negative impacts on fishing grounds, vessel access, and livelihoods.



“Members of the NSFAEE anticipate a future where both industries can gainfully share the marine space, creating additive value to the provincial economy and continuing a strong legacy of vibrant and prosperous fisheries operating alongside other marine users. Positive and successful co-existence requires a robust legislative and scientific foundation and will rely on strong communication between decision-makers, legislators, developers, and those that stand to be most impacted by offshore wind development - the harvesting sector and the communities that rely on them.”

Nova Scotia Fishers Alliance for Energy Engagement (NSFAEE)

Engagement and consultation

There are mixed perspectives on engagement. Some feel they have not been adequately represented in the planning process and call for more robust conversations, while others feel involved in planning.

Legislation, regulation, and policy

This group seeks clear guidelines that protect critical fishing areas while allowing for clean energy growth. Fisheries groups sometimes feel underrepresented in the legislative, regulatory, and policy development processes around offshore wind. They are concerned about timelines, lack of transparency, and the potential impacts on the fishing industry. Many feel that regulations favour energy developers while failing to adequately safeguard fishing rights or environmental protections. While there is openness to coexistence, fishers want meaningful involvement to help inform decision-making and policies that prioritize the long-term health and futures of fisheries and coastal communities.

Research and innovation

The fisheries groups, along with many other interested parties advocate for studies assessing offshore wind’s ecological impacts on fish populations and habitats, and local and regional ocean environments and dynamics. Fisheries groups also advocate for baseline research and continuous monitoring to determine any cumulative impacts of offshore wind development.

Sector development

Fisheries groups continue to reference the critical need to protect commercial fishing interests and recommend spatial planning that minimizes conflicts, if not avoid entirely.

Education and workforce development

While there have not been many focused conversations about education and workforce development with the fisheries groups, these groups reference support for initiatives that prepare local fishers for any potential involvement in clean energy projects, ensuring their skills are utilized appropriately as the sector evolves.

Key Interests

- » Clear guidelines to prioritize avoidance, mitigation where coexistence is possible, and compensation when it is not
- » Meaningful engagement
- » Minimizing environmental, ecological, and marine life impacts
- » Protection of conservation areas
- » Fiscal compensation for attributable losses
- » Spatial planning and subsea cable placement
- » Displacement
- » Impacts on other businesses in the fishing and seafood sector

In summary, fishers consistently advocate for the maintenance of existing commercial fisheries operations and priorities to the extent possible amidst the development of offshore wind. Fishers emphasize the importance of sustainable practices and the protection of the existing commercial fishing industry and marine resources in the face of offshore wind development. By addressing the concerns of fishers – including with regard to regulations, marine protection, research and data gaps, and livelihood considerations – the offshore wind sector can be sustainably developed in a manner that respects Nova Scotia’s fisheries and their vital role in the province’s economy and local communities.

RURAL AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Rural and coastal communities adjacent to potential offshore wind development in Nova Scotia largely support the sector, viewing it as a pathway to local job creation and sustainable energy. However, concerns about environmental impacts, strain on shared infrastructure, such as roads and ports, and the preservation of local culture linger.



“Since its inception, the Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task Force has been a leader in community, government, and partner engagement. Central to that work is championing the possible local benefits that could be derived from our offshore wind energy potential. Preparing our workforce and supply chain to fuel the sector’s success is key to realizing those needed benefits for our region. This involves tapping into resources such as NSCC’s Nautical Institute at the Strait Area Campus where they are investing to create a combination of skill development opportunities in wind, trades, and marine to ensure Nova Scotians develop world class talent and experience in the sector.”

**Amanda Mombourquette, Manager of Workforce Development,
NSCC and co-chair of the Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task Force**

Engagement

Ongoing workshops, conversations, and meetings with interested groups and community members in various Nova Scotia rural areas have helped support general knowledge of offshore wind and the potential for the province. These sessions have included local government officials, municipal staff, local businesses, and residents.

Early engagement has helped manage expectations; however, there is a risk of engagement fatigue, especially when the timelines for construction and community benefits are well in the future. These communities desire meaningful conversations with developers and policymakers to express their concerns and expectations transparently.

Legislation, regulation, and policy

Municipalities and their residents desire clear frameworks that support and protect community interests while facilitating project approvals.

Research and innovation

Rural communities advocate for studies that assess the local ecological impacts of offshore wind projects, ensuring sustainable development that aligns with community values. They desire to better understand the impacts on the local communities from turbine or cable vibrations, construction, increased or disrupted marine traffic, seafloor disturbances, etc. as a result of offshore wind development, construction, operations, and decommissioning.

Sector development

Rural communities primarily seek initiatives prioritizing local benefits and participation, ensuring that any economic gains from offshore wind projects are felt within their communities. This includes local jobs, road and port infrastructure planning, and alignment with other social supports required to support an increase in residents in a small community, such as housing, healthcare, and schools. Rural communities also express the importance

of minimizing impacts to existing industries and businesses, including fisheries and seafood supply chain organizations.

Rural and coastal communities caution that an influx of temporary workers in an area to construct offshore wind projects could put a strain on the community's resources.

Education and workforce development

With increased employment, workforce development, and education opportunities, residents and youth must be equipped with the skills needed to participate in the expanding clean energy sector.

Key Interests

- » Local community benefits
- » Skills development and training
- » Local ecological impact studies
- » Desire for transparency in discussions
- » Climate change mitigation
- » Lifecycle of offshore wind projects
- » Safety and maintenance
- » Energy end use and grid challenges
- » Environmental impacts
- » Co-existence of ocean users
- » Infrastructure, including ports

In summary, rural communities are steadfast in their commitments to growing and supporting their local communities and economies, and offshore wind presents a generational opportunity. The key priorities for rural municipalities focus on ensuring the development of offshore wind aligns with the short- and long-term needs and interests of local communities. Addressing community concerns throughout the development and lifecycle of offshore wind will be crucial.

ENVIRONMENTAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Environmental non-governmental organizations express cautious support for offshore wind development, highlighting its potential benefits in combating climate change while raising concerns about ecological and environmental impacts.

Engagement

Environmental non-governmental organizations underscore the necessity for meaningful engagement with local communities, Mi'kmaw communities and organizations, and other interested parties to thoroughly address potential negative impacts. Several environmental non-governmental organizations have been active in offshore wind conversations and have helped identify potential priority areas for environmental research.

Legislation, regulation, and policy

Concerning legislation, regulation, and policy development, these groups advocate for stringent environmental protections and assessments to minimize harm to marine ecosystems. These groups consistently support leveraging the insights from the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind in Nova Scotia to inform decision-making.

Research and innovation

In terms of research, environmental non-governmental organizations prioritize the need for independent scientific studies examining the environmental implications of offshore wind and advocate for transparency in data sharing.

Sector development

Environmental non-governmental organizations advocate for sustainable practices that balance clean energy needs with ecological integrity. They emphasize the need for developers to adhere to comprehensive and transparent environmental frameworks and for the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia to protect the pace and impacts of offshore wind development.

Education and workforce development

Environmental non-governmental organizations emphasize the importance of education programs that inform communities about clean energy and engage them in conservation efforts. These programs would ensure that public understanding and stewardship of the environment are prioritized alongside industrial development.

Key Interests

- » Clear and rigorous protections for ecosystems
- » Meaningful involvement
- » Independent studies on ecological impacts
- » Promote sustainable practices
- » Programs to raise public awareness about energy

In summary, environmental non-governmental organizations are focused on promoting environmental sustainability and protecting ecosystems in the context of offshore wind development through meaningful engagement, independent studies, and the promotion of sustainable practices. Environmental non-governmental organizations aim to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into decision-making processes, fostering a balance between offshore wind development and ecological preservation.

OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

The offshore wind development community is generally enthusiastic about offshore wind projects as integral components of Nova Scotia's clean energy landscape. They emphasize the potential for innovation and economic growth. These interested parties, including project developers, supply chain companies, and contractors, express urgency for decisions to be made for both financial and climate impact reasons.

Engagement

Potential offshore wind developers are keen to work closely with governments to help progress the sector. They also prioritize meaningful engagement with the Mi'kmaq, local communities, and other interested parties, advocating for early and ongoing dialogues to build trust and address concerns.

Legislation, regulation, and policy

Regarding legislation, regulation, and policy development, developers seek streamlined processes and greater regulatory clarity and certainty to facilitate timely project approvals, secure financing, and plan their projects appropriately.

Research and innovation

Research is a priority, with developers advocating for data collection that can inform best practices and minimize environmental impacts. Many potential developers are experienced in offshore wind projects worldwide and have in-depth knowledge of priority research areas that have been a focus in other jurisdictions. The development community can help identify existing applicable research, focus areas, and best practices to fill knowledge gaps and reduce risks.

Sector development

Fostering a strong and supportive sector is a key priority for developers. They promote collaboration among interested groups to identify opportunities and ensure that developments are sustainable and beneficial for all. These groups express the requirement to reduce uncertainties of energy offtake to support derisking projects and to attract investment. More publicly available information about licensing rounds and bid criteria could help benefit future project planning and development.

Education and workforce development

The development community underscores the need for supportive education programs and workforce development initiatives to prepare a skilled labour force capable of contributing to the offshore wind sector. This priority is tied to each project's success and the sector's sustainability over time.

Key Interests

- » Streamlined and equitable processes
- » Early dialogues with interested parties
- » Inform best practices and minimize impacts
- » Collaboration on opportunities
- » Initiatives to prepare skilled labour
- » Infrastructure, supply chain and port readiness
- » Offshore wind grid integration and transmission

In summary, the offshore wind development community aims to contribute positively to energy transition goals while balancing environmental stewardship and community involvement. Additionally, the offshore wind development community requires that the sector develop sustainably and in an inclusive and timely way to ensure projects are set up to succeed in Nova Scotia. Energy offtake and energy routes to market, interconnections, and streamlined approval processes are critical components to secure offshore investor commitments and ensure the viability of the industry in Nova Scotia.

INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS

Industry associations and independent research groups support offshore wind development as an essential aspect of Nova Scotia's energy strategy, championing its potential for decarbonization, job creation, and economic growth.



"From studies commissioned by Net Zero Atlantic, we know that offshore wind resources could meet regional electricity demand in Atlantic Canada and GW-scale clean energy demands in New England and central Canada. In addition, offshore wind resources have the potential to help grow an emerging green hydrogen industry in the Atlantic provinces. The opportunities are present and significant."

Alisdair McLean, CEO, Net Zero Atlantic

Engagement

Industry associations stress the necessity of effective communication between developers, policymakers, and communities to facilitate shared understanding and collaboration. They often lead initiatives that support this robust collaboration and advance key priorities and initiatives.

Legislation, regulation, and policy

These groups actively call for supportive regulations and policy development that fosters industry growth while ensuring environmental protection.

Research and innovation

Industry and research associations advocate for robust research initiatives to inform best practices, particularly concerning environmental impacts, socioeconomic impacts, and technological advancements. Many of these organizations lead research projects to help inform government decisions, provide clarity or insights to those interested in offshore wind, and advance the sector.

Sector development

Generally, these industry associations work to create frameworks that support local participation and investment. These frameworks help ensure equitable and sustained opportunities.

Education and workforce development

These organizations advocate for and sometimes initiate education and workforce support programs to build and utilize local talent with the skills necessary for the evolving energy landscape, ensuring the workforce is prepared to meet industry demands.

Key Interests

- » Supportive regulatory environment
- » Effective communication and collaboration
- » Establishing best practices and technological advancements
- » Support local participation
- » Ensure training programs are developed
- » Programs to meet industry skill needs
- » Job protection for Canadian workers

In summary, industry and research associations are critical in championing the sustainable and inclusive development of offshore wind through their missions to support the Mi'kmaq, interested parties, and community members, with education, training, research, and programs. Their main priority is to call for supportive regulations and policy development that fosters industry growth while ensuring environmental protection.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Educational institutions view offshore wind development as an opportunity to tailor curricula that address the growing demand for skilled labour in the clean energy sector. Grade school lessons, community college programs, and university degrees will require alignment with progress with development, current research, and alignment to the needs of all interested parties.

Engagement

Educational institutions, such as community colleges and universities, have been engaged in early conversations about offshore wind. The adoption of best practices and effective programs will require ongoing and frequent collaboration with researchers, developers, and other interested groups.

Legislation, regulation, and policy

These groups strongly advocate for appropriate government support that prioritizes research and training programs focused on offshore wind technologies, environmental impacts, and general sector development.

Research and innovation

Educational institutions are currently focused on research initiatives that assess workforce skills gaps and develop innovative training solutions. Higher-level education institutions have prioritized climate change, environmental, and ecosystem research. These projects and initiatives are helping interested parties understand the Nova Scotia ecosystem to inform future decisions.

Sector development

Regarding sector development, these interested parties emphasize the importance of aligning educational offerings with industry needs to ensure students are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow.

Education and workforce development

Education and workforce development are central priorities for all levels of education sector interested parties. These include internships and cooperative education placements in the offshore wind sector, which ensure that students gain hands-on experience and are ready to contribute to the workforce.

Key Interests

- » Policies that support research and training
- » Partnerships with interested groups
- » Assess skills gaps in the workforce
- » Align offerings with industry needs
- » Hands-on experience opportunities through internships

In summary, educational institutions and workforce development organizations will play a vital role in training and upskilling Nova Scotians who will work in the offshore wind sector. Collaborating with the Mi'kmaq, interested parties, community, and governments will be critical in providing educational institutions with a clear mandate and guidance to develop the required and relevant training programs to meet the sector's needs.

Response to input and perspectives

Offshore wind development in Nova Scotia marks a transformative opportunity to build a clean energy future and support economic growth. The Province of Nova Scotia is prioritizing initiatives related to many of the perspectives that have been shared over the past number of years. The initiatives outlined below will help provide insights, structure and foster collaboration to advance offshore wind in the province.

Engagement

Mi'kmaw communities and organizations, fishers, rural and coastal communities, and ocean users will be engaged throughout all phases of development. Engagement will be early, transparent, and continuous. Collaboration from all levels of government and industry will be required to advance many important initiatives. Continuing to explore funding options to support collaboration and capacity-building initiatives will also be significant. Clear communication materials and public forums will be developed to ensure accessible information and support local involvement.

Legislation, regulation, and policy

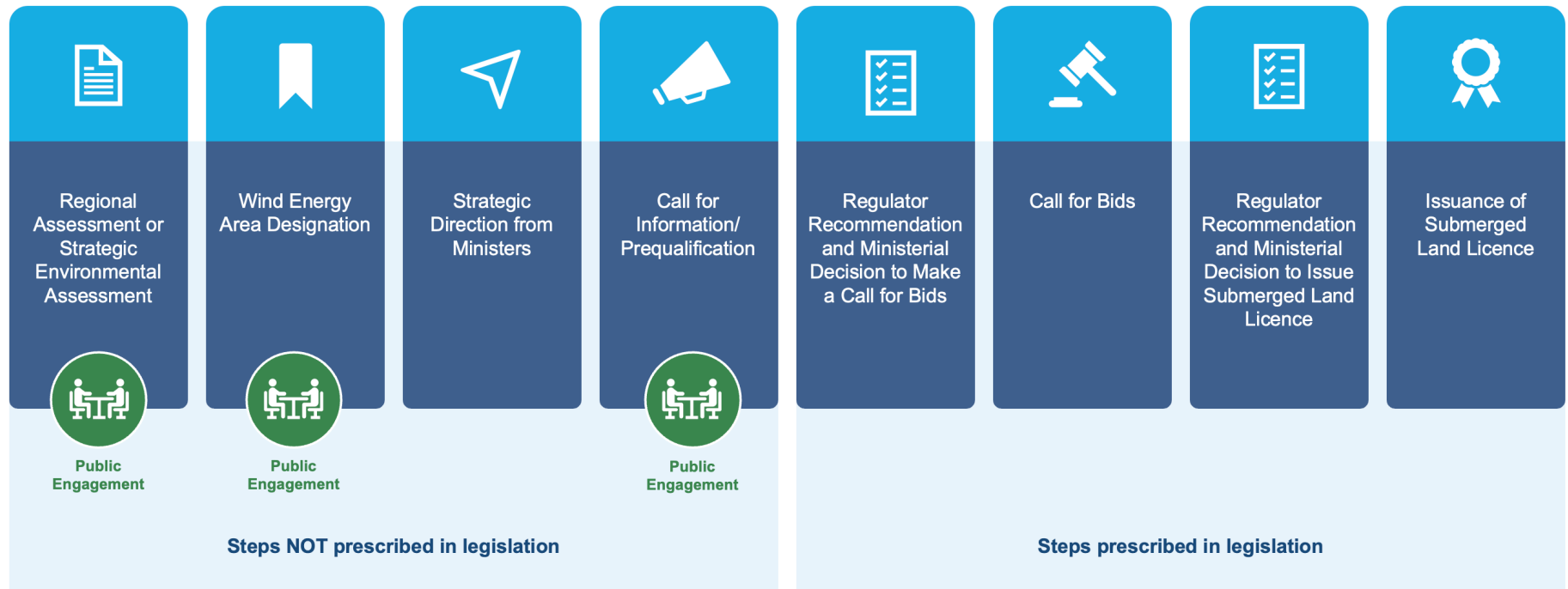
Offshore wind activities will operate under existing legislation, including the Accord Acts and the Impact Assessment Act. Legislation and regulations set clear requirements for developers relating to financial assurance, environmental protection, and safety requirements, decommissioning plans, and liability coverage to ensure responsible development.

The Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator provides independent regulatory oversight of offshore energy development, ensuring that all development activities throughout a project's lifecycle that are conducted in the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore area are completed in a safe, secure, and environmentally conscious manner. Projects with ten or more turbines will trigger impact assessments under the Impact Assessment Act, which the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada would administer. Projects below this threshold will still be subject to rigorous regulatory reviews administered by the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator.

A new land tenure process is being introduced to determine who can use underwater land for wind energy projects. This process will involve issuing submerged land licences through a competitive Call for Bids.

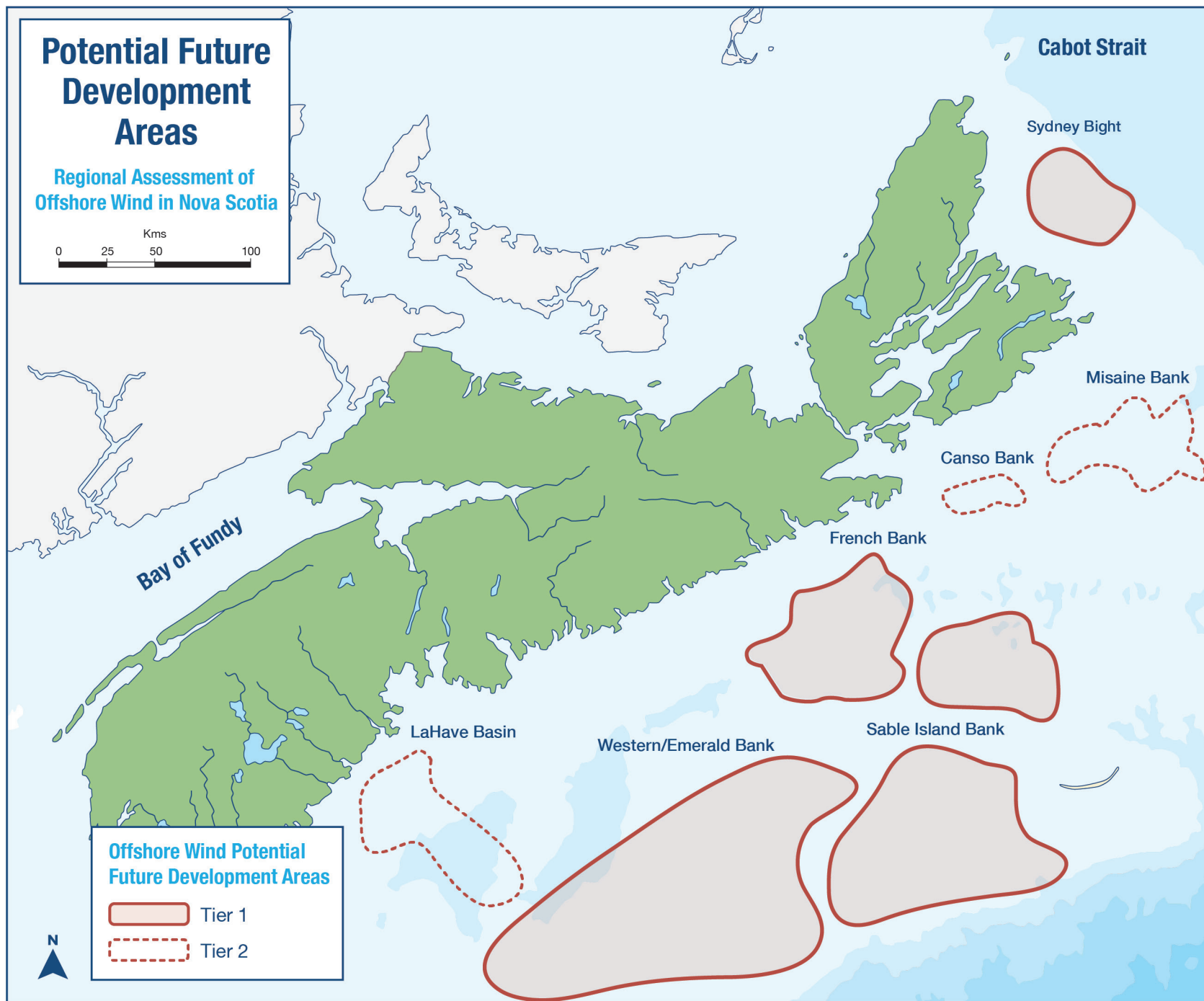


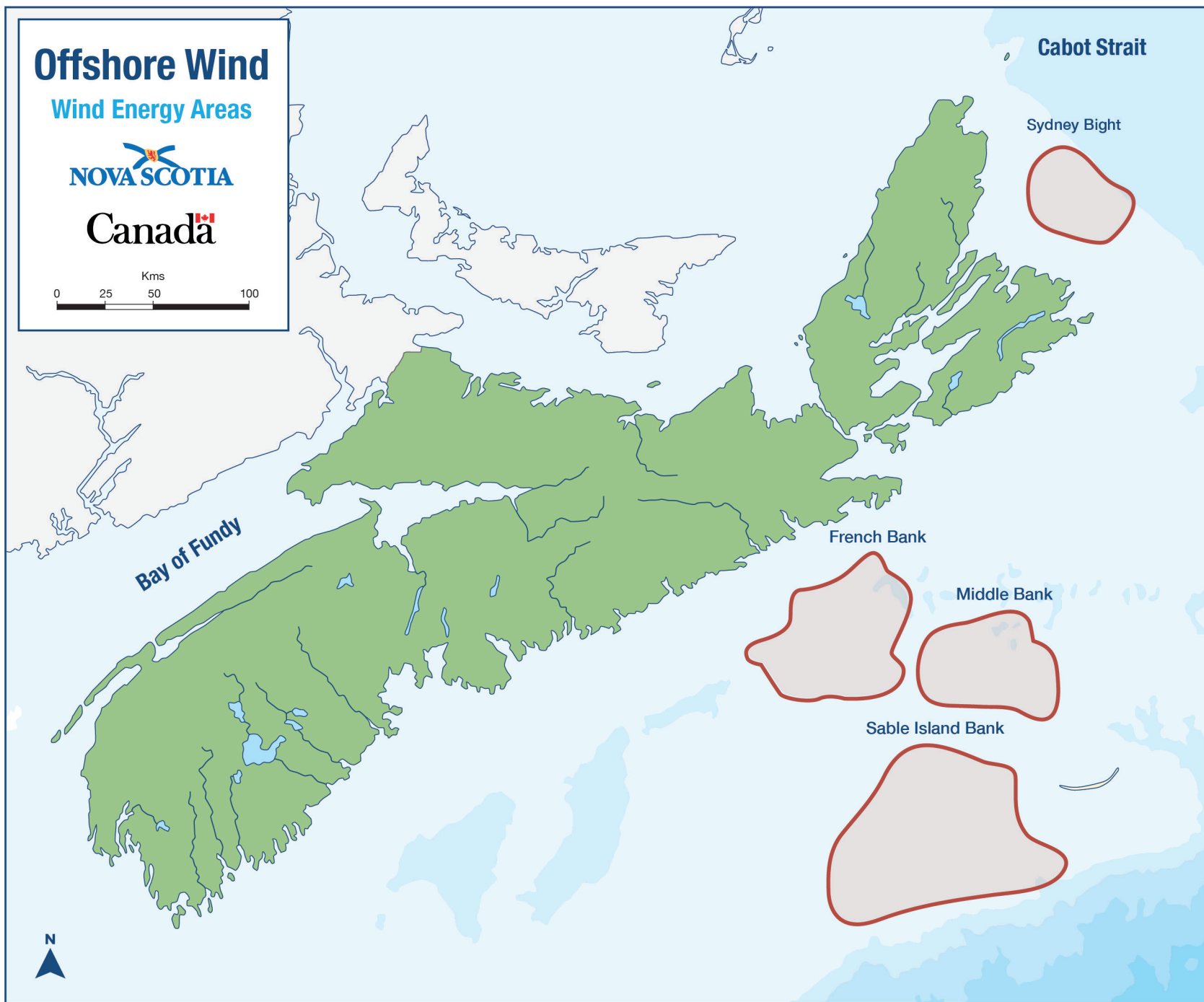
The Land Tenure Process



As part of this initiative, the governments of Nova Scotia and Canada are identifying specific ocean areas where offshore wind development could occur. Through extensive research and engagement, the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind in Nova Scotia recommended potential development areas for offshore wind.

Based on these recommendations and additional engagement with the Mi'kmaq, the public, and other interested parties, four wind energy areas have been designated as the initial focus for development. While the final designated wind energy areas will be prioritized, other potential development areas may be considered for future projects.





Policy work is also underway to support the co-existence of offshore wind projects with other ocean users, including Mi'kmaw fisheries and commercial fishers. A step-by-step approach is being used for planning and decision-making. This approach starts by trying to avoid potential conflicts. If that's not possible, the next step is to reduce or lessen the impacts. The final goal is to aim for coexistence. If there are remaining impacts after these efforts, compensation would be considered.

Consideration of a coastal buffer zone is an example of a precautionary policy approach to protect sensitive nearshore environments and communities. Exceptions to the recommended buffer zone will be considered on a case-by-case basis to maintain flexibility.

Research and innovation

A collaborative and prioritized research agenda will address current data fragmentation. Several research projects and initiatives below have begun. Emphasis will be placed on:

- » Atlantic Canada Offshore Wind Grid Integration and Transmission Study
- » Subsea cable study
- » Socioeconomic Impact of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia
- » Offshore survey work and marine spatial planning
- » Mi'kmaw and traditional knowledge
- » Public Offshore Wind R&D Forums
- » Ecological and oceanographic data collection
- » Site-specific studies

Consolidated and accessible databases will foster shared learning across government, academia, industry, and communities. Lessons from other jurisdictions will inform Nova Scotia's research priorities and governance models.

Sector development

A provincial socio-economic assessment will explore opportunities for local benefit, including jobs, port infrastructure, and supply chains. A workforce strategy, including immigration flexibility and labour mobility, will be essential for meeting industry demands. The designation of wind energy areas is expected to generate investor confidence and long-term economic planning.

Engagement with the Mi'kmaq, fishers, developers, industry organizations, and other interested parties will continue to inform planning and foster social license as the offshore wind sector is steadily established. Specifically, regarding policy around fishers' compensation, governments intend to engage with the Mi'kmaq and interested parties, including fishers and industry, to support its development.

Education and workforce development

Nova Scotia will partner with academic institutions, industry, and training organizations to:

- » Create opportunities for students
- » Offer technical training and apprenticeships
- » Support ongoing skills development and upskilling

Efforts will be made to ensure that underrepresented groups and youth have equitable access to training and employment opportunities in this emerging sector.



What's next

In collaboration with Natural Resources Canada and other interested parties as appropriate, Nova Scotia's Department of Energy will work towards developing the offshore wind sector in the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore.

In the remainder of 2025, Nova Scotians can expect the following milestones:

- » Strategic Direction jointly issued by federal and provincial ministers to the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator to initiate parallel call for information and prequalification processes
- » A Call for Bids, led by the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator

Ongoing supply chain and infrastructure planning, site characterization, workforce development, and meaningful engagement and consultation will need to continue to support the growth of the sector.

With the first Call for Bids anticipated to take place this year, companies will have the opportunity to participate in this process that could culminate in the award of a submerged land licence and provide them with the rights allowing them to develop a wind project in a designated area. This moves us closer to meeting Nova Scotia's objective to offer licences for five gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030 and marks another significant milestone in the growth of this new industry in the province, and Canada more broadly.



Conclusion

Nova Scotia's offshore wind sector is poised for thoughtful, inclusive, and sustainable growth. A whole-of-society approach—grounded in shared knowledge and collaborative governance—will ensure that development is balanced with environmental stewardship and socio-economic prosperity.

Engagement in conversations does not end here. We encourage everyone interested in the development of offshore wind in Nova Scotia to remain active in shaping a future that reflects our collective vision for clean energy, healthy oceans, and thriving communities.





APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Interested parties

Below are organizations within each group that have engaged in or participated in different stages of work. This list is not exhaustive and is intended to represent the diversity of perspectives and commentary summarized for each group. Lists are presented by group and subsequently in alphabetical order.

Mi'kmaw communities and organizations

Organizations and councils

- » Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs
- » Bayside Corporate, Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation
- » Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
- » Grand Council of the Seven Districts
- » Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn (KMKNO)
- » Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariat
- » Membertou Band Council
- » Membertou Development Corporation
- » Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Incorporated
- » Mi'gmewe'l Tplu'taqnn
- » Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

First Nations (including band councils and communities)

Nova Scotia

- » Acadia First Nation
- » Annapolis Valley First Nation
- » Bear River First Nation
- » Eskasoni First Nation
- » Glooscap First Nation
- » Membertou First Nation
- » Millbrook First Nation
- » Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation
- » Pictou Landing First Nation
- » Potlotek First Nation
- » Sipekne'katik First Nation
- » Wasoqopa'q First Nation
- » Wagmatcook First Nation

New Brunswick

- » Elsipogtog First Nation
- » Wolastoqey First Nation

Prince Edward Island

- » Abegweit First Nation
- » Lennox Island First Nation

Newfoundland

- » Miawpukek First Nation

Fisheries

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Area 22 Crab Fishers » Bay of Fundy Inshore Fisherman's Association » Brazil Rock 33/34 Lobster Association » Cape Breton Fish Harvesters Association » Clearwater Seafoods Limited Partnership » Fisheries Advisory Council » Fish Food and Allied Workers Union » Fisheries Council of Canada | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Maritime Fishermen's Union » Nova Scotia Fishers Alliance for Energy Engagement » Ocean Pride Fisheries Ltd., » Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association » Seafood Producers Association of Nova Scotia » Seafreeze Shoreside » WT Grover Fisheries Ltd. |
|--|--|

Rural communities in Nova Scotia

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Antigonish » Baddeck » Chéticamp » Dartmouth » D'Escousse » Digby » Glace Bay » Guysborough » Inverness » Louisbourg » Lunenburg » Municipality of the District of Guysborough » Municipality of the County of Richmond | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » New Glasgow » New Waterford » North Sydney » Port Hawkesbury » Port Hood » Shelburne » Sheet Harbour » St. Peters » Sydney » Tantallon » Wolfville » Yarmouth |
|---|--|

Environmental non-governmental organizations

- » Ecology Action Centre
- » Econext
- » Oceans North
- » SeaBlue Canada

Offshore wind development community

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Construction, transportation, installation, and commissioning organizations » EnergyNL » Manufacturing and component supply companies » Northland Power Inc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Nova Scotia Power » Operations, surveying, and maintenance companies » Project developers and energy companies |
|---|--|

Industry and research associations

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Atlantica Centre for Energy» Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers» Cape Breton Partnership» East Cost Environmental Law | <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Marine Renewables Canada» Net Zero Atlantic» Nova Scotia Regional Assessment Committee» Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task Force |
|---|---|

Educational institutions and workforce

- » International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- » International Union of Operating Engineers
- » Nova Scotia Community College

Appendix 2 – Government participation in offshore wind planning

Province of Nova Scotia

- » Department of Advanced Education
- » Department of Early Education and Childhood Development
- » **Department of Energy – Provincial joint management lead for offshore renewable energy**
- » Department of Environment and Climate Change
- » Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration
- » Department of Natural Resources
- » Invest Nova Scotia
- » Office of L'nu Affairs

Government of Canada

- » Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
- » Canada Energy Regulator
- » Canada Infrastructure Bank
- » Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- » Department of National Defence
- » Environment and Climate Change Canada
- » Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
- » **Natural Resources Canada – Federal joint management lead for offshore renewable energy**
- » Parks Canada
- » Transport Canada

Offshore Regulator

- » Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator