

## **Draft Offshore Newfoundland Regional Assessment Disposition Table**

Department/ Agency:	<a href="#">Natural Resources Canada</a>	Deadline:	<b>February 21, 2019 at 5pm</b>
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<b>Comment ID</b>	<b>Report Section</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
NRCan-1	3.4. Data Availability, Gaps and Opportunities	<p>On September 12, 2019 NRCan had a meeting with a member of the committee, to discuss oil spill modelling. NRCan notes that this discussion is absent from the report. During this meeting, NRCan advised that the current oil spill models do not consider the contents of the persistent portions of the crude oil and that biodegradation rates are therefore over-estimated. In addition, oil analysis of the crude in the region has showed pour point between -5 and 10°C. If the water is colder than the pour point, the oil “freezes” and becomes a solid. The ocean water temperatures off the coast of NL are close to 0°C so some oils will quickly cool and freeze. Once the oil solidifies, the model assumption that the oil moves through the water as fluid droplets is not valid. Despite these potential shortcomings identified by NRCan, other federal departments are of the view that current models provide sufficient information.</p> <p>NRCan would like to see these concerns summarized in the report.</p>	<p>NRCan recommends the following wording to be included in section 3.4 - Data Availability, Gaps and Opportunities.</p> <p>NRCan noted that the current oil spill models do not consider the contents of the persistent portions of the crude oil and that biodegradation rates are therefore over-estimated; however, NRCan advises that this is an ongoing area of research and has indicated that it will conduct simulations, publish data, and continue ongoing discussions with industry to further advance existing models.</p>