

Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
160 Elgin St., 22nd floor  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

November 24, 2022

**SUBJECT: Qalipu First Nation Comments on the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia (Draft Agreement - Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia and Draft Terms of Reference)**

To whom it may concern:

The purpose of this letter is to provide comments on the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia (Draft Agreement - Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia and Draft Terms of Reference).

Qalipu First Nation (QFN) represents approximately 24,000 registered members in Newfoundland and abroad and is made up of 67 traditional Mi'kmaq communities across Newfoundland. As a band, we provide core programs and service to our members, including Natural Resources Management. QFN supports its members interests in protecting environmentally and culturally sensitive areas throughout our territory.

As stated in the Draft Agreement, the goal of the RA process is to provide information, knowledge, and analysis regarding future offshore wind development activities in the Study Area and their potential effects, to inform and improve future planning, licencing and impact assessment processes for these activities in a way that helps protect the environment and health, social and economic conditions while also creating opportunities for sustainable economic development. To complete this goal and activities outlined in the three documents effectively, adequate time needs to be provided. Given past and present timelines presented by the Impact Assessment Agency for review periods, we have concerns that impacts of potential projects will not be fully understood. This is an ongoing issue as we are unable to secure additional human resources internally to review documents to provide full and comprehensive feedback in the time given by the agency.

We hope to see that the RA process places value on not only on specific culturally/traditionally important species but focuses on ecosystem health in general and how it may be affected by future offshore wind development. Transparency and continued engagement with Indigenous groups, regulators, industry, and other stakeholders is crucial to maintain good data sharing and to ensure better regulatory requirements for all future projects.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>



Chief Brendan Mitchell