

September 22, 2023

Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador Committee  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
301-10 Barters Hill  
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador  
A1C 6M1

Dear Committee Members,

The Association of Seafood Producers is an industry trade association, representing the interests of seafood producers in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Fish and seafood producers are the largest employers in rural communities and contribute over \$1 billion dollars to the provincial GDP.

The proposed focus area of this offshore wind development regional assessment is incredibly widespread and includes sections of NAFO divisions 3Ps, 3Pn, and 4R. Fisheries in these areas consist of a wide variety of species of shellfish, groundfish, pelagics, and molluscs, with the effects of offshore wind development being relatively unknown on the fisheries in this area.

While the potential impacts of increased ocean noise, increased marine traffic, and release of contaminants from the wind structures are presumed, the biological, ecological, and physiological impacts are not known and the loss or damage of spawnings and harvesting grounds in these areas would create a snowball effect from harvesting to processing and into the export market.

While ASP supports the transition to greener energy production, a more substantial scientific and regulatory review on the potential effects of wind development needs to be conducted, in parallel with in-depth consultations with all affected marine stakeholders, including producers. ASP will continue to provide meaningful feedback through this process.

Regards,



Jeff Loder

Executive Director

