



Council Meeting
Municipal Council Chambers, Municipal Office
April 25, 2016 at 6:00 PM
Agenda

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Additions or Deletions**
- 3. PAUSE TO SEEK GUIDANCE**
- 4. READING OF MISSION STATEMENT**
- 5. PRESENTATION/ DELEGATION**
 - 5.1 John Davis, Director – The Clean Ocean Action Committee (COAC)
- 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 6.1 Council Minutes – March 29, 2016
- 7. OLD BUSINESS/BUSINESS ARISING**
 - 7.1
- 8. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 8.1 Loan – Westport Fire Department
 - 8.2 Letter of support DARC RFD
 - 8.3
- 9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**
 - 9.1 Meeting Reminders
 - 9.2 Update on Action Items
 - 9.3 Update on Capital Projects
 - 9.4 Update on Special Project/Initiatives
 - 9.5 Decision/Direction Request
 - 9.6 Approval of March 2016 payables \$352,261.75

COUNCIL AGENDA-April 25, 2016

9.7 Income & Expense Report March 2016 unavailable

10. CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1 Minister Margaret Miller – Provincial Grant in Lieu

10.2 RCMP – 2015 Year in Review

10.3 UNSM – Nova Scotia 2016 Budget

11. STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

11.1 BY-LAW & POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) to not transfer \$60,000 to the Doctor Recruiting Reserve which currently has a balance of \$246,628
- 2) to not let the Doctor Recruiting Reserve drop below \$200,000 in any fiscal year
- 3) to approve the registration fee of \$750 to the Atlantic Mayors Congress for 2016-17 and re-visit the request after one years' time

11.2 COTW RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) to contribute \$1000 to the Nova Scotia Health Authority to aid towards costs during the Medical Students visit to Digby
- 2) to provide a grant to Brighton/Barton Fire Department in the amount of \$510 to cover the cost of the building permit fees to build the new fire department building
- 3) to acquire the Provincial Voters list from the Province for the upcoming Municipal election

12. ADVISORY COMMITTEES- REPORTS/UPDATES

12.1 Digby Source Water Protection Advisory Committee – Councillor Adams

12.2 Heritage Advisory Committee – Warden Gregory, Councillor Adams

12.3 Planning Advisory Committee – Warden Gregory, Councillors Adams and Tudor

12.4 Joint RCMP Advisory Board – Warden Gregory, Councillor Adams

12.5 REMO Advisory Committee – Warden Gregory, Deputy Warden MacAlpine

12.6 Western Regional Housing Authority - Richard Fitzgerald

13. REGIONAL/JOINT COMMITTEES – REPORTS/UPDATES

- 13.1** Age Friendly Community – Councillor Adams
- 13.2** Canada Legacy Society – Warden Gregory
 - 1) April update
- 13.3** Digby & Area Affordable & Supportive Housing Group - Councillor Tudor, Councillor Adams
- 13.4** Digby Annapolis Development Corporation - Deputy Warden MacAlpine, Councillor Tudor
- 13.5** Digby Area Learning Association – Councillor Manzer
- 13.6** Digby Area Recreation Commission – Warden Gregory, Councillor Manzer
 - 1) March minutes
 - 2) April reports
- 13.7** Digby Area Tourism Association – Councillor Manzer
- 13.8** Digby Development Agency – Warden Gregory, Deputy Warden MacAlpine
 - 1) March minutes
- 13.9** Digby Harbour Port Association – Warden Gregory
 - 1) February Board minutes & March Manager’s report
 - 2) April Manager’s report
 - 3) April 2015 AGM minutes
- 13.10** Digby Library Committee – Deputy Warden MacAlpine
- 13.11** Digby Municipal Fire Association – Councillor Tudor
- 13.12** Highway 101 Task Force - Warden Gregory, Councillor Adams
- 13.13** Kings Transit Authority – Warden Gregory

COUNCIL AGENDA-April 25, 2016

13.14 Open Spaces – Councillors Manzer & Tudor

13.15 Senior Safety Committee – Councillor Tudor, Deputy Warden MacAlpine

1) February minutes

13.16 Shared Services Committee - Deputy Warden MacAlpine, Councillors Adams & Tudor

13.17 Transport de Clare - Councillor Manzer

13.18 Tideview Terrace – Councillor Manzer

13.19 Upper Clements Park Society – Councillor Adams

13.20 Waste Check – Warden Gregory, Deputy Warden MacAlpine

13.21 Western Counties Regional Library – Deputy Warden MacAlpine

13.22 Western Regional Enterprise Network Liaison and Oversight Committee - Deputy Warden MacAlpine

1) Western REN Final report

13.23 Weymouth Doctor Recruiting Committee – Warden Gregory, Councillor Manzer

14. COUNCIL DISTRICT REPORTS

15. IN CAMERA

16. ADJOURNMENT

Subject: article MODL offshore drilling presentation- Lighthouse Now

Municipality of Lunenburg (MODL) council has thrown its full support behind a fisheries group that wants its concerns addressed as the province and federal government regulate oil and gas drilling on the Scotian Shelf off southwest Nova Scotia.

Following a presentation at the March 23 council meeting by John Davis, director of the Clean Ocean Action Committee (COAC), council unanimously agreed to push for a number of measures to be taken in the oil and natural gas exploration and extraction regulatory process "for the protection of our renewable fisheries resources."

According to Davis, the COAC represents "basically everyone in the in-shore fishery," including the Cold Water Lobster Association, Maritime Fishermen's Union Locals 4,6 and 9, the Lobsterfishermen's Organization for Areas 33 and 34, the Shelburne County Quota Group, the Scotia Fundy Inshore Fisherman's Association, the Nova Scotia Fish Packers Association and Acadia Fish Processors Ltd.

"We feel that there are critical problems with the regulatory process as it exists right now, particularly as they relate to spawning and nursery grounds on the Scotian Shelf. And we feel it's imperative municipal councils have input," Davis said in his presentation.

COAC's director said he was particularly concerned about Lobster Fishery Area 40 (LFA 40), which is "closed all year, every year."

Noting that there are more than 2,000 lobster licences issued between Halifax and the coast of Maine, Davis said, "No one drops a trap in LFA 40. It is the only designated spawning ground for lobster, not just on the Scotian Shelf but on the Eastern Seaboard of North America."

Davis explained that last year, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) offered nine exploratory oil and gas leases on the Scotian Shelf. "Seven of these were industry-nominated sites." CNSOPB is responsible for approving drilling licenses in the offshore.

His group is concerned about four of the sites, including Sites 1 and 3, which share a common border with the closed area on Georges Bank. "We felt that they were just too close," he said.

Sites 3 and 4 take in the southern edge of Browns Bank, which is the southern edge of LFA 40. "And the southeastern edge of Baccaro Bank, and a large area on the southern edge of LaHave Bank - all critically important fishing grounds."

Moreover, all of the sites, particularly 3 and 4, sit within the tidal waters of the Bay of Fundy, he noted, adding that 160 billion tons of water flow in and out of the Bay of Fundy twice a day.

"The potential for securing and mitigating an oil spill in this area is, really, almost impossible to

comprehend."

Davis said the oil and gas industry has no capability of cleaning up an offshore spill event "of any kind." He claimed the only process the industry touts in respect of this area is the spraying of chemical disbursements into the water column of the Scotian Shelf.

"This is not a good plan." Davis complained that the industry is using outdated material in arguing that such chemical disbursements are not harmful.

Last year, Sites 1 and 2 were leased to Statoil, the Norwegian national oil company.

"I can just about assure you if these sites had been looked at in Norway, they would never have been put up for lease. They're too close to important spawning areas. And the Norwegian government has a very, very specific plan for a balance between the demands of offshore oil and gas development and the existing sustainable resources for the fishery."

COAC is encouraging Canadian regulators to follow the Norwegian model of balancing interests of the different industries.

While Sites 3 and 4 did not receive bids last year, Davis notes that Shell's drilling activity offshore is looking promising, and there is the possibility that Sites 3 and 4 will have bidders next year.

"This is such a critically important area" to the lobster industry, he emphasized, noting that the 2014 landing values approached \$600 million.

"This is a major part of our local economy. It deserves substantial consideration," insisted Davis. "An oil spill on 3 and 4 would be a catastrophic event."

Pointing out the areas of ground fishing that would be impacted, he reminded the councillors, "This is where our exports come from. Landed values, not our export values, but our landed values went up 30 per cent from 2014 to 2015. Our export value of our fishery is approaching \$1.7 billion a year. It is an industry that deserves some defence in these processes."

He also noted that scallop landings are the highest they've been in years, while the last three years have been the best out of the past 50 years for haddock fishing.

Davis warned that areas set aside by the fishing industry for seasonal spawning ground for haddock are directly in Sites 3 and 4, which the CNSOPB is planning to lease for oil and gas exploration.

"It doesn't make sense to the fishing industry that these sites would be not only contingent but literally right on top of one another."

"These issues are known to CNSOPB and they've not taken any appropriate action, as far as we're

concerned. This is extremely distressing to the fishing industry right now," said Davis.

The director further noted that CNSOPB has indicated it could get a capping stack to a blowout spot "'on average'" in 10-12 days.

"This is not some black hole in the ocean off the coast of Malaysia. This is the richest fishing ground in North America. This is the economic backbone of all of the communities on the Southwest and South Shore of Nova Scotia. We don't care about 'on average.' We want protection that relates to the relevance of the resource base that exists out here. And we're not getting it."

Pointing to the economic multiplier effect of the fisheries industry on South Shore communities, he added, "We're talking about \$2.5 billion in potential damage. There aren't enough royalty payments anywhere to make up that kind of a loss, if in fact a spill occurred."

As an "insurance policy" against this, COAC is requesting that Sites 3 and 4 be left alone as a "buffer zone" between oil and gas activity, the major spawning grounds and major fishing grounds for lobster, ground fish and scallops.

MODL's deputy mayor, Claudette Garland, told Davis he had her full support.

"I have personal involvement. My husband is a scallop captain. Thirty-seven years fishing on Georges and Browns. I myself have fished on Georges Bank on a scallop vessel. 27 years ago. I know how lucrative and how popular this area is. I know what the devastation would be," she said after the presentation. "You're singing to the choir."

Meanwhile, the South Shore Chapter of the Council of Canadians held a public forum on the implications of offshore oil drilling for the communities and economy of southwestern Nova Scotia on March 23 at the Lunenburg Fire Hall.

A press release listed Davis as one of the panelists, along with Nathan Blades of the Nova Scotia Fish Packers Association and Mark Butler, policy director for the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax.

The statement noted forum organizers invited the CNSOPB to take part in the panel, but the board declined.

"We are disappointed they chose not to participate," Marilyn Keddy, a Council of Canadians spokesperson, was quoted saying. "A recent CNSOPB 'open house' left too many questions unanswered. We felt they should return to respond to legitimate public concerns about the risks of drilling for oil in our offshore."

Report to Municipal Councilors

Rationale for the Permanent Removal of Sites 3 and 4 from any future Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board Oil and Gas Exploratory Lease Site Auctions

Prepared by: John Davis, Director

The Clean Ocean Action Committee (COAC)

Membership

1. Cold Water Lobster Association
2. Maritime Fishermen's Union, Local 9
3. Maritime Fishermen's Union, Local 6
4. Maritime Fishermen's Union, Local 4
5. Lobstermen's Organization, Area 33
6. Lobstermen's Organization, Area 34
7. Shelburne County Quota Group
8. Scotia Fundy Inshore Fishermen's Association
9. Nova Scotia Fish Packers Association
10. Acadian Fish Processors Ltd

Executive Representative

Bernie Berry
Graeme Gawn
K. Squires
Gordon Beaton
Pat Gray
Ashton Spinny
Eric Holmes
Judith Maxwell
Nathan Blades
Richard "Bee" d'Entremont

February 16, 2016

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Executive Summary

The Scotian Shelf fishing industry has been the primary resource supporting coastal Nova Scotia for thousands of years. Today our multifaceted fishery is the monetary backbone that supports the majority of community small business, and direct and indirect contributions to the tax base make a massive contribution toward municipal infrastructures and band activities in our Mi'kmaq communities.

The Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) regulates oil and gas exploration and extraction on our Scotian Shelf. This report addresses two specific sites (CNSOPB lease sites 3 and 4) whose locations present unique concerns. This report follows careful assessment of the framework for oil and gas exploration as set out by our regulators, including the oil industry's capacity to safely work in close proximity to commercial species.

We do not oppose the development of our oil and gas resources on the Scotian Shelf. We simply demand that proper consideration be given to our industry and to the communities which depend on the harvest of these fully sustainable, highly regulated, resources. The information contained in this report should clearly describe why oil exploration and extraction cannot be allowed to take place on CNSOPB lease sites 3 and 4.

All of our most important commercial species, as well as critical spawning and nursery grounds for these species, are concentrated either in, or directly to the north-northwest of, CNSOPB Lease Sites 3 and 4. This area is within the tidal flow of the Bay of Fundy.

Offshore oil exploration can include the requirement for high temperature, high pressure wells. Existing lease agreements from CNSOPB for oil exploration on the Scotian Shelf or Slope have included: no regulatory requirement for the lease holder to have functional, mechanical clean up equipment available for any sizable offshore oil spill, and no requirement to have a capping stack immediately available in the event of a major blowout. Even smaller operational spills of oil during the extraction phase (which are numerous on production platforms worldwide) would be devastating due to the nature of this extremely sensitive area. The agreements do, however, include provisions for the use of chemical dispersants (Corexit) in response to major spills. This report will show recent scientific research on the effects of chemical dispersants, once they are mixed with spilled oil in an ocean environment, which strongly point to their ineffectiveness in enhancing biodegradation (their intended purpose) and to the dangerous effect that dispersant-laced oil can have on the entire ecosystem that sustain fishing industries.

We fully expect that every Council Member in all the area councils and every interested community member will read this report, and that each Council and citizen will actively support our position. This is critical, as CNSOPB is preparing yet another oil and gas exploratory lease site auction for April 2016.

Lease sites 3 and 4 must be permanently removed from the CNSOPB oil and gas exploratory lease site auction process.

Section 1. Introduction to COAC and Rationale for this Report

The Clean Ocean Action Committee (COAC) is made up of South Shore/South West Nova taxpayers, concerned citizens, fishermen and fish plant owners who utilize the sustainable resources on the Scotian Shelf. We are deeply troubled by the lack of regulatory oversight by our Federal and Provincial Governments as it relates to the exploration and extraction of our oil and gas resources.

We are particularly concerned that the growing body of scientific evidence concerning oil spill cleanup and the use of chemical dispersants generated since the “Macondo, Deep Water Horizon” disaster is not being recognized or assessed, and that that important scientific data that should inform our regulatory process seems to have been totally ignored. We believe that the research work of independent and university-based scientists that has been published both before and after the 2010 disaster in the Gulf of Mexico deserve consideration. There is in fact mounting evidence within the scientific community that dispersants do not achieve what industry proponents, including Shell here in Nova Scotia, claim. We do not feel that the Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB), by apparently ignoring this mounting evidence, is meeting its stated mandate of, “protecting the offshore environment” during oil and gas exploration and extraction.

Using the regulations that CNSOPB has in place for Shell Canada as an example, we are faced with this stark reality. Shell Canada has no capacity, nor any regulatory responsibility to actually clean up any large offshore oil spill. Shell’s response plan, which has been approved by CNSOPB, allows up to 72 hours for any oil spill cleanup equipment to arrive on site. Even then, they have no cleanup equipment that can function in seas greater than 1 meter, or in tides and currents greater than one knot. The only response that Shell plans to undertake is to spray chemical dispersants into the water column. In the case of Lease Sites 3 and 4, this means directly onto Browns Bank and into the tidal flow of the Bay of Fundy.

We absolutely believe that our federal and provincial governments as represented by the CNSOPB are not adequately protecting the sustainable resources on the Shelf or the economic base of our Scotian Shelf coastal communities. We feel strongly that we need to step forward and act in our own best interests and we need to act now.

We have compiled the following report for several reasons:

1. To demonstrate the specific threats that the leasing of CNSOPB exploratory sites 3 and 4 represent to our fully sustainable fisheries resources on the Scotian Shelf
2. To indicate our specific concerns about how the existing Canada/Nova Scotia regulatory process is creating a massive, ongoing and unnecessary threat
3. To call on our Municipal Governments to take immediate action aimed at removing sites 3 and 4 from any future CNSOPB Lease Site Auctions

Figure 1 shows the current and proposed sites which have been selected by the Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) for oil and gas exploration on the Scotian Shelf.

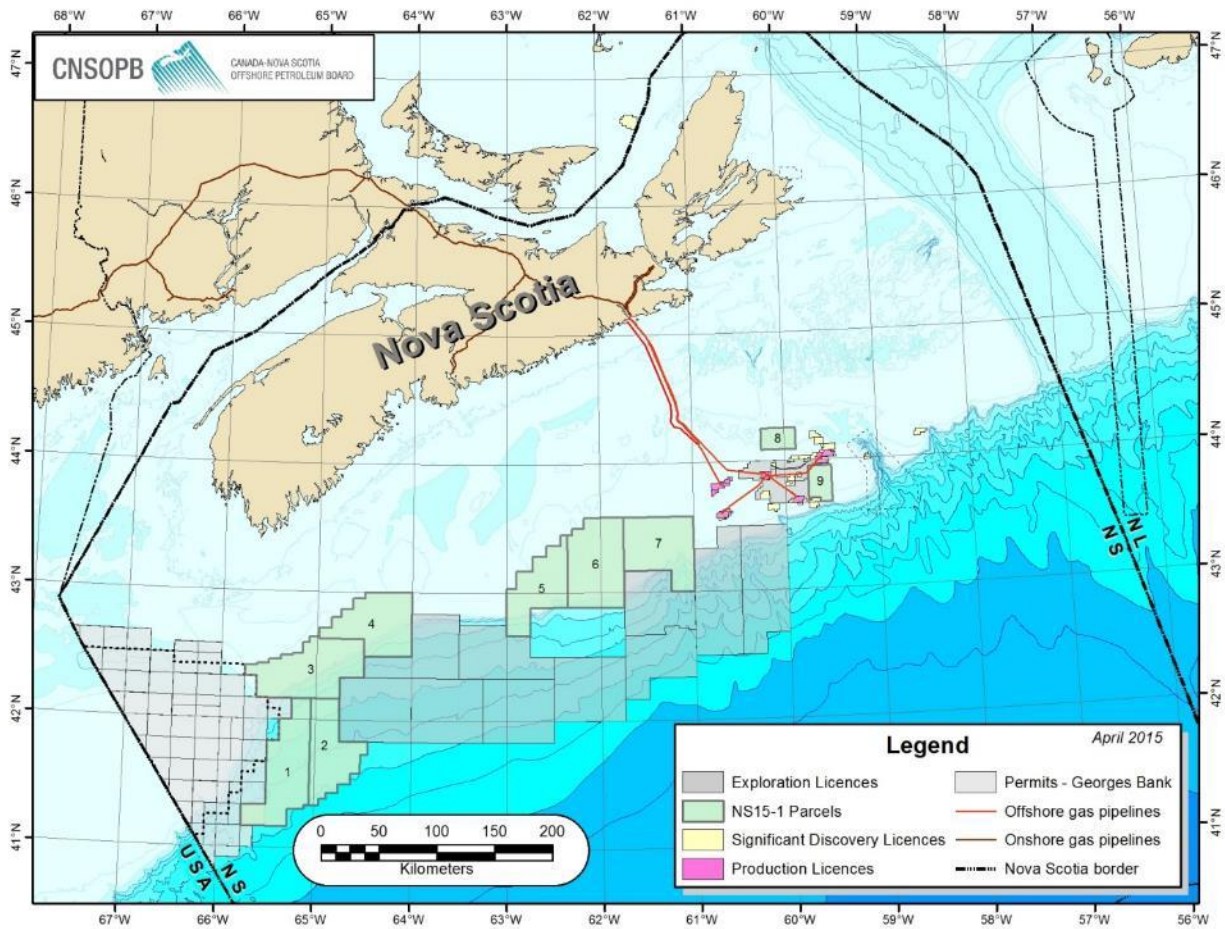


FIGURE 1: CNSOPB Lease Site Map, 2015

The charts, graphs and information which follow in this report are designed to clearly explain the exact reasons why oil and gas exploration and extraction cannot take place on CNSOPB lease sites 3 and 4.

Canadians must be able to trust that government will engage in appropriate regulatory oversight, including credible environmental assessments, and that it will respect the rights of those most affected, such as Indigenous communities. While governments grant permits for resource development, only communities can grant permission.”

-- Liberal Party of Canada, 2015

Section 2. Vulnerability of Fishery Habitat in Relation to Lease Sites 3 and 4

This section will demonstrate how oil and gas exploration and extraction on sites 3 and 4 would present an unacceptable risk to our fish stocks, spawning grounds, and nursery areas.

Lease Sites 3 and 4 encroach on Browns Bank, Baccaro Bank and La Have Bank. Site number 3 shares a border with the moratorium area on Georges Bank. Both sites are directly within the tidal flow of the Bay of Fundy. Each Bay of Fundy tide moves 160 billion tons of water.

Georges Bank is a moratorium site protected from oil and gas exploration because it is such an important spawning and nursery ground. LFA 40 on Browns Bank is permanently closed as a lobster spawning ground. LFA 40 also contains several industry-sponsored closed nursery areas for scallops. In addition, there are exceedingly important seasonal closures on Browns Bank that protect groundfish stocks during spawning.

2.1 Currents and Tidal Flow

The flow of water over Browns Bank is heavily influenced by the immense Bay of Fundy Tides. Twice a day, every day, 160 billion tons of water flows into the Bay and is forcefully discharged back into the Gulf of Maine. This is more than the outflow of all the rivers on the planet.

The tides on Browns Bank turn every 12 hours and average 3 knots to the northwest. Closer to German Bank the tides become even faster and stronger. A number 3, 30" large orange buoy with a three to one ratio on the line, depth to length, will be pulled completely under water and disappear in a flood tide.

Figures 2 and 3 show where CNSOPB lease sites 3 and 4 are positioned in this massive tidal flow. Using the nose of George's Bank as a reference, consider where spilled oil will travel from sites 3 and 4, and think about the speed and power of the Fundy tides. The following charts won't show these currents, but it is imperative to keep them in mind.

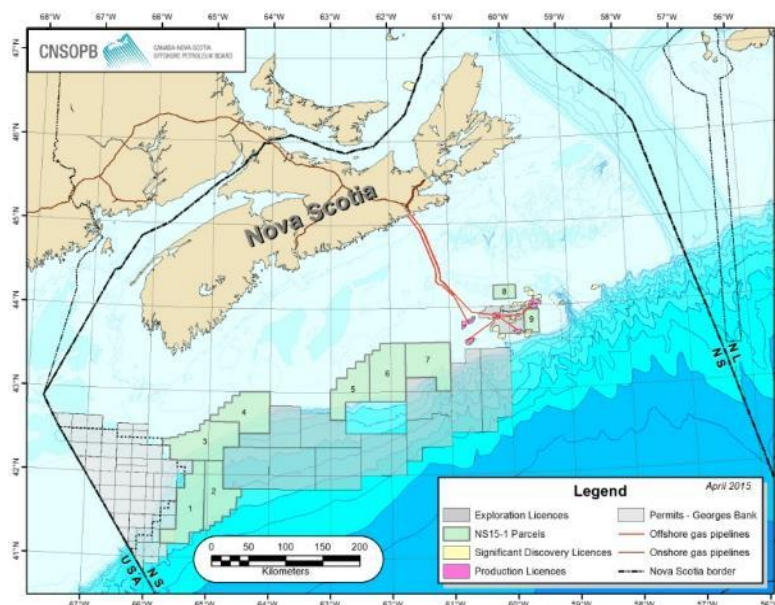


FIGURE 2: CNSOPB Lease Site Map, 2015



FIGURE 3: Tidal Flow, Gulf of Maine Council on the Maine Environment

2.2 Fishing Banks

CNSOPB Lease Sites 3 and 4 cut across the Southern edge of Browns Bank, encroach on Baccaro Bank from the South West and then take in the Southern portion of La Have Bank, as evidenced by Figure 4.

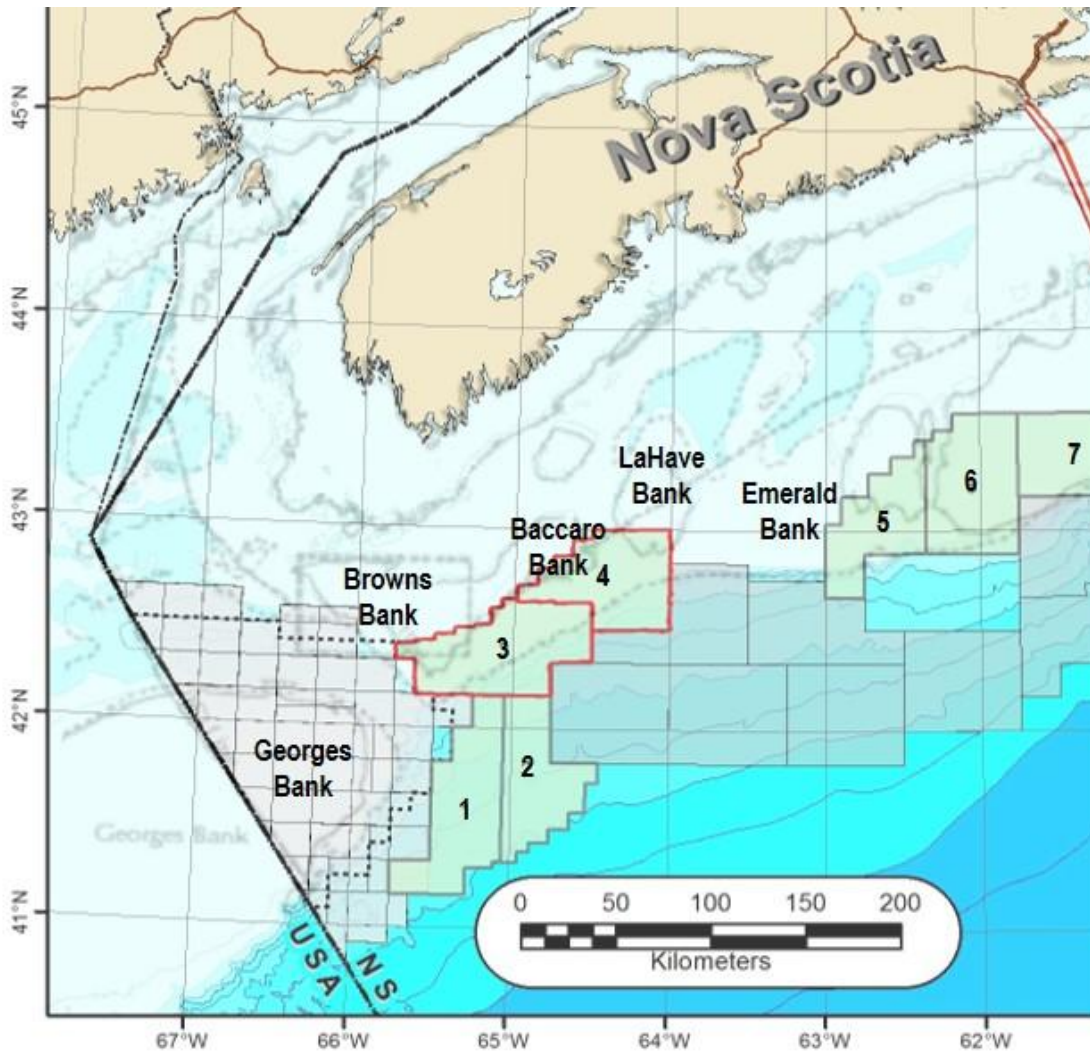


FIGURE 4. CNSOPB Lease Sites Overlaid on Chart of Key Fishing Grounds, DFO

These sites allow oil drilling to take place directly on three of our most important fishing banks and in the tidal currents of the Bay of Fundy.

The critical point here is that the sustainability of any fishery depends not just on fishing practices, but also on the protection of spawning grounds and the nurturing of spat and fry in designated nursery areas. This protection is carried out by seasonal closures during spawning times, and by permanent closures for areas that are deemed too sensitive and too important for stock sustainability to allow any fishing at all. The reason that the Scotian Shelf fishery is unsurpassed in productivity is adherence to sensible and functional regulation. No one on the Scotian Shelf fishes to capacity. Everyone limits their catch rates to sustainable levels. LFA 40 (discussed in the next section) is an excellent example of this reality.

2.3 Lobster

This section will show that CNSOPB Lease Sites 3 and 4 overlap with the only specifically identified lobster spawning ground on the Scotian Shelf, and overlaps with the areas of highest lobster density.

Lobster Fishing Area 40

LFA 40 is the only identified lobster spawning ground on the whole Scotian Shelf, in fact, on the whole Eastern Seaboard. For this reason, it remains permanently closed year round. There are 2,000 lobster licenses from Halifax to the Maine Border and not one fisherman drops a trap in LFA 40.

Larval Flow from LFA 40

The charts below show how LFA 40 populates the lobster fishery for LFA 33, 34, 35, 36 and LFA 38.

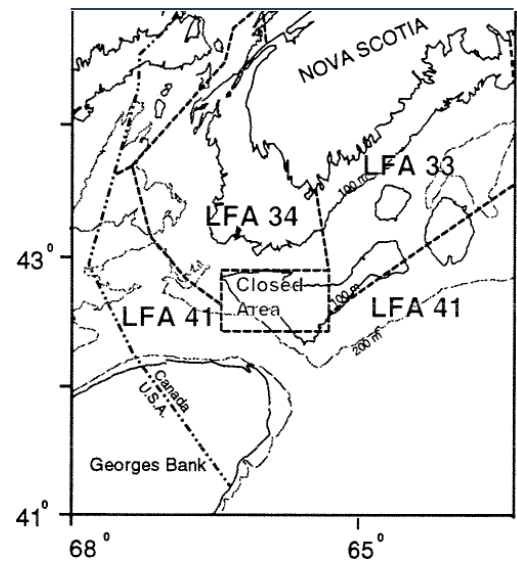


FIGURE 5: Closed Area LFA 40

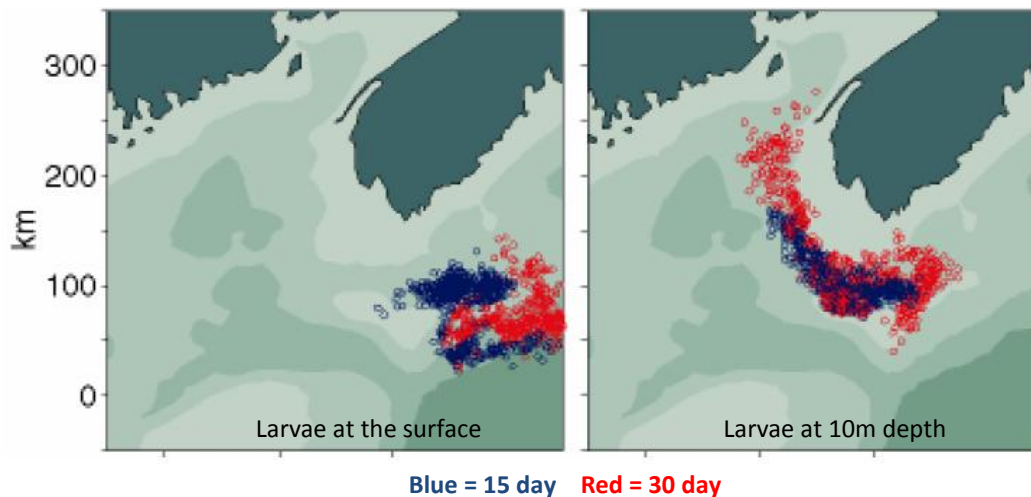


FIGURE 6: Drift of larval lobster.

DFO Image, from Drinkwater et al, 2001.

Figure 7 shows the LFAs marked out for view. Carved out of the Southern edge of LFA 34 you can see the Northern outline of closed LFA 40. Think about what even a small operational oil spill could destroy if allowed to flow over area 40 and then on to areas 33 and 34. Please note that the two charts represent larva at various depths. In a future section we will explore the toxic impact of oil laced with dispersant in the water column. The various depths at which the larva is distributed is of critical importance.

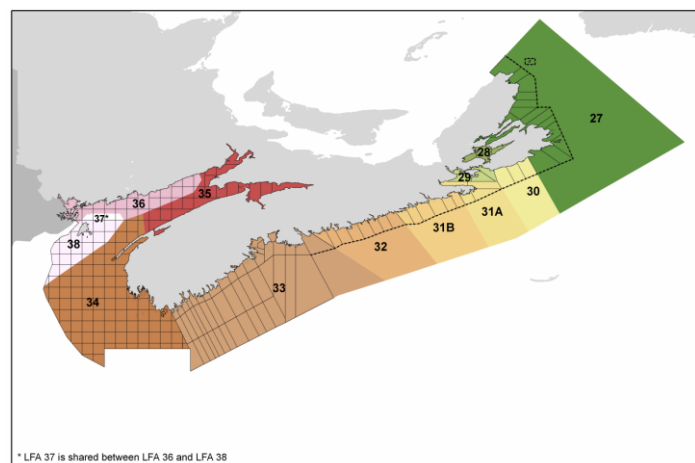


FIGURE 7: Lobster Fishing Areas, DFO

Lobster Density

Figure 8 shows the density of the lobster population on and near lease sites 3 and 4, based on a DFO survey of composite lobster catches in the summers from 1999–2012.

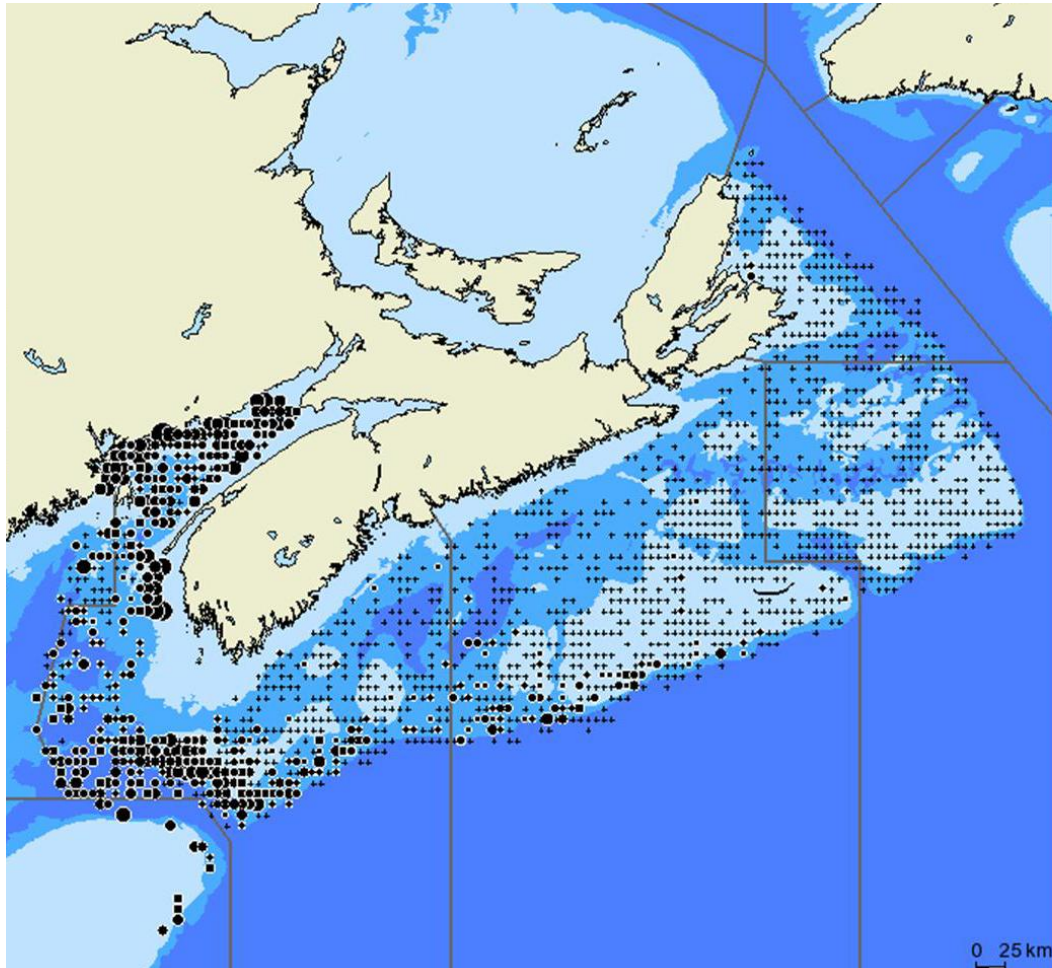


FIGURE 8: Lobster Density, DFO Virtual Data Centre

This was a stratified random survey with average adjusted total number. Data are aggregated by 5-minute squares. Crosses indicate zero catches.

This clearly identifies the high density of lobsters on and around closed area 40. All of these lobster sit just to the north of lease sites 3 and 4, and are directly in the North Westerly tidal flow generated by the Bay of Fundy tides.

2.4 Scallops

Browns Bank hosts a number of industry-managed nursery areas, or “seed boxes,” for juvenile scallops that are rotationally closed. They were established by the industry in 2005, and the industry has chosen to maintain the closure areas to protect juvenile scallops.

The following graph shows the industry-managed closure areas from 2012, along with landings by ton on Northern Browns Bank.

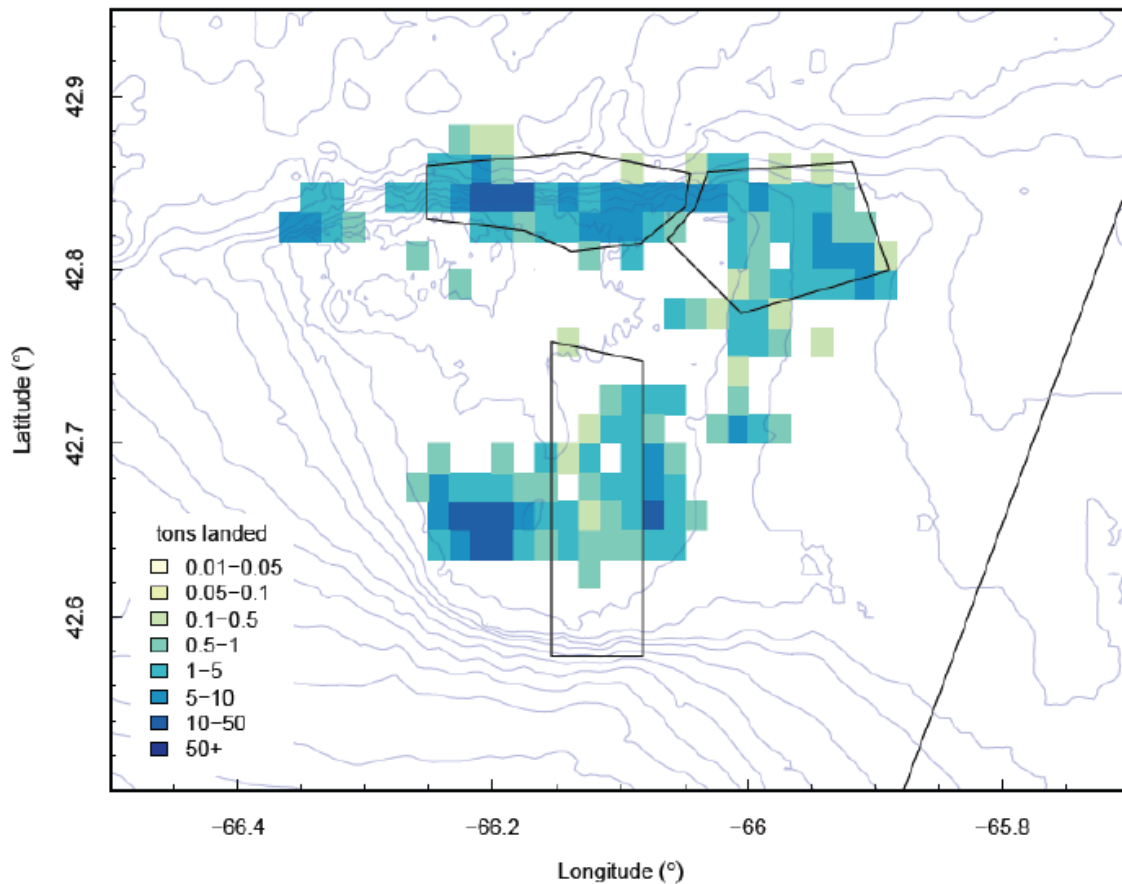


FIGURE 9: 2012 scallop tons landed and industry-managed closure areas, DFO

2.5 Groundfish

This section will show how CNSOPB Lease Sites 3 and 4 have the potential to impact the most sensitive areas of the groundfishery, including the location of longline stocks, bottom trawl stocks, and areas which are closed for spawning. Figure 10 is a reminder of the location of the main fishing banks.

Although this report concentrates on Browns Bank, Baccaro Bank and LaHave Bank are also critically important fishing grounds that are impacted by the tidal flow of the Bay of Fundy.

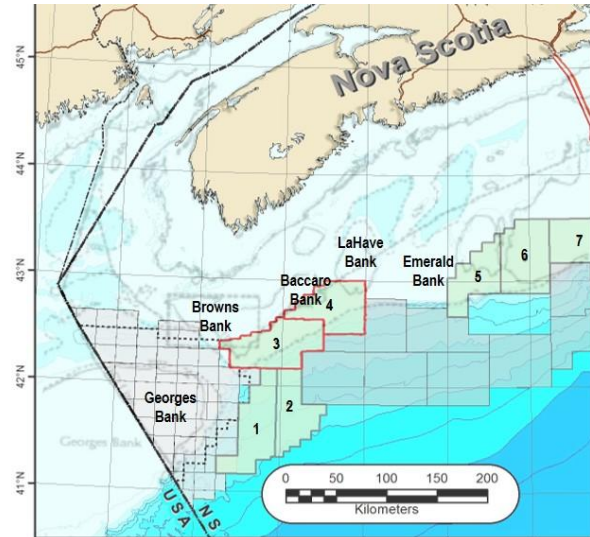


FIGURE 10. CNSOPB Lease Sites Overlaid on Chart of Key Fishing Grounds, DFO

Longline Groundfish Landings

The vast majority of our longline ground fish are caught either in or just to the northwest of the oil exploratory lease sites 3 and 4. Again, these sites are directly in the northwesterly path of any spilled oil.

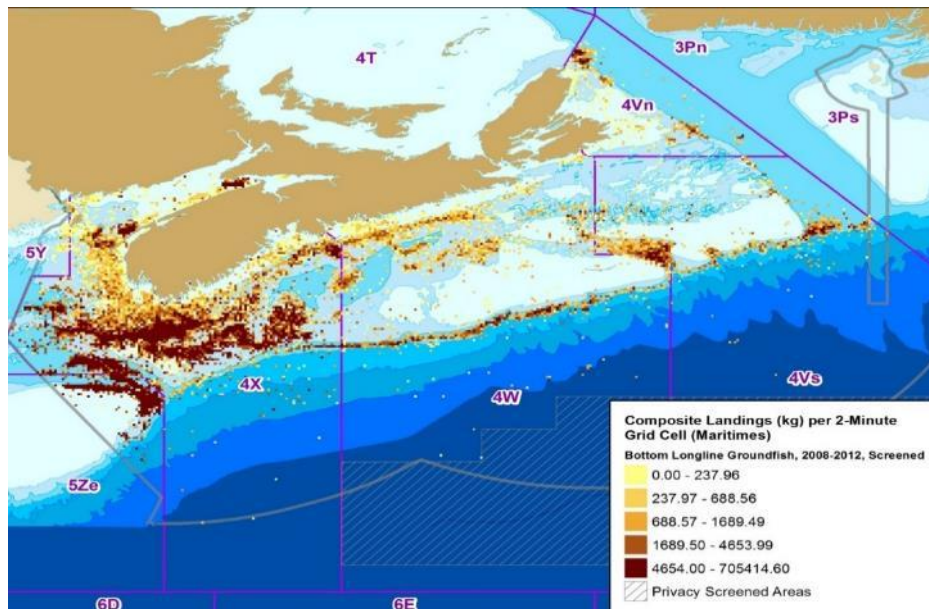


FIGURE 11. Longline Groundfish Landings, DFO

Groundfish Spawning Areas

Browns Bank is also the site of seasonally important closures for haddock and redfish.

Haddock Spawning Closures. There are two closures on Browns Bank aimed at protecting spawning haddock:

Redfish: Closure to the use of small mesh gear (square mesh less than 130 millimetres) for redfish from January 1 to June 30 each year for the protection of spawning haddock.

Groundfish: Closed from February 1 to June 15 each year for all directed groundfish fisheries to protect spawning haddock.

Bowtie Redfish Closure: Closed to redfish gear with < 130 mm mesh year round (January 1 - December 31) to protect small redfish.

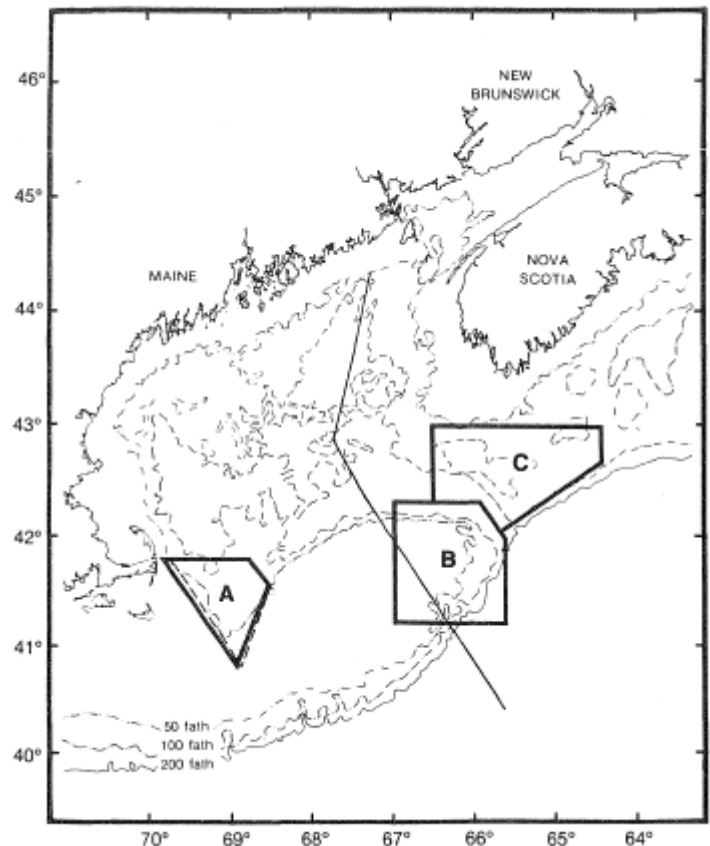


FIGURE 14: Groundfish Seasonal Closure Areas, DFO

The Haddock seasonal closure areas change slightly from year to year, but the boundaries will always include Browns Bank. Figure 14 is indicative of past seasonal closures. It shows that the areas that require protection are either in, or to the northwest of lease sites 3 and 4, and directly in the flow of the north westerly currents that would deliver any highly toxic spilled oil right into the heart of our Scotian Shelf Haddock fishery.

The majority of all of our most important commercial species, and critically the spawning and nursery grounds for these species, are concentrated either in, or directly to the north-northwest of, CNSOPB Lease Sites 3 and 4 and would be directly in the path of any, highly toxic, dispersant-laced spilled oil.

Section 3: Chemical Dispersants

The information below explains why it is COAC's position that there is no possible, "Net Environmental Benefit" that could justify the introduction of dispersant-laced oil into the water column in lease sites 3 and 4, or for that matter in any ecosystem that sustains a viable fishing industry such as ours. As demonstrated in Section 2, their close proximity to our most important fishing, spawning and nursery grounds, within the tidal flow of the Bay of Fundy, makes oil and exploration and extraction incompatible with our sustainable resource.

It is important to note that chemical dispersants, once mixed with oil, substantially increase the toxic impact of oil in an ocean environment. Those who seek to justify the use of dispersants often describe their characteristics in isolation, but this does not reflect the true impact that would be felt if dispersant-laced oil was introduced on the Scotian Shelf.

Dispersant-laced oil is known to have the following properties and impacts:

- a) The dispersed oil sinks into the water column immediately, giving the oil no chance to naturally weather on the surface and to evaporate off some of its most toxic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).
- b) The dispersed oil droplets exponentially increase the surface area of the oil, making it more available for negative interaction with all biological forms
- c) The dispersed oil, in micro-droplet form, sinks much more slowly in the water column making the toxins available for a much longer timeframe and over a much larger geographic area than oil alone. Points (b.) and (c.) are very important because the dispersed oil droplets inhabit all levels of the water column in the same fashion as larval lobster, scallop and groundfish spawn.
- d) The dispersant is an emulsifier which acts on lipids. This property allows it to act as a delivery system for the toxins in the oil by breaking down cell membranes and allowing the toxic PAHs direct access to internal organs.
- e) Gills are extremely susceptible to this process of lipid breakdown because of the very thin membrane required for oxygen exchange.
- f) Dispersed oil will deform embryonic herring at 1 part per million (PPM). Dispersed oil will kill embryonic herring at 10 PPM in exposure times of only one hour. There is little difference between embryonic herring and the embryonic forms of other commercial species.

It has long been known to the spill response community that dispersant-treated oil can increase the threat to fish ecosystems in the water column where dispersed oil is present. The recent report (2015) by the Royal Society of Canada, *Behaviour and Environmental Impacts of Crude Oil Released into Aqueous Environments*, puts things into perspective. It notes that "even brief exposures [of dispersed oil] can cause delayed effects that are evident in the weeks, months and years following a spill." (p. 127, <https://rsc-src.ca/en/expert-panels/rsc-reports/behaviour-and-environmental-impacts-crude-oil-released-into-aqueous>). What has been claimed by industry is that there is a trade-off between lethal effects on the ecosystems in the waters beneath a spill,

versus the threat of oil reaching beaches or affecting animals on the surface. However, hundreds of scientific papers and scores of independent scientists have carried out research on dispersants since the Deep Water Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, and these question fundamentally this notion of a tradeoff. The following section will highlight the work of three scientists who have intimate knowledge of the impacts of dispersant-laced oil in an ocean environment, and whose work seems to have been completely ignored by the regulators at the CNSOPB.

Dr. Terry Snell, Chair, School of Biology, Georgia Institute of Technology.

Dr. Snell's research found that mixing the dispersant with oil increased the toxicity up to 52-fold. In toxicity tests, the mixture's effects increased mortality of rotifers, a microscopic grazing animal at the base of the Gulf's food chain (*Environmental Pollution*, volume 173, February 2013).

Dr. Snell raises very important questions:

"What remains to be determined is whether the benefits of dispersing the oil by using Corexit are outweighed by the substantial increase in toxicity of the mixture"

"Perhaps we should allow the oil to naturally disperse. It might take longer, but it would have less toxic impact on marine ecosystems."

Dr. Snell agreed to discuss his research. In a phone conversation on February 20, 2015, he stated:

1. When commercial fisheries are at risk from hydrocarbon pollution the use of dispersants is not an advantage. Dispersant use would, in fact, be a disadvantage in trying to protect commercial fish or shellfish species from the toxic impacts of hydrocarbon pollution.
2. The massive use of dispersants in the Gulf of Mexico was rationalized by the perceived requirement to keep oil off the beaches in an effort to protect the critically important tourism industry in the Gulf. If it is commercial fisheries that are most at risk, then the use of dispersants is contraindicated.
3. Dr. Snell concluded that given the information he had available at the time he saw, "No Scientific Rationale" for the use of dispersants at a site with low potential for shoreline oiling, and a higher potential for negative impacts to important commercial species.

Dr. Samantha Joye, Department of Marine Sciences, The University of Georgia

Dr. Joye was one of the first scientists to get into a submersible vehicle and directly assess the sea floor in the Gulf of Mexico after the Deepwater Horizon spill. On her first series of dives in 2011, she identified over 1,300 sq. km of desolated and lifeless ocean floor, covered in about 10 cm of dispersant-laced oil. In 2014 she returned and identified over 3,000 sq km of desolate and lifeless ocean floor.

The fact that so much dispersant-laced oil remained on the ocean floor nearly 4 years after the disaster raised serious questions in Dr. Joye's mind about oil company claims that dispersants augmented the biodegradation of oil, by breaking it down into small droplets. She then began to study the impact of dispersants on carbon-based bacteria. Her recently published research found that dispersants do not work in the way our regulators or the oil industry would have us believe. In fact, they work in reverse by actually slowing down the biodegradation of oil (<http://www.pnas.org/content/112/48/14900.full.pdf>).

Following is one excerpt from that report:

“Oil spills are a significant source of hydrocarbon inputs into the ocean. In response to oil spills, chemical dispersants are applied to the oil-contaminated seawater to disperse surface slicks into smaller droplets that are presumed to be more bioavailable to microorganisms. We provide evidence that chemical dispersants applied to either deep water or surface water from the Gulf of Mexico did not stimulate oil biodegradation. Direct measurement of alkane and aromatic hydrocarbon oxidation rates revealed either suppression or no stimulation of oil biodegradation in the presence of dispersants. However, dispersants affected microbial community composition and enriched bacterial populations with the ability to use dispersant-derived compounds as growth substrates, while oil-alone amendments enriched for natural hydrocarbon degraders.”

In layman's terms, this final sentence states that a grouping of the available bacteria eat the dispersant and leave the hydrocarbons behind. This population of bacteria grows at the expense of the type of bacteria prone to consuming the oil thus slowing the desired process of hydrocarbon biodegradation. Oil without dispersant allowed the oil consuming bacteria to grow unhindered and act more quickly in the process of hydrocarbon biodegradation.

**Dr. Peter Hodson, Professor Emeritus, School of Environmental Studies,
Queens University, Ontario Canada**

Dr. Hodson is one of the leading Canadian authorities on the impacts of dispersants on commercial species. He has stated that, “Dispersed oil has a more toxic effect than non-dispersed oil since toxic components like polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are spread around more widely in the water column.”

Hodson's research suggests that fish embryos are extremely sensitive to dispersed oil. Exposures as limited as 1 PPM and as brief as an hour can have a negative effect on embryonic fish. Combined with the fact that large numbers of fish can spawn at about the same time of year, an entire hatch could be decimated by a single plume of contaminated water.

Most recently, Dr. Hodson was one of the authors of a 2015 Royal Society Expert Panel Report referred to above. This report states clearly that we do not yet have the information required to state that dispersants can be used safely in proximity of important commercial species.

The Royal Society Report states that research is still needed to:

“1) assess the toxicity of dispersed oil to deepwater corals, ground fish and invertebrate species that have high economic importance (e.g., lobster, crab, scallops); 2) model the distribution of deepwater plumes of dispersed oil in relation to areas of known fisheries productivity, such as the fishing banks of Canada’s east coast or unique habitats like the sponge reefs off Canada’s west coast; and 3) assess the potential for effects of chemically dispersed oil on marine bird and mammals.” (Royal Society of Canada, November 2015, p. 161; emphasis added)

This is a stunning admission from the highest levels of the Canadian scientific community that there has not been enough scientific data generated to state that dispersant use is safe. In light of these assertions, we felt compelled to contact Dr. Hodson directly to better understand what research must be undertaken to more fully describe the impacts of dispersed oil on our commercial species, including the relatively newly discovered phenomenon of, “Dispersed Oil Plumes.”

Dr. Hodson’s response reflected the comments in the Royal Society Report. Assurances of our regulators and of the oil and gas industry notwithstanding, the scientific community has not yet accumulated anywhere near enough data to make definitive statements about the impact of dispersant-laced oil on our most important commercial species. He emphasized that much more research needs to be accomplished.

These findings are 180-degrees out of phase with industry assertions that dispersants can be used safely in proximity to our most important commercial species. These are the assertions that our regulators appear to be accepting at face value. We respectfully submit that current evidence says otherwise.

Section 4. Regulatory Oversight

The Canada Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) is tasked with local regulation of oil and gas exploration and extraction on the Scotian Shelf. Their mandate states that they are responsible for the, “protection of the environment during offshore petroleum activities.”

In 2015, CNSOPB approved Shell Canada’s, “Environmental Impact Statement” (EIS) for the Shelburne Basin. This EIS demonstrates substantial deficiencies in offshore oil spill cleanup regulation and functional capacity.

Shell’s EIS states that in the event of a major spill, oil spill cleanup crews have 72 hours to respond to the site. Once they arrive, there is currently no mechanical oil spill cleanup equipment available to the oil industry that is capable of working in seas greater than one meter or in tides or currents greater than one knot. Recall that the tides on Browns Bank turn every 12 hours and average 3 knots to the northwest.

The unfortunate fact is that the oil industry has not undertaken to develop better technologies to clean up spilled oil because regulators have made no demands that they do so. It is the communities that depend on sustainable fishery that are being asked to shoulder all of the risk. This is simply not acceptable.

It becomes absolutely clear that the Shell Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP) for larger offshore spills is completely dependent on the large scale use of chemical dispersants. As the previous section has shown, chemical dispersants do not clean up anything. They simply put the oil into a more toxic state and drive it out of sight below the ocean’s surface so that it permeates the whole water column. On top of this, the recent research shows that dispersants do not increase the speed in which spilled oil biodegrades, but in fact slow this process down.

COAC has shared copies of the recent research on chemical dispersants with both Shell and CNSOPB. To date we have received no response to our request that, in light of this new information, they cease with plans to use chemical dispersants. Shell is now actively drilling exploratory wells on the Scotian Slope.

A large oil spill on lease sites 3 and 4, in the flow of the Bay of Fundy tides over Browns Bank and LFA 40 would be totally devastating. If that oil were laced with dispersant it could be catastrophic. If the spill took place during spawning season or while larval lobster were in the water column it would destroy our coastal economy and wipe out not just our stocks but years of careful regulatory process.

Existing regulations and industry capabilities are simply not compatible with oil and gas exploration or extraction from CNSOPB lease sites 3 and 4.

Section 5. Lessons from Norway

If you are an elected representative, you may find this section of special interest. In the Nova Scotian context, the position taken by the, “Clean Ocean Action Committee” has been deemed by our regulators as being radical and unreasonable. This is not the case. In other jurisdictions the regulating authorities would consider our position on lease sites 3 and 4 as both “Mainstream” and correct. Norway has both a thriving oil and gas industry and a thriving fishery. This is true because they have found a real and functional balance between the rights of the sustainable fishery resource and the needs of the oil and gas industry. Important fishing, spawning and nursery grounds are protected. We are simply asking for that same level of functional regulation.

Political Debate

In Norway, a debate related to oil exploration and extraction on and near important commercial spawning grounds recently took place. The oil industry has stated that there are immense oil and gas reserves below the, “Lofoten-Vesterålen” fishing and spawning grounds, which includes the subareas Nordland VI & VII and Tromsø II (shown in Figure 15).

This area includes spawning grounds for cod, herring, haddock, and saithe, vulnerable areas with fragile bottom fauna (deepwater coral reefs etc.), and also contained subareas for allocation of petroleum licenses.

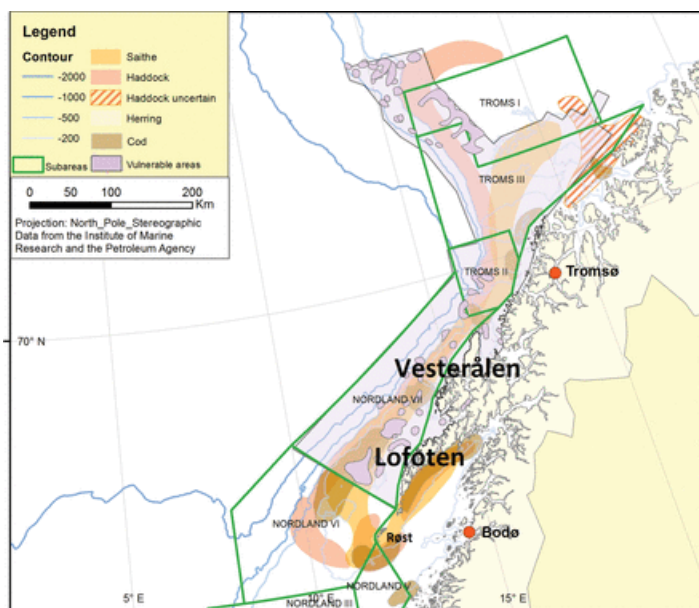


FIGURE 15: “Lofoten-Vesterålen” Areas

The management plan process was led by the Ministry of the Environment, with participation by the ministries of Fisheries, Trade, Justice, and Foreign Affairs. About 30 directorates, agencies, and research institutes were involved. The first Lofoten–Barents Sea management plan was presented as a white paper to the Norwegian Parliament and ratified in June 2006.

This process resulted in the Norwegian Government stating that Lofoten–Vesterålen would not be opened for offshore oil exploration in the coming term. Subsequent pressure from the oil and gas industry led to the revision of the Lofoten–Barents Sea management plan in 2011, when a new white paper was ratified by the Parliament. This revised plan confirmed that the vulnerable areas off Lofoten–Vesterålen should remain closed for offshore oil exploration for the next four years.

Even after this confirmation, ongoing pressure led government to continue further data collection on the impact of offshore oil exploration on fisheries, tourism, the marine environment, and coastal societies at local and regional scales.

A recent report from the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy concluded that the prospects for oil and gas in the Lofoten–Vesterålen areas are quite good (Ministry of Oil and Energy, 2012). Estimates based on geological models, with input from seismic surveys carried out in 2007–2009, indicate a 95% probability for 76 million Sm³ oil equivalents and a 5% probability for >370 million Sm³ oil. But despite such good prospects for value creation and new jobs, ongoing environmental and sustainability concerns have led the Minister of Petroleum and Energy to conclude that the areas would not be opened for offshore oil exploration.

The debate boils down to the question of whether some areas have such a high biological value—regardless of the economic value of associated fisheries—that even low risks of accidental spills are unacceptable—regardless of the monetary benefits of petroleum development. The possibility of opening the Lofoten–Vesterålen areas to petroleum activities has become the focus issue of a united environmental lobby in Norway. The oil industry argues that the risk is minute and that even a large spill only affects a fraction of the stocks and might be remedied within 1–3 years.

Government, however, recognized that the consequences of underestimating the environmental risk in a uniquely valuable and sensitive area such as Lofoten–Vesterålen would be much more serious than in any other part of the Norwegian marine environment. Faced with such uncertainty and dire potential consequences, they felt that the precautionary approach should come into play and the government should refrain from allowing potentially harmful petroleum activity until all problems are resolved.

Intrinsic values

So why is it so difficult for the offshore oil industry to gain access to the Lofoten–Vesterålen areas? The foremost reason put forward by Government is that the areas represent the main spawning grounds for several economically and ecologically important fish stocks. In addition, the areas harbour large seabird colonies, sensitive benthic habitats, and populations of marine mammals. The government position is that the protection of this bio-system and the fully sustainable fishery resource it contains requires that the area remain closed to the potential dangers of oil and gas exploration and extraction. The oil resource is finite and transitory. The Norwegian people will always require the valuable, high protein, fully sustainable fishery resource that the ocean provides.

The following references provide additional information:

1. Olsen E., Gjørseter H., Røttingen I., Dommasnes A., Fossum P., Sandberg P. The Norwegian ecosystem-based management plan for the Barents Sea. *ICES Journal of Marine Science* 2007;64:599-60.
2. Ottersen G., Olsen E., Meehren G. I., Dommasnes A., Loeng H. O. The Norwegian plan for integrated ecosystem-based management of the marine environment in the Norwegian Sea. *Marine Policy* 2011;25:389-398.
3. Winsnes I., Skjoldal H. R. Management plan for the Norwegian part of the Barents Sea Ecosystem. In: Bianchi G., Skjoldal H. R., editors. *In The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries*. FAO: Rome; 2008. p. 228-249.

Section 6. Conclusion and Call for Action

Recently our new Federal Government announced in their Platform and Policy Statement on Environmental Assessments that;

“We will make environmental assessments credible again”

and they further declare;

“Canadians must be able to trust that government will engage in appropriate regulatory oversight, including credible environmental assessments, and that it will respect the rights of those most affected, such as Indigenous communities. While governments grant permits for resource development, only communities can grant permission.”

The statement calls for an immediate review of Canada’s environmental assessment processes and the introduction of new, fair processes that will:

- *“restore robust oversight and thorough environmental assessments of areas under federal jurisdiction, while also working with provinces and territories to avoid duplication;*
- *ensure that decisions are based on science, facts, and evidence, and serve the public’s interest;*
- *provide ways for Canadians to express their views and opportunities for experts to meaningfully participate; and*
- *require project advocates to choose the best technologies available to reduce environmental impacts.”*

The Clean Ocean Action Committee feels strongly that the CNSOPB has not done a, "thorough environmental assessment". The inadequate regulatory requirements that have put in place for Shell Canada and the fact they have offered lease sites 3 and 4 for auction are in direct conflict with any understanding of the unique features of our sustainable resources on the Scotian Shelf and specifically on Browns Bank and surrounding area. In addition, the CNSOPB regulatory process does not appear to take into consideration the significant and growing body of scientific evidence about the role of chemical dispersants, their lack of efficacy, or their negative impacts on the environment.

As members of the, “Impacted Coastal Communities” that bear 100% of the risk from oil and gas exploration on the Scotian Shelf, we have been given no assurance that our views have been heard and we have not been offered, "meaningful participation." For these reasons, the work of CNSOPB to date cannot be seen to serve the public's interest. We do not grant the permission, that our new federal government provides for “Impacted Communities” for CNSOPB sites 3 and 4 to be leased for oil and gas exploration or extraction.

This report is an urgent call to action to all municipal governments and to all concerned citizens. The health of the offshore environment, the economic base of our communities, the health of our fisheries and the rights of our fishing industry are all at risk. It is now time to have our voices heard.



Direction/Decision Report

TO: COUNCIL

SUBMITTED BY: Linda Fraser
CAO

DATE: APRIL 25, 2016

SUBJECT: \$ 20,000 loan to Westport Fire Department

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the CAO to sign the amendment to the Dec 2007 loan agreement with Westport Fire Department.

DISCUSSION:

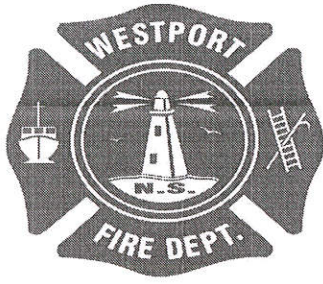
In December 2007 the Municipality entered into a loan agreement with the Westport Fire Department for a loan in the amount of \$ 50,000. Currently there is a balance of \$ 10,000 outstanding on that loan (two years remaining)

The Westport Fire Department has recently purchased a used fire truck to replace one that no longer could be repaired. They have requested an additional \$ 20,000 be added to the existing loan, whereby increasing the term of the loan by four more years, to 2021.

The annual amount collected from the area rate for 2016 is approximately \$ 6,000 which covers the annual principal payment of \$ 5,000.

ATTACHMENTS:

Request from Westport Fire Department



Westport Volunteer Fire Department

21 Second St., Westport, Nova Scotia, CANADA B0V 1H0

(902) 839-2180

westportvolfire@gmail.com

April 11, 2016

Municipality of the District of Digby,
Attn Linda Fraser CAO

Dear Ms Fraser,

During the last monthly meeting of the Westport Fire Dept, on April 7th, 2016, there was a motion passed as follows:

Moved by Clifton Titus, seconded by Jeff Thompson, That the Westport Fire Dept borrow \$20,000 that is available through the Municipality of the District of Digby. A vote was carried out, 12 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain. Motion carried.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Arden Derby".

Arden Derby - Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wally deVries".

Wally deVries - Chief

To whom it may concern;

The Municipality of the District of Digby is aware of the application by Digby Area Recreation Commission for funding under the RFD grant program.

The Municipality of the District of Digby supports Digby Area Recreation Commission through a cost sharing agreement with the Town of Digby. This is a 50/50 cost sharing.

We understand this application is to do upgrades and repairs to the wading pool and main pool. These outdoor pools are an integral component of Digby Area Recreation Commission summer recreation programs.

Yours truly,

Linda Fraser, CAO
Municipality of the District of Digby

Chief Administrative Officer Report

Meeting Date	<i>April 25, 2016</i>
Submitted To	<i>Council</i>
Submitted By	<i>Linda Fraser, Chief Administrative Officer</i>
Carbon Copies	<i>Jeff Sunderland, Deputy CAO CoraLee Bremner, Manager Corporate Services Pat Stevens, Executive Secretary</i>

Meeting Dates/Reminders-As of April 13, 2016

Date & Time	Meeting	Who Attends	Location
April 26 th @ 2:30 pm	WREN L & O Committee	MacAlpine	Council Chambers
May 2 nd @ 4:30 pm	By-law & Policy (Budget)	All Council	Municipal Board Room
May 3 rd @ 4:00 pm	Digby Development Agency	Gregory, MacAlpine	Town Council Chambers
May 9 th @ 4:30 pm	COTW	All Council	Council Chambers
May 16 th @ 4:30 pm	By-law & Policy (Budget)	All Council	Municipal Board Room
May 23 rd	No Meeting		
May 24 th Tuesday	Council	All Council	Council Chambers
May 30 th @ 4:30	No Meeting		
June 6 th	No Meeting		
June 13 th @ 4:30	COTW	All Council	Council Chambers
June 20 th @ 4:30	By-law & Policy	All Council	Municipal Board Room
June 27 th @ 6:30	Council	All Council	Council Chambers

Request for Decision or Direction

#1

COUNCIL ACTION ITEM – JANUARY 2015

Letter to Minister of Justice request a review of the RCMP complement.

Jan 2016 – The RCMP Resourcing Study will be presented to the Councils of the Municipality of Digby, the Town of Digby, and the Municipality of Clare, along with members of the Police Advisory Committees on Feb 17th at 9:30 am in the Municipality of Digby Council Chambers.

Feb 2016 – RCMP staff from Strategic Planning and Client Services, Senior RCMP from H Division, staff from Dept of Justice met with members of Council and staff from the Municipality of Clare, the Town of Digby, and Municipality of Digby to present the results of the Policing Resource Model PRM looking at Digby Detachment, Meteghan Detachment, and a hypothetical District Policing Model with Digby and Meteghan combined. A recommendation from the report is that the current level of front line personnel, 10 in Digby and 5 in Clare remain. The report, along with the speaking notes will be distributed to Council. There was a discussion about the pros and cons of merging the two detachments. Further studies are needed to look at social/economic factors. The issue of needing French speaking members in Clare was discussed. Next step is to do further studies looking at Clare merging with either Digby or Yarmouth; and Digby and Annapolis County. This will take from 4 to 6 months to complete.

Mar 2016- Copy of presentation with comments circulated to Council and RCMP Joint Advisory Committee

April 2016 – No update since last report.

COUNCIL ACTION ITEM – JUNE 2015

Regional Tourism VIC Kiosk – Halifax Waterfront

June/July 2015 – Letters to the following municipal units were sent the last week of June: Middleton, Annapolis Royal, Annapolis Co, Town of Digby, Clare, Town of Yarmouth, Municipality of Yarmouth, Municipality of Argyle, Municipality of Shelburne, Municipality of Barrington, Town of Shelburne, Lockport, Clarks Harbour, and the Region of Queens. The letter was to determine if there was any interest in participating in the initiative.

Aug 2015 – I have received positive responses from the following Municipalities: County of Annapolis, Town of Shelburne, Barrington (depending upon costs), and District of Shelburne.

Yarmouth Acadian Shores (Town of Yarmouth, District of Yarmouth, Argyle) – dependent upon equal sharing of costs and Board approval on Sept 15th.

Region of Queens staff is in the process of preparing a report to take to Council.

Sept/Oct 2015 – Letter received from Region of Queens that they are referring the matter to the South Shore Regional Enterprise Network. (They are just in the process of hiring the CEO). Their Economic Development Staff provided feedback (see attached) on the type of questions that would require further investigation before determining whether or not to proceed.

I have received a letter providing support in principal from the Town of Digby. I have not heard anything yet from Municipality of Clare, the Towns of Lockport, Clarks Harbour.

It is my recommendation that we take a serious look at the questions raised by Queens at a By-law & Policy Committee.

Regional Tourism VIC Kiosk – Halifax Waterfront (con't)

Nov/2015 Decision to put on hold until more information regarding the provinces plan regarding VIC's is known.

Jan/Feb 2016 - I have reached out to Destinations Cape Breton Association regarding their plans for the upcoming tourism season. They are expecting to make a final decision this month. I have also requested the name of the contact at Halifax Waterfront Development Corporation that they have been working with. I have reached out to Halifax Waterfront Development Corp for some information. Waiting for a response. Deputy Warden MacAlpine is reaching out to Michael Johnson, the new Executive Director for NS Tourism Agency.

Mar 2016 – Deputy Warden MacAlpine contacted Michael Johnson who is putting him in touch with another person in the Agency.

Apr 2016 – No update since last report.

COTW ACTION ITEMS -January 2016

Lack of Internet Services in Little River

Jan 2016 – I contacted Cody Joudry, who indicated they received a number of responses to their expression of interest and are in the middle of evaluating them. Cody indicated they had met other Municipalities to determine if there is an opportunity for a joint effort. Seems like this would have been a good topic/project for the Digby Annapolis Development Corp.

Feb 2016 – Evan Nemeth, Research EDO, Western Regional Enterprise Network prepared the attached synopsis on Rural Internet in Nova Scotia.

Mar/April 2016 – Council waiting on study being conducted by NS Business. The study is to be completed by early spring.

CAPITAL PROJECTS – 2015/2016

General Government Services

No planned projects

Protective Services

No planned projects

Transportation Services

Utility Trailer
Budget- \$ 7,200
Actual - \$ 7,152

Purchased and in service

Replacement of Avgas Pump
Budget \$ 23,000
Actual - \$ 20,753

Feb 2016 Delivery date of Dec 21th not met, hope for delivery before fiscal year end.
Mar 2016 Pump has arrived, still waiting to be installed.

Environmental Health Services-Wastewater

Upgrades to Pump Stations – As needed
Budget \$ 84,500
Actual \$ 8,134

Feb 2016 – Possible pump replacement required on a lift Station in Bear River.
Mar 2016 – No update
March 2016 – New pump installed in pump station in Bear River located near the Fire Hall. This should reduce

	electrical costs in the future.
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Environmental Health Services-Wastewater (con't)

Collection Expansion on Shore Road Budget \$ 1,262,000	Decision to postpone project until provincial and/or federal funding in place
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Environmental Health Services-Solidwaste

No planned projects	
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Environmental Development Services

50 kw Wind Turbine Budget \$ 500,000 Actual \$	Feb 2016 – Written confirmation of Comfit approval received. Moving forward with installation of turbine in Spring. Mar 2016 – Terry Thibodeau is developing a tender document for the purchase of a 50 KW wind turbine. Apr 2016 – To be carried over to 2016-17
800 kw Wind Turbine Budget \$690,000	Jan 2016 – COTW recommendation to purchase 800 kw wind turbine from RESL to be ratified by Council Jan 25 th . Feb 2016 Lawyers working on purchase and sale agreement. Mar 2016 – Documents associated with sale reviewed by our lawyers. Purchase and Sale agreement signed and sent to our lawyers. Sale to be finalized no later than Mar 31 st . Apr 2016 – To be carried over to 2016-17
EV Car Charging Stations Budget \$ 7,500 Actual \$	Oct 2015 –Terry Thibodeau is working on getting information about power hookups in Weymouth and Bear River. Terry has been meeting with Super Store management to find out if they would be willing to fund the \$ 15,000 cost of a fast charger if we would cover the installation costs. He expects an answer sometime after Jan 1 st . Nov 2015 -We are moving forward with getting the power installed on a pole in the parking lot next to the

	<p>grocery store. Terry also met with NSPI onsite at Superstore to discuss location of EV station close to where the community mailboxes are located.</p> <p>Dec 2015 – Sun Country is not getting funding for EV Charging Stations. Terry has been meeting with Super Store management to find out if they would be willing to fund the \$ 15,000 cost of a fast charger if we would cover the installation costs. He expects an answer sometime after Jan 1st.</p> <p>Feb 2016 – Terry Thibodeau has reached out to manager of Superstore for an update</p> <p>April 2016 Superstore has agreed to cost share to a maximum of \$ 15,000 in the installation of a Fast EV Charging Station. Unfortunately the used EV Charging Station is no longer available. New fast charging stations cost \$ 30,000. The Federal budget included a funding program for EV charging stations. Terry is looking at getting details of the program.</p>
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SPECIAL PROJECTS/INITIATIVES

<p>Youth Engagement Workshops – Fall 2014</p>	<p>Council Strategic Priority – Social/Community Goal: Engage youth in Local Government ICSP Goal S-1.2 Engage youth in municipal governance and decision making processes</p> <p>July 2014 – Project approved. Project moving forward for September youth workshop.</p> <p>Sept 2014 – Two meeting have been held to work out details of the event which will be held in November. Article to be done for October Coastline.</p> <p>Oct 2014 - Sessions to be held Nov 14th and 15th October Coastline included an article on the Engagement Sessions.</p> <p>Nov 2014 – Consultants working on report from the sessions.</p> <p>Jan 2015 – Council to discuss how best to create a Junior Council.</p> <p>Mar-April 2015 Deputy CAO working on organizing a one day event with participants from all three high schools.</p> <p>May/June 2015 – Event held on May 26. Digby and SMBA participated, ICS declined. A full report will be presented at a later date.</p>
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	<p>July/Aug 2015 – Update to follow. Sept 2015 – No update</p> <p>Oct-Dec 2015- Project put on temporary hold. Looking at the development of a citizen/youth engagement budget template. Once developed, it would be presented to various classes in the schools.</p> <p>Jan/Feb 2016 –By-law & Policy Committee approved the launch of Citizen Budget, a powerful online tool to involve residents in decision-making processes and to demonstrate a municipality’s commitment to citizen engagement. Information on the budget tool will be included in an article for the February CoastlineCitizen Budget On-line Tool to be launched mid February</p> <p>Mar 2016 – Engagement tool up and running.</p> <p>April 2016 – Deputy CAO reported that only 16 people completed the survey. Council decided to keep the citizen engagement on-line budget up for a few more months.</p>
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SPECIAL PROJECTS/INITIATIVES (con’t)

<p>Cold Storage Facility</p>	<p>Council Strategic Priority – Environmental Reduce Our Carbon Footprint</p> <p>Jan 2015 – Report from Dan Cold Storage Feasibility study: Hired a Field Research Associate, developed a questionnaire and survey protocol, created multiple contact lists (for Fisheries and Agriculture), bi-weekly supervisory meetings with the field researcher, 2 Project Team meetings, etc. Data collection wraps up next week, and I begin the Demand Analysis and Feasibility portion of the work plan. An initial report has been provided to Terry, full Phase I report due in January. Data collection went very well; we had 91% cooperation and 99% data completeness. Preliminary look is that a facility would be supported-size and configuration to be determined.</p> <p>Feb 2015 - Cold Storage Project: completed Phases I and II of the work plan, see attached. We are now into the stage where we determine start-up costs and project financial feasibility.</p> <p>April 2015 – Dan presented report to Council in March and will continue with marketing to priority investors identified during the study.</p> <p>May/June 2015 - – Warden Gregory, Mayor Cleveland, Dan Harvey, Terry Thibodeau, Tom Ossinger, Linda Fraser met with a potential investor who is also interested in including a biomass generator for a possible district heating system and who is also interested in including a biomass generator for a possible district heating system. Follow-up meeting took place in Halifax in June.</p> <p>July 2015 – Dan Harvey working on draft Expressions of Interest</p>
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<p>Cold Storage Facility</p>	<p>Aug 2015 – Call for Expressions of Interest due in August</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL PROJECTS/INITIATIVES (con't)</p> <p>Sept 2015- Report from Dan Harvey: <i>This project is proceeding well. I expect a facility will break ground next spring. The Memorandum of Understanding presented to DDA is being finalized. There were two local companies that had expressed interest: one confirmed last week that he will not be proceeding. A second, a company that originally had interest but declined, said yesterday they plan to build “in the next year”. Their facility would be for their own usage, however, not the industry-wide model we proposed. I promoted DDA lands, and he said they were a possibility. ACOA, after originally saying they weren’t interested in this project, is now. Met with Jeff Mullen, Brianne LeBlanc, and Blake Mann from ACOA last week and they are proposing to support investments in value-added seafood processing technologies located in the facility.</i></p> <p>Oct 2015 – Update provided to the DDA. MOU signed with potential developer.</p> <p>Nov 2015 – Waiting for RFP for Industrial Park to be awarded before entering into any land purchase agreement.</p> <p>Jan 2016 – Andrew Forsythe from Design Point Engineering & Surveying met with Dan Harvey and the developer to discuss the preferred location of the cold storage facility and how that would impact the engineering and pre design work being done by Design Point in the Industrial Park.</p> <p>Feb 2016 – Nothing new to report.</p> <p>March/April 2016 – Timelines within the MOU with potential developer extended for two months. (May 1, 2016)</p>
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In the event that any new information has been received from the time of distribution of this report and the meeting, the Administration will provide the additional information at the meeting.

APR 25 2016
COUNCIL
CORRESPONDENCE



Environment
Office of the Minister

PO Box 442, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2P8 • www.novascotia.ca/nse

Our File number:

MAR 30 2016

Municipality of Digby
PO Box 429
Digby NS B0V 1A0

RECEIVED
APR 07 2016

RE: 2015 Conservation Property Tax Exemption – Provincial Grant in Lieu

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Province of Nova Scotia provides a Conservation Property Tax Exemption to private landowners who agree to the legal and permanent protection of their ecologically significant land for conservation purposes.

Details can be found at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/protectedareas/cpte.asp>.

The Province provides a grant in lieu of taxes to municipalities for eligible properties. As per the legislation, the grant is “equal to the amount that would have been due and payable to the municipality had each conservation property in the municipality continued to be classified as it was immediately before becoming conservation property.”

Our records indicate that Conservation Property Tax Exemptions totaling **\$5,935.00** have been granted in your municipality for the year 2015. Details regarding the exempted properties are attached.

This is to notify you that you will be receiving a cheque in the amount of **\$5,935.00**. If you are aware of any discrepancies between our records and yours, please contact David MacKinnon (424-2027; David.MacKinnon2@novascotia.ca) at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Margaret Miller
Minister

cc: David MacKinnon, Nova Scotia Environment
Neil Morehouse, Nova Scotia Environment
Peter Labor, Nova Scotia Environment
Todd Gratto, Property Valuation Services Corporation
Lan Liu, Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs
Wendy Dauphinee, Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Commanding Officer Commandant divisionnaire

80 Garland Avenue
Mailstop #H-045
Dartmouth NS B3B 0J8

April 4, 2016

Warden Linda Gregory
PO Box 429
Digby NS B0V 1A0

CORRESPONDENCE
COUNCIL
APR 25 2016

**Nova Scotia Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)
2015 Year in Review**

2015 was another busy year for the RCMP in Nova Scotia as we undertook various enforcement operations and educational initiatives in our role as the Provincial Police.

Our Year in Review document is filled with examples of how the RCMP is contributing to local, provincial and national policing priorities. Each day, the work that our employees do has a direct impact on the safety of communities across the province. Intelligence-led policing guides our activities and requires reliable and timely crime analysis. This analysis is critical to policing in a modern world where the mobilization of police, partners and community resources has become critical to preventing, detecting and disrupting crime.

I hope you find this report interesting and informative. Should you have questions about details contained in this report please contact Inspector Bernadine Chapman at (902) 720-5589.

Sincerely,

Assistant Commissioner Brian Brennan
Commanding Officer
RCMP in Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia 2016 Budget: Municipal Perspective

Highlights

Municipal Affairs:

- little change in budgets, programs
- additional funds in grants to provide the provincial share of Small Communities Fund projects, under the Building Canada Fund (these are committed for projects announced already for this year)
 - \$6.7 million for Small Communities fund
 - \$9.6 million for National and Regional Projects
- the province anticipates another call for infrastructure project applications in the near future.

Justice:

- While the province is showing a decrease in funding for the Additional Officer Program (Boots in the Street), the UNSM, Chiefs of Police and the department are working together to explore options to find efficiencies and mitigate the reduction. The program, which is almost a decade old, is subject to a review. The goal is ensure it is sustainable and meets the needs of the communities.
- the department is confident they can find efficiencies. No decisions will be made immediately.

Education:

- Mandatory payments will increase by 4% to \$241.8 million. Individual municipal impacts will vary according to assessment changes. The rate remains the same.

Communities, Culture and Heritage:

- the healthy communities program previously under the Department of Health have been moved to Communities, Culture and Heritage
- no changes identified in existing programs
- library funding remains the same
- \$2 million new funding allocated to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. No details on how it will be spent

Business:

- \$6 million announced to expand high speed internet - no details.

Transportation:

- funding for Yarmouth and Digby ferries
- other ferry funding remains the same



404-429 Parkland Drive
Halifax, NS B3S 1L3
902-789-8581

Warden Linda Gregory
District of Digby, NS

April 1, 2016

Dear Warden Gregory :

Thank you for your interest in joining the Atlantic Mayors Congress.
Membership fees for the 2016-17 term are now due.

Invoice

Membership Fee – Atlantic Mayors Congress
April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

\$750.00

Please make your cheque payable to:

Atlantic Mayors Congress

and mail to:

**404-429 Parkland Dr.
Halifax, NS B3S1L3**

We look forward to seeing you in Bridgewater, NS for our next meeting May 18-20, 2016
Your prompt remittance is appreciated.

Your prompt remittance is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Matt Kerrigan
Executive Director
Atlantic Mayors Congress

Good afternoon

The Dalhousie University Medical Programs Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) has requested a visit to the Digby area with the objective of reviewing potential clinical and life style opportunities in the future for these medical students. The groups consists of a maximum of twenty 1st and 2nd year medical students. This is an opportunity for recruitment related to the residency program as well as future primary care providers. They will be in the Digby area on Friday April 29th (evening) until Saturday noon. The agenda includes a meet and greet on the Friday evening where they will be able to interact with local health care providers as well as local community members. On Saturday they will be at the Digby General Hospital participating a clinical laboratory experiences / skills lab. Saturday afternoon they will be in the Yarmouth area with the same objectives.

Their student association as well as the NS Health Authority do not have funding for their accommodations and meals. Past visits from this group have been funded by the Foundation, Town and Municipality. The proposed budget to host this group of future primary care providers is \$3,000.00. This includes accommodations , food for evening social gathering and lunch on Saturday.

I am requesting shared financial support for this recruitment activity from the Foundation , Town and Municipality. This would be a maximum of \$1,000.00 each.

Please contact me if you require additional details related to this request.

Appreciate your ongoing support towards physician recruitment for the Digby area.

Hubert



Hubert d'Entremont

Site Manager

Digby General Hospital

75 Warwick Street

Digby, NS B0V 1A0

Office: 902-245-2502 Ext. 3219

Cell: 902-245-8964

www.nshealth.ca

REQUEST FROM BRIGHTON BARTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT

WAIVING OF BUILDING PERMIT FEES -(\$ 175-\$ 200)

I spoke with Alfred today about our permits for demolition and building permits. I would like to make a request on behalf of Brighton /Barton volunteer fire dept that municipality waive the cost of these permits as where we are Non-profit organization ,building a new facility for our community .Any cost savings to us as we move forward with this very costly project would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you

Jason Levings

Deputy chief

Brighton /Barton volunteer fire dept