

Sustainable Fisheries and Oceans Policy Division
Comments on Environmental Assessment of Multiklient Invest Newfoundland
Offshore Seismic and Environmental Data Collection Program, 2026-2030

Engagement Activities and Plans

There is potential for overlap with this project and local fish and seafood harvesters. To mitigate any negative impacts on the marine environment and local fisheries, the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) advises the inclusion of consultation with local fish harvesters, specifically those adjacent to the province in the Northwest Atlantic Fishing Organization (NAFO) Divisions 3KLMNOPs, (Figure 1). Harvesters can be consulted directly, by way of local Small Craft Harbour authorities or through the Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union (FFAW). FFA also advises that the proponent consult the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program to request a review of the project to assess potential risks and impacts on the conservation and protection of fish and fish habitat.

Aquatic Invasive Species

To prevent the spread of AIS, FFA recommends that the proponent follow recommended best practices and guidelines. These practices are critical for ensuring that harmful AIS are not spread to other areas throughout the region. Best practices to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS include:

- AIS awareness in waters frequented
- Taking precautions with respect to vessel traffic and gear movement between affected and unaffected areas to prevent introductions and spread
- Clean, drain and dry gear and ropes to prevent movement between areas by avoiding transportation of water from one location to another
- Routine vessel maintenance (i.e. cleaning the hull and using antifouling paint to prevent biofouling)
- Identifying and reporting any AIS to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

[More information about aquatic invasive species in the NL Region can be found on the Aquatic Invasive Species website.](#)

Vessel Strikes

SFOP would like to highlight that vessel strikes with marine mammals including with Species at Risk (SAR) such as the North Atlantic Right Whale, are possible during project activities. DFO and Transport Canada (TC) have implemented several protective measures to minimize interactions with NARWs and other marine mammals; FFA recommends consulting with these responsible authorities regarding mitigating the potential impacts of project operations on marine mammals.

Noise and Vibration

It is important to recognize that noise and vibration from seismic vessels in combination with air gun use can cause auditory masking, leading to changes in individual and social behavior of marine species, hinder population recruitment and ultimately affect the health of marine ecosystems. FFA recommends that the proponent consult with DFO and TC regarding the potential impacts of anthropogenic noise and vibration introduced by the project.



Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)

FFA notes that planned vessel activities will occur in or near numerous identified Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA). EBSAs are areas that have been identified through formal scientific assessments as having special biological or ecological significance when compared with the surrounding marine ecosystem. FFA recommends that the proponent consider important ecological features identified through EBSAs when planning and assessing project activities. Information on key features and locations of each EBSA can be found on [Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas - Open Government Portal](#).

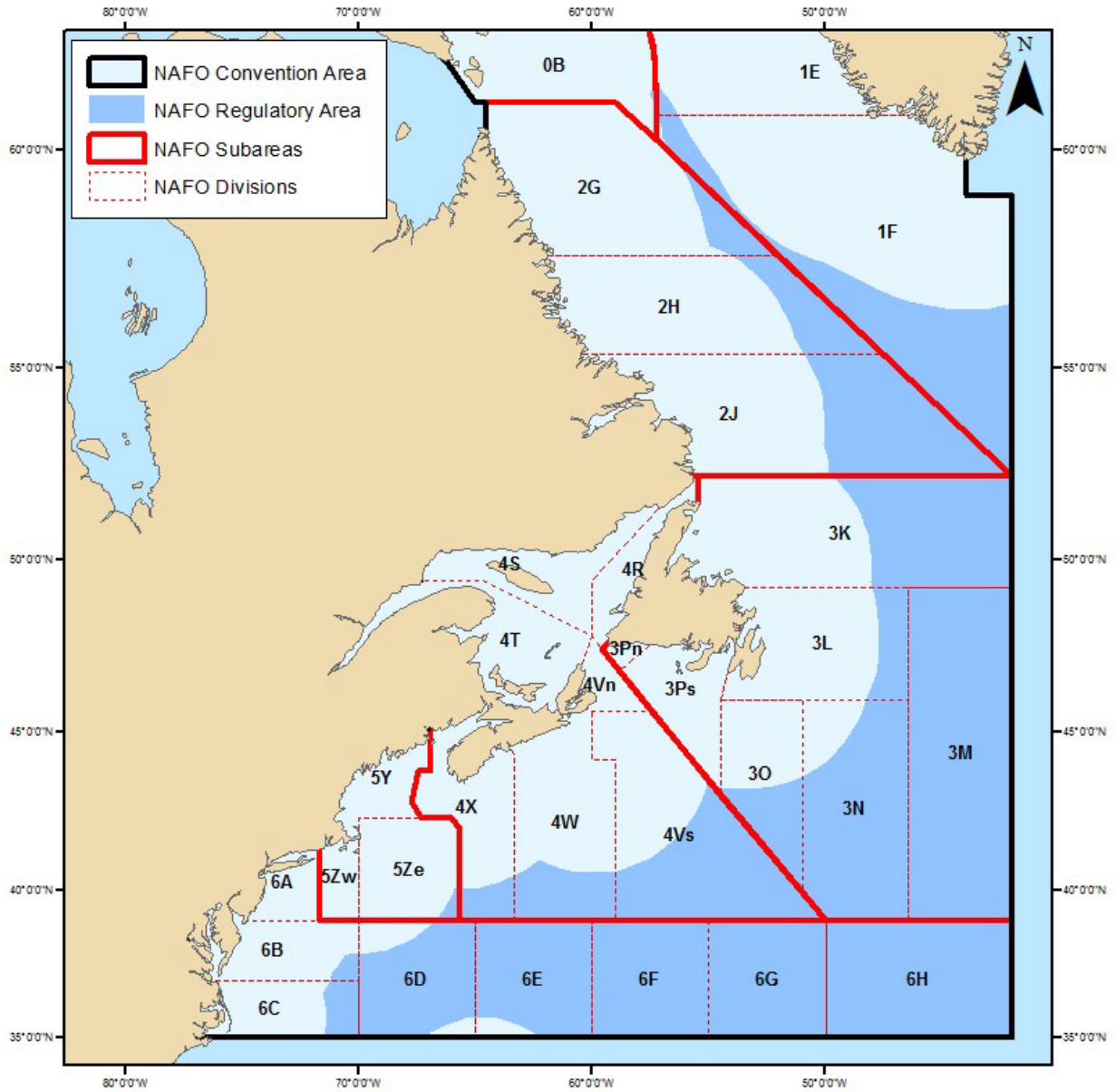


Figure 1: Northwest Atlantic Fishery Organization (NAFO) Regulatory Areas Map