



ATLANTIC POLICY CONGRESS
OF FIRST NATIONS CHIEFS SECRETARIAT

Atlantic First Nations Perspective on Fisheries and Offshore Wind

**Nova Scotia Offshore Wind R&D Forum
Halifax, Nova Scotia
September 24, 2025**

About APC

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- APC is an Indigenous policy and advocacy organization that is responsible for:
 - Research and Analysis
 - Development of Policy Alternatives and Programs
- We support 33 Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik, Peskotomuhkati, and Innu communities in all aspects of fisheries and the environment.



First Nations Fisheries in Atlantic Canada

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- 1999 = \$3 Million
- 2021 = \$208.5 Million
- 300+ Licenses
- 34 Communities
- 7.1% of total commercial landed value in Atlantic Canada



First Nations Fisheries vs Commercial Fisheries

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- Treaty and Aboriginal Right
- Culture and Ceremony
- Communal Commercial Licenses
- Moderate Livelihood Fishery

- Privilege
- Family tradition
- Individualistic
- Commercially and economically based

APC's OSW Activities

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Contracted independent review and report of the Regional Assessments (RA) of Offshore Wind (OSW) in Nova Scotia (NS) and Newfoundland and Labrador (NL)



Facilitated discussions between Atlantic First Nation Fisheries Managers and both RA Committees and Secretariats



APC's report highlighted the detailed work done by the Committees and revealed key issues to address moving forward with OSW

OSW Considerations – Fisheries

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- Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- Important marine species
 - Culturally significant = American Eel, Atlantic Salmon
 - Other = large and small pelagic fish, lobster, snow crab
- Data gaps



OSW Considerations – Projects

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Project impact assessment

- Will the precautionary principle be used?
- Will the Impact Assessment Act or the Canadian Energy Regulator Act be used?



Project design

- What fishing grounds will be impacted?
- Will there be fishing gear restrictions?



Land-based infrastructure

- Construction and expansion
- Impact on diadromous species

OSW Considerations – Funding/Royalties

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Capacity building

- First Nation participation
- Government departments

Community benefits

- Fisheries compensation
- Contribution agreements

OSW Considerations – Funding/Royalties

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Weather and accidents – who will pay for it?



Energy usage and profit



OSW Considerations – Accountability

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Regulatory and permitting pathway



Expertise



Coordination



Transparency





Wela'lin
Woliwon
Tshinashkumitinan
Thank you
Merci

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