



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Review of draft report –
regional assessment of offshore
wind development

Date: December 8, 2024

Vision statement

Argyle is the community of choice to invest, live and play.

Mission statement

Argyle invests time & talent in growth opportunities in fishing, tourism, and renewable energy sectors.

Argyle provides affordable taxation while providing safe and healthy communities and strives to engage and inform our residents on decisions that affect them most.

Argyle provides high class, accessible recreational and cultural facilities and helps celebrate its unique heritage and culture and welcomes new residents to our region.

CAO's Recommendation:

Recommend that Council write a response letter to address concerns highlighting the importance of our fishery, and the insistence that risk mitigation factors and compensation for loss of fisheries be considered in the development of offshore wind.

Council is being asked to read the response and provide recommendations or improvements to the drafted letter.

Suggested motion:

Move to approve the response letter (amended or as presented) and send to the regional assessment email for public input.

(this letter shall be added to the minutes as well as attached to this agenda item).

Background/Summary of draft report:

The council was provided with the link to this draft report, and the report is over 470 pages long. It is a comprehensive report outlining all the work, consultations, scientific information, social and other considerations etc. I have enclosed a copy of the study area considered for this

development. “The Regional Assessment Study Area is an offshore area adjacent to Nova Scotia that includes the Scotian Shelf, including Sidney Bight and a portion of the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence between Nova Scotia and PEI and the Northumberland Strait. The Scotian Shelf experiences some of the strongest and most persistent winds in the world for offshore wind power generation.” There is great potential for offshore wind investment in NS, and would produce a considerable amount of renewable energy for the grid. The committee provides summaries of the known conditions for various physical characteristics, including fishing activities.

Offshore wind is new to Canada, but exists in other countries, with Denmark being the first country to see offshore wind turbine development. The regulatory framework in Canada is evolving.

The report identifies many impact producing factors from atmospheric conditions, to noise, to seabed disturbances and accidents and malfunctions. Each factor was assessed against existing uses of the marine area.

Potential development areas have been split into 2 groups, Tier one and Tier two. Tier one areas are recommended for immediate consideration as prospective wind energy areas. They are as follows: Sidney Bight, French Bank, Middle Bank, Sable Island Bank and Western Emerald Bank. These areas are all east of Shelburne. Tier two areas require additional investigation and/or engagement before being elevated to the Tier one area. They include Misaine Bank, LaHave Bank and Canso Bank. LaHave Bank is the closest geographically to our area and is closest to Shelburne. The Shelburne Port has been identified as an access location for future development.

While these Banks may in fact be fished by our fishers, they are east to our main fishing areas. The Lahave Bank development would be considered a floating installation, due to the way it would be anchored to the seabed.

The buffer to the coastline is 25 kms. There are other restrictions as to where these turbines could be located due to ecological, first nation, fishing or other factors.

Fishing and the balance between fishing and offshore wind are common components of the report. The fishing industry was part of those consulted in this process. Those consulted were generally in agreement with the concept and highlighted what was important to consider in any wind development. Wind developers were also a considerable consideration in engagement, as well as first nation organizations etc... Public engagement sessions occurred across NS, and Yarmouth was home to 2 of these sessions.

Compensation to fishers for loss of fishing areas is a strong consideration and it is recommended that this compensation be defined and determined. Other concerns raised by fishers include:

- forcing developers to decommission the turbines at end of life.
- concerns around marine mammals and whales, impacts on birds and bats.
- Highlighting the economic and social importance of the inshore fisheries.

- Concerns over a continual displacement and loss of fishing areas as it stands, Marine Protected Areas, species at risk....
- What is in this for Nova Scotians – low understanding on how this development brings to NS in terms of jobs and other benefits and highlighting the importance of NS getting its fair share.

The research and analysis are detailed, and multi-faceted, with consultants, experts and other resources used in its design. Many of the offshore wind turbine concerns mimic those on land. Specifically, proximity to ecological sensitive areas, noise and vibration, health impacts on birds and especially bats, and distance to other development.

The report comes up with 34 recommendations for all development areas. It should be noted that the Municipality of Shelburne expressed interest in an Offshore Wind project that would involve their communities provided adequate protection was afforded to fisheries.

The role of the municipality in this case is to stay informed of this process and amplify legitimate concerns from our residents. This community is a fishing community and the balance between wind and fishing is paramount.

The following items are included in our response letter:

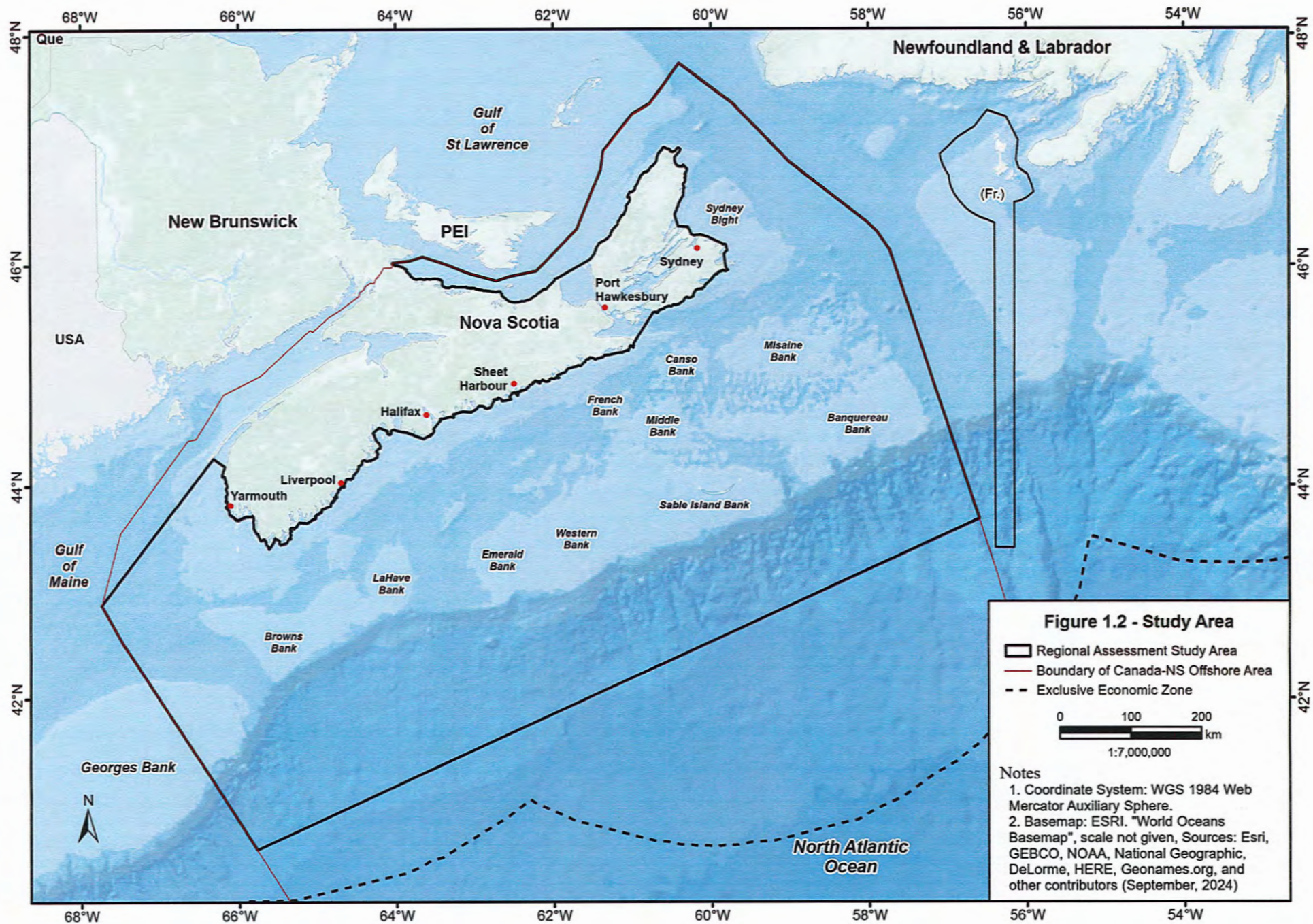
- Reaffirm the need for compensation where the fishing industry is negatively impacted.
- Concerns listed in the report have risk mitigation factors, which are intended to reduce the probability of the risk occurring in the first place. The Municipality has asked for a response where risk mitigation is not successful, what are the potential ramifications to the developer.
- Try to obtain timing information supporting development for both tier 1 and 2.
- Establish clear guidelines for fishing gear, ensure navigation and cohabitation exists where possible.
- Clarification of Denmark's experience with impacts, including vibration, to fish habitat in that development. In other words, what has been the historical impacts between offshore wind and fisheries.

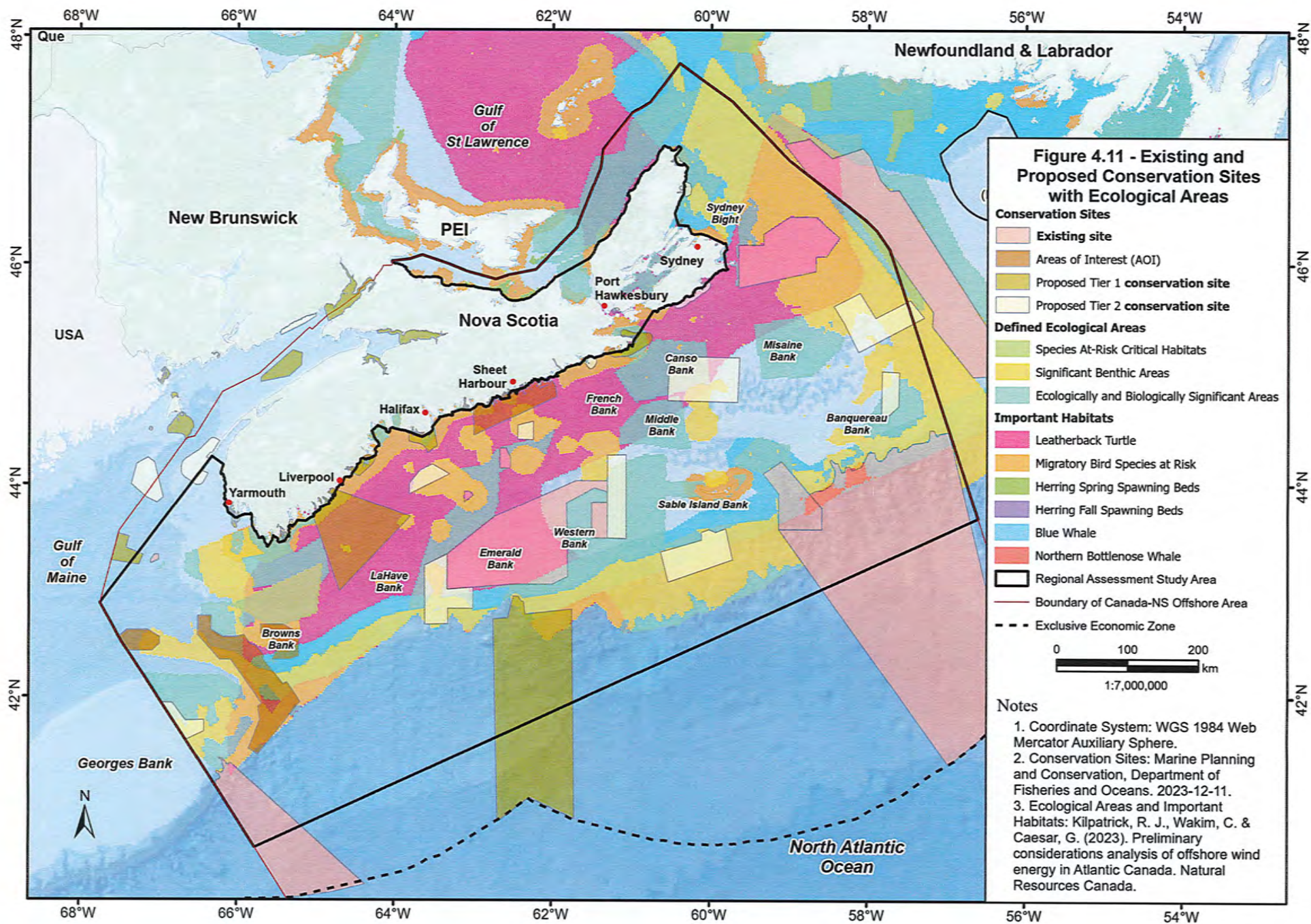
MGA considerations:

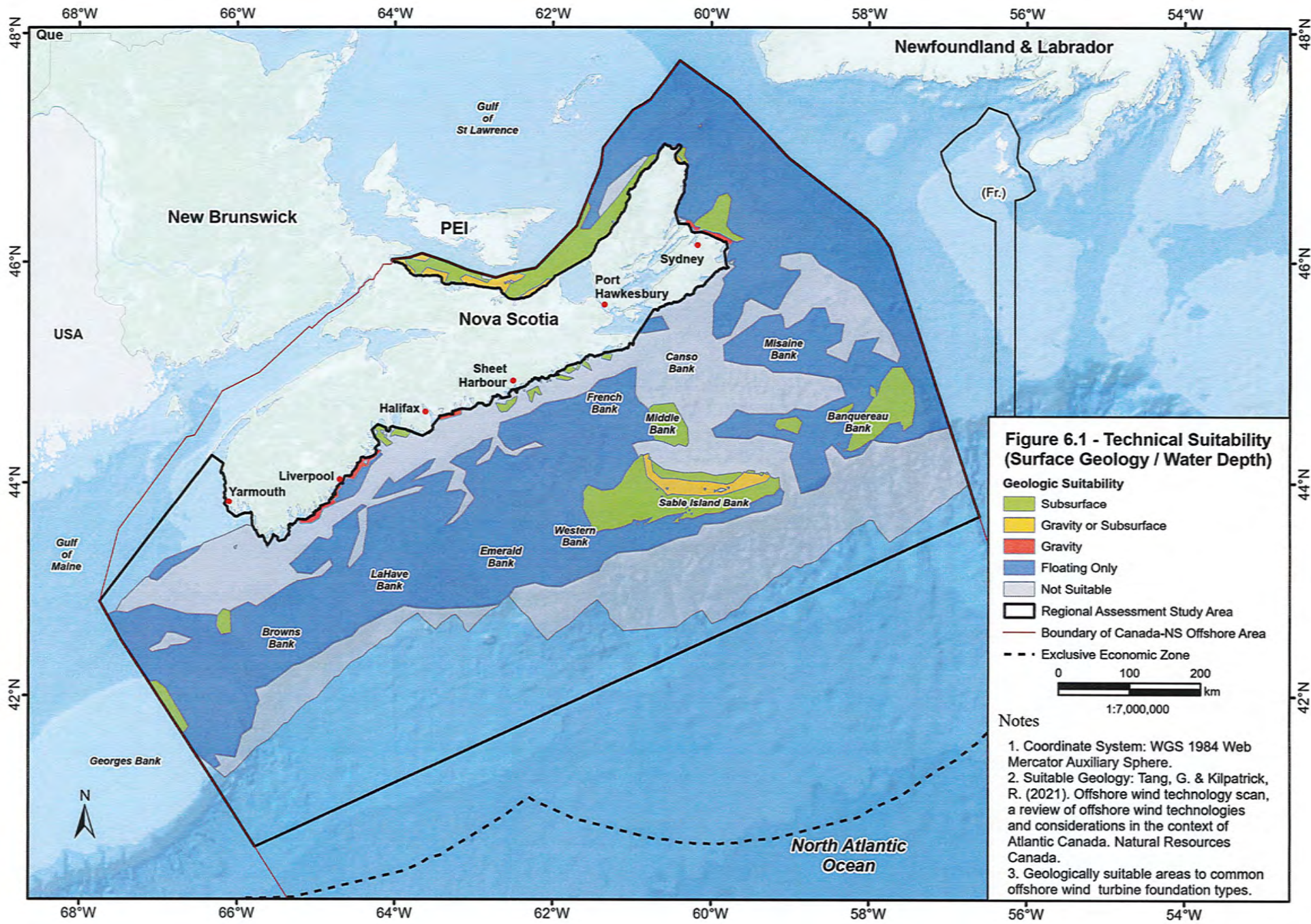
Not applicable

Financial considerations:

No direct fiscal considerations in the response letter. The actual decision to develop offshore wind is outside our jurisdiction and there it is not known how municipalities would directly benefit from this. There would be major economic benefits to the regions engaged in construction, maintenance of offshore turbines, and there would be a clear health benefit to us through massive reductions in carbon emissions.







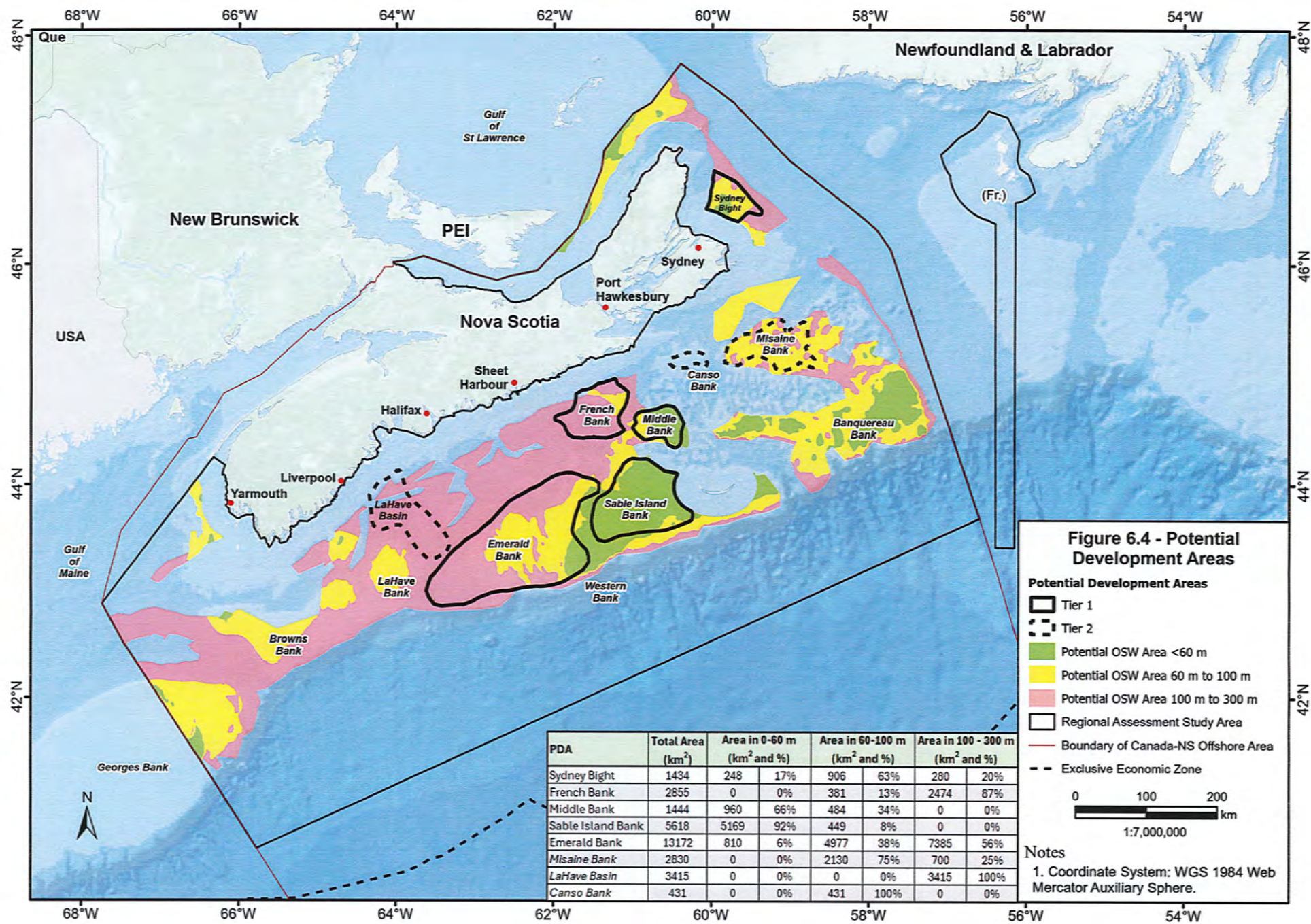


Figure 6.4 - Potential Development Areas

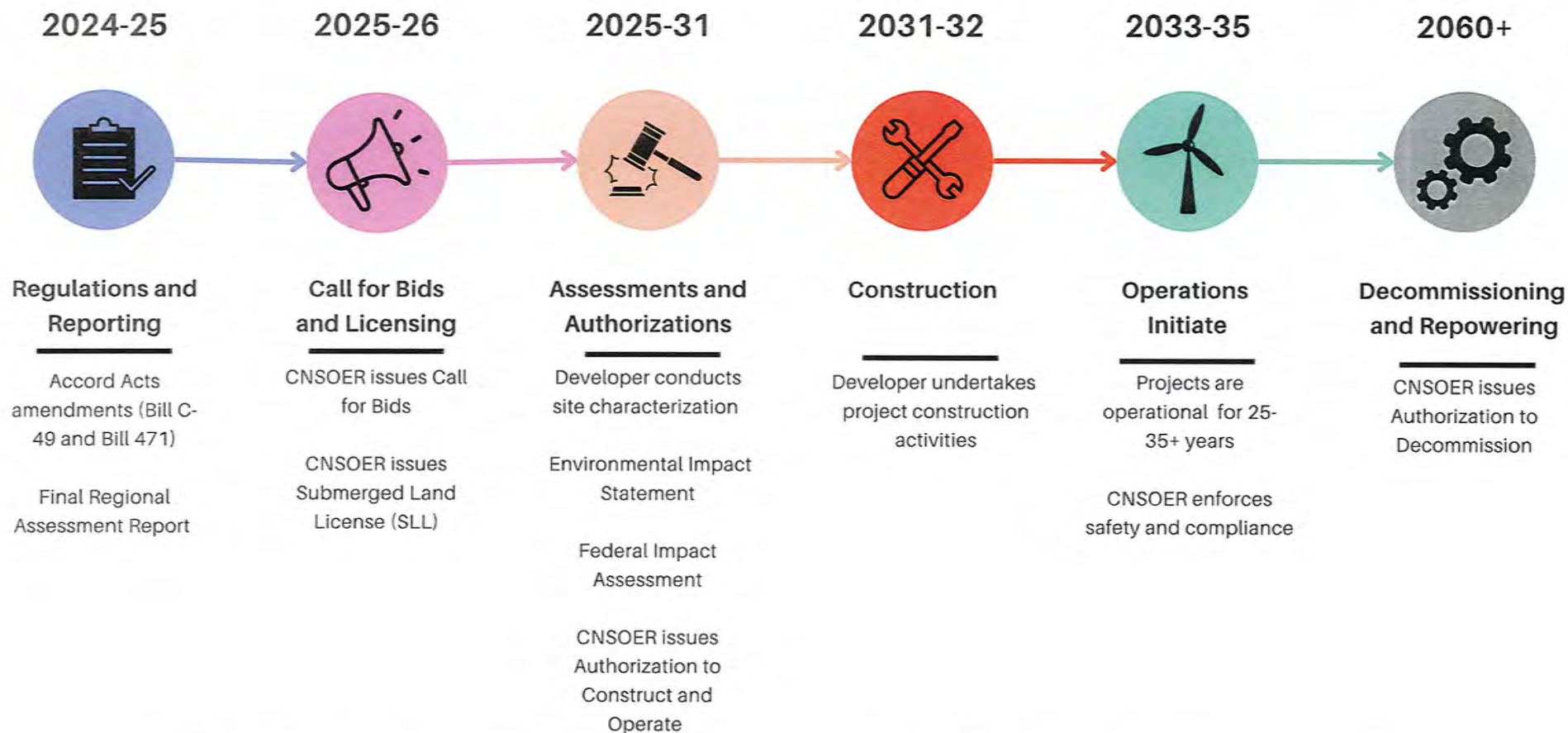
Potential Development Areas

- Tier 1
- Tier 2
- Potential OSW Area <60 m
- Potential OSW Area 60 m to 100 m
- Potential OSW Area 100 m to 300 m
- Regional Assessment Study Area
- Boundary of Canada-NS Offshore Area
- Exclusive Economic Zone

0 100 200
km
1:7,000,000

Notes

1. Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere.



Disclaimer: Dates are approximations based on the Committee's interpretation of best available information as of fall 2024 and are subject to change.

Figure 1.3 Approximate Timeline for Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia