

The environmental aspects of oil and gas development on the Scotian Shelf

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The successful development of oil and gas deposits on Canada's East Coast, specifically the Scotian Shelf, will require the right prices and markets, an efficient regulatory framework and appropriate environmental planning and review.

This environmental planning must take into consideration the historical and potential future uses of the Shelf area. Experience to date, using the Cohasset/Panuke project as an example, indicates that this is possible. The early establishment of communication with the fishing community and other groups or individuals that may, or have the perception that they may be affected is important in lowering the anxiety levels in the com-

munity. This helps lead to a less confrontational Public Review.

The other aspect of environmental management is the preparation of an external analysis to determine the "100 year oceanographic and meteorological design criteria". The results of these studies and geophysical information gathered at the development site are used to select or design the facilities to the proper Codes. While the Scotian Shelf is part of the North Atlantic, the environmental conditions are such that conventional engineering and proper design can meet the requirements for a safe and environmentally acceptable project.