

The Socio-Economic Impacts of Offshore Wind in Nova Scotia

Authors:

Amy MacKenzie, 21FSP Advisory Inc.

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What Theme Are You Submitting for?: Social Considerations and Coexistence

Presenter Name: Amy MacKenzie

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As Nova Scotia advances toward its initial target of licensing 5 GW of offshore wind capacity, attention is increasingly shifting from resource potential to implementation readiness, investor confidence, supply chain competitiveness, and long-term socio-economic value capture. This presentation shares the results of a recent socio-economic impact assessment that examines pathways to optimize benefits across the project lifecycle.

The presentation will highlight economic modelling results from a recent study conducted across multiple deployment scenarios by 21FSP Advisory Inc. and BVG Associates for Net Zero Atlantic, including analysis of GDP impacts, employment, employee compensation, provincial revenues, and local content participation. Particular attention will be given to how Nova Scotia's existing industrial and marine capabilities position the province within the offshore wind value chain.

The session will also explore workforce development implications using phase-specific and proprietary occupational demand modelling that considers existing labour force supply in Nova Scotia, identifying high-demand/low supply trades for workforce development. Strategies for scaling labour participation will also be discussed.

In addition, the presentation will examine key enabling conditions required to advance offshore wind development and capture local benefits, including offtake certainty, transmission expansion, project de-risking mechanisms, regulatory predictability, fisheries coexistence, and community readiness.

Drawing from modelling results, direct experience working in international offshore wind jurisdictions, and extensive industry and stakeholder engagement, this presentation will provide practical insights into how Nova Scotia can position itself to capture durable economic and community benefits from offshore wind development while supporting Canada's broader energy transition objectives.