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## Media Release

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### OEER asks for scientific and technical input on two draft RFPs

(Halifax) – The OEER (Offshore Energy Environmental Research) Association is asking for formal scientific and technical input over the next 30 days in order to complete the drafting of two research-related Requests for Proposals (RFPs) regarding Georges Bank. (The draft RFP documents can be found on the [OEER website](#).)

One of the draft RFPs is designed to assess current technologies and practices in offshore petroleum activity that have emerged since the 1999 Georges Bank Review Panel Report. The purpose of the other RFP is to conduct a preliminary review to outline the current state of knowledge on the science and issues that led to the 1999 Panel's recommendation to extend the moratorium.

The Joint Review Panel conducted a public review of the Georges Bank moratorium in 1999. Both the federal and provincial governments accepted the Panel's report and recommendations, which included extending the moratorium until Dec. 31, 2012. ([Click here to see the 1999 Joint Review Panel Report](#).)

The Province also recognized a need to "...gather more research and scientific information about the Georges Bank ecosystem, particularly regarding fishing, petroleum activities and new technologies". (*Nova Scotia Royal Gazette, April 12, 2000*)

"The mandate of the OEER is to develop the best science and to build on the current state of knowledge," said Dr. Wayne St-Amour, Executive Director of OEER. "We intend to communicate throughout this research process -- and today we are inviting expert scientific and technical comment on the RFP drafts over the next month. It's similar to a peer review to ensure we aren't missing anything, that we are doing all the right things to get the best, most up-to-date science and research."

The deadline for technical and scientific input on the draft RFPs is Thursday, August 27. The final RFPs will be tendered by late September. The research reports will be due by February 2010. The winning bidders will be required to present the research findings.

OEER is a not-for-profit association dedicated to fostering offshore energy and environmental research and development including examination of renewable energy resources and their interaction with the marine environment. The Association works in partnership with Acadia University, St. Francis Xavier University, Cape Breton University and the Nova Scotia Department of Energy. Funding for OEER activities and research comes from grants from the Nova Scotia Department of Energy.

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