



marine
renewables
canada

ANNUAL REPORT

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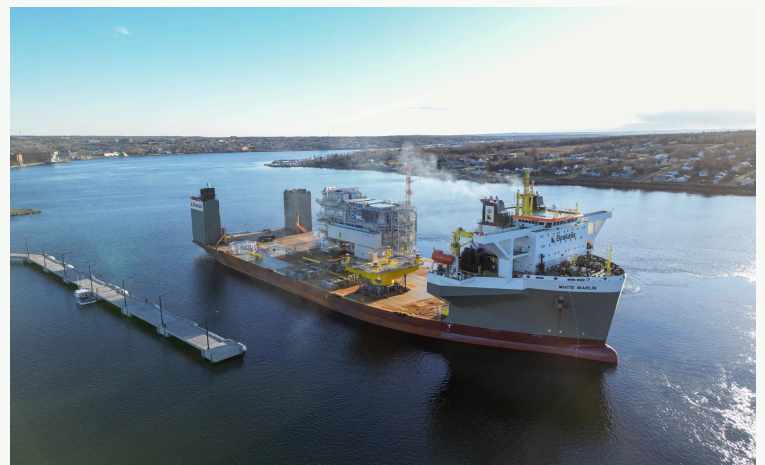
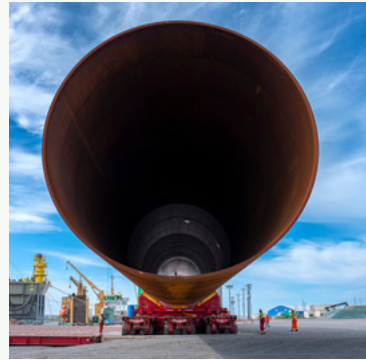
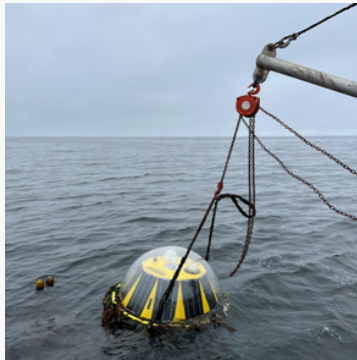


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Who We Are

Marine Renewable Canada (MRC) is the national association for tidal, offshore wind, wave, and river current energy, representing technology and project developers, utilities, researchers, communities, and suppliers. Since 2004, the association has worked to build the industry by advocating for supportive policies, identifying domestic and international business development opportunities, facilitating collaboration amongst its membership and broader ecosystem, and providing education and outreach. As part of its focus on developing the sector, MRC is active in catalyzing opportunities for how marine renewable energy can contribute to achieving net-zero through production of green hydrogen, as well as displacement of diesel in remote communities and marine industries.



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Elisa Obermann, Executive Director
Amanda White, Operations Director
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Chelsi Bennett, Communications & Event Coordinator

Message from our Leadership

As we reflect on 2024, it is clear that Canada's marine renewable energy sector is poised for growth in the years ahead. This year marked a series of milestones that are propelling us closer to having an established, thriving industry that is helping to meet clean energy demand and contribute to a sustainable economy.

One of the standout achievements of 2024 was Bill C-49 receiving Royal Assent in the fall – a significant milestone that MRC devoted countless hours of advocacy towards. This landmark bill represents a critical step forward for the offshore wind industry in Atlantic Canada, providing a regulatory framework that will help create new jobs, unlock economic opportunities for suppliers, and contribute to the clean energy transition. The passage of Bill C-49 is not just a legislative victory; it is a game-changer for the industry, laying the foundation for offshore wind to become a cornerstone of Canada's energy future.

In the tidal energy space, significant progress was made to address regulatory challenges with the conclusion of the Tidal Task Force. Early in 2024, the Task Force released its final report, which included key recommendations aimed at addressing regulatory barriers that have hindered tidal energy development in the Bay of Fundy. While the full impact of these measures remains to be seen, a very important outcome of the Task Force is the renewed spirit of collaboration and cooperation between industry, federal, and provincial governments. This collaboration will extend beyond the Task Force's mandate and will be essential in driving forward tidal energy development in the region and beyond.

There has also been continued sector advancements in British Columbia and Manitoba, where small-scale tidal and river current energy R&D and demonstration initiatives have progressed, and more importantly, have demonstrated the importance of partnering with remote and Indigenous communities.

Message from our Leadership

Our largest-ever conference, held this year, was a testament to the growing momentum in the sector. It signaled not only the increasing interest and investment in marine renewables but also the effectiveness of the work we are doing alongside our members to push this sector forward.

As we look to the future, there is no doubt that the road ahead will present challenges. But with the continued collaboration between industry, governments, Indigenous groups, and local communities, we are more confident than ever in the potential of Canada's marine renewable energy sector. Together, we will continue to push forward, unlock new opportunities, and drive the growth of this industry.

On behalf of the MRC Board and staff, I would like to thank our members, partners, and collaborators for their ongoing dedication and enthusiasm to make big things happen. We are excited for what the future holds, and we are proud to be working alongside you to make that future a reality.



Elisa Obermann
Executive Director



Dr. Mary Lou Lauria
2024 Chair

3 INDUSTRY UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS



MRC Annual Report 2024

Photo Credit: Atlantic Canada Bulk Terminal

Industry Updates and Highlights

Canada's marine renewable energy sector saw continued momentum across the country. On the east coast, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador are leading offshore wind initiatives, with continued progress in laying the necessary policy and regulatory groundwork for future project development. With increased support to ensure a predictable regulatory path, industry has shown continued interest in the Bay of Fundy, a focal point for tidal energy projects. Momentum continued on the west coast in both wave and tidal energy, with initiatives to support marine renewable energy ambitions in remote and Indigenous communities. Both domestically and internationally, Canadian suppliers, many of which of MRC members supported the growth of the marine renewables industry, lending their expertise, skill and decades of experience from working in ocean industries.

Tidal Energy

Eauclaire Tidal & Orbital Marine | Nova Scotia

In December 2023, Eauclaire Tidal announced it had partnered with Orbital Marine Power (Orbital) to deploy its technology at FORCE. Scottish-based Orbital already operates the world's most powerful tidal turbine, the 2 megawatt O2. The floating device is 74 meters in length, supporting two 1-MW turbines. Orbital is collaborating with FORCE and Acadia University in their application to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) for a Fisheries Act authorization to deploy three devices at FORCE.



Industry Updates and Highlights

New Energy Corporation | Nova Scotia & International

New Energy Corporation received support from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) for the installation of a 25kW system in Grande Passage, Nova Scotia. This project, in collaboration with Sustainable Oceans Applied Research and the Canadian Hydrokinetic Turbine Test Centre (CHTTC), is largely focused on optimizing the installation of a single system first, which will be fully equipped with a variety of environmental sensors and cameras to gain a thorough understanding of marine interaction with the turbine. Knowledge from the initial installation will be brought forward to other project sites in the region, including New Energy's 800kW birth in Minas Passage. Internationally, New Energy designed and delivered a state-of-the-art 5kW floating hydrokinetic turbine prototype to a large US customer and successfully delivered and installed five 5kW systems in a manmade channel in Singapore.

Nova Innovation | Nova Scotia

Nova Innovation continues to plan for the installation of its 1.5 MW tidal energy project in Petit Passage, Nova Scotia and is currently assessing the logistical, contracting, and scheduling options for deployment of the first of the Phase 1 turbines. In parallel, Nova continues to collect industry leading environmental data from Petit Passage using a Remote Observation Platform which will inform its environmental monitoring program.

Yourbrook Energy Systems | British Columbia

Yourbrook Energy Systems signed an MOU with Tl' Yahda Energy, the energy company of the Haida Nation, to move forward in a partnership that will align with the existing plans to get Haida Gwaii off diesel. With support from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Yourbrook is working towards completing Phase 1 of a FEED study in March 2025. Phase 2 will be completed in mid 2025 and construction of the Kamdis Tidal Power Demonstration Project has a projected start in September 2025.

Industry Updates and Highlights

River Current Energy

Ocean Renewable Power Company (ORPC) Canada | Multiple provinces

ORPC's successful two-year demonstration of the RivGen® Power System at CHTTC marks a key step towards commercial deployment of hydrokinetic energy in Canada, having met Manitoba Hydro's grid-interconnection requirements. In Quebec, ORPC Canada is helping develop a national hydrokinetic energy measurement standard through a CanmetENERGY-led project on the Saint-Maurice River, comparing ADCP and aerial drone measurement techniques.

Additionally, studies are underway to assess integrating a hydrokinetic turbine with a dam on the Magog River in Sherbrooke to boost power production. In fall 2024, four Indigenous communities across Canada applied for funding through Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) renewable energy demonstration program to implement ORPC power systems, highlighting the growing interest in clean energy solutions within Indigenous communities.



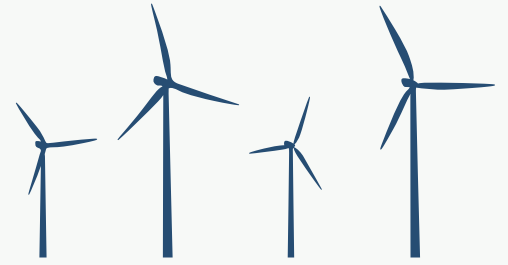
Image: RivGen® Power System at the Canadian Hydrokinetic Turbine Test Centre in Manitoba

Wave Energy

Yuquot Wave Energy Project | British Columbia

The Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation-led Yuquot Wave Energy Project with project partners Pacific Regional Institute for Marine Energy Discovery (PRIMED), Barkley Project Group, CalWave Power Technologies, Canpac Marine Services, and Environmental Dynamics Inc. continues to advance with detailed design, costing, and environmental assessment works. Collected data is being analyzed that will inform baseline environmental assessment report, construction management plan, and operations management plan.

Industry Updates and Highlights



Offshore Wind

2024 has been a pivotal year for offshore wind in Canada, marked by significant strides in legislation, policy advancements, and stakeholder engagement to lay the groundwork for future growth. With the potential for offshore wind development expanding, many MRC members are now taking proactive steps in pre-development activities to help shape upcoming projects. Alongside the growing momentum at home, Canadian businesses and suppliers continue to gain global recognition for their expertise and innovative solutions. MRC members are actively contributing to international offshore wind projects and developments, further cementing Canada's role in the global industry.

Cape Breton Partnership | Nova Scotia

Since 2023, the Cape Breton Partnership has been engaging communities across Unama'ki – Cape Breton through the Green Energy Engagement Program (GEEP). In 2024, the Partnership, in collaboration with Net Zero Atlantic, visited 13 communities to discuss offshore wind and foster two-way knowledge sharing, resulting in a "What We Heard Report" that captures community feedback on offshore wind. Additionally, the Cape Breton Partnership commissioned two reports to explore the feasibility of green cement manufacturing facilities in the Strait of Canso and Sydney Harbour, assessing factors such as port capabilities, site characterization, and market demand. These studies highlight the potential for early investment in green cement facilities to support the offshore wind sector.

Nova East | Nova Scotia

Nova East Wind, a proposed stepping stone offshore wind project off the coast of Nova Scotia, continued early development work through 2024, focusing on stakeholder engagement and early project development activities, maturing design concepts and preparing for a future impact assessment process. In September 2024, the project completed 24 consecutive months of digital aerial surveys over an 1,100 km² area to document marine megafauna, birds, vessel traffic, buoys and other marine activity. In October, after several months of discussions, the project signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs that reflects a desire to build a sustained relationship throughout the life of the Nova East Wind project. The project's activities culminated in an Open House in Goldboro, Nova Scotia and a Town Hall in New Harbour in November.

Industry Updates and Highlights

Novaporte | Nova Scotia

Novaporte's Phase 1 port infrastructure development to support offshore wind for both Canada and the United States (US) continues to advance. Set to be operational in late 2027/early 2028, phase one of this purpose-built marshalling yard for offshore wind will be able to support up to 3-4 contracts simultaneously, with more than 500m of available quayside. Initial planning has been completed and FEED design is underway.

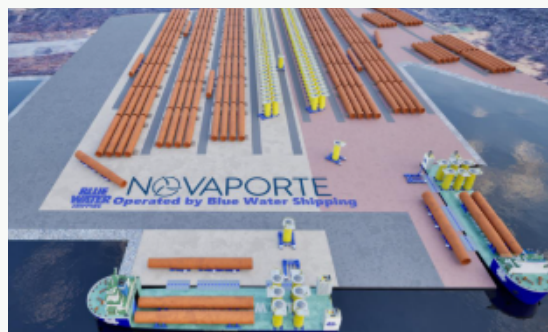


Image: Novaporte rendering for design of Phase 1 of development

Port of Sheet Harbour | Nova Scotia

In 2024, the Port of Sheet Harbour, owned by the Province of Nova Scotia and managed by QSL, was utilized by offshore wind installation contractors for storage and deployment of offshore wind transition pieces for projects under development in the US. As Port Manager, QSL has been applying its strengths in specialized logistics, strategic industry collaboration, and robust infrastructure support to help transform Sheet Harbour into a major hub for offshore wind components, contributing to North America's decarbonization goals.



Image: Port of Sheet Harbour: Spliethoff Heavy Transport vessel offloading the transition pieces



Image: Port of Sheet Harbour: DEME Sea Challenger Jack-up Vessel at the berth for load out of the transition pieces

Industry Updates and Highlights

Port of Argentia | Newfoundland and Labrador

The Port of Argentia has become a key player in North America's offshore wind sector, serving as a vital logistics hub for projects in the US. Located in Newfoundland and Labrador, it became North America's first offshore wind monopile marshalling port in 2023 and recently secured a contract to store offshore wind turbine blades. With over 30 hectares of bonded yards for component storage and heavy laydown operations, the Port is playing an important role for global offshore wind logistics. As offshore wind projects grow in the US, Argentia's role strengthens cross-border cooperation. With 150 hectares of land available for expansion, the Port is set for continued growth to support the expanding sector.



Image: Port of Argentia - Wind Turbine Blade Storage

Atlantic Canada Bulk Terminal | Nova Scotia

In 2023, Atlantic Canada Bulk Terminal (ACBT) was contracted to marshal monopiles for the US's Vineyard 1 offshore wind development under construction off the coast of Massachusetts. Beginning in January 2024, the Terminal received and stored these massive components, weighing over 2,000 tonnes each, requiring specialized facilities with heavy lift capabilities, high ground bearing capacity, and a capable quayside. Building on this success, ACBT has expanded its offshore wind activities, marshalling anodes, cages, transition pieces, a topside substation, and windmill blades. Each operation presented unique challenges, from accommodating jack-up installation vessels for windmill blades to ensuring versatile berthing arrangements for monopiles—challenges ACBT met with innovative solutions.



Image: Atlantic Canada Bulk Terminal - Orion Monopile out load

Industry Updates and Highlights



Green Hydrogen

The production of green hydrogen and ammonia from marine renewable energy continues to be a significant opportunity being pursued by MRC members. The increased focus on green hydrogen opportunities was marked with new initiatives over the last two years, with several of MRC's members focused on using offshore wind for future phases of green hydrogen production.

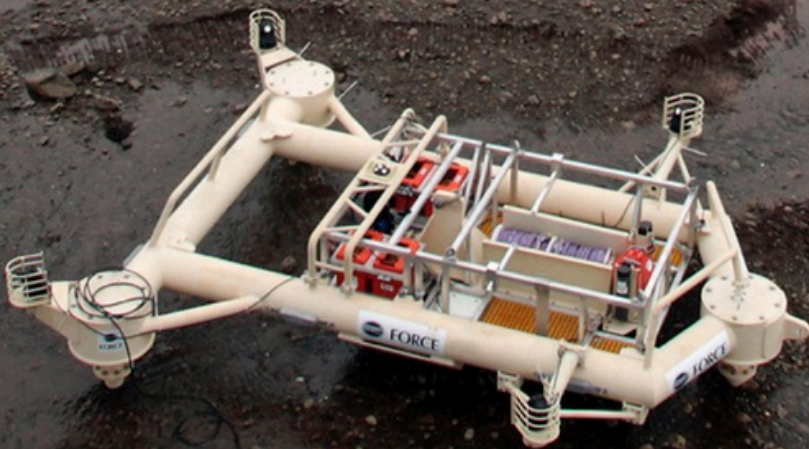
EverWind Fuels | Atlantic Canada

EverWind continues to advance its green hydrogen and ammonia projects in Atlantic Canada, achieving key milestones that bring large-scale clean energy production closer to reality. In April, EverWind completed Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) for its Point Tupper facility, making it the first large-scale green hydrogen and ammonia project in North America to reach this stage. This milestone follows 110,000+ hours of engineering with Black & Veatch and was recognized at an event with federal and provincial leaders. EverWind also marked 19 years without a lost time injury, reinforcing its commitment to safety and operational excellence. Further strengthening Canada's position in the global hydrogen economy, EverWind was awarded \$22.5 million from Transport Canada's Green Shipping Corridor Fund to develop marine infrastructure at Point Tupper, including a green ammonia loading arm and supply pipelines.



Image: EverWind Fuels - Point Tupper green ammonia production facility

4 RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND ENABLING INITIATIVES



Research, Innovation, and Enabling Initiatives

Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE) | Nova Scotia

In 2024, FORCE spearheaded several research and development initiatives focused on enhancing environmental monitoring for tidal energy projects. Notably, FORCE collaborated with DFO, the Ocean Tracking Network, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, and Acadia Tidal Energy Institute (ATEI) to align research efforts and help facilitate the collection of data on tagged fish across a broader area and improve efficiency. They also partnered with ATEI to test new monitoring technologies, including AI and machine learning applications. Additionally, FORCE commissioned a comprehensive Fish Synthesis Report and developed a standardized monitoring template to help developers meet *Fisheries Act* requirements.

The HydroAware Project, a key initiative that FORCE is involved in, aims to advance AI in fish tracking, optimizing acoustic telemetry and tagless detection in challenging environments like Minas Passage. This collaboration with Innovasea, NB Power, and others seeks to reduce the cost and time required for environmental monitoring, offering a potential breakthrough in project efficiency and regulatory compliance.

National Research Council (NRC) | National

The National Research Council Canada's Ocean, Coastal and River Engineering Research Centre (NRC-OCRE) has completed research to assess river current or “hydrokinetic energy” (HKE) resources across Canadian rivers and to help improve turbine performance. Using satellite imagery and analytical methods, the newly developed Canadian River Hydrokinetic Energy (CRHE) Database estimates HKE at river cross-sections, with validated data from Ontario, Quebec, and Nunavut. This database, accessible via an online mapping tool and for direct download, provides valuable resources for communities and developers. NRC-OCRE is also studying cavitation in HKE turbines to address challenges in resource extraction, with ongoing research on global HKE estimates, turbine cavitation, and potential HKE development in the Canadian Arctic in collaboration with local communities.

Research, Innovation, and Enabling Initiatives

Natural Resources Canada - CanmetENERGY | National

This year, CanmetENERGY Ottawa has focused on supporting advancement in marine renewable energy, including the development of marine technologies and enhancing resource assessment tools. In collaboration with ORPC, CE-O conducted a site characterization project on the St. Maurice River, collecting river flow data to support a hydrokinetic demonstration project. Additionally, CE-O and PRIMED at the University of Victoria launched a project to improve tidal energy resource assessments in Quatsino Narrows by developing a high-resolution hydrodynamic model and collecting data on tidal currents and velocities. CE-O is also partnering with Carleton University to enhance river flow predictions in the Yukon and Northwest Territories through machine learning models. Furthermore, CE-O continues its research with NRC and Laval University on cavitation and its impacts, designing and testing a hydrokinetic turbine model at NRC's St. John cavitation tunnel.

Net Zero Atlantic | Nova Scotia

Net Zero Atlantic (NZA) has been active in supporting offshore wind and green hydrogen in Nova Scotia through various projects and studies. Highlights include the Capacity Building for the Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Nova Scotia's Offshore Wind Resource, an initiative carried out with partners Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, and Cape Breton Partnership to provide information to rural and Indigenous communities across the province, as well as hosting the Nova Scotia Offshore Wind R&D Forum in the fall. NZA has also been facilitating several key studies to inform future offshore wind development including the Atlantic Canada Offshore Wind Grid Integration and Transmission Study, NS-USA Subsea Cable Socioeconomic Study, and Assessment of Atlantic Canadian Ports to Support Offshore Wind Development.

University of Victoria (IESVic) | British Columbia

The University of Victoria (UVic) through PRIMED, continued to make progress leading several projects and initiative focused on wave energy and clean energy for remote community development working with local suppliers, industry, researchers, and Indigenous communities. In addition to the work PRIMED is doing to support the Yuquot Wave Energy Project, it collaborated with the Council of the Haida Nation, to continue its research program to characterize marine renewable energy resources (wave, tidal, and offshore wind) around Haida Gwaii. This involves fieldwork, data collection, and model development to support site identification and energy integration modelling. In addition, the Blind Channel project team has advanced through detailed engineering design, with plans for the installation of a 25-kW tidal energy converter and a hybrid renewable energy system microgrid in spring 2025 for the Blind Channel Test Centre. PRIMED has also made significant progress in regulatory consultations, completing a baseline environmental assessment and developing an environmental monitoring program for the initiative.

5 THE POLICY CONTEXT



The Policy Context

– key initiatives and enabling activities for sector growth



2024 was a milestone year in the advancement of policies designed to support the development of marine renewable energy in Canada. As governments continue their efforts to meet decarbonization goals by 2050, the policy landscape is becoming increasingly supportive and conducive to unlocking the full potential of Canada's marine renewable energy opportunities. In 2024, several key initiatives, programs, and policies were launched, all of which are significant to the marine renewable energy sector.

Key Policy Milestones



01 The Task Force on Sustainable Tidal Energy Development in the Bay of Fundy

In February 2024, the Task Force on Sustainable Tidal Energy Development in the Bay of Fundy (the “Tidal Energy Taskforce”), an initiative established by the Government of Canada to address regulatory challenges faced by the tidal industry, published its final report. The purpose of the Task Force was to:

- build on work to date to clarify requirements for fish protection
- improve transparency and methodology of risk assessment and decision making on tidal turbine deployments
- reduce turnaround time for regulatory decisions for tidal energy projects in the Bay of Fundy

A key outcome of the Tidal Energy Task Force is the establishment of a “Revised” Staged Approach to authorizations under the federal *Fisheries Act*. This approach is intended to provide a fifteen-year conditional authorization for the staged deployment of small arrays of tidal devices with clear requirements for fish protection and monitoring. Although designed to address the conditions in Nova Scotia’s Minas Passage, the revised staged approach could be adapted to tidal energy projects elsewhere in the Bay of Fundy.

Other key recommendations and actions from the Tidal Energy Task Force included:

- Establishing of a Risk and Monitoring Working Group (“Working Group”) to support improved approaches and technologies for risk assessment and monitoring;
- Potentially enhancing the role of the FORCE as a hub that integrates technical, environmental, and regulatory considerations while fostering innovation, practical applied science, and leadership;
- A commitment by DFO to improve the understanding of risk assessment and monitoring by sharing information on its national approach to risk assessment, developing information materials on monitoring requirements for tidal energy proponents, and supporting the Working Group;
- Establishment of an oversight committee to track and monitor progress of its deliverables and to provide oversight and accountability to the Risk and Monitoring Working Group.

The Policy Context

02

Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia

Regional Assessments of offshore wind were kicked off in 2023 to help inform future project-specific federal impact assessments and decisions for projects in these regions. In 2024, the Regional Assessment Committees for both Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia issued a series of reports based on findings from research and extensive engagement with local communities, Indigenous groups, and stakeholders like the fishing and offshore wind industries to gather input on potential development areas for offshore wind and other considerations. Significant in these reports was the identification of potential areas for offshore wind development and recommendations to inform future policy-making.

03

Blue Economy Regulatory Roadmap

In June 2024, DFO released the Blue Economy Regulatory Roadmap. The roadmap outlines actions the Government of Canada plans to take to support innovation and economic growth in Canada's oceans. It focuses on five main areas, one of which is marine renewable energy and environmental protection. The roadmap advances four initiatives under the marine renewable energy and environmental protection theme, including the efforts outlined above to advance marine renewable energy legislation and regulations in the offshore. The remaining initiatives are focused on developing information products to clarify the project review process; exploring opportunities to improve review of clean growth projects; and supporting increased collaboration and coordination among federal departments in support and regulation of marine renewable energy projects.

The Policy Context

04

Nova Scotia Offshore Wind Roadmap – Module 2

Module two of Nova Scotia's Offshore Wind Roadmap was released in June and focused on supply chain and infrastructure, outlining early actions to achieve the following goals:

- Ensure initial goal of 5 GW of offshore wind development is successful and sustainable
- by establishing a strategy that optimizes local participation in the supply chain, including diversification opportunities for existing ocean users, while recognizing the need to ensure timely and economically viable project development.
- Optimize opportunities for Nova Scotia businesses and communities to benefit from offshore wind development, creating a supply chain that is "best in class" which can leverage and enable global participation in the sector for decades to come.
- Establish an offshore wind supply chain that is inclusive, diverse, and equitable creating opportunities for Mi'kmaw, African Nova Scotian, and African Descent communities, as well as other underrepresented and underserved groups.

05

Canada Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits

In June, the Government of Canada announced that the Clean Economy Investment Tax Credits (ITC) were available, following Bill C-69 receiving Royal Assent. These new ITCs are designed to attract private investment, create jobs and grow the economy through clean energy, including marine renewable energy and clean hydrogen projects

Bill C-49

Bill C-49, An Act to amend the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act and the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts (Bill C-49) “Accord Acts”:

Bill C-49 made its way through the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources in winter/spring 2024 and went on to the Senate for debate and Senate Standing Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources in June 2024. It was passed in September and received royal assent on October 3rd, establishing a streamlined joint management regime for the regulation of offshore renewables, and notably offshore wind, by expanding the mandate of the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) and Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB). This is the first and only law directly addressing the regulation of offshore renewable energy projects developed on federal seabed in Canada.

The Policy Context

07

Bill 471—Advancing Nova Scotia Opportunities Act

In September, Nova Scotia government introduced and passed legislation to help ensure offshore wind and tidal energy developments can contribute to achieving the province's clean electricity and net zero goals. The Bill included amendments to the *Marine Renewable-energy Act* and the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation (Nova Scotia) Act* ("Accord Act") to help Nova Scotia stay on track to advance its goal of 5 GW of offshore wind leases by 2030 by:

- Creating the ability to delegate Ministerial power or duty under the Act to other entities;
- Allowing planning tools in addition to strategic environmental assessments, such as regional assessments, to be used to help identify areas for offshore wind development; and
- Adding additional authority to develop regulations under the Act.

Amendments to the *Marine Renewable-energy Act* also create more flexibility for tidal energy development by creating the ability to split an existing license into two or more licenses. This ability provides greater alignment with other federal and provincial regulatory requirements and creates more options for industry to plan and deliver projects, while maintaining existing requirements for environmental protection.

08

Offshore Renewable Energy Regulations (ORER) Initiative

The Government of Canada finalized and brought into force the federal *Canada Offshore Renewable Energy Regulations* (CORER), which establish comprehensive requirements related to safety, security, and environmental protection for the offshore renewable energy sector under the *Canadian Energy Regulator Act*. The CORER provide industry and other stakeholders with a clear understanding of the regulatory expectations and ensure project proponents adopt best practices and best available technologies throughout the lifecycle of offshore renewable energy projects, from site assessment through construction, operations, and finally, decommissioning and abandonment. Forthcoming regulations under the amended Accord Acts will provide similar regulatory certainty under the Canada-Nova Scotia and Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador joint management areas and ensure a coherent offshore renewable regulatory regime across Canada.

6 OUR WORK: GROWING THE SECTOR



Growing the Sector

MRC's mandate is to champion the growing marine renewable energy sector in Canada through advocacy, engagement, and education and expand market opportunities across the country and globally. Outreach to government and stakeholders, international business development, knowledge-building workshops, and ongoing support for members as they pursue opportunities are key elements of the association's sector-building efforts.



Image: MRC 2024 Conference



Image: MRC Executive Director Testifying on Bill C-49

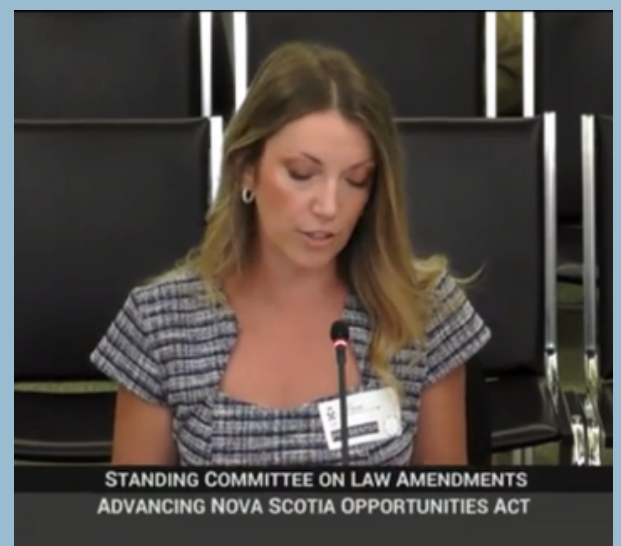


Image: Tour of Jan De Nul vessel Symphony

Policy Development and Advocacy

Through targeted government relations and advocacy efforts, MRC has consistently advocated for its members and the sector. Throughout 2024, the association concentrated on advancing the development of a regulatory framework and supportive policies for offshore wind energy, and initiatives to foster the growth of the marine renewable energy market across Canada. These efforts included active participation in various federal and provincial government initiatives:

- Letter to the federal Minister of Finance RE: Pre-Budget Consultation for the Government of Canada's 2024 Budget
- Testimony and written submission regarding Bill C-49 to House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources
- Submission regarding Canada Gazette, Part 1, Volume 158, Number 8: *Canada Offshore Renewable Energy Regulations*
- Testimony at the Nova Scotia Standing Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development Research regarding "Safeguarding the Future of Tidal Energy in Nova Scotia"
- Testimony and written submission regarding Bill C-49 to the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources
- Submission on Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland & Labrador Interim Report
- Submission on Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia Interim Report
- Submission on Discussion Paper on the Project List Review (*Physical Activities Regulations, Impact Assessment Act*)
- Joint letter on Federal Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit
- Submission Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Newfoundland & Labrador Draft Report
- Submission on Ontario Integrated Energy Resource Plan Consultation
- Submission Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia Draft Report



Policy Development and Advocacy

Collaborating to Inform Future Offshore Wind Policy

A major component of supporting the development of offshore wind, is the leasing/auction framework and overall market design. A well-designed auction, tailored to the unique characteristics of a jurisdiction lays the groundwork for a long-term economically and socially sustainable industry. As evidenced by recent auctions in other jurisdictions, uncapped or high-capped bidding can lead to high electricity prices. Additionally, cost pressures combined with auction design flaws can lead to less interest from industry, resulting in few attractive bids.

As Atlantic Canada, and specifically Nova Scotia, begins to explore models for seabed issuance, MRC partnered with Canada's Ocean Supercluster to commission a study aimed at providing research findings that can support industry, policymakers, and other stakeholders' as they consider optimal auction/leasing design. The study outlined global best practices and key recommendations for the Canadian context. Project partners worked engaged with federal and provincial governments, as well as industry developer members to present the findings of the study with the aim of informing future offshore wind policy development.



Engagement and Education

Supporting the Offshore Wind Supply Chain

A critical component of ensuring sustainable growth of offshore wind in Canada will be the establishment of a capable and competitive supply chain to support industry requirements. Atlantic Canada has the advantage of many experienced suppliers and services that have worked in offshore and marine industries for decades, with some already working in the international offshore wind market.

At this early stage in offshore wind industry development there is general uncertainty about the scope of a domestic supply chain, the timeframes needed to build critical resources, the level of investment required, the potential benefits to local workers and communities, and the significance of gaps in the existing suppliers/services (ex. manufacturing, port, vessels, workforce, etc.). To help foster a strong and competitive supply chain for future offshore wind development in the Atlantic region, MRC, with funding support from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Nova Scotia Department of Energy, and Prince Edward Island Energy Corporation commissioned a study to help support an overall goal of developing a domestic offshore wind supply chain and further growing capacity in the onshore wind supply chain in time to meaningfully support the installation of future offshore wind and onshore wind projects that will be in the pipeline – onshore projects are already in queue and the offshore wind pipeline will begin with Nova Scotia's leasing targeted for 2025-2026. Xodus Group and its partners Angler Solutions, Envigour Policy Consulting were selected to conduct the study, supported by an expert team of local industry advisors.

The study will be published in Spring 2025 and is intended to help industry, suppliers, governments, and other stakeholders strategically plan how to invest in local resources to both de-risk future deployments, establish a sustainable and self-sufficient industry and ultimately realize the significant benefits that can be achieved through an offshore and offshore wind industry in Atlantic Canada.

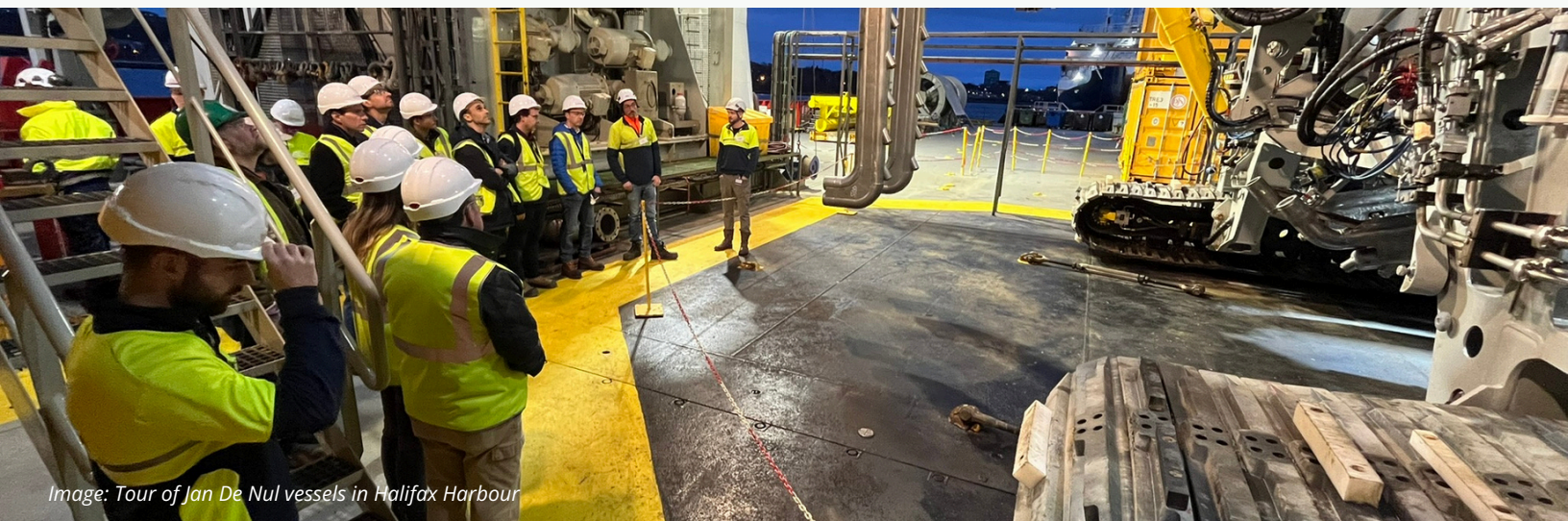


Image: Tour of Jan De Nul vessels in Halifax Harbour

Engagement and Education

Strengthening Indigenous Engagement and Relationships

MRC has been working towards strengthened relationships with Indigenous organizations and communities and in 2024, the association focused this effort on engaging in more Indigenous-led events and providing information about the marine renewable energy sector. MRC attended and presented at the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Fisheries Conference and the Indigenous-Led Atlantic Energy Summit, providing information on the status of offshore wind in Canada and opportunities for supply chain and equity partnerships. Most importantly, engagement at these multi-day events created an opportunity to make new connections with Indigenous communities. At MRC's annual conference in November, there was a focused effort to ensure that Indigenous perspectives were well represented – the conference featured nine Indigenous speakers, two dedicated sessions to Indigenous involvement in marine renewable energy and the broader renewable sector, and a keynote from the Canadian Council for Indigenous Business.

MRC plans to build on this outreach in 2025 with increased engagement and partnerships with Indigenous communities through events, projects, and its annual conference.



Offshore Wind Education:

Ask an Expert Offshore Wind Webinar Series

MRC continued to host its Ask an Expert webinar series, which addresses key topics about offshore wind to provide critical information about the industry to the Canadian public. Based on a previous public survey to gather input on high interest topics, MRC held webinars on "Approaches for Planning, Development, Construction, and Operation," "Lessons Learned and Best Practices for Coexistence with Other Ocean Users," and "Offshore Wind Regulation in Canada & Insights from Global Best Practices."

Events & Outreach

Member Roundtables – Nova Scotia, Newfoundland & Labrador, British Columbia

MRC expanded its in-person roundtables in 2024 to include two events Atlantic Canada (Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador), in addition to British Columbia. These roundtables were designed as an opportunity for members to discuss challenges and opportunities for marine renewable energy in different regions of the country, learn more about activities underway by MRC to support sector growth, and connect with other members. Members were invited to provide insight on key priorities in each region and discuss ways that MRC can help drive industry development.



MRC's Offshore Wind Supply Chain Forum & Summer Social

The 2024 annual summer event was expanded to include two events in one day: an afternoon business and supply chain forum and an evening summer social and lobster dinner. The Offshore Wind Supply Chain Forum, aimed at supporting businesses, organizations, and communities with interests in participating in the offshore wind market at home and abroad, provided attendees information on the growing opportunity in Canada, while the evening social was a perfect opportunity to catch up with colleagues and make new connections.

The event was made possible with the support of its sponsors: Waterford Energy Services Inc. (Presenting), Atlantic Towing, Cox & Palmer, Seaforth Geosurveys, McKeil Marine & the Nova Scotia Department of Energy.



Events & Outreach

Additional events participation and speaking engagements

MRC participated in a number of conferences, workshops, and events delivering presentations that provided education on the opportunities of Canada's marine renewable energy sector, industry progress, and strengths of members and the supply chain:

- Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Fisheries Conference, Nova Scotia
- NSCC Offshore Wind Workshop, Nova Scotia
- Clean Energy BC Generate 2024 Conference, British Columbia
- H2O Conference, Nova Scotia
- Atlantica Centre for Energy Summit, Nova Scotia
- Indigenous-Led Atlantic Energy Summit, New Brunswick
- Canadian-German Chamber of Commerce, Nova Scotia
- Hydrogen Business Council, Ontario
- Canada-Brazil Forum: Exploring Energy Transition and Blue Economy, virtual
- Global Affairs Canada Offshore Energy Information Session, virtual



Marine Renewables Canada 2024 Conference | Halifax

Each year the MRC Annual Conference brings together visionaries, experts, and pioneers in tidal, offshore wind, wave, and river current energy to deliver the most up-to-date information on marine renewables. This year's conference was the largest to date featuring 350+ attendees, 52 local, national, and international speakers, 88 international delegates, member-exclusive sessions and a sold-out industry showcase.

The conference program provided attendees with highlights on the significant advancements in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland's regulatory frameworks, discussions on the importance of meaningful and respectful relationships with Indigenous communities and actionable recommendations for partnerships, clear dialogue on fostering new collaborations across industry sectors, government, research, suppliers, and Indigenous organizations, amplified the urgency of growing and mobilizing a skilled workforce to meet offshore wind sector demands, and emphasized the importance of building a local supply chain to spur economic growth and reduce development costs.



350+
Attendees



**123 facilitated
B2B meetings**



**10 sessions on
industry-
trending topics**



**52 Session
Speakers and 19
Exhibitors**



**88 International
Delegates with 15
International
Speakers**



Marine Renewables Canada 2024 Conference | Halifax

In addition to the full conference program, MRC hosted a pre-conference Members' Day featuring an international business development program, Member Sessions, and a Member Appreciation Reception – opportunities for members to gain market intelligence and connect directly with each other to foster relationship-building and collaboration.



The 2024 conference could not have been possible without the support of its sponsors and partners: Nova East Wind (Presenting Sponsor), Northland Power, DOF Subsea, Province of Nova Scotia, Fugro, Waterford Energy Services, AECOM, Dovre Group, Atlantic Towing, Cherubini, Bourque Industrial, Focal Technologies, Seaforth Geosurveys, Rhenus Logistics, and Cox & Palmer; and with support from the Government of Canada.



Engaging in the Global Market: International Business Development

As the global marine renewable energy market expands, MRC's membership possesses the expertise and capabilities to support projects worldwide. The Canadian industry leverages capabilities honed over decades in related sectors such as offshore oil and gas, defense, marine operations, and ocean technology. To date, member companies have been involved in international offshore wind, tidal, wave, and river current energy projects, and MRC is committed to continuing to foster and facilitate trade and export opportunities. At the same time, marine renewable energy remains largely untapped in Canada, presenting significant prospects for international investment and development.

In 2024, MRC continued implementation of its International Business Development (IBD) Plan, a strategy informed through consultation with members that is targeted at identifying and supporting opportunities for trade and export as well as foreign investment in Canada. Activities led by MRC, with support from Global Affairs Canada (CanExport program) and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), have helped establish business collaborations, attract investment to both tidal and offshore wind opportunities, and capture valuable opportunities for members.



Trade Missions & International Activities

Mission to the 2024 International Partnering Forum on Offshore Wind (IPF) | New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

With support from the Government of Canada, MRC led a delegation of 25 companies and organizations to the 2024 International Offshore Wind Partnering Forum (IPF) in New Orleans, a premiere offshore wind energy conference in the US, connecting global leaders and businesses in the supply chain and offering tremendous networking opportunities.

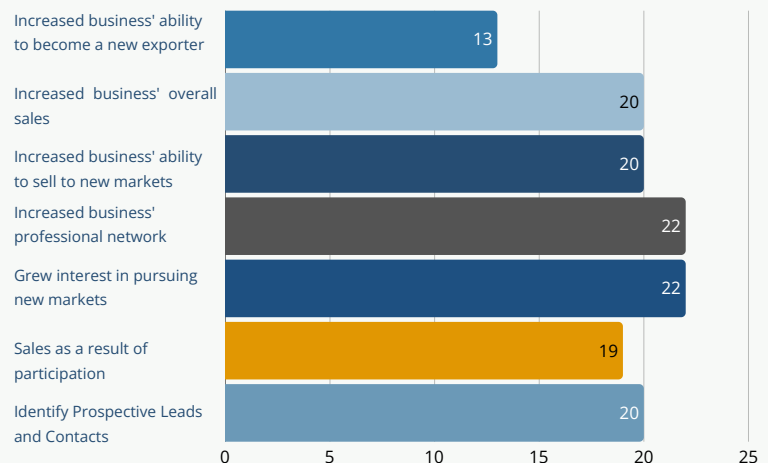
The Canadian delegation had broad representation including service providers, consultants, project developers, ports, ocean technology manufacturers and research associations. Mission activities included multiple pre-mission webinars, meetings with key organizations in the US, onsite mission briefing, a contracted consultant to assist mission delegates, a booth in the exhibition, participation in the conference WindMatch B2B program, and attendance to multiple networking events.



25 Member Companies



160 B2B Meetings



Trade Missions & International Activities

Mission to the WindEnergy Hamburg 2024 | Hamburg, Germany

In September, with the support of the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador and the Government of Canada, Marine Renewables Canada partnered with econext to deliver a successful program for a Canadian delegation at WindEnergy Hamburg 2024.

The event, a major international wind energy gathering, tailored toward addressing the major issues facing the wind energy sector, brought together a high-caliber, professional audience and exhibitors demonstrating their innovations and solutions from across the entire value chain of the industry.

Mission activities included exhibition access, B2B meeting support, pre-mission market intelligence session, and a Canadian networking event. Twelve companies (21 delegates) participated gaining valuable market insights and identifying new business opportunities.



Trade Missions & International Activities

Canada-Brazil Forum: Exploring Energy Transition and Blue Economy

The Chamber of Foreign Trade and Investment / Development Agency of Ceará in Brazil invited MRC to participate in a Canada-Brazil Forum in September to speak on the developing offshore wind industry in Canada, Canada's supply chain strengths and capabilities, and opportunities for collaboration between Brazil and Canada. As Brazil increases policy support and ambitions for a thriving offshore wind market, it has the potential to be an important export market for Canadian suppliers that have capabilities to service project development.

Oceans of Opportunity International Business Development Program at MRC 2024

With support from the Government of Canada, MRC hosted the Oceans of Opportunity program at the annual conference in November in Halifax. The program featured an International Roundtable, facilitated B2B sessions, international updates in the main conference, and various networking opportunities. MRC hosted 10 international industry experts from key markets to be featured in the program, providing Canadian companies with valuable insights into key global markets.

Canadian Trade Commissioner Service Cleantech Information Session on Offshore Energy in Canada

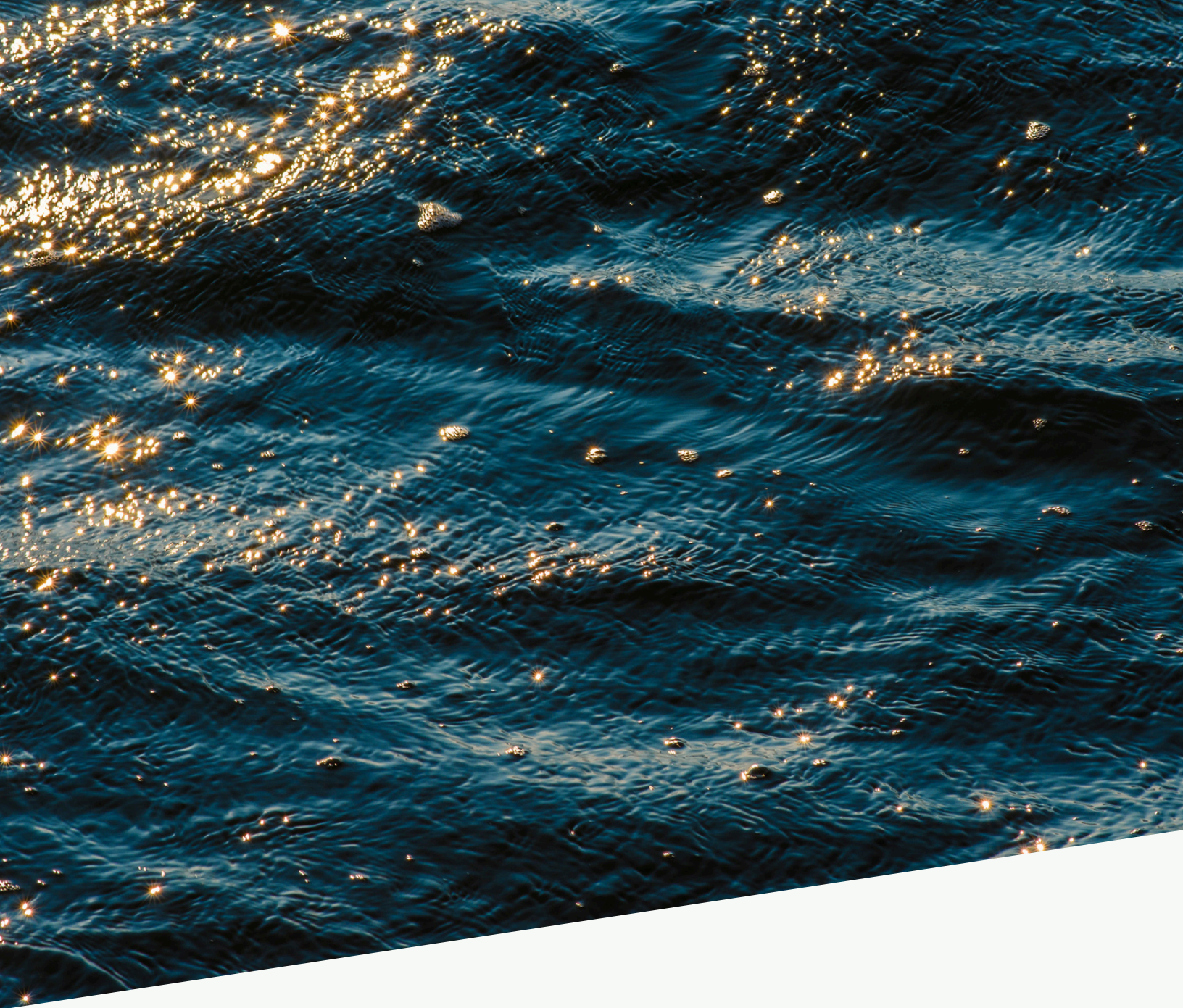
In December, the association was invited by the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service to participate in a webinar exploring the synergies between offshore wind and oil and gas, highlighting how companies in offshore oil and gas are also working in the offshore wind space due to their extensive expertise and existing infrastructure. The webinar included presentations highlighting Canada's offshore oil and gas capabilities by Energy NL, and Canada's offshore wind and marine renewable capabilities by MRC.

Our Members

Without our members' dedication, perseverance and passion, the association would not be what it is today. Thank you all!

MRC is also very pleased to welcome new members who have joined the association in 2024:





marine
renewables
canada