



**International Offshore Petroleum  
Environmental Regulators**

## **International Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulators**

Annual General Meeting

5-6 October 2023 | Perth, Australia

### **Communique`**

IOPER CONTINUES FOCUS ON ENHANCED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

The International Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulators (IOPER) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Perth, Australia from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023, following the International Regulators Forum (IRF) Conference. The AGM was chaired by Australia and was attended in person or virtually by representatives from Brazil, Canada, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The meeting featured updates from each country on their jurisdiction. The IOPER members discussed common topics, issues and opportunities and good practices. Key themes discussed included:

- ❖ Regulating in the context of the opportunities and challenges associated with energy transition and global energy needs.
- ❖ Increasing emergence of carbon capture and storage projects.
- ❖ Decommissioning including managing liability in perpetuity risks and challenges in the near and distant future.
- ❖ Stakeholder interest in the regulation of the offshore energy sector and environmental decisions.
- ❖ Indigenous cultures, heritage, values and consultation.
- ❖ Skilled and qualified workforce challenges.

**The Marine Sound Working Group (MSWG):** An update on the progress of the MSWG was provided. The development of a forum for government regulations to discuss ocean noise across multiple offshore energy types was discussed. IOPER members will review the MSWG terms of reference to consider how best to utilise the group moving forward.

**The Oil Spill Working Group (OSWG):** An update on the work of the group was given including the completion of the Testing and Exercising project, and progress of the Oil Spill Preparedness Testing and Exercising Guiding Principles. IOPER members recognise the benefits the Guiding Principles may provide. The OSWG will continue to consider emerging priorities to address in future workplans.



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The IOPER members discussed future focus areas to be further explored to support of a longer-term planning direction, facilitating member engagement and improvements for offshore petroleum environmental regulators. Additionally, the updated IOPER website will feature the reposting of periodic topical articles from member countries.

The publicly open IRF conference and a combined International Upstream Regulators (IUF), IRF and IOPER discussion forum preceded the IOPER AGM, where IOPER members engaged with international regulators and a broad range of stakeholders interested in the offshore energy sector. The AGM included an industry engagement session with key industry representative bodies to provide an update of their environmental initiatives and future plans. IOPER continues to engage with stakeholders and building collaborative knowledge on environmental regulation and improvements on environmental performance.

A virtual mid-year meeting is planned for May 2024 and the Annual General Meeting will be held in person in October/November 2024 with the host and venue to be confirmed.

For a full list of IOPER member countries and agencies, visit the [IOPER website](#).