



International Regulators' Forum

Communiqué

International Regulators' Forum Holds 2025 Annual General Meeting and Conference in St. John's, Canada Focused on Offshore Petroleum Safety

14 October 2025

The International Regulators' Forum (IRF) began its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 6 October 2025, hosted by the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Energy Regulator, Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator and Canada Energy Regulator. The AGM was attended in person or virtually by offshore energy health and safety leaders from nearly all member countries, which include Australia (Chair), Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States.

2025 Annual General Meeting of the International Offshore Regulators

The AGM was held on 6, 7 and 8 October 2025 to consider and discuss the IRF strategic agenda, matters that had arisen since the May 2025 Mid-Year Meeting and country updates from members. In almost all countries, topics about decommissioning, legislation, carbon capture and storage, and innovation are high on the agenda. Even though these topics lead to greater workloads, there is a shared opinion that safety and environmental protection must remain at the same or greater level of priority as they are now.

Australia has ably chaired the IRF meetings in recent years. The Netherlands will take over for one year.

Day One: Country Updates and Performance Indicators

A general, challenging trend is seen regarding the availability of skilled personnel from companies and contractors for production and maintenance. Another trend is the consolidation of offshore companies. Many companies are changing ownership and due to this, there is a risk of significant knowledge about specific details of installations disappearing. For safety reasons and for reuse or decommissioning, this knowledge is essential.

The IRF also discussed the key performance indicators data. The data is collected by the members on incidents and releases. The data shows, in broad terms, many declining trends since 2017, with some upticks from 2021/2022 onwards. The IRF will publish the data on the website and continue to track and discuss industry performance. The IRF members have called on each other to discuss these trends with operators in their own countries.

Website: <https://irfshoresafety.com/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-regulators-forum>

X: <https://twitter.com/IRFOffshoreSoft>

Day Two: Opportunity Statements, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence

IRF members discussed the implementation of the Opportunity Statements within industry and their regulatory practices. Members shared their experiences and the lessons learned from incidents. Members also discussed the outcomes of a study that supports human natural abilities when developing and implementing digital and automated systems. This discussion was followed by an update from representatives of industry associations.

The IRF members shared their work on cybersecurity, their role and responsibility in each country. Best practices were also shared. The developments, challenges and opportunities related to Artificial Intelligence (AI) were also discussed. It was also discussed how AI is or can be used by industry and what the implications are for safety.

Day Three: Joint Meeting of IRF / International Upstream Forum (IUF) / International Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulators (IOPER) / International Regulators' Forum Offshore Renewable Energy Subcommittee (IRFORES)

The AGMs of IUF, IOPER, IRFORES and IRF had a joint meeting to explore common topics of interest. The topics are financial provisioning in late life assets and decommissioning. There are recognized as safety, environmental implications, resource development and well integrity, associated with the financial capacity of offshore petroleum companies, particularly when it comes to decommissioning. The outcome of the meeting is that a joint approach is the way forward. In the coming period, the method of working together will be elaborated upon.

2025 International Regulators' Forum Offshore Safety Conference

Canada also hosted the IRF Conference in St. John's on October 9 and 10, 2025. The Conference brought together nearly 300 key international personnel and thought leaders from the IRF and other offshore energy regulators, industry, members of the offshore workforce and government to discuss mutual challenges and opportunities and drive continuous improvement in safety outcomes. With a theme of "Offshore Safety Through Innovation", the Conference program consisted of plenaries, specific sessions and panel discussions to explore emerging safety issues – based on the common issues faced by IRF members and guests, which allowed for audience discussion between each session of the key topics. Copies of the presentations made at the Conference will be made available in due course to encourage wider sharing of the issues discussed.

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