

Jones wants more attention paid to Placentia Bay environment

St. John's — Opposition Leader Yvonne Jones says the government needs to get serious about environmental issues facing Placentia Bay in light of increased economic and marine activity in the region.

Speaking in the House of Assembly Wednesday, Jones said a federal oil spill risk-assessment project stated that Placentia Bay was the area most probable for a spill in the range of 10,000 barrels.

Jones also noted that foreign species of fish have been found in waters in the area. Jones said many believe the species are being transported through ballast water from oil tankers.

"Concerns have been raised by the local fishing industry and residents about potential environmental damage with rapid economic expansion in the area," Jones said.

Jones said another environmental assessment should be done considering the cumulative impacts of the proposed oil refinery, the new hydromet facility, and the Come by Chance refinery on the local environment.

"The minister has not given that commitment and I suggest this take place before any potential environmental disaster takes place," Jones said.