HUEBA TF – Implementation Plan

Any questions?

For further information contact:

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- Regulators requested industry review the use of emergency breathing apparatus in the event of a helicopter ditching offshore Atlantic Canada
- CAPP engaged in consultations with operators in Atlantic Canada and other cold water basins (Europe) to determine the type of device to be used and the training required
- CAPP Safety Committee and operators' executives approved proceeding with implementing the device as recommended

Helicopter Underwater Emergency Breathing Apparatus (HUEBA)

- What is a Helicopter Underwater Emergency Breathing Apparatus (HUEBA)?
 - A HUEBA is a safety device designed to provide the user with an additional capacity of breathable compressed air while underwater so that he or she has more time to escape from a partially or totally submerged helicopter.
- There are different types of HUEBA in use worldwide (i.e., rebreather, hybrid-rebreather, compressed air system). Which device will be employed in Atlantic Canada?
 - A compressed air system, similar to a SCUBA (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus), has been chosen for use in Atlantic Canada. This is a system that has been in use for many years and has been proven successful in emergency situations.
- Why is the device chosen for Atlantic Canada different from the types used in the North Sea?
 - The offshore petroleum industry and the Offshore Petroleum Boards in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador undertook an extensive review of the types of HUEBA in use in other jurisdictions. Ease of training, ease of use, the ability to deploy before or after water submersion, and compatibility with the existing suits were deemed to be key features of the compressed air device that made it the most suitable device for use in Atlantic Canada.