



ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT

ALERT NUMBER: 002/2016

ISSUE DATE: 3 November 2016

INCIDENT / ALERT DETAILS:

The Offshore Environmental Inspectorate has noted an increasing number of operators contravening EIA directions, Marine Licenses and Survey Consents, in the course of offshore operations. These include:

- Depositing rock on the seabed outwith an approved area;
- Depositing grout bags on the seabed in breach of permitted quantities;
- The unlicensed deposit of sandbags; and
- Undertaking geological surveys outwith authorised dates.

INITIAL/ALERT FINDINGS:

Investigation findings established a number of causal factors:

- Lack of awareness of permit /consent conditions by personnel on work vessels;
- Lack of awareness of the licence and consent variation process; and
- Poor communications between onshore and offshore personnel, including during the initial planning.

Operators must ensure that all personnel involved in the aforementioned activities are fully trained and have a detailed understanding of the permitting regime, and in particular, the terms and limitations of any licence or consent under which they are operating.

Operators are reminded that to undertake operations which contravene the terms and conditions of such a regime can amount to a criminal offence for which the permit/licence holder may be held legally responsible. Enforcement action may be taken in accordance with the Department's Enforcement Policy.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Any queries relating to this alert should be addressed to:

Offshore Environmental Inspectorate
AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Or:

Offshore.inspectorate@beis.gov.uk