

**ConocoPhillips (U.K.) Limited**  
**MacCulloch Field Production Consent Increase**  
**Environmental Statement Summary**

**To:** Sarah Pritchard

**From:** Sarah Dacre

**Date:** 30 December 2008

<b>ES Title:</b>	MacCulloch Field Production Consent Increase
<b>Operator:</b>	ConocoPhillips (U.K.) Limited
<b>Consultants:</b>	BMT Cordah Limited
<b>Field Group (DECC):</b>	Aberdeen
<b>ES Report No:</b>	D/4025/2008
<b>ES Date:</b>	October 2008
<b>Block Nos:</b>	15/24b
<b>Development Type:</b>	Increase in production

### **Project Description**

The MacCulloch Field is located in Block 15/24b in the central North Sea, approximately 168km northeast of Aberdeen.

The proposed project comprises of:

- The increase in oil production in 2009 from 1,793.5 tonnes/day to 4,000 tonnes/day (an increase of 1,890 tonnes/day) and continued production to 2014 with an average increase of 1,266 tonnes/day above the 2008 consented level.
- The increase of gas production between 2009 and 2013 of an average of  $0.244 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup>/day.
- No additional subsea infrastructure will be installed.

### **Key Environmental Sensitivities**

The EIA identified the following environmental sensitivities:

- Moderate shipping activity (1-10 vessels per day passing within 10nm);
- High fishing activity;
- Fish spawning area for Norway pout and *Nephrops* (peak April-July).
- Nursery area for Norway pout, blue whiting and *Nephrops*.
- Seabird vulnerability is very high or high in July, August, October and November.
- Low numbers of cetaceans have been recorded;
- Annex I Habitats: The MacCulloch Field is located in an area in which pockmarks are known to occur (the Fladen Ground). The proposed cSAC boundaries for the Braemar and Scanner pockmarks are located 82km and 13km respectively from the MacCulloch Field.
- Annex II Species: Harbour porpoise occurs in low to very low numbers in January, February and July.

## Key Potential Environmental Impacts

The following potential impacts and mitigation were addressed in the EIA:

- Atmospheric emissions – these will be produced through flaring and power generation as a result in an increase in production. Forecasted power generation during 2009 as a result of increased production will result in the emission of approximately 58,600 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Flaring emissions will result in 58,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is a combined total of 117,400 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. This represents 0.7% of the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from all UKCS oil and gas installations, suggesting the resultant increase to be insignificant in terms of UKCS emissions.

In addition, there are no sensitive receptors or proposed designated sites that will be impacted from atmospheric emissions.

ConocoPhillips have adequate mitigation measures in place to minimise emissions, including experienced, technically qualified combustion equipment operators aware of regulatory implications; and regular maintenance to ensure efficient operation.

- Marine discharges – the only foreseeable discharges associated with the proposed operations are those associated with produced water and chemical discharges. Though there will be an increase in produced water discharge, there will be an oil in water content of between 10-20mg/l. The produced water system is regularly maintained to ensure maximum efficiency. At present there will be no change to the quantity or type of chemicals used in the MacCulloch Field.

**Public Consultation:** No comments were received as a result of the public consultation.

### Consultee(s):

The statutory consultees for this project were JNCC and FRS. The following comments were made:

JNCC: JNCC did not consider the proposed increase in production to have a significant adverse impact upon the marine environment and had no further comments. JNCC recommended the Environmental Statement be approved.

FRS: FRS commented that some data to inform the environmental description was too generic and it was advised that more site specific data should be gathered to inform future applications. Due to the type of ES (i.e. no new subsea installations), there was enough data to satisfy FRS that the proposed increase in production would not have a significant impact. Recommendation for approval was recommended.

**Further Information:** Comments in relation to lack of site specific data were forwarded, however no further information was required from ConocoPhillips.

### Conclusion(s):

Following consultation period, DECC and its consultees are satisfied that the increase in production proposed is not likely to have a significant impact on the receiving environment, including any sites or species protected under the Habitats Regulations.

**Recommendation(s):**

**On the basis of the information presented within the ES and advice from consultees it is recommended that the ES should be approved.**

*Sarah Pritchard*.....

30/12/08.....

**Sarah Pritchard**

**Date**