



Environmental Statement (ES) Summary and Sign-Off

Title:	Starling Development
Operator:	Shell UK Limited
Report No:	D/4019/2008
Submission Date:	November 2008
Block No:	22/30, 29/3
Development Type:	Increase in Production
Reviewer:	Philip Bloor – Senior Environmental Manager
Date:	December 2008

A) Project Description:

The Starling field lies approximately 201 km east of Aberdeen and 60 km from the UK/Norway median line in water depths of c90 metres. It is one of three fields that is tied back to the Shearwater development. The Starling field produces both oil and gas which are exported by pipeline to the Shearwater platform.

The Environmental Statement has been submitted to assess an increase in production forecast at Starling of greater than 500,000 m³ of gas per day.

Key Project Activities:

The EIA identified the following activities as having the potential to cause an environmental impact:

- Increase in atmospheric emissions from power generation;
- Increase in emissions from flaring;
- Increase in produced water discharges
- Accidental discharge.

C) Key Environmental Sensitivities:

The EIA identified the following environmental sensitivities:

- Annex I Habitats – There are no Annex 1 habitats in the vicinity of the Starling field.
- Annex II species – Harbour porpoise occur in the vicinity of the Starling field throughout the year with most sightings in during the summer months.
- Plankton and Benthos – Found to be typical for Central North Sea
- Fish – Mackerel, lemon sole, Norway pout all have spawning grounds in the area. Nursery grounds are for Norway pout, and Haddock.
- Marine mammals – Cetaceans have been recorded throughout the year with harbour porpoise and white-beaked dolphin being the most abundant.
- Seabirds – Typical seabird assemblages for the Central North Sea occur in the area. Vulnerability of seabird to surface pollutants increases during the autumn but decreases from February to June.
- Fishing activity – Low for demersal species throughout the year.
- Shipping - Approximately 1,025 vessels per year pass in the vicinity of the Starling development.

D) Key Potential Environmental Impacts:

The following potential impacts were discussed in the Environmental Statement:

- **Increase in produced water discharge**– There will be an increase in produced water discharge at the host, Shearwater, installation resulting in an overall increase of 0.3kg/day of oil.
- **Chemical discharges** - There will be an increase in the use and discharge of a corrosion inhibitor required to avoid corrosion of the oil export line. The corrosion inhibitor will be discharged at Shearwater and have a very localised impact at the discharge point; the impacts of which will be minor.
- **Flaring from host facility** – There will be no increase in flaring as a result of the increase in production.
- **Emissions from power generation** – There will be no increase in emissions from power generation as a result of the increase in production.
- **Accidental spills** – There will be no increase in the likelihood of a hydrocarbon or chemical spills at Shearwater as a result of the increase in production of gas.

E) Consultees:

The statutory consultees for this project were the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the Fisheries Research Service (FRS). They made the following comments:

- (i) **JNCC:** - JNCC are content for DECC to grant approval to the Environmental Statement
- (ii) **FRS:** - Overall, FRS is content that the Environmental Statement can be accepted.

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

G) Recommendation:

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

Approved : Wendy Kennedy, Head of Offshore Oil and Gas Environment and Decommissioning

Wendy Kennedy

Date: 23 December 2008

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