

## TAQA Bratani Ltd : Otter Production Increase Environmental Statement Summary and Sign-off

<b>ES Title:</b>	Otter Field Production Consent Increase
<b>Development Type:</b>	Increase in Production
<b>Block No:</b>	210/15a
<b>Field Team (DECC):</b>	Northern North Sea, Aberdeen
<b>ES Report No:</b>	D/4129/2012
<b>ES Date:</b>	January 2012
<b>Consultants:</b>	Xodus Group
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Paul Batty
<b>Review End Date:</b>	November 2012

### Project Description

TAQA Bratani Ltd acquired the Otter Field from Total E&P UK in July 2011. The field is tied back to the Eider platform 21 kilometres (km) to the south. Verification of the current production profile confirmed that an increase in the production consent was necessary, and that the level of the increase would exceed the EIA Directive threshold of 500 tonnes of oil per day. No additional subsea facilities or wells are currently proposed.

### Key Environmental Sensitivities

The EIA identified the following environmental sensitivities:

- **Fishing effort:** Fishing effort in the area is low;
- **Fish stocks:** There are spawning grounds in the area for Cod, Haddock and Norway Pout, and nursery areas for Mackerel, Ling, Hake, Herring, Anglerfish and Norway Pout;
- **Seabirds:** Seabird vulnerability in the area is high in July and moderate to low for the remainder of the year;
- **Cetaceans:** Low numbers of cetaceans are recorded in the area, primarily Harbour Porpoise, Minke Whale, White-beaked Dolphin, White-sided Dolphin and Killer Whales;
- **Annex I Habitats:** There are no Annex I habitats in the area;
- **Annex I Species:** There are no Annex I species routinely recorded in area;
- **Annex II Species:** Only Harbour Porpoise are found in low numbers for the majority of the year, with peak numbers in September;
- **Protected sites:** The nearest sites are the Braemar Pockmark located 203 km to the south, and the Pobie Bank pSAC located 94 km to the west;
- **Shipping:** Shipping levels are low to moderate throughout the year.

### Key Potential Environmental Impacts

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

- **Chemical use and discharge:** There will be no significant increase in chemical use or discharge as a result of increased production.

- **Produced water discharges:** Produced water discharges will increase, but it is not anticipated that this will have a significant environmental impact.
- **Accidental discharges:** The increase in production has been incorporated into the Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) for the Cormorant North and Eider Complex (including Otter); blow-out modeling has been undertaken and included in the EIA; and appropriate mitigation measures are in place to prevent a spill.
- **Atmospheric emissions:** The increase in production from the Otter Field will increase emissions, but there will be an increase in fuel gas use and reduction in diesel use, and the overall increase in emissions is considered to be insignificant. There will be no significant change in flaring levels.
- **Cumulative impacts:** No significant cumulative impacts are anticipated.
- **Transboundary impacts:** No transboundary impacts are likely as a result of the increase in production.

### Consultation

The statutory consultees for the project were JNCC and Marine Scotland.

- **JNCC:** JNCC confirmed that they were content for the ES to be approved.
- **Marine Scotland:** Marine Scotland confirmed that they were content for the ES to be approved.
- **Public Notice:** No comments were received in response to the public notice..

### Further Information

Additional information was requested to clarify a number of issues, and TAQA satisfactorily addressed these in responses dated 17<sup>th</sup> September and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

### Conclusion

Following consultation and the provision of the additional information, DECC OGED is satisfied that the increase in production is not likely to have a significant impact on the receiving environment, including any protected sites or species or other users of the sea..

### Recommendation

On the basis of the information presented within the ES, and the advice received from consultees, it is recommended that the ES should be accepted and that consent should be granted for the increase in production.

**Approved:** *Sarah Pritchard*

(Sarah Pritchard)

Head of Environmental Operations Unit

**Date:** 12.11.2012