



Offshore Petroleum Regulator  
for Environment & Decommissioning

Chrysaor North Sea Limited

Maria Production Increase  
**Environmental Statement Summary**

**To:** Sarah Pritchard

**From:** Mark Shields

**Date:** 04 September 2018

<b>ES Title:</b>	Maria Production Increase Environmental Statement
<b>Developer:</b>	Chrysaor North Sea Limited
<b>Consultants:</b>	BMT Cordah
<b>OGA Field Group:</b>	Central North Sea
<b>ES Report No:</b>	D/4219/2018
<b>ES Submission Date:</b>	10 May 2018
<b>Block No:</b>	16/29a
<b>Development Type:</b>	Increase in Production

**Project Description**

Chrysaor North Sea Limited (Chrysaor) propose to increase the level of production from the Maria field. The field is located in Block 16/29a in the central North Sea, approximately 220 kilometres (km) from the Aberdeenshire coastline and 8 km from the UK / Norway median line. The field is located in a water depth of approximately 87 metres (m).

The Maria field is tied back to the Armada platform, located 11 km to the southeast in Block 22/05. The platform was installed in 1997, and the Maria field was developed in 2006. Hydrocarbons from the Fleming, Drake, Hawkins, Seymour, Rev, Gaupe (North and South) and Maria fields are separated and processed on the Armada platform, with gas exported via the Central Area Transmission pipeline (CATS) and oil via the Forties pipeline systems.

Two new side-tracked Maria field wells will come online during 2018 and production levels will then exceed the current consented levels. Anticipated increases in gas and oil production will be greater than the 500,000 m<sup>3</sup> per day and 500 tonnes per day thresholds specified in the EIA Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU). An Environmental Statement (ES) was therefore required under the Offshore Pipelines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999 (as amended).

**Key Environmental Sensitivities**

The EIA identified the following environmental sensitivities:

**Fish:** The Maria field is located within spawning grounds for cod, lemon sole, Norway pout, mackerel, sandeels and Norway lobster; and within nursery areas for blue whiting, cod, haddock, hake, ling, Norway pout, plaice, whiting, herring, mackerel, sandeels, anglerfish, spotted ray, spurdog and Norway lobster. However, the spawning and nursery areas are extensive, and the proposals are unlikely to have any significant impact.

Seabirds: Seabird sensitivity to oil pollution is medium low in February and from May to October, with no data available for this area for the rest of the year. However, it is considered that there are sufficient mitigation measures in place to prevent accidental spills that could have a significant impact, and Chrysaor has an approved Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) in place for the Armada area and operations.

Protected habitats: The Maria field is located within the Norwegian Boundary Sediment Plain Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area. The proposals are not expected to have any significant impact on this or any other protected habitat.

Protected species: Harbour porpoise have been recorded in Block 22/30 during May and June. Grey and common seals inhabit coastal and inshore waters adjacent to Scotland and have occasionally been observed to travel long distances when foraging. However, both species are unlikely to be present in large numbers in the Maria field area. No disturbance, or any other adverse impacts on marine mammals are therefore anticipated.

Other users of the sea: The development is located within ICES rectangle 45F1, and relative fishing effort in the area is medium. Shipping density in the area is low. Appropriate navigational controls are already in place, and it is not anticipated that there will be any significant impact on other users of the sea.

### **Key Potential Environmental Impacts**

The ES identified the following key potential environmental impacts:

Atmospheric emissions: The main sources of atmospheric emissions will be the existing platform power generation and flaring activities, and from periodic supply vessel and helicopter traffic, and no significant additional impacts are anticipated.

Marine discharges: Changes to production chemical use and discharge are expected to be limited. Produced water volumes are expected to increase in proportion to the increase in production. In both cases, no significant additional impacts are anticipated.

In-combination, cumulative and transboundary effects: No significant effects are anticipated.

Accidental events: Control measures will be in place to minimise the risk of accidental events, and the procedures to respond to any spills are detailed in the existing OPEP.

### **Key Mitigation Measures (including environmental or monitoring conditions)**

No significant adverse impacts are anticipated that would warrant specific mitigation measures or monitoring conditions. All activities will be undertaken in line with commitments detailed in the ES and best industry practice.

### **Consultation**

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Marine Scotland (MS), the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) were consulted on the proposals. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) were also notified of the proposals, and the ES was subject to public notice.

JNCC, MS, MoD and the MCA all confirmed that there were no objections, and the HSE did not raise any objections. No comments were received in response to the public notice.

**Further Information**

Further information was requested from Chrysaor to address issues raised during the BEIS OPRED review, including clarification of an apparent discrepancy between the production levels detailed in the ES and the levels included in the production consent application submitted to the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA). Chrysaor confirmed that the production consent application would be revised to align with the levels assessed in the ES.

**Conclusions**

Following the review of the ES, the responses received from consultees and the additional information provided by Chrysaor, BEIS OPRED is satisfied that the proposed increase in production will not have a significant adverse impact on the receiving environment or the living resources it supports, or on any protected habitats or species or other users of the sea.

**Recommendation**

BEIS OPRED is content that there are no objections to the proposals and agrees to the OGA issuing the necessary consent for the proposals. BEIS OPRED is also content that there are no specific mitigation or environmental conditions directly related to the proposals that need to be attached to the OGA consent.

*Sarah Pritchard*

*06/09/2018*

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Sarah Pritchard  
Director, Policy & Corporate Governance  
BEIS OPRED

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Date