



**Maersk Oil North Sea UK Limited
South Maclure Field Development**

Environmental Statement Summary

To: Jonathan Ward

From: Victoria Crossland

Date: 6 June 2018

ES Title:	South Maclure Field Development
Developer:	Maersk Oil North Sea UK Limited
Consultants:	Genesis Oil & Gas Consultants
OGA Field Group:	Northern North Sea
ES Report No:	D/4204/2017
ES Submission Date:	10 November 2017
Block No:	9/18b, 9/19a and 9/23d
Development Type:	New field development

Project Description

Maersk Oil North Sea UK Limited (MONSUK) is planning to develop the South Maclure field located in blocks 9/18b, 9/19a and 9/23d. The proposed development is approximately 150 kilometres (km) southeast of the Shetland Isles and adjacent to the UK / Norway median line. The water depths in the area range from 112 metres (m) to 155 m.

It is proposed to develop the field with two to four subsea production wells located within one or two drill centres, tied-back to the Gryphon Floating Production Storage and Offloading vessel (FPSO) via a 10" flexible production flowline system, a 4" flexible gas lift line system and a control umbilical system.

Production is anticipated to commence in Q4 2018 and continue until approximately 2028, increasing current production throughput at the Gryphon FPSO. The increase in production related to the South Maclure field development is within the design capacity of the Gryphon FPSO and no modifications are required.

The Gryphon FPSO already has an Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) covering existing production operations, which will be amended as necessary to cover the South Maclure field development.

Key Environmental Impacts

The Environmental Statement (ES) identified and discussed the following key aspects as having the potential to result in an environmental impact:

- Physical presence of vessels, drilling rig and subsea infrastructure;

- Seabed disturbance relating to anchors and subsea infrastructure;
- Underwater noise relating to vessels and drilling rig;
- Discharges of treated drill cuttings;
- Additional produced water discharges; and
- Additional atmospheric emissions.

Key Environmental Sensitivities

The ES identified the following environmental sensitivities:

- **Fish:** The South Maclure field is located within spawning areas for haddock, Norway pout, saithe, whiting and mackerel; and nursery areas for blue whiting, haddock, Norway pout and mackerel. However, the spawning and nursery areas are extensive and the development is unlikely to have any significant impact on these species.
- **Seabirds:** Seabird vulnerability varies between Blocks 9/18, 9/19 and 9/23 and throughout the year. Generally, vulnerability varies from low to high in January and February; and is low from April to September. There is no data available for October to December. It is considered that there are sufficient mitigation measures in place to prevent accidental spills that could have a significant impact on seabirds, and there is an approved Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) in place for the Gryphon FPSO that will be amended to include the South Maclure development.
- **Protected habitats:** The South Maclure field is located approximately 30 km from the Braemar Pockmarks SAC. The development is not expected to have any significant impact on this or any other protected habitat.
- **Protected species:** Harbour porpoise, Atlantic white-sided dolphin, white-beaked dolphin, killer whale, long finned pilot whale and minke whale have been recorded in the South Maclure area. Grey and common seals inhabit coastal and inshore waters adjacent to Scotland but have occasionally been observed to travel long distances when foraging. However, both species are unlikely to be present in the South Maclure field area. No disturbance of marine mammals, or any other adverse impacts on marine mammals, are anticipated in relation to the development.
- **Other users of the sea:** The development is located within ICES rectangle 47F1, and relative fishing effort in the area is moderate. Shipping density in the area is moderate to low. Appropriate navigational controls will be in place, and it is not anticipated that the development will have any significant impact on other users of the sea.
- **In-combination, cumulative and transboundary effects:** The development is not anticipated to have any significant in-combination, cumulative or transboundary effects.

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 accordance with commitments detailed in the ES and best industry practice.

Consultation

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and Marine Scotland (MS) were consulted on the proposals. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) were also notified of the proposals. The ES was also subject to public notice.

JNCC: JNCC confirmed that they had no objections.

MS: MS confirmed that they had no objections.

HSE: HSE did not raise any objections.

No comments were received in response to the public notice.

Further Information

The ES contained sufficient detail to undertake an assessment of the proposed development, but MONSUK provided additional information in relation to amended production levels included in the Field Development Plan to seek confirmation that this would not necessitate an ES addendum. It was confirmed that the levels were within limits addressed in the ES and that an addendum was not required.

Determination

Following review of the ES, the responses received from consultees and the additional information provided by MONSUK, BEIS OPRED is satisfied that this project 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

On the basis of the information presented within the ES and the advice received from consultees, BEIS OPRED is content that there are no objections, and agrees to the OGA issuing the necessary consent for the proposed development. This agreement is not subject to the inclusion of any specific environmental conditions.

Jonathan Ward

07/06/2018

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Jonathan Ward
Director, Environmental Operations
BEIS OPRED

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Date



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy