



## **Learning Portfolio**

**DTI Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental  
Assessment**

**SEA 5 Stakeholder Workshop**

**AECC, Aberdeen**

29<sup>th</sup> June 2004

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## Introduction and Summary

In 1999, the DTI began a sequence of sectoral SEAs of the implications of further licensing of the UKCS for oil and gas exploration and production. The first of the DTI's offshore Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA 1) was conducted in 1999/2000 in preparation for the 19<sup>th</sup> Licensing Round and covered the deep water area along the UK and Faroese boundary. Subsequent SEAs have been SEA 2 which covered the central spine of the North Sea with the majority of existing UK oil and gas fields (2001-2002), SEA 3 which assessed the remaining parts of the southern North Sea (2002-2003) and SEA 4 (2003-2004) which considered offshore areas of the United Kingdom Continental Shelf (UKCS) to the North and West of Shetland and Orkney. In addition, during 2003, the DTI conducted an SEA covering three strategic regions off the coasts of England and Wales in relation to a second round of offshore wind licensing.

The SEA 5 area which is now under consideration covers parts of the northern and central North Sea to the east of the Scottish mainland, Shetland and Orkney. As part of SEA 5, an assessment will also be made of the implications of re-offering as part of the same licensing round, currently unlicensed blocks within the areas covered by the earlier SEAs.

New information has been gathered through survey and other studies to underpin the assessment for oil and gas licensing in the SEA 5 area. These studies have been framed to also facilitate future SEA for offshore renewable energy when such plans or programmes are proposed.

A stakeholder workshop meeting for SEA 5 was held in Aberdeen on 29 June 2004, facilitated by independent facilitators People=Positive™ on behalf of the DTI. A document providing background to stakeholders on the current DTI offshore energy SEA (SEA 5) was placed on the SEA website [www.offshore-sea.org.uk](http://www.offshore-sea.org.uk) in advance of the workshop. A wide variety of potential stakeholders, drawn from UK and other regulators, government advisers, local authorities, other industry representatives, academics and NGOs were invited to the session. The workshop aimed to fulfil a variety of functions including:

- Updating stakeholders on SEA 5 progress and issues including the outcomes of “scoping” consultation and an assessment workshop
- Gathering stakeholder input to and comments on the information and analysis on which SEA 5 will be based
- Seeking suggestions on ways to further improve future DTI offshore energy SEAs

The workshop commenced with introductions and discussion and agreement of the ground rules for the day. The working part of the day was as follows:

### **Session 1 – Issues and information base**

Short presentations covering SEA 5 Process & Context, DTI Role and Context, SEA 5 Socio-economics, SEA 5 Area Overview

## **Session 2 – Update on progress**

Short presentations covering update on Scoping Studies, Assessment Workshop and how Stakeholder Workshop fits in

Clarifications questions and responses during Sessions 1 and 2 were summarised and recorded on cards – see points for clarification later in this portfolio (page 4).

## **Session 3 – Issues and information base**

Structured interactive group sessions to consider strategic issues for SEA 5, the information base and gaps and ways to further strengthen the SEA process. Discussion and issue capture was facilitated by five poster based information stations.

**Station 1** – Background & Process

**Station 2** – SEA 5 Environment

**Station 3** – SEA 5 Assessment Issues

**Station 4** – Re-offer of previously SEAed Blocks

**Station 5** – Renewables

Each station was attended by a facilitator and a member of the SEA assessment team. Groups visited all five of the stations during the afternoon and *key issues*, *new information sources* and *future (SEA) process improvements* were summarised and captured on cards (see subsequent pages of this report Station 1 - page 5, Station 2 - page 6, Station 3 - page 8, Station 4 - page 9, Station 5 – page 10).

The day ended with a plenary session where all participants had the opportunity to review the issues recorded by all groups during Session 3 and to amend or add additional feedback where appropriate - see page 11. The next steps for SEA 5 were outlined.

## Clarification Q&A from Sessions 1 & 2

Questions?	Answers
Is there enough representation from fishing/shipping industry at this meeting?	Representatives from the range of organisations were invited And some here today
Revisit SEAs to ensure validity in terms of predicted activity levels for both O&G and renewables	Should be covered today
What difference have previous SEAs made to development? (Perhaps provide a summary)	The SEA process has made a difference in a number of ways eg improvements to the consenting process have been proposed, important information has been gathered on offshore habitats and species, various blocks have been excluded from licensing
Are terms of reference (standard) applied to analyses eg chemistry?	Standard methods were used but of course these evolve over time
Who is responsible for monitoring predicted impacts & how does it feed back?	The industry for individual developments  An industry/government monitoring group chaired by the DTI is exploring ways to monitor effects at a regional scale  Information from monitoring is fed back into the SEA process
MCEU ↔ LCU-ED relationship? Common issues? GIS?	Yes, actively pursuing/working together
Is there a process proposed to monitor & assess the impacts of renewable developments?	Yes, looking at renewables issues now.
How do possible renewables developments alter the economic & social projections?	Will make only a minor impact to socio-economics.  - But some work being done

## Station 1 - Background & process

Key Issues			
Data Availability	Networking	Misc	Protected Sites
Underpinning documents available earlier	Joined up SEAs for all industries	Survey Data Mostly From Calm Conditions (Extreme Weather Conditions)	Offshore Natura 2000 sites When are these to be designated?
How & where is Data Archived?	Selection of stakeholders Location of workshops	Legal Status of SEA Document? Subsequent use?	
Web Site Links Unclear		Toxicity Studies	
Data – Link to Physical Location of Samples		Why? – Various SEA5 Drivers	
How is Survey Data made available		Marine Navigation	
Information available is of wider value than for Oil & Gas			
Use & Application How it is Advertised?			

New information sources		Ideas for future process improvements	
First returns from 3D seismic as source for Sea bed mapping	Established GIS from BGS	WEB – Links to other sites	Communication of other data back into SEA process
Company data on CD's – BGS	MOD Consultation value to MOD and to SEA process	Consistent Methodology for sample analysis? Publish Terms of Reference	Application of information into other industries
Consult with MCA Marine Safety		See the changes Document changes to the process over time	Improve info availability – Web
		Feedback on Process	

## Station 2 - SEA 5 Environment

Key Issues				
Gaps	Clarification & Definitions	Integrated Approach	Renewables	Information Gathering
Some RSPB Reserves missing from map	Need to identify specific 'fishery' sites/areas	How does it all link together?	Renewables have shifted..! Closer to shore	Local activities are identified i.e. Seaweed Harvesting
FAIR ISLE is a SSSI – it is in the report	EIA should clarify particular features/s – drawing out ambiguity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parameters</li> <li>- Processes</li> <li>- Overview</li> <li>- Ecosystem Approach</li> </ul>	Collecting information as basis for Renewables SEA	Is data being collected with sufficient rigour? (species)
Sharks & Turtles Protected but don't appear to get any protection	Clarification:- What is a sandbank – different features i.e. define what we mean	Closer to shore  Response time to incidents  Well planned action integrated approach	Need to safeguard MOD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Radar</li> <li>- Seismic</li> <li>- M&amp;R Traffic</li> <li>- Training</li> <li>- Tactical Training</li> </ul>	Perhaps over-emphasis on 'things' that may appear more easy to study
Fisheries Management Inshore – not mentioned	Shoal Water (Shallow) - What's the definition - E.U. Interpretation	Spatial Planning 'Pick n Mix' (SEA Website)	Another SEA for renewables – why is it not possible to have a 'one stop shop' i.e. Renewables/O&G	Is there sufficient info on whale movement in SEA 5 area
Socio Economic Development... - Tourism - Leisure Is there any information? Yes		Scale of designated area. Relationship of designated areas – Translation table		SEA – identifies potential sites  Offshore SPA's SAC's MPA's
Include Gannetry off Troup Head		Look at sustainable development issues		Subsea power cable to Beatrice – could be looked at
Shortcomings in MEHRA Designation				

Station 2 Continued

New Information Sources		Ideas for Future Process Improvements		
Sources of Information		Validity of Sources and References	Impact & Assessment	Monitoring & Review
MCA – Database Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control ( <a href="http://www.parismou.org">www.parismou.org</a> )	Beatrice Demonstrator Project	Sources need to be very well referenced	How will impact be assessed? - Predictions	Who is responsible for monitoring - Baseline
Information Portal [DEFRA] SEA Process within that (Renewables)	RYA - Clubs - Cruising Routes - Racing 'Areas'	Essential to make information 'flow' – access is there but need to make sure information is transferred	Workshops should also be discussing potential impact	Have we got monitoring in place to inform future SEAs
Regional -Thames - North and West - Wash	RYA – Website GIS system - Clubs - Cruising Routes (also hardcopy)	Material derived from experts needs to be: - available - up to date	Agreeing criteria for assessing significance	Need to ensure that there is a continuous review of information
MOD - Radar - Air Traffic - Tactical training	St Andrews Uni Marine Archaeology Dept	Need to ensure information on fish/fishery areas is accurate/up to date	Need for some scenario planning – assessing risks – SNH have predictive models	Issues related to marine safety Please tell MCA <a href="http://www.mcga.gov.uk">www.mcga.gov.uk</a> as a result of any review info/data
What does SEA have available (information)	Scottish Canoe Association	Quality of website - needs to be developed - more interactive - GIS format - user friendly/balance	Mechanism to prioritise issues/concerns? Is there one	Transition stage at the moment Shake out over next few years GIS new information technology
SEERAD - Fishery statistics	Who's done what What surveys, data available and from whom	Displays... Font size too small... Easier to read in columns... Black font is good	When does the precautionary principle 'kick in'	
Water Authorities	Aberdeen Uni - Eco tourism		'Fitting' effects discovered elsewhere into SEA... impact	
Coastguard	List of research areas is on SEA website			
BSAC British Sub Aqua Club	Scottish Advisory Panel in Outdoor Education			
Water quality data	British Waterways Board			



## Station 3 - SEA 5 Assessment Issues

Key Issues				
Strategic	Cumulative Effects	Renewables	Data	Significance
How can you offset adverse effects on one 'stakeholder' with benefits to another	How to measure (cumulative) incremental effects - Noise - Synergistic effects	Renewables – will there be SEA? Scenario for renewables needed	Availability/Clarity of data gathered	Transparency of approach
Linkage between EIA & SEA	Lack of techniques to assess cumulative effects - Experts - Money	Offshore renewable energy orgs – quality of consultation with MCA. & other orgs - OIA - Fishing	Availability' of data from 'Military Sources'	Need transparent significance assessment process & criteria
Indicate how info in report will be used	How to measure/assess cumulative effects?		Receptor – based assessment required	Assessing significance is a challenge
Feeling of SEA not telling whole story – lots left unsaid	Cumulative effects v. difficult cross-sectional – esp. renewable		How to assess SEA data – is it tested? Monitored? Revisited?	
Need strategic overview	Cumulative effects - how assessed MOD activity?			
	Cumulative Effects What Baseline to use?			
	Relative importance shifts with geography			

New Information Sources		Ideas for future Process Improvements	
Carbon Trust	Draft Marine Guidance Note - MCA	Greater Synthesis/Analysis of data	Issue key Summary
Portugal National Renewable Energy Ref DTI	Cumulative effects – new documents from JNCC (Joint?), English Nature, WWF	Supporting information for Stakeholder - Non-Technical - Circulate before meeting	Receptor Based Assessment
		Future Review of Value of SEA Predictions	Need Active Consultation Process
		Add Presentations to Portfolio	

## Station 4 - Re-offer of previously SEAed Blocks

Key Issues			
SEA 1- 5 Process Changes	Monitoring- to test & improve predictions	Development Scenario changes/cumulative effects	One – Offs
Q. any issues missed out in previous SEAs? A. Gaps have been plugged	SEA monitoring – consider contaminant loads on deep burrowing fauna e.g. In Fladen Ground	Re-look at SEA area because scenario might be different	Should existing licence holders be subject to new SEA outcomes?
SEA5 process (basic) is the same, but scope of information is different from previous SEAs...	How do you monitor the impact post SEA predictions? - Rely on regional surveys	Do Smaller Companies have same Q.C. as the majors? D.T.I. apply same criteria	Do we co-ordinate with Norwegians & Faeroes?
Knowledge moves on – is there anything dramatically new?	When do we revisit SEA areas? To test quality of predictions.	How do we take cumulative impacts of O&G & Renewables... say in SEA3	Generic list of concerns, but what are the specifics?
<u>Reassessment</u> Level of activity, new information	How does assessment of effects feed back into future SEA processes? Do become aware via S.G.	Is development scenario different now, as industry changes?	X-referencing across sectors: Fishing, shipping aggregate, O&G & Renewables
		Is co-mingling of old & new developments into existing infrastructure being considered? Not yet.	How do we balance predicted impacts with economic pressures
		Have promote licenses had an impact on activity levels?	SEAs were done on large areas, but activity has been more specific – focus efforts?
			Re-licensing in SEA 1-4 is part of SEA5. But what would trigger a new SEA of old areas?

New Information Sources	Ideas for Future Process Improvements
Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory - model	How to use Eco-system approach... don't know enough
DEFRA papers - about to be published	A guide/review of how the process went:- went well/not so well
Coastal zone management – paper out this year	Process to take into account climate change effects

## Station 5 - Renewables

Key Issues				
Environment & Monitoring	Benefits	Safety Concerns	Co-ordinated process	Non - wind
How will structures turbines affect currents/seabed movement?	What is the best use of a particular marine area/resources?	Safety Zones Passage for craft exclusion zones?	Will we re-assess/conduct new SEA as renewables develop?	Consideration of 'other' wet renewables (non wind/wave)
How will the seabed affect the structures?	Any benefits for remote communities?	Search & Rescue! Limitations	How are SEAs linked/coordinated?	Be more pro-active regarding potential wet renewables/ impact/data collection
Long term environmental monitoring	What will be the acoustic vibrational impacts on MOD/Marine Life?	SEA needs to safeguard and take account of all marine users	Pollution radar. Discuss with stakeholder Who pays?	
Will bird migration be affected?	Understand <u>fully</u> benefits & impacts		How does the Scottish Exec fit in?	
Impact on birds	Is 'Renewable' Energy viable?			
Will there be long term monitoring of birds?	How will we impact the fishing industry? (Socio/Economics)			
What are the cumulative Impacts of Renewables?	Integration of radar and development of renewables			
	Multi Purpose Structures			
	Using Existing 'Platforms' for wind/wave power			

New Information Sources	Ideas for Future Process Improvements			
Renewables atlas	Make sure we are as thorough as oil/gas SEA process	Public Availability of info T.E.I.A. regarding raised profile	Integrated marine planning system	Portal for data on offshore renewables please
	Integrated SEA for all industry	Extra Page on Combined website for all renewables	Where does renewables sit within the process?	Early dialogue

## **Plenary Discussion**

### **Other issues not yet captured**

Clarification of the SEA process for renewable energy

Facilitation of data 'sharing' cross sectorally

Radioactivity – offshore treatment/discharge

Address associated waste onshore – sustainability of processes; best practice

### **Suggestions for future Stakeholder Meetings**

Public address system if room is large

How to get more invitees to come? – Ask those who declined to attend why not?

More background information prior to workshop (and better signposts to where it is located on the website) - for example include non-technical summary and issues to be addressed with the invitation letter

Badges to have affiliation as well as names

Include evidence of the SEA process working

Timeline for process with stages identified in the introduction

Focus on specific issues for the respective SEA not the generic