

DTI

Strategic Environmental Assessment of the UK Continental Shelf

Stakeholder Dialogue Workshop
9 May 2001

Transcript

Date of issue: 12 June 2001

The meeting was designed and facilitated by independent facilitator Andrew Acland, Dialogue by Design Ltd, for The Environment Council. The meeting was supported by independent facilitators Rowena Harris, Carl Reynolds and Elizabeth Rivers for The Environment Council.

Produced by The Environment Council

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Transcript of Written Records

PLEASE NOTE

This document is a transcript of the flip charts produced during the meeting. The points here are reproduced as they were recorded by the facilitators or participants with the following exceptions:

- Paragraphs in **bold type** are written by the facilitators to describe the meeting process and aid recall of the context in which the participants' contributions were made.
- Words in ***bold italic*** are those written on flip charts by the facilitators.
- Words or phrases in [square brackets] have been added by the facilitators where the original meaning of the flip chart recording is unclear but can be deduced
- A [?] indicates the facilitators are unsure of a meaning and cannot deduce it.
- Spellings have been standardised, abbreviations spelled out and punctuation inserted where it may help to clarify meaning.

Finally, it needs to be remembered that complex discussion cannot always be adequately captured on flip charts. If you feel that a particular contribution by you was not satisfactorily recorded, please contact the facilitators and ask that it be corrected.

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Appendices

Appendix 1. Presentations

Presentation by DTI

Presentation by Geotek and Hartley Anderson Ltd

Appendix 2. Acronyms

Opening Session

The meeting opened with brief introductions and clarification of the meeting's purpose and ground rules:

Purpose:

“To identify the information required for, and issues to be addressed by, a Strategic Environmental Assessment of future oil & gas licensing of the United Kingdom Continental Shelf”

Ground Rules:

- No attribution of comments
- Mobiles off
- Check flip charts for accuracy of recording

1. SESSION 1: Background, rationale & methodology

There were then presentations by DTI, Geotek and Hartley Anderson Ltd. Their slides are reproduced in Appendix 1. During and following the presentations there were questions to and answers from the presenters.

Q: Will key conclusions of SEA1 affect implementation?

A: Yes

Q: [Is there a link between] Sequencing of SEAs and match to licensing rounds?

A: There is linkage between interest in areas and order of SEAs. But there is a commitment to SEA for all the UKCS. Also wider than just UK context.

Q: How do you compare new area data with existing data? What is the base line?

A: SEA process is about how best to address problems

Q: Will SEA work be used elsewhere?

A: Work will inform oil/gas, but will be of use to other potential users.

Q: Clarity about continental shelf? Deep water? Will SEA go into deeper water?

A: Yes. E.g. Faroe/Shetland Channel.

Q: Intention to assess Government Energy Programme?

A: Different Q. that?? to be answered here.

Q: Is it not more logical to do SEA2 in Faroe/Shetland Channel?

A: There is pressure. Will be work this summer to get more data in this area. North Sea SEA is due to economic pressures.

Q: Use experience of other sectors?

A: Yes, we want info in broadest sense.

Q: Other sectors should be involved in process now

A: Yes, we could co-ordinate more.

Q: Is one scenario to have no development?

A: Possibly, but unlikely in mature areas.

Q: Prediction from SEA about reserves?

A: Until people drill, can't be certain of reserves.

Q: No development scenario?

A: Only applies to SEA2. In other areas there may be no development

Q: Historic effects are very important, but material is still on seabed. This is an opportunity to look at long term effects.

Q: How make SEA2 quality document and respected?

A: We hope that this will be the case.

2. SESSION 2: Improving consultation processes

This was a facilitated plenary discussion

One output from SEA1:-

- Darwin Mounds will not be licensed
- Time scale for SEA2 is atypical
 - Lots of existing info?
 - End of 2001
- Subsequent SEAs will take one to two years [each]
- There will be 3 months consultation on draft SEA2 document
- UK is lead country on SEA process

Website consultation

- Is this only "frame" for consultation?
- Some people excluded from IT access
- Public libraries provide wider access
- Always 'hard copies' available for posting to people but this is not pro-active
- Use of newspapers, press to advertise consultation
- Steering group needs to consider how to involve ordinary people, not just experts, academics
- Difficult to consult with *wider public*
 - Try to have representation via wide range of stakeholders
 - Use of TV documentary
 - Challenge to get people to attend meetings
- Need for CLARITY of information as SEA's move closer to coast
 - Use e-mail for feedback
- DTI have specific SEA website – will be 'live'
- Please write in & give ideas for how to communicate more widely – also do this via website phase 1
- Website means people have to come to you BUT you have to go to them as well
- Website address: habitats-directive.org
- Plea for more tags for search engines
- Additional advertising of website through leaflets is taking place
- Oil industry has huge work population – involve them in SEA2

Publicity

- SEA1 was inadequate to inform general public
 - Get the interesting photos in the papers
- Predictions of criticism & feedback:-
 - Always never enough of good enough consultation
- Is the fishing interest represented?
- Common fishing policy doesn't give access to wider fishing industry
- Must link to initiatives in other countries

Education (under 16)

- Feed in to National Curriculum?
- Dorling Kindersley type C.D. was being considered – anyone willing to volunteer? – lots potential material
 - 5 or 6 years ago off shore operations input into National Curriculum Stage 3

www.environment.detr.gov.uk/des/index

DETR

Digest website deals with public conceptions & concerns with environment

- League table of issues near top is concern over oil drilling

DETR "The Environment in your pocket 2000"

Discussion of Previous Consultations

Q: Is this the best mechanism for giving feedback on previous consultations (i.e. slide with summary of criticisms of SEA1)?

A: Comments re: SEA1 will be put on website

- SEA1 – comments were compiled – believe posted on DTI website
- SEA initiative driven by EU directives?
- Not totally driven by EU
- Similar work: to SEA:-
 - North of Norway
 - Gulf of Mexico

These are only similar exercises have found (not identical to SEA)

The facilitator asked who was not present at this meeting who should be:

Not present today:

- Leisure industries e.g. RYA

3 main lessons from Bristol Channel project

- Be clear about not doing i.e. site specific work.
- Feedback – invited on rolling basis
- Most feedback comes at draft report stage when have document to comment on – ensure have sufficient flexibility to amend at this stage
- DTI have set up website to deal just with SEA process

Q: Perhaps have a substantive text to comment on before inviting people to this meeting

A: Will do that later on.

- Use groups with industry links to direct people to website – give suggestions to Quentin [Quentin Huggett of GEOTEK]
- Only one local authority rep. here today. Link for consultation with local people
Later SEAs will be real need to engage with local people – need to involve local authorities to achieve this
- Biotech sector consultation process – different model – open forums around the country
- Suggest learn from methods they use – seem to be successful in highly controversial area

3. SESSION 3: Identifying main issue areas and information required

This session was designed to ensure the following session gathered opinions and information on the right topics. To stimulate discussion of the SEA's purpose and scope, the facilitators listed issue headings and sub-headings based on the first SEA report.

Use of Data?

- Statistical analysis
- Appropriateness of sampling
- What questions the SEA is trying to answer – the original question?
Prioritisation} processes
Comparative}
- Need to discuss assessments of significance
- What details of quantity of data is needed for SEA processes?
 - Remember, SEA is strategic & broad in coverage (can be followed up by site specific assessments)

What are the objectives of SEA?

- Assess entire UKCS
- E.U. directive requires SEA's precedes licence rounds
- Provide information for licence rounds – to enable site specific assessments to be quicker & more efficient
- Site specific EIA's paid for by Industry
- Not a base line survey but strategic environment assessment

Comments on the proposed activity headings

- SEA will be looking at scenarios

Q: Will this distinguish between options and scenarios?

A: Deal with in later plenary session

Q: Is it possible to set reasonable objectives for items on "Assessment" sheet?

Q: Geographical boundary?

A: Yes – each SEA has physical boundary

- SEA3 will be most problematic regarding boundaries – may be better to stop short of coastline otherwise will include information irrelevant to oil/gas industry

Value judgements?

- At what point will decide an activity is unacceptable?
- *Specific trends which should be investigated

4. SESSION 4: Detailed work on issues & information

During the previous session various amendments were made to issue headings and sub-headings. These were then transferred to blank templates written by the facilitators on the walls of the various conference rooms. Each blank template appeared as follows:

Heading:

Sub-heading:

Issues:

Questions SEA should answer:

Existing data:

In Session 4 participants circulated informally, writing on the templates and sometimes using Post-It notes to comment on those of others. The rest of this section of the report is a reproduction of the individual templates as they appeared at the end of the session. Those templates to which no contributions were made have not been included.

4.1 The Proposed Activity (Licence Round)

4.1.1 Exploration & Production Operations

- Exploration & appraisal
- Geophysical surveys
- Exploration & appraisal drilling
- Construction & installation
- Commissioning
- Production operations
- Decommissioning & post-decommissioning
- Transport (pipeline & shipping)
- Consequential development

Heading: Exploration & Production Operations

Sub-heading: Exploration & appraisal

Issues:

Questions SEA should answer:

Existing data:
UK Deal Project

Heading: Exploration & Production Operations

Sub-heading: Geophysical surveys

Issues:

Cumulative impacts

Questions SEA should answer:

If SONAR is it best at certain times of year (e.g. outside spawning seasons)

Existing data:

UK deal project

Heading: Exploration & Production Operations

Sub-heading: Exploration & appraisal drilling

Issues:

Need to consider military dump sites (i.e. should not be disturbed!)

Questions SEA should answer:

Can it be limited to certain times of year to avoid spawning season / bad weather etc?

Existing data:

Data on dump sites available from MoD.

Heading: Exploration & Production Operations

Sub-heading: Construction & installation

Issues:

On-shore environmental and socio-economic impacts of providing offshore installations

Questions SEA should answer:

Proximity principle in location of build to site of installation.

Should cuttings from top hole section discharged at seabed be monitored?

Existing data:

Heading: Exploration & Production operations

Sub-heading: Production operations

Issues:

What types of production operations are being considered for N. Sea (new locations, intensification of exploration from existing, sub sea connections?)

Attached Post-it note reads: "(Mostly) Step-outs to connect new subsea wells / manifolds by flowlines to existing platforms and pipelines"

Questions SEA should answer:

What are relative impacts of the options?

Existing data:

Heading: Exploration & Production Operations

Sub-heading: Decommissioning & post-decommissioning

Issues:

Public understanding
Communication
Facts
Options

Questions SEA should answer:

For SEA2 is reuse desirable over other possible option?
How do we avoid a repeat of the Brent Star fiasco?
What is BPEO? **Post-it note attached says:** Best Practicable Environmental Option
Can re-use be on site for other energy e.g. wind as well as re-use at another oil field?

Existing data:

EU-funded project 'Electronic Marketplace for Decommissioning of Offshore Installations' (EMIDOI) is currently compiling relevant data & information – website www.decomplatform.com due late May / early June,

Heading: Exploration & Production Operations

Sub-heading: Transport (pipeline & shipping)

Issues:

Impact on sea bed & other media outside immediate area of proposals
Oil export
Other support e.g. supply vessels, helicopters...

Questions SEA should answer:

Where do MEHRAs fit in this process?
What or who is a MEHRA?

Response: – Marine Environment High Risk Area where shipping patterns could more likely result in damage to the local environment from oil spills than other areas of the sea. About 10 such locations identified where navigational controls etc (& oil spill response/towing vessel) are being reviewed to increase protection of these localities
Need to define boundary

Existing data:

Heading: Exploration & Production Operations

Sub-heading: Consequential development

Issues:

Would Sullom Voe and Flotta be there if North Sea had not been exploited?. What will new round of exploration / production require to support it?

Costs / Benefits

Landfill issues: are there enough?

Public perception of landfill sites used for depositing drilling cuttings.

On-shore facilities will be subject to own EIA

SEA likely to encounter too much complexity if attempts to deal with on-shore infrastructure

Questions SEA should answer:

- Can strategic issues be identified - rather than local impacts?
- Will existing infrastructure be adequate?
-Total lifecycle analysis

Existing data:

The following templates were added to this section by participants during Session 4:

Heading: Exploration & Production Operations

Sub-heading: Cumulative Impacts

Issues:

Scope of assessment

Questions SEA should answer:

Does assessment cover impacts of development sequencing through time as well as between impacts at any one point in time?

Existing data:

Heading: What is the Strategy we are appraising?

Sub-heading: and what options are we investigating?

Issues:

Is there (a) a higher level policy decision to be appraised (should we allow further exploitation in N. Sea)? And then (b) a more detailed plan (where & how). Both then provide context for (c) individual project licensing decisions.

Questions SEA should answer: Is this SEA informing (a) and/or (b) and/or (c)?

Post-it note attached to this sheet says: "AGREE"

4.1.2 Control, Management and Monitoring

- Existing controls
- Further controls
- Site specific controls
- Information gaps
- Monitoring
- Value judgments that may need to be made
- Lessons learned e.g. structural decision making
- Structure of licensing
- Unforeseen circumstances
- Liability

Heading: Control, Management and Monitoring

Sub-heading: Existing controls

Issues:

Existing controls have been based on assessment on impacts offshore. Need to compare these with onshore and emission impacts.

Are existing controls not a function of regulatory requirement?

Function of EU legislation?

Questions SEA should answer:

Existing data:

Heading: Control, Management and Monitoring

Sub-heading: Site specific controls

Issues:

Designated areas yet to be defined e.g. SACs SPAs.
Local exclusion zones for safety and/or conservation

Questions SEA should answer:

Existing data:

Marine SACs handbooks on habitats features (feature reviews SAMs, EN, SNH, WCC – the Life programme on 14 coastal marine candidate SACs)

Heading: Control, Management and Monitoring

Sub-heading: Information gaps

Issues:

“Precautionary approach”
Lack of data doesn’t equal “no impact”

Questions SEA should answer:

Existing data:

Heading: Control, Management and Monitoring

Sub-heading: Monitoring

Issues:

Kyoto? OSPAR?
National Marine Monitoring Program (NMMP)
Coastal monitoring changing in response to OSPAR, Habitats Directive and Water Framework Directive
Monitoring to ensure that SEA controls are being met throughout the lifespan projects

Questions SEA should answer:

Monitoring should not be seen as a way to continue with a project in an area of little or no (deficient) data

Existing data:

Heading: Control, Management and Monitoring

Sub-heading: Value judgments

Issues:

This is the central question: society always balances one loss against another gain. Therefore small losses are not worth bothering about (unless they add up to something unacceptable)

Who has responsibility for making value judgments?

Questions SEA should answer:

If the EU are implementing the Directive have they a direction on ‘value judgments’?

Existing data:

Heading: Control, Management and Monitoring:

Sub-heading: Lessons learnt

e.g. structural, decision making

Issues:

What will happen to SEA if during SEA2, 3 etc it is found that the process is flawed or inadequate?
Lessons from the Bristol Channel Marine Aggregates Project (DETR/NAW/CE) may be useful
National Marine Monitoring Group (NMMP) should be consulted at an early stage

Questions SEA should answer:

How to get, assess and evaluate to determine management action on activities

Existing Data:

HD management plans for inshore

“Wider” management plans.

Inshore e.g. ICZM – general pollution targets in coast.

Offshore e.g. how Norwegians have tackled?]

Heading: Control, Management and Monitoring

Sub-heading: Unforeseen circumstances

Issues:

Single issue groups could delay licensing rounds – as N. Sea infrastructure has a fixed life, this could result in equity value lost for the nation

Questions SEA should answer:

Can DTI / Industry answer these challenges using sustainable environmental management principles? (are we ready to do this?)

Existing data:

Rate of degradation of infrastructure (pipelines & platforms)

Projections on hydro carbon accumulations

Projected effects on the environment

Heading: Control, Management and Monitoring

Sub-heading: Liability

Issues:

Will restoration be included as part of this?

The present situation is a combination of a snapshot of the environment and also how and at what rate is it changing so that the SEA remains valid – otherwise it will be difficult to attribute liability

Questions SEA should answer:

Existing data:

The following template was added to this section by participants during Session 4:

Heading: Control, Management and Monitoring

Sub-heading: Environmental Management Plans (EMP)

SEA should prompt development of area EMPs and individual project EMPs and set the parameters for these:

- Responsibility
- What they should cover
 - Compensation actions
 - Specific mitigation - all phases of activity
 - Improvement actions
 - Performance standards
 - EMS
- Timing
- Monitoring & feedback
- Review and revision

4.1.3 Assessment

- Contamination of water
- Contamination of sediments
- Atmospheric emissions
- Oil spill risk
- Plankton
- Deep sea fish and cephalopods
- Benthic biotopes
- Sea birds
- Fish & shellfish
- Socio-economic development
- Equity impacts
- Marine mammals
- Other users offshore
- Coastal other users
- Coastal conservation
- Cumulative effects
- Synergistic effects
- Transboundary effects
- Aesthetics

Heading: Assessment

Sub-heading: Contamination of water

Issues:

- 1) Cooling water for engines
- 2) For SEA2 – surface monolayer contaminants from aerosol deposition (flaring & terrestrial discharges).

Questions SEA should answer:

- i) Is cooling water an issue?

Attached Post-it says:

– not compared with other effects on water:

sewage discharge

oil in water

LSA

- ii) Monolayer contaminants on plankton / fish eggs etc.?

Existing data:

Corals growing on rigs contain record of impact of discharges in their growth record

Heading: Assessment

Sub-heading: Contamination of sediments

Issues:

Drilling muds and cuttings

Contamination of sediment should be assessed against atmospheric emissions and effects on land.

Resuspension / Transport of sediments / Contaminants

Questions SEA should answer:

Ability to measure levels of contamination

Does contamination reduce with time?

Ability to identify contamination sources – i.e. E+P inputs, other industrial natural seepage

Holistic approach in policy making required: contamination of all areas of environment

Existing data:

British geological survey has inorganic geochem. data for approx. 9,000 seabed sediment samples from UKCS (collected 1970-1980s).

Heading: Assessment

Sub-heading: Atmospheric emissions

Issues:

Context

Questions SEA should answer:

Existing data:

Heading: Assessment

Sub-heading: Oil spill risk

Issues:

Use of dispersants – is this a SEA issue?

Better to leave the oil to disperse naturally unless a significant risk of harm

MAFF agree – see our booklet (subject to oil type being dispersible naturally & no birds etc. at immediate risk)

Since dispersants need to be used so quickly (within 1 hour??) there is a clause that if no person can be contacted to agree to use of dispersant then the local person can decide to use it. This implies that if dispersants are available they will always be used. Is this correct?

Questions SEA should answer:

Experience in the north sea and the GOM indicates that the spill risk associated with production is acceptably low (tankers may be different) the only question for an SEA is: Is there any risk that the impact of a spill is so much higher that a licensing round should be stopped or modified?

Response: Agree – we only get to approve dispersant use associated with rigs once or twice a year at most in EJW [?]

Response: MAFF are committed to responding immediately – we can usually agree/disagree within an hour. We monitor all reports at oil spills and are consulted on plans so we hopefully ensure that dispersants are only used when appropriate.

Existing data:

MAFF has records of dispersant use approvals in shallow water & some records of use in deeper water (waters within 1 mile of 20m contour)

MCA/DTI should have data on every spill. (operators and ships must report all spills)

Heading: Assessment

Sub-heading: Plankton

Issues:

1) Ballast water

Questions SEA should answer:

1) Is ballast water an issue for platform supply vessels that ply the N. Sea / UKCS?

Attached Post-it response: Not for supply boats but can be for tankers (?? Shuttle tankers??)
Problem greater for tankers & cargo vessels as they take up ballast water when they have no cargo

Existing data:

Huge volume of experience / data on tanker ballast

SNH – ongoing study at present

Heading: Assessment

Sub-heading: Deep sea fish & cephalopods

Issues:

What's with this obsession about cephalopods?
Bioaccumulation of contaminants
Migration routes
Creation of artificial reefs

Questions SEA should answer:

- Is the creation of artificial reef positive or negative? Case-by-case basis

Existing data:

Heading: Assessment

Sub-heading: Socio-economic

Issues:

Benefits
Overriding public interest (OPI) argument in SACs

Questions SEA should answer:

Do benefits outweigh impacts?
Can OPI be demonstrated where development might affect a SAC? What 'alternatives' need to be considered? Habitats Regulations

Who benefits? Who 'suffers':

Number of people
Communities
Equity issue

Existing data:

Heading: Assessment

Sub-heading: Coastal / Marine conservation

Issues:

Habitats regulations / designated sites – and lack of information

Questions SEA should answer:

Avoid designating sites on basis of incomplete data (i.e. just what SEA collects rather than complete understanding of resource).

Existing data:

Heading: Assessment

Sub-heading: Aesthetics

Issues:

Visual pollution (near shore)
Sound pollution (both above and below water)
– not just an aesthetic issue. Impact on marine biota and coastal users

Questions SEA should answer:

Existing data:

The following templates were added by participants during Session 4:

Heading: Assessment

Sub-heading: Benthos

Issues:

Are the present techniques in use for monitoring appropriate?

Questions SEA should answer:

What new or redeveloped techniques could now be deployed to improve survey effectiveness?

Existing data:

In Norway, Canada, US etc. other technologies are used

Heading: Assessment

Sub-heading: Onshore impacts

Issues:

Waste
Onshore cuttings disposal
Pressure on landfill
Proximity to SAC / SSSI..... / SPAs
Risks of transport (oils...) to environment (spillage / accidents / traffic)
Changes in hydrodynamic regime?

Questions SEA should answer:

Are land impacts going to be larger than sea impacts???
Beach / Salt marsh land or sea?

Existing data:

Heading: Assessment

Sub-heading: Overview

Issues:

Can you predict impacts at a strategic level? Other SEA experience points away from impact assessment models towards “objectives-led appraisal”.

Needs objectives against which strategy options can be appraised, to be defined.

Attached Post-it says: “Objectives for the options or for the area to be affected? Both?”

The Bristol Channel Marine Aggregates (BCMA) study, whilst not a SEA per se, had to deal with and answer many of the questions currently being asked (i.e. what are we trying to achieve, why & how). The methodology developed for/by this (BCMA) study has to use existing data, deal with data gaps, ensure that strategic (not site specific) issues are addressed etc. There may well, therefore, be valuable lessons for the SEA.

Questions SEA should answer

What objectives & appraisal criteria should we be using?

SEA should provide performance standards for future projects to meet (EIA-level demonstration)

Existing data:

Contacts for BCMA: Jan Brooke, Environmental Consultant, 01778 345 979

Chris Morgan, National Assembly for Wales (Planning Dept.) Jan Brooke has phone number if required

Heading: Assessment

Sub-heading: Significance

Issues:

Differing views

Criteria?

Time/knowledge based

Questions SEA should answer:

Standards or objectives?

Existing data:

4.2 The Existing Environment

4.2.1 The Coastal Environment

- Coastal conservation overview
- Uses of the coastal zone
- Coastal protection

Heading: The Coastal Environment

Sub-heading: Coastal Conservation Overview

Issues:

MEHRAs

Relationship between SEA3 and existing “SEA-type” initiatives at Coast (e.g. Shoreline Management plans, Coastal Habitat Management Plans etc.)

Questions SEA should answer:

What is effect on Special Conservation Areas (SACs) & their management plans?

+ SSSI

+ World Heritage Sites etc.

Would re-routing conflict with MEHRA management?

Existing data:

On CZM-type plans in Scotland – Scottish Castle Forum (martyn.cox@scottoff.gov.uk??)

Various coastal forums UK wide

English Nature

Environment Agency

Heading: The Coastal Environment

Sub-heading: Uses of the Coastal Zone

Issues:

- SEA3 will need to target consultation very carefully landwards of, say, 1km offshore
- Experience suggests there will be too many stakeholders to make a consultation viable unless interested parties raise questions via representative groups

[**Post-It note attached to sheet says:** “hardly a coastal zone issue”]

Questions SEA should answer:

- Who uses? No. of people
- Conflicts?
- Trends?
- Contribution to local economies?

Existing data:

- Environment agency
 - - National data SETS (statutory)
 - Local monitoring
- Local authorities
- Coastal management plans
- Estuary Fora (Forth, Clyde etc.)
- Coastal Fora (Scotland...)
- Marine SPAs / SACs / MNRs
- National monitoring program (NMP)
- English nature
- Coastal forums

Heading: The Coastal Environment

Sub-heading: Coastal protection

Issues:

Oil spill controls
Sea level rise / coastal protection (flood)
 ^ Impact on
– changes to hydro-dynamic regime

Questions SEA should answer:

Tolerance of coastal habitats
Recovery routes
Timescales
Will development affect coastal processes / defences
Standing env. Groups
Users economics

Existing data:

Coastal cell groups responsible for producing shoreline management plans.

A4 sheet attached to this flip chart says:

“EV-Global

Accepting the requirements for SEA and that it is a European Issue (level to EU directives) should DTI not propose a European initiative and thereby establish a “pilot” SEA study (possibly overlapping the UK, KD, GE, NL EEZs) co-funded by EU nations. This study could be experimental, in terms of what data is collected to what resolution and data density, and also a means of setting the ground rules for future SEAs in specific areas. The first SEA should also be “organic” in that, being a “base line” further data could be collected and evaluated in this area as equipment and scientific understanding develop”

4.2.2 Offshore Physical & Chemical Environment

- Meteorology
- Bathymetry & Topography
- Hydrography
- Solid Geology
- Sediments (sea bed)
- Bofs

Heading: Offshore Physical & Chemical Environment

Sub-heading: Meteorology

Issues:

Safety of life at sea

Global context of 'atmosphere'

Risk analysis (of structural damage) in relation to storminess

Modelling of oil spill dispersion

Questions SEA should answer:

How can the offshore oil industry be seen to be contributing to safety of life at sea for all users?

How are 'baselines' established?

Wave heights, tidal flows, typical wind as potential sources of energy production – will they be assessed?

Existing data:

Heading: Offshore Physical & Chemical Environment

Sub-heading: Bathymetry and Topography

Issues:

Questions SEA should answer:

Should all "mounds" be assessed as potential special habitat – a moraine 10m high may be significant but other banks of gravel may not. Likewise the question of scale on sandbanks. What survey techniques should be used?

Habitats directive on topographic highs must be applied with extreme caution and realistically

* Does industry swath bathymetry data get deposited with Hydrographic office?

Existing data:

Heading: Offshore Physical & Chemical Environment

Sub-heading: Solid Geology (Subheading: underlying geology was suggested)

Issues:

Questions SEA should answer:

Existing data:

Much data held in industry site investigation reports – many held by British Geological Survey & own extensive regional survey DEAL – UKOOA project has extensive metadata

Heading: Offshore Physical & Chemical Environment

Sub-heading: Sediments (sea bed)

Issues:

Sea bed stability – use of benthos as an indicator of this

* Inadequate archiving of industry site investigation data on a national basis

Questions SEA should answer:

Can we use sediment / substrate data to provide an indicator of likely biological interest in areas where biological data is lacking?

Existing data:

British Geological Survey has 30,000+ own seabed samples with physical and geochemical data. Also information on 40,000+ commercial seabed samples. Data extends back 35+ years.

Metadata accessible on BGS website and EU-SEASED website (EU-funded project with contribution from all EU member states and Norway)

4.2.3 Offshore Biological Environment

- Plankton
- Cephalopods & other pelagic organisms
- Benthos
- Fish
- Sea birds
- Marine mammals
- Offshore conservation sites
- BOFS

Heading: Offshore Biological Environment

Sub-heading: Plankton

Issues:

What environmental quality objectives do we seek?

Questions SEA should answer:

Do we use the (DETR) ecological quality objectives (ECOQs) to set standards?

Existing data:

DETR ECOQs draft document (Richard Emmerson, DETR)

Heading: Offshore Biological Environment

Sub-heading: Cephalopods and other Pelagic Organisms

Issues:

What ECOQs to use

Questions SEA should answer:

Existing data:

Heading: Offshore Biological Environment

Sub-heading: Benthos

Issues:

Identification of biotopes

Spatial and Temporal variability – especially important in describing diversity of deep-sea areas.

Accuracy of press / media reports on spectacular benthos (corals etc.)

Questions SEA should answer:

To what extent are we trying to understand processes, as opposed to purely describing assemblages? Do we address temporal variability?

Note written in response: - Only if relevant to distinguishing anthropogenic effects from natural variability.

Existing data:

Take into account existing data from Norwegian and Faeroese surveys and comparative reports

Heading: Offshore Biological Environment

Sub-heading: Fish

Issues:

Sound! (seismic)

Impact on sea bed spawners (from cuttings)

Questions SEA should answer:

Combined impact of existing wells on fish resource

Existing data:

Heading: Offshore Biological Environment

Sub-heading: Sea birds

Issues:

- 1) Birds land on offshore installations exhausted
- 2) Vulnerable concentrations & oil spill risks
- 3) Loafing areas}
- 4) Moulting areas} spatially & temporally variable
- 5) Feeding areas – entirely at sea}

Questions SEA should answer:

- 1) How can the offshore oil industry be seen to be doing the right thing for these birds?
- 2) What is the impact on population?
- 3) Must consider sea bird populations when moulting, feeding and loafing
- 4) What is the level of light pollution caused by offshore installations & what effect is it having on sea birds and what effect is it having on migrating bird patterns?
- 5) Discards from industry structures causing population problems?

Existing data:

Heading: Offshore Biological Environment

Sub-heading: Marine Mammals

Issues:

Seismic – not considered by EIA

Cumulative effects important

Other noise sources

About to become 'consent' process will be subject to EIA type process.

Questions SEA should answer:

Existing data:

ECO – quality objectives being developed in OSPAR (applies to more than marine mammals e.g. pollutants etc – had to go so no time to fill for other sub-headings)

AFEN work – noise – SOSUS / POPUPS – underway at present

DERA EIA work on acoustic stress on marine mammals (Dr. Tony Heathershaw, SOC)

Heading: Offshore Physical & Chemical Environment

Sub-heading: Offshore conservation sites

Issues:

SAC selection & designation (& SPAs)

Consider 'marine landscapes' not just sites

Archaeology

HABs directive very limited re: marine habitats & species

Questions SEA should answer:

With limited information, how can we be sure that the 'best' sites are being designated rather than resources we just happen to know about?

What are the relationships between this SEA process and those processes used to designate marine SPAs, SACs and Nature reserves? How will the marine element of the National Parks Legislation in Scotland be addressed by this SEA process? Will seaward extensions of coastal SPAs and SACs be treated in an holistic manner with the landward element of the site?

Existing data:

Heading: Offshore Biological Environment

Sub-heading: BOFS

Issues:

Definition of appropriate objectives or standards against which possible or putative change may be judged.

Questions SEA should answer:

Existing data:

4.2.4 Existing Activities

- Fishing
- Shipping
- Energy
- Telecomms
- Military
- ~~Sludge Disposal~~
- Historical dump sites
- Dredging
- Leisure
- ~~Conservation~~
- Discharges / contamination
- “Policing” of existing activities (not just oil and gas industry)

Heading: Existing Activities

Sub-heading: Fishing

Issues:

Fishing info from SEA / EIAs available to EU commission & associated committees to start integrating objectives for oil & gas with objectives for fishing activity

Relate controls of each industry to damage caused.

Traceability – “fingerprinting” of pollutants

Pipelines – trenching / bundles etc. Pipelines attract fish (as the fishermen know)

Questions SEA should answer:

How will further licensing (and exclusion) affect the activity of fishing fleets?

Fishing is often a destructive activity: If oil and gas operations prevent fishing (e.g. in areas around floating production systems), is this a positive environmental benefit?

– YES!!

By the time rules are promulgated much destruction of continental margin habitats will have taken place

Existing data:

Heading: Existing Activities

Sub-heading: Shipping

Issues:

Ship collision risk: location in shipping lanes

Ballast water discharges – only likely to be an issue if ships used instead of pipeline for transport from platforms

Post-it note attached reads: “Ballast shouldn’t be a problem as shuttle tankers now should have segregated ballast tanks”

Relationship to MEHRA management

Questions SEA should answer:

Existing data:

Heading: Existing Activities

Sub-heading: Energy

Issues:

We need it! (energy!)
Impact / opportunities of wind power

Questions SEA should answer:

Consider the relative effects of oil and gas exploitative activity in relation to sea bed effects of fishing
Will offshore wind power be part of the options considered?

Existing data:

Heading: Existing Activities

Sub-heading: Military

Issues:

Need to consider potential conflict with; military danger / exercise areas, submarine operations

Questions SEA should answer

How to avoid the above?

Existing data:

Maps showing danger / exercise areas available from the Hydrographic Office in Taunton; further information / advice available from MOD, on 020 7305 3584 (fax: 020 7305 4144)

Heading: Existing Activities

Sub-heading: Historic dump sites

Issues:

Sites where chemical weapons and munitions were dumped. Presume no-go!
If disturbed, where will they end up? Re: Irish Sea?
Also, current / new sites
Where are they & how persistent are they?

Post-it note attached reads: "Re: dumped munitions.

Scientific advice received by MOD is that dumped munitions should not be disturbed. As long as they remain undisturbed, they present no danger / hazard to the marine environment or to human health."

Questions SEA should answer:

What about war graves?

Existing data:

MAFF / SE-RAD / NI-DOE / MOD records
Comments on old Admiralty Charts and pilot books are often missing on modern versions
Take up with UK Hydrographic Office
Long time-series: before / after: MAFF / CEFAS

Heading: Existing Activities

Sub-heading: Dredging

Issues:

Potential sterilisation of aggregate resources

As associated with maintenance of navigational channels presumably no-go due to shipping!
(apart from dump sites)

Also currents / new sites

Aggregates extraction industry is facing similar issues to oil and gas industry especially W.V. to SACs etc.

If a possible site for hydrocarbon exploration is in a dredged site it may mean that there is a temporary cessation of dredging this could impact on the economic activity of local ports etc.

However this problem is only temporary

Questions SEA should answer:

How is GIS data (positional) attached to specific hazards and made available through public "database"?

Sand and gravel resources may be sterilized by hydrocarbon developments, should these be exploited first?

If development follows directional drilling means that sea bed installations can be sited away from dredging sites to limit impacts

Existing data:

In Scotland: SERAD (Marine Lab, Aberdeen)

England and Wales: CEFAS / MAFF

Aggregate Industry (BMAPA)

Heading: Existing Activities

Sub-heading: Leisure

Issues:

Rights of passage

Obstruction

Aesthetics hence impact on leisure uses

Proposed MEHRAs

Questions SEA should answer

Does this include marine archaeology?

Existing data:

Heading: Existing Activities

Sub-heading: Discharges / Contamination

Issues:

LCA approach particularly to wastes bad to land

Historically only water-based discharges have been considered in decision making and environmental regulations have moved towards 'zero discharge' into the sea. A holistic approach of SEA is required where the 3 compartments of the environment are considered: water, air, land. If discharges to the sea are stopped, impacts of oil and gas activities will move to other compartments of the environment.

Questions SEA should answer:

Existing data:

EA

Some existing data suggest that discharges of cuttings containing synthetic fluids into the sea is a better option than moving oily cuttings into land

Heading: Existing Activities

Sub-heading: 'Policing'

Issues:

Volume of discharge that constitutes an offence?

(Oil and Gas installations versus shipping)

Should include restoration after impact

Questions SEA should answer:

Is policing usually aerial?

Usually aerial? – e.g. Fisheries, protection / MCA aircraft?

Need to outline existing regulatory controls (here?)

What 'policing' is happening already?

Existing data:

MCA patrols for discharges of oil (& satellite data)

PON – reporting of oil spills

Post-it note reads: "better under 'controls' section?"

During Session 4 a number of participants worked together to produce the following points:

What should be in the SEA

1. Statement of policy context

- Current / past energy policy
 - National trends
 - Oil / gas licensing
 - Other forms of energy production
- Explanation of this round of oil / gas licences
- Aims of this SEA **see section marked * on page 39**
- Limitations of this SEA

What are our objectives against which to appraise on strategy?

2. The proposed activity and alternatives

- The proposed activity is licensing, not drilling etc.
- Alternatives are: 1. not licensing, 2. licensing in different ways, 3. licensing but with 'rules' etc.
- Implication of licensing – drilling / exploration, but details uncertain **see Section X page 39**
- Induced activities (on land terminals, multiplier effects, ancillary etc.)
 - Disincentives related to imports, not oil / gas removed
- Fiscal measure (e.g. pay more for permission to drill), other incentives / disincentives, e.g. for doing environmental good

3a. Scoping

- identify broadest, biggest impacts
- focus on supra-EIA issues e.g. bio-geochemical ocean fluxes, cumulative impacts, e.g. whales

3b. Baseline analysis of issues that you have identified as being most important from 3a

- trend analysis
- thresholds indicators/carrying capacity /standards

Only collect what you need for the question you want to answer?

During Session 4 a number of participants worked together to produce the following points (continued):

4a. Predict impacts of 2. (activity) on 3b. (baseline environment)

- magnitude (including cumulative (synergistic))
- significance (re. thresholds etc)
- solid /equity dimension

4b. Take into account uncertainty of **Section X**

- externalities/force majeure
- accidents
- options analysis (possibly using impact of scenarios)
options = licensing strategies (how much, where, how, packages)
Options need to be tested for robustness under alternative (external scenarios (world oil prices, economics etc)

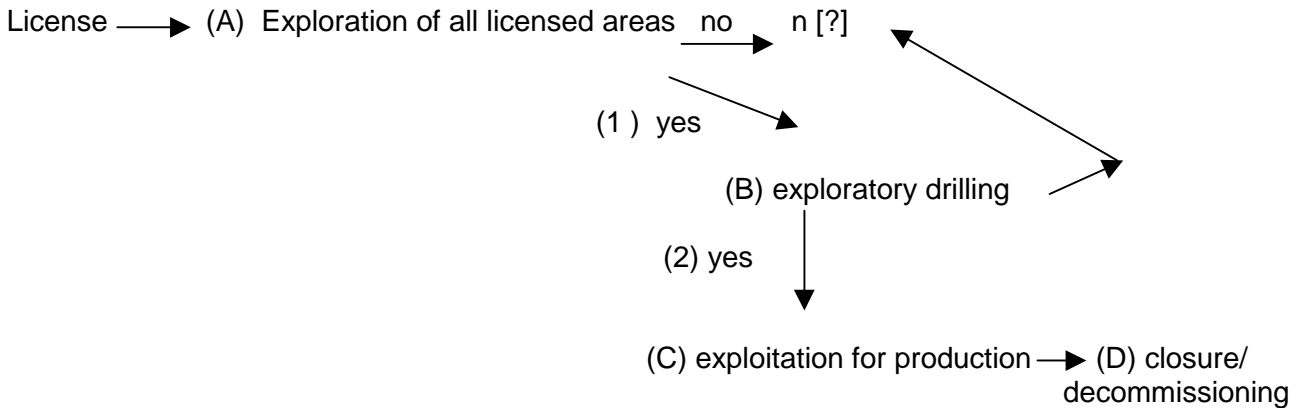
5. Mitigation

- informs **see section marked Y on page 39**
e.g. fiscal tools – allocating liability
"rules" for individual projects etc – performance standards for individual projects
disincentives based on area impacted, security of impacts etc.
- monitoring
- parameters for implementation EMPs

During Session 4 a number of participants worked together to produce the following points (continued):

Section X

Social impacts, economic impacts look to other countries re SEA experience.



→ Know: generic impacts of (A) (B) (C) (D)

→ Good guess [?] : % (1), % (2)

Don't/know: - location of exploitation
 - details of location of risks
 - generic risk/accident

*** Section Y**

How this SEA could affect the next licensing round, e.g.

- Some areas not open to exploration
- “Rules” for allocating licences including how to choose locations
- Criteria that all exploration activities need to abide by (monitoring, project EIA, environmental management systems)

P.S. Ensure that SEA informs influences decision-making

5. SESSION 5: Plenary Review

This session was an open discussion about the last SEA Report and the form the next one should take to make it as useful and accessible as possible.

Feedback – suggestions to make report easier to navigate than SEA1

- ‘Found SEA1 easy to navigate’
- ‘Summary useful’
- ‘Time consuming... find bits were somewhere else, repetitions’
- Propose to include in Executive Summary a navigation tool for where detail is
- Electronic with hyperlinks
- Have an index
- Report is special, don’t want to communicate poorly
- Reaction to oil / gas exploration is disproportionate to effect on marine environment
- Need to make information accessible to wider audiences
- Need different documents for different audiences
- Present in quantitative terms
- Make clear why called ‘strategic’

The level of detail required in an SEA report was also discussed.

- Referenced source well signposted?
- What about different documents addressed to different audiences?
 - Keep summary documents separate
- Need to explain oil & gas as appendix?
- Consider function of each document ‘know your audience’
- Beware of summaries (too simple, incomplete)
- Could charge for some versions?
- Specific brochures for non-technical audience to signpost to more detailed technical document
- Limit on budget for ‘advertising’ government initiatives
- Report needs to focus on the implications and impacts of activities for consultation purposes
- Brief glossy useful for appending to company documents to publicise SEA2
- Use existing guidelines for good prose
 - Informative, intelligible, concise, non-ambiguous, not repetitive
 - Concentrate on the message

6. SESSION 6: Final advice to DTI, Geotek and Hartley Anderson Ltd

The final session was a request for advice on the way forward.

- Provide enough money to present data to upcoming conferences e.g. Oceanography 2002
- Involve more organisations & individuals in consultation
 - Takes time & money
 - Take implications of expanding consultation on board
- Hyperlink to UNEP website
- What can we learn from Brent Spar?
- Need to communicate learning to everybody

- Need to get others involved
- Plea to expand process
- Get continuous feedback
- Talk to your colleagues and others about getting involved or feeding in information

What next?

- All participants to receive transcript of today's workshop
- Steering group to consider output from workshop & layout of draft document
 - Feedback to attendees
- SEA2 – formal consultation on draft
- Stakeholder workshop again next year

Other people who should be consulted

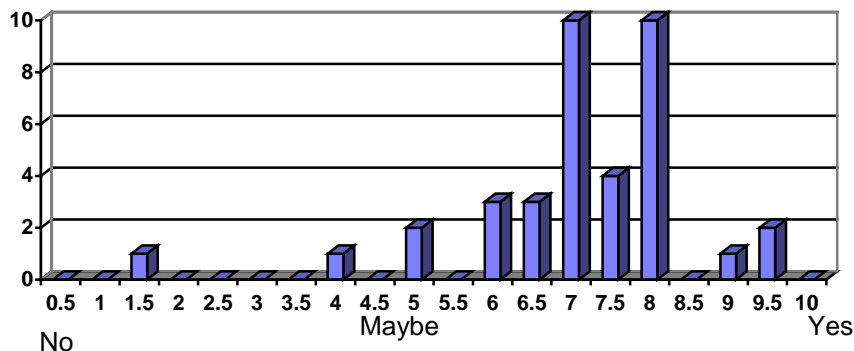
People for Steering Group

- Someone from media with keen perception of how public see environment
- Specialist in public understanding of environment
- UNEP representative
- Member of National Marine Monitoring Programme

7. Evaluation

The following section details the evaluation of the meeting. Stakeholders had the opportunity to complete a form by giving feedback on the workshop on a numerical scale and /or writing comments in response to a number of broad questions. From the responses returned the 'scale' feedback has been collated on a graph with all comments (in no particular order and without attribution) listed underneath:

Q1. Do you think today's meeting will have improved the SEA process?

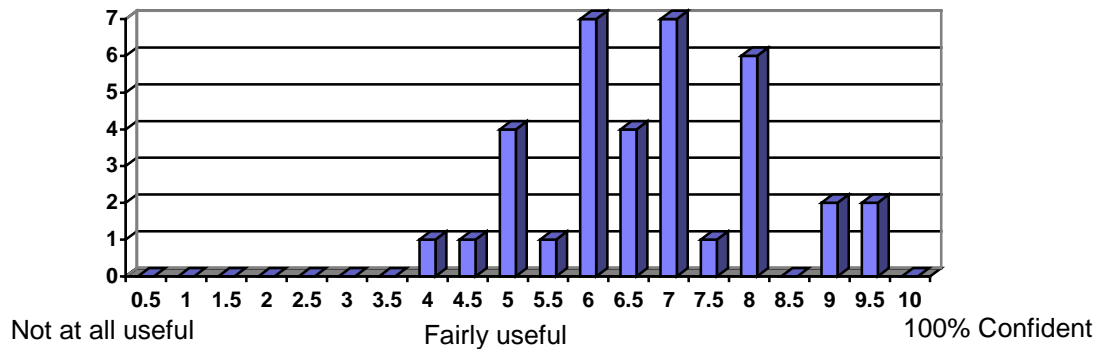


Comments

- Feedback from a wide range of disciplines and experience will greatly help the SEA process
- Yes, I think it would have improved the SEA process as some basic concepts were reiterated (e.g. the nature of the SEA itself, what it should cover).
- Yes. It must have helped the process!
- Some re-inventing of the wheel but overall fairly useful and should improve the SEA process
- Should make the SEA process "tauter" and hopefully will target the right areas/people
- Largely by giving "stakeholders" the feeling that they have been involved.
- Yes I think that the atmosphere showed that the desire was for information. Information that will be acted on and not just because it is required by a European Directive.
- There have been many complex issues highlighted today, perhaps too many. For SEA process to truly succeed and stand-up as a definite document, it should concentrate its efforts towards pre-defined objective. Other work/areas can be covered collaboratively utilising existing programs of work.
Overall a need to re-focus, and define realistic objectives.
- If further comments made after today's meeting are also taken into account.
- Yes – poss. more encouragement for wider verbal participation – over-dominance by a few voluble participants
- To an extent, although I suspect most attendees were already familiar with the issues. It is the process of the SEA that was most required to be addressed.
- Yes, there needs to be a continuing process of consultation to ensure transparency of the process
- Hopefully – not sure that there is enough time between now and September to change anything fundamental about the proposed approach.
- Should do. Although many issues raised I think the SEA-related points made were pertinent to the SEA process in DTI
- I am sure it will generate more thought and comment than written on the wall charts.
- Raised some useful issues, although the Management Team will probably end up doing pretty much what they were going to anyway (?)
- Yes (8)

- A number of verbal discussions were held on the issues surrounding the content and objective of the SEA. However, the structure could have been better organised.
- - I think it is part of the SEA process
- Need to draw more on experience of other sectors in similar initiatives.
- On balance it is a start in the right direction. But...
 - it represents a narrow church
 - it has not clearly defined the process of SEA
 - it appears to be (for SEA2 at least) as a fait accompli regarding the activity it is supposedly assessing
 - it has avoided strategic policy issues
- Not straight away but if the comments and concerns are taken on board then it should in the future. This is an on-going process
- Particular emphasis on presentation of data and design of process gained from SEA1.
- Best as part of a continuing process: so much was new to the participants that we confidently expect more focussed discussion on future occasions.
- Yes it has made me aware of the SEA process and the criteria that will be considered. Hopefully some of things I thought important have been dealt with, others considered not relevant and therefore not longer need to pursue
- It is still unclear to me what the "process" is though but perhaps more meetings like this will develop the process.

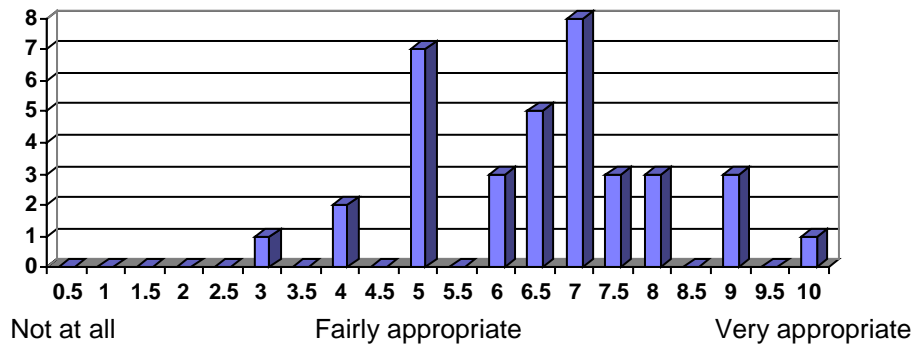
Q2. How useful have you found the meeting?



Comments

- Valuable to find out about the SEA programme – what is done and the future timetable
- This is a useful manner in which to conduct meetings.
- Very informative
- Gained a better understanding of the SEA process. Made some useful contacts with industry. Interesting also to see/hear others perceptions/thoughts on the SEA process.
- Clarified a lot of points regarding the nature of SEA and the thinking behind its institution.
- Good for networking; informality helps.
- I would like to have heard more about the mechanism for carrying out the SEA (tendering?)
- Ability to have time to discuss issues was useful.
- Useful for what? – see answer to Q1. for how well it served its objective.
Useful for me in what I do – 6.
- Focus of inputs from attendees not always well directed.
- Very useful as I have not been involved in this subject before.
- As above
- It's given me a better understanding of what the SEA process is about – I did have some confusion about this and Habitats "appropriate assessment"
- Useful to the extent that it reveals the extent DTI expectations
- It has helped clarify for me the position of various bodies, on the issues involved, and why they feel this way.
- The process was interesting, but so was the general ability to engage in networking with likeminded folk.
- Important to know of such processes, but they do not coincide with my own regulatory statutory duties, so slightly peripheral.
- A little confusing in understanding what questions were being asked of this meeting as opposed to the questions asked of the SEA process
- Preaching to the converted comes to mind.

Q3. Did you find the meeting format and method appropriate for the meeting's purpose?



Comments

- Provided much time for informal discussion between the main services. A well focussed meeting
- The format is entirely appropriate. The risk of making it too informal was obvious. Better to split the participants in working groups rather than letting them loose.
- May have been better to split into small groups to stimulate discussion – the ‘expert’ for a particular area staying with the ‘flipchart’ to inform stakeholders as/when necessary may have stimulated more debate.
- I liked the less “formal” approach to the meeting – allowing time to circulate and meet others to discuss various aspects was particularly useful
- A good way of ensuring full participation and stimulating people to comment.
- I would have preferred to have worked in small groups to work through the issues rather than walking round making points as it would have possibly produced more ‘ideas’ as it would have possibly produced more ‘ideas’ as we could have discussed each issue further.
- Seemed directionless for an hour or two and I noted several folks took an opportunity to go out for a long break. Found it easier to write comments once someone else had initiated them to poster
- The plenary sessions were interesting the next session (comments on sheets) less so.
- Good idea to take extensive notes on an ongoing basis.
- Smaller working groups with members of the Steering Committee would have been more beneficial
- A novel way of doing the meeting which I felt worked well. The ability to discuss issues and then make points is a valuable and helpful process.
- The middle sections were “too” unstructured. Great fun to gossip about lots of irrelevant things with old and new acquaintances but not sure how much contribution to helping steer the SEA was made.
- See above Q [participant selected 4 on scale]. I think the focus should have been more precisely defined e.g. “issues”
- Session 4/5 was too long
- Very appropriate (8)
- Depends on receiving follow up that will (I hope!) help me get my mind round all that happened on the day. If so, my mark would go to 9+
- Tended to get distracted/sidelined by comments. Dealing with detail, rather than broader concepts.
- Without identifying specific objectives in terms of how the documents will be [?] and level of advice /information included in the document then you get a who & [?] approach. Perhaps this is what was intended.

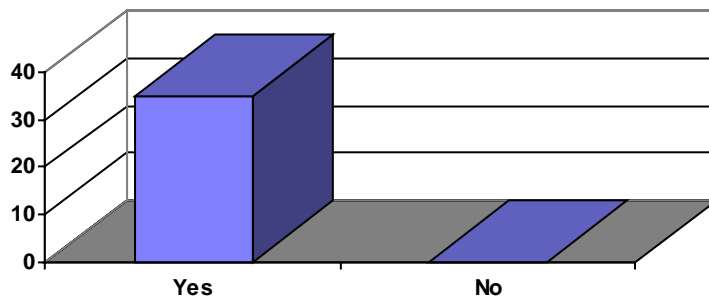
- The breakout session could have been steered more closely by the facilitators. I felt it went on too long. Probably because of the wide range of attendees, different levels of understanding.
- Yes – although the morning session was useful – it was fairly frustrating – a bit more structure to the workshop would have been beneficial – clearer more broken-down purpose.
- Focus groups might have produced more than the prolonged “open” session I felt that last hour of the latter produced relatively little “extra”.
- A bit unstructured – too long with writing on the flip charts.
- Good for this stage of the process but as we move further down the line we need to make sure that the participants don’t go off on a tangent.
- Reasonably flexible format which appeared to capture quite a bit of information. There was still a lack of clarity about the absolute purpose. This may need to be hardened up for public consumption.
- Open dialogue inevitably produces some dead-end over-biased lines of thought. Facilitator was however uniformly welcoming, inviting yet managed to close off such issues rather well.
- It was a very relaxing meeting which allowed open discussion to quickly develop.
- Facilitators perhaps more proactive. Challenge will be applying it to a less knowledgeable audience to identify those less predictable issues.

Q4. Is there anyone else, either individual or organisation who you would like to see involved?

Comments

- People who have specific interest and expertise in the marine environment should be included, perhaps on the steering group.
- Marine archaeologists
- English Nature
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- More academic institutions
- Stakeholders too self selecting. Need to more clearly identify key stakeholder groups and ensure that group is represented.
- Department of Culture, Media and Sport
- Greenpeace
- Marine Conservation Society
- National Monitoring Programme (NMP)
- Scottish Executive – Rural Affairs Department
- This will happen as a matter of course.
- Atlantic Frontier Environmental Forum (Prof Alasdair McIntyre) would offer some insights
- Island Communities could be better represented e.g. Fair Isle
- Users of the sea – leisure, navigation, fishing, shellfishing
- Conservation interests
- Somehow – the public interest
- More people with actual SEA experience
- Some form of media involvement
- UKOOA
- I would like to see the suppliers to the oil industry involved in this either as individual companies (e.g. my company Halliburton Energy Services) for an association of companies (more appropriate e.g. EOSCA) I will communicate to EOSCA if we would like to be represented within the steering group. EOSCA: European Outfield Speciality Chemical Association.
- We are a trade association, so “no”, no-one else. We will feed all the information to our members.
- Given strategic nature of the report, wider government involvement to include other stakeholders e.g. MAFF, DETR, Minerals Planning, DETR Ports and Harbours, English Heritage (Marine Archaeology). Important that SEA is as comprehensive as possible.
- Norwegian sector – OLF? (access to the Norwegian monitoring data). IOOA
- Representatives of aggregates extraction industry, leisure industry (Royal Yachting Association?) Sea fisheries committees, wind energy.
- Yes: expertise in the public understanding of environmental risks (e.g. Prof Tim O’Riordan at UEA)
- Recommissioning Partnership as named group. It could be that I can represent two [EEGR & RR] with two hats on, but individual recognition of an industry/community group would be welcome.
- There are other members of the British Geological Survey who are appropriate for future SEA but I can act as a conduit to feed information to them.
- Were SNH invited? Greater effort on involving our cousins in Norway/Europe – pay for them to come perhaps.

Q5. Do you want to be kept informed of this consultation process?



Comments

- List of actual attendees with addresses and emails would be useful
- Will there be further stakeholder dialogue before SEA2 is completed in draft
- Would be happy to attend annually to keep up to date with progress
- Need to ensure regular updates (even if it is to say nothing is happening!) . This will help to maintain interest and to prompt people to let you have information/ideas that have become available “in the meantime”

Please Note

We have endeavoured to transcribe the hand-written comments with complete accuracy. Any errors are the responsibility of The Environment Council and are due to difficulties reading some of the handwriting. Copies of the originals are held at our offices.

Presentation by DTI

SEA Background

- **Prior 1996 a great deal of site specific environmental assessment of the offshore industry had been carried out (c. 500 offshore surveys).**
- **Change of direction in assessment of impact offshore began with the first “wide area” surveys.**
- **Four wide-area surveys of waters to the west of Scotland were conducted by the Atlantic Frontier Environmental Forum (AFEN) and the DTI**

SEA Background

- **1998 and 1999 saw the implementation of two EU Environmental Impact Assessment Directives to the offshore oil and gas industry.**
- **EIA activity is site / project specific.**
- **Different processes / studies needed to assess regional (strategic) effects.**

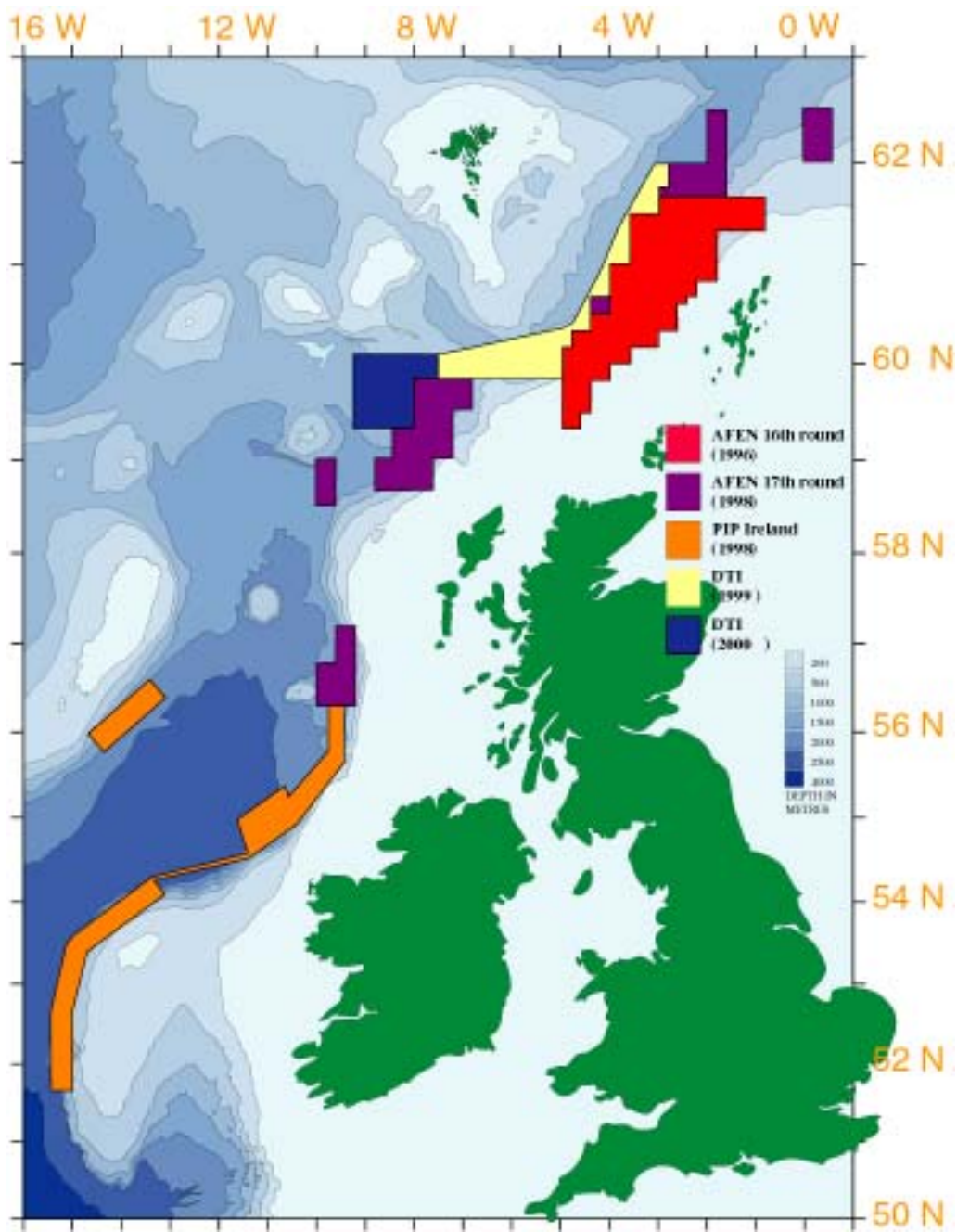
SEA Background

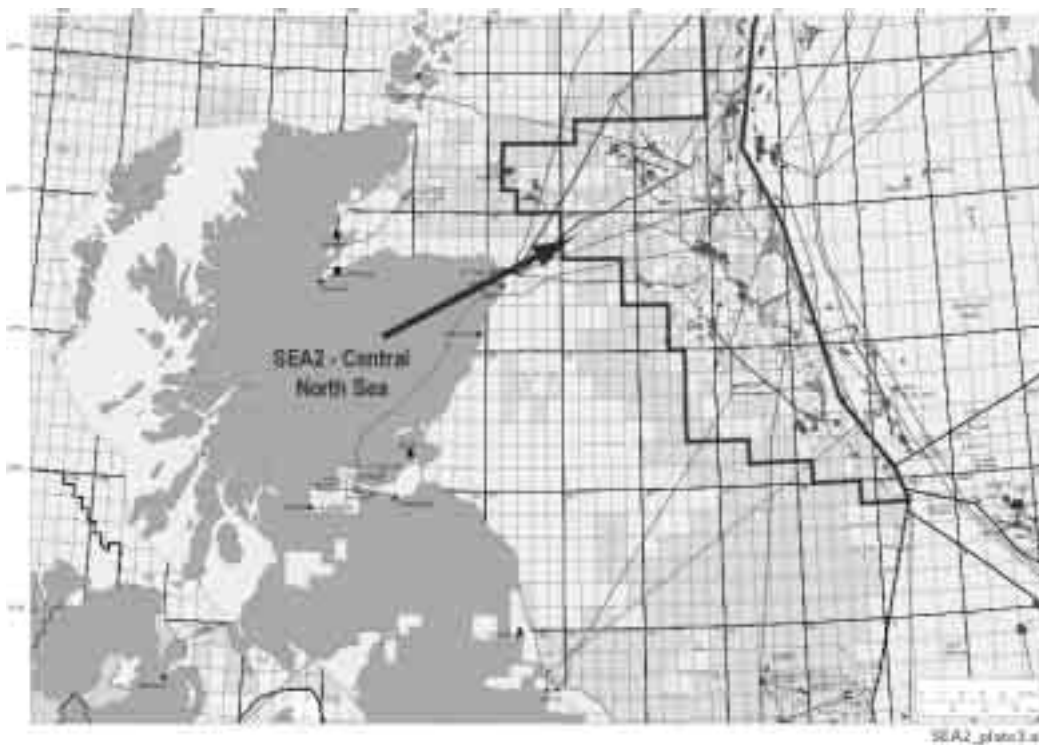
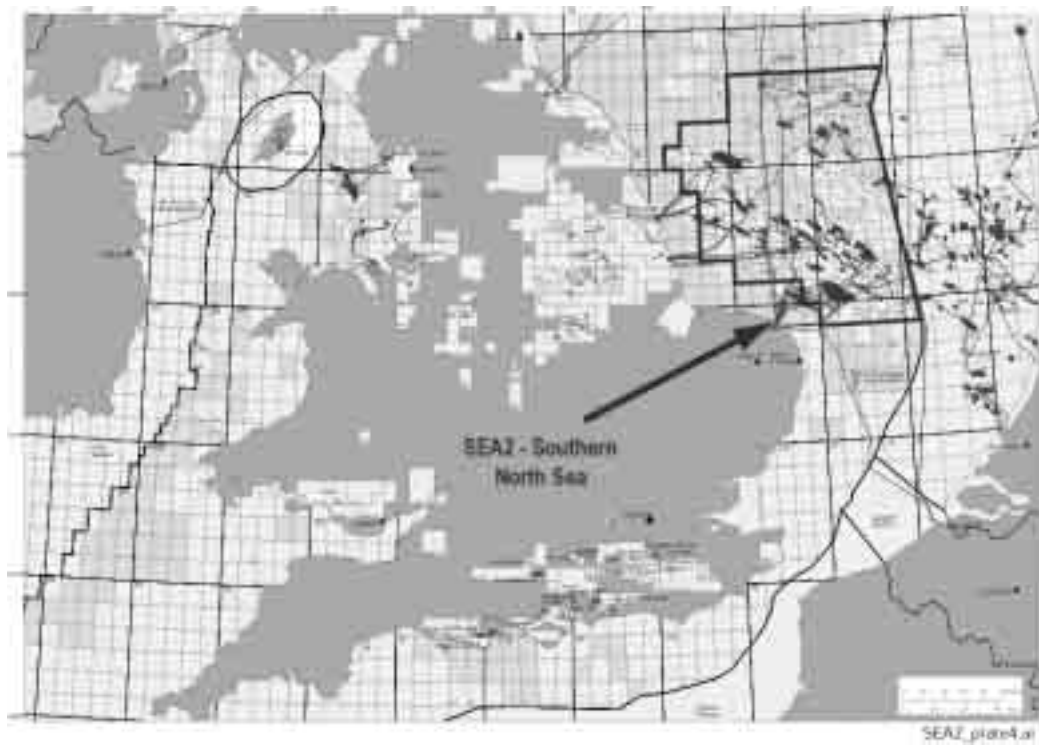
- **First UK offshore SEA conducted in the “White Zone” in 2000**
- **DTI commitment to improve transparency and protect marine habitats and species.**
- **EU “SEA Directive” imminent**

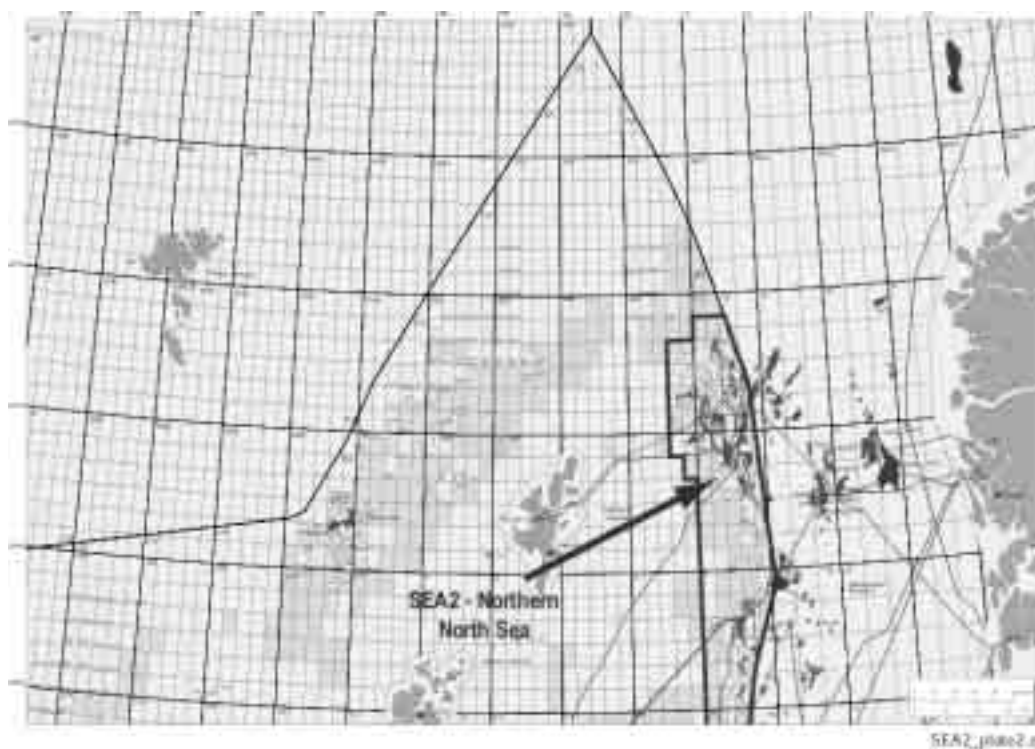
SEA Background

- **Series of “proactive” SEAs will enable the UK to engage in more flexible planning offshore activities.**
- **Series of SEAs compiled into a “super” SEA of the UK continental shelf will be of great environmental benefit to all stakeholders.**

Presentation by Geotek and Hartley Anderson Ltd







Building on the White Zone SEA

- **White Zone SEA**
 - Scoping within government
 - Assessment by expert judgement
 - Wider consultation via DTI website
- **SEA 2 Proposals**
 - Stakeholder participation in scoping
 - Assessment by expert judgement with peer review by Steering Group
 - Expanded consultation and iteration

SEA 2 Scoping

- **Scoping - identification of stakeholder issues and information sources**
- **DTI timescale dictated some initial consideration of SEA 2 scope**
- **Today is a vital step in scoping SEA 2**
 - **What are the key issues?**
 - **Adequacy of the information base on which to base an assessment?**

SEA 2 Assessment

- Expert judgement
- Steering Group workshop to peer review
- Challenges
 - Mature area
 - Historic effects a useful predictor?
 - Cumulative/synergistic effects

Outcomes of Scoping Exercise

- Stakeholder input on:
 - Consultation - how to improve extent and efficiency
 - Key issues to be addressed in the SEA
 - SEA documentation format and depth
 - Information sources published and unpublished
 - Key information gaps

Acronyms

SEA:	Strategic Environmental Assessment
UKCS:	UK Continental Shelf
MEHRAs:	Marine Environmental High Risk Areas
SAC:	Special Area of Conservation
SPA:	Special Protection Area (birds)
OPI:	Overriding Public Interest
SOSUS} POPUPS}	Instruments for measuring impact of underwater noise including marine mammal vocalisations
PON:	Petroleum Operation Notice
MCA:	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
GOM:	Gulf of Mexico!
LCA:	Life Cycle Analysis