

From:

Sent: 18 March 2013 15:37

To:

Cc: SEA Appropriate Assessment Consultation

Subject: 27th Round Draft Appropriate Assessments - Comments required by 19th April 2013

Dear

In August last year we circulated for your comments, a draft screening assessment for the blocks applied for in the 27th Seaward Licensing Round of the potential to cause significant effects on Natura 2000 sites. The screening concluded that 61 blocks or part blocks should be further assessed before licensing decisions are taken. We have now completed draft Appropriate Assessments for the 61 blocks, which are contained in 7 stand alone documents covering the:

- Southern North Sea
- Outer Moray Firth
- Central North Sea
- West of Shetland
- Northern Ireland
- Eastern Irish Sea and
- Central English Channel

All of the draft Appropriate Assessments will be subject to a 5-week public consultation period starting from today and are available using the following link:- http://www.offshore-sea.org.uk/site/scripts/news_article.php?newsID=50

As a statutory consultee and advisers to DECC, I'd be grateful for any comments you may have on the assessment(s), in particular those relevant to your organisation's remit, by 19th April so DECC can take account of them in arriving at its decisions on blocks outstanding from the 27th licensing round. Comments may be sent to SEA.AA@decc.gsi.gov.uk

Regards,

*Offshore Environmental Policy Unit
Department of Energy and Climate Change
Energy Group, Energy Development Unit,
Atholl House, 86-88 Guild Street,
Aberdeen, AB11 6AR.*