



Department of Energy and Climate Change

Environmental Statement (ES) Summary and Sign-Off

Title:	Gannet Development
Operator:	Shell UK Limited
Report No:	D/3998/2008
Submission Date:	July 2008
Block No:	21/25, 21/30, 22/21, 22/26a
Development Type:	Increase in Production
Reviewer:	Philip Bloor – Senior Environmental Manager
Date:	December 2008

A) Project Description:

The Gannet complex comprises of one fixed drilling and production platform for the Gannet A, B, C, D, E, F & G mature producing fields. Gannet A is the host installation whilst the other fields are subsea satellite tie-backs. The fields are located approximately 180 km east of Aberdeen. The Gannet fields produce both oil and gas which are exported by pipeline to the Fulmar platform.

The Environmental Statement has been submitted to assess an increase in production forecast at Gannet A of either greater than 500 tonnes of oil per day or 500,000 m³ of gas per day.

Key Project Activities:

The EIA identified the following activities as having the potential to cause an environmental impact:

- Increase in atmospheric emissions from power generation;
- Increase in emissions from flaring;
- Increase in produced water discharges
- Accidental discharge.

C) Key Environmental Sensitivities:

The EIA identified the following environmental sensitivities:

- Annex I Habitats – There are no Annex 1 habitats in the vicinity of the gannet field.
- Annex II species – Harbour porpoise occur in the vicinity of the gannet field throughout the year with most sightings in during the summer months.
- Plankton and Benthos – Found to be typical for Central North Sea
- Fish – Mackerel, lemon sole, Norway pout and *Nephrops* all have spawning grounds in the area. Nursery grounds are for Norway pout, *Nephrops* and Haddock.
- Marine mammals – Cetaceans have been recorded throughout the year with harbour porpoise and white-beaked dolphin being the most abundant.
- Seabirds – Typical seabird assemblages for the Central North Sea occur in the area. Vulnerability of seabird to surface pollutants increases during the autumn but decreases from January to April.
- Fishing activity – Low for demersal species throughout the year.
- Shipping Approximately 4,000 vessels per year pass in the vicinity of the Gannet cluster. Gannet A is 7 km from the nearest shipping clearway

D) Key Potential Environmental Impacts:

The following potential impacts were discussed in the Environmental Statement:

- **Increase in produced water discharge**– There will be no increase in produced water discharge as a result of the increase in production.
- **Increase in the levels of oil in water discharge** – There will be no increase in the levels of oil in water discharge as a result of the increase in production.
- **Chemical discharges** - There will be no increase in chemical discharge as a result of the increase in production.
- **Flaring from host facility** – There will be no increase in flaring as a result of the increase in production.
- **Emissions from power generation** – There will be no increase in emissions from power generation as a result of the increase in production.
- **Vessel operations** – There will be no additional vessel activities as a result of the increase in production.

E) Consultees:

The statutory consultees for this project were the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the Fisheries Research Service (FRS). They made the following comments:

(i) JNCC: - due to the nature of the proposed activity and projected impacts JNCC do not consider that this project will pose a significant impact upon the nature conservation value of the marine environment and are therefore content for DECC to approve the ES.

(ii) FRS: Overall, FRS is content that the Environmental Statement can be accepted.

F) Public Consultation: No comments were received as a result of the public consultation.

G) Recommendation:

On the basis of the information presented within the ES and advice from consultees it is recommended that the ES should be approved.

Approved : Wendy Kennedy, Head of Offshore Oil and Gas Environment and Decommissioning

Wendy Kennedy

Date: 23 December 2008

.....