



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

Equinor UK Limited

Barnacle Field Development Environmental Statement Summary

To: Jonathan Ward

From: Marc McKay

Date: 22 August 2019

ES Title:	Barnacle Field Development (Barnacle)
Developer:	Equinor UK Limited
Consultants:	Xodus Group
OGA Field Group:	Northern North Sea
ES Report No:	D/4235/2019
ES Submission Date:	10 June 2019
Block No:	211/29f and 211/30c
Development Type:	Oil and gas development

Project Description

The Barnacle field is located within UK Continental Shelf (UKCS) Blocks 211/29f and 211/30c, approximately 144 kilometres (km) from the Shetland Isles coastline and 1.5 km from the UK / Norway median line, in a water depth of approximately 140 metres (m). Equinor UK Limited (Equinor) proposes to develop the field using one production well drilled from the Statfjord B platform in the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS), with production also processed via Statfjord B. All activities will be undertaken within the NCS and the only infrastructure within the UKCS will be sub-surface sections of the production well.

First oil is scheduled for November 2019, with anticipated peak production of approximately 695 tonnes of oil and approximately 135,850 m³ of gas per day in 2020. As oil production is anticipated to exceed 500 tonnes per day an Environmental Statement (ES) was required under the Offshore Petroleum and Pipelines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999 (as amended).

Key Environmental Impacts

The ES identified and discussed the following as having the potential to cause an environmental impact:

- Discharges to sea;
- Atmospheric emissions; and
- Accidental events.

Key Environmental Sensitivities

The ES identified the following environmental sensitivities:

- Fish: The area is a recognised spawning area for cod, haddock, Norway pout, saithe

and herring; and a nursery area for anglerfish, blue whiting, haddock, hake, ling, Norway pout, plaice, saithe, herring, mackerel, sprat and spur dog. However, the spawning and nursery areas are extensive and the proposed activities are unlikely to have any significant impact on these species. The potential impacts of accidental events (hydrocarbon releases) on these receptors have been considered within the ES.

- **Seabirds:** The most abundant seabirds in the vicinity of the Barnacle field are Atlantic puffins, black legged kittiwakes, common guillemots, northern fulmars, northern gannets and razorbills. Seabird sensitivity is considered low throughout the year, but medium in September and high in November and December in adjacent blocks. It is considered that there are sufficient mitigation measures in place to prevent accidental spills that could have a significant impact on seabirds and Equinor already has relevant oil spill preparedness plans in place for Staffjord B.
- **Protected Sites:** There are no protected sites or known sensitive habitats within 40 km of the Staffjord B platform. The nearest protected site is the Pobie Bank Reef Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is located approximately 102 km from the Barnacle field. The proposed activities are unlikely to have any impact upon this site.
- **Protected Species:** Atlantic white sided dolphin, harbour porpoise, killer whale, minke whale, pilot whale, sperm whale and white beaked dolphin have all been recorded in the vicinity of the Barnacle field. There are no activities proposed that would be likely to result in significant noise emissions and it has been concluded that there are unlikely to be any adverse effects or disturbance of the protected species.
- **Coastal sensitivities:** The ES identified coastal sensitivities on the Shetland Isles, including designated SACs and Special Protected Areas (SPAs). Whilst these coastal sensitivities would not be affected by the drilling or production operations, it was recognised that they could potentially be impacted by a significant hydrocarbon spill. However, sufficient mitigation measures will be in place to prevent and respond to accidental spills.
- **Other users of the sea:** The Barnacle field is situated within the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) rectangle 51F1 and the relative fishing effort is low. Shipping density in the vicinity of Blocks 211/29 and 211/30 is also low. Appropriate navigational controls are in place at the Staffjord B platform and it is unlikely that there will be any significant impact on other users of the sea.
- **In combination, cumulative and transboundary effects:** No significant in combination, cumulative and transboundary effects are anticipated.

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 line 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 project and each confirmed they had no objections. The ES was also subject to public notice and no comments were received.

Further Information

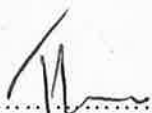
Further information was requested from Equinor to clarify points raised during the internal OPRED review. The additional information received from Equinor on 8 August 2019 satisfactorily addressed the points that were raised and there are no outstanding issues.

Determination

Following review of the ES and the responses received from consultees, and confirmation that the additional information provided by Equinor is not material to the determination, OPRED is satisfied that the 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, the comments received from consultees and the additional information provided by Equinor, OPRED is content that there are no objections, and agrees to the OGA issuing the necessary consent or consents for the proposed development. This agreement is not subject to the inclusion of any specific environmental conditions.


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Jonathan Ward
Director, Environmental Operations
OPRED

23/8/19
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Date

