

Our Ref: 01.01.01.01-6652U
UKOP Doc Ref:1397453



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment
& Decommissioning

CONOCOPHILLIPS SKANDINAVIA AS
EKOFISKVEGEN 35
4056 TANANGER
NORWAY

Date: 26th May 2025

Department for Energy Security &
Net Zero

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Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

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Dear Sir / Madam

**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020
PIPELINE PL19**

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PL/2560/0 (Version 3), dated 23rd May 2025 has been issued under regulation 6 of the above Regulations. The screening direction notice, and any relevant conditions and comments are attached. A copy of this screening direction will be forwarded to the application consultees, the Oil and Gas Authority and published on the gov.uk website.

If you have any queries in relation to this screening direction or the attachments, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] or email the Environmental Management Team at opred@energysecurity.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



**THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING
AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS
2020**

**SCREENING DIRECTION CONFIRMING THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT IS NOT REQUIRED**

PIPELINE PL19

PL/2560/0 (Version 3)

Whereas CONOCOPHILLIPS SKANDINAVIA AS has made an application dated 23rd May 2025, under The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020, and whereas the Secretary of State has considered the application and is satisfied that the project is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment; in exercise of the powers available under regulation 6, the Secretary of State hereby directs that the application for consent in respect of the project need not be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment, provided that the project is carried out as described in the application for the screening direction and in accordance with the conditions specified in the attached schedule.

In giving a screening direction under regulation 6 of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State accordingly gives agreement to the Oil and Gas Authority to the grant of consent for the project as detailed in the application PA/5500.

Effective Date: 26th May 2025

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THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2020

SCHEDULE OF SCREENING DIRECTION CONDITIONS

The grant of this screening direction is conditional upon the screening direction holder complying with the following conditions.

1 Screening direction validity

The screening direction shall be valid from 30 May 2025 until 31 October 2025.

2 Commencement and completion of the project

The holder of the screening direction must confirm the dates of commencement and completion of the project covered by the screening direction. Notification should be sent by email to the Environmental Management Team Mailbox: opred@energysecurity.gov.uk

3 Nature of stabilisation or protection materials

Rock deposits

433.44 tonnes of clean, inert rock material, containing minimal fines, (The quantity of rock deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary stabilisation or protection, and any surplus rock must be returned to land).

Permanent Concrete mattress deposits

11 concrete mattresses, each measuring 6 metres x 3 metres. (The number of mattresses deposited should be the minimum required to provide the necessary protection, and any surplus mattresses must be returned to land).

4 Location of pipeline and stabilisation or protection materials

As described in the permit application.

5 Prevention of pollution

The holder of the screening direction must ensure that appropriate measures are taken to minimise discharges, emissions and waste, in particular through the appropriate use of technology; and to ensure that necessary measures are taken to prevent incidents affecting the environment or, where they occur, to limit their consequences in relation to the environment.

6 Inspections

Should the Department consider it necessary or expedient for an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State to investigate whether the conditions of the screening direction are being complied with, the holder of the screening direction shall afford the inspector with such facilities and assistance as the inspector considers necessary to exercise the powers conferred by the regulations. The holder of the screening direction shall additionally ensure that copies (electronic or paper) of the screening direction and any other relevant documents are available for inspection by the inspector at:

- a) the premises of the holder of the screening direction; and
- b) the facilities undertaking the project covered by the screening direction.

7 Monitoring

The results of any pre or post-placement surveys carried out to confirm the necessity for the deposits covered by the screening direction and/or to confirm the accurate positioning of the stabilisation or protection materials, should be forwarded to the Department following completion of the surveys

8 Check monitoring

Should the Department consider it necessary or expedient to undertake an independent monitoring programme to assess the impact of the project covered by the screening direction, the screening direction holder shall afford the Department with such facilities and assistance as the Department considers necessary to undertake the work.

9 Atmospheric emissions returns

Following completion of the project covered by the screening direction, the holder of the screening direction shall report all relevant atmospheric emissions, such as combustion emissions, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting forms.

10 Deposit returns

The holder of the screening direction shall submit a report to the Department following completion of the deposit covered by the screening direction, confirming the quantity of materials deposited and the estimated area of impact, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting form. Where no deposits are made, a 'nil' return is required.

11 Unauthorised deposits

Following completion of the project covered by the screening direction, the holder of the screening direction shall recover any materials accidentally or temporarily deposited on the seabed, such as debris, temporary containers, structures or



deposits, or scientific instruments, and shall return the materials to land. If it is not possible to recover any of these deposits, full details of the materials remaining on the seabed must be reported to the Department in accordance with the requirements of Petroleum Operations Notice No.2 (PON2).

12 Screening direction variation

In the event that the holder of the screening direction proposes changes to any of the particulars detailed in the application for a screening direction, the holder must notify the Department immediately and submit an application for a post screening direction amendment. The post screening direction must be in place prior to the amended proposals taking effect.

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COMMENTS ON THE APPLICATION FOR SCREENING DIRECTION

Section 1

The attention of screening direction holders is drawn to the following provisions regarding The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020.

1) You are deemed to have satisfied yourself that there are no barriers, legal or otherwise, to the carrying out of the project covered by the screening direction. The issue of a screening direction does not absolve the screening direction holder from obtaining such authorisations, consents etc that may be required under any other legislation.

2) The Department would draw your attention to the following comments:

N/A

3) All communications relating to the screening direction should be addressed to:

opred@energysecurity.gov.uk

or

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [REDACTED]



SCHEDULE OF SCREENING DIRECTION DECISION REASONS

1) Decision reasons

The following provides a summary of the assessment undertaken to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for this project, summarises the information considered, the potential impacts and sets out the main reasons for the decision made. In considering whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required or not, the following have been taken into account:

- a) the information provided by the developer;
- b) the matters listed in Schedule 5 of The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Regulations 2020) (the Regulations);
- c) the results of any preliminary verifications or assessments of the effects on the environment of the project; and
- d) any conditions that the Secretary of State may attach to the agreement to the grant of consent.

Characteristics of the project

Having regard, in particular, to the matters identified at paragraphs 1(a) to (g) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the characteristics of the project include the following:-

Summary of the project

Temporary and permanent deposits on the seabed and pipeline to facilitate works on the NORPIPE Wye comprising:

Removal and temporary wet storage of 9 mattresses.

Permanent placement of 11 mattresses.

Temporary placement on the seabed of the Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) cover which will be subsequently removed from site.

Permanent placement of a new GRP in the location of the old one.

Placement of up to 433.44 tonnes of rock over the GRP.

Description of the project

The project has not been the subject of a previous application. However, previous works have taken place on the pipeline under PLA/903 in 2022 that preceded these works.

The workscope covered in this permit application is a larger workscope which includes deposits applied for by Chrysaor Petroleum Company UK Ltd, involving the replacement of mattresses on PL998. Those are covered under the MAT PLA/1127 held by that operator.

In 2022 protective rock was removed from part of the Judy pipeline PL998 at the Wye connecting to NORPIPE to facilitate works to replace the ball valve at the NORPIPE Wye. A concrete mattress was placed on PL998 to provide temporary protection until full works are undertaken, which the operations in this application now cover.

This necessitates a temporary and permanent deposits on the seabed of concrete mattresses and rock, and the replacement of the GRP cover.

The potential for cumulative impacts has been considered specifically discharges to sea of chemicals, atmospheric emissions from the vessels and their presence in a navigational sense and seabed impacts. It is concluded that there are unlikely to be any significant cumulative impacts.

It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters. The risk of a major accident been assessed and is considered very unlikely. The Developer has control measures in place to reduce the risk of a major accident occurring and the probability of such an event occurring is very low.

Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

Location of the project

Having regard, in particular, to the matters identified at paragraphs 2(a) to (c) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the project has been considered as follows:-

The proposed project is located at the intersection of the Ekofisk pipeline and Judy export pipeline PL998 in Block 30/23. This lies 47km SSE from the Judy Platform with the Norwegian median line 22km to the NE. The nearest coastline (NE England) is 273km to the WSW. The water depth is 74m.

The sediment characteristics in the Judy field and surrounding areas can be categorised as European Union Nature Information System (EUNIS) biotope 'Offshore deep circalittoral sand'.

Seabed surveys conducted in the region of the project:

- Suggest the OSPAR habitat 'Seapen and burrowing megafauna communities' would not be present.

- Found no indication of the presence of Annex I 'Reefs'

- Suggest the area would not qualify as a 'Deep-sea sponge aggregations' or Scottish Priority Marine Feature (PMF) 'Deep-sea sponge communities'



habitat.

Suggest the presence of Ocean Quahog but not in sufficient numbers to be important for the species.

The Fulmar Marine Conservation Zone lies 3 km to the West of the project area.

Cetaceans have been recorded in the waters around the project area: Atlantic white-sided dolphin, common dolphin, harbour porpoise, minke whale, and whitebeaked dolphin. Grey and harbour seals may be encountered in the area; however, are not expected to be found in significant densities.

Seabird vulnerability in the vicinity of the project area is low throughout the year, with no data being available for April, May, October, November and December.

The proposed operations will coincide with fish spawning and/or nursery activity for a number of species. Most significant would be mackerel as the area experiences a high concentration for spawning and a high nursery intensity for cod. The presence of spawning sandeel may also be a possibility. However, the area covered by these operations is small and thus impacts would be negligible. Fishing effort in the area is rated as well below average.

There are several oil and gas fields nearby. There is a submarine cable approximately 3.5 km to the southeast and another cable located ~ 20km to the North. There are no nearby Ministry of Defence restricted areas in the relevant blocks. There are no renewable energy activities within the vicinity of the proposed operations.

Shipping density in the area of the pipeline installation is low.

There are 47 wrecks within a 40 km radius of the project area. These are all classified as non-dangerous wrecks. There is no known wreck of historical importance (Historic Marine Protected Area (MPA)) near the proposed operations (NMPI, 2024).

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) and (viii) of Schedule 5 are not likely to be affected by the project.

Type and characteristics of the potential impact

In accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the likely significant effects of the project on the environment have been considered. Potential effects on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, including impacts arising from atmospheric emissions, seabed disturbance, physical presence, planned discharges and accidental spills. Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

Seabed disturbance will result in the direct loss of habitat. This however, is very small

in extent. Although seabed impacts will cause mortality of individuals, impacts to benthic species at a population level are not expected given the relatively localised nature of the operations in comparison to the surrounding seabed. For Seapens localised loss of habitats through seabed deposits will not affect the seapen populations and impacts at population level are not expected. Similarly, taking into account the localised area of operations, and that only minor evidence of ocean quahog were observed during the surveys it is concluded this will not affect ocean quahog at a population level.

The nearest protected area, Fulmar MCZ, at 3 km distant is very unlikely to suffer seabed impacts from these operations.

Atmospheric emissions from the vessels conducting the operations have been assessed. Any emissions are expected to rapidly dispersed and temporary in nature and hardly detectable a short distance away from the operations. Combustion of fuel results in a minor emission of CO₂ when viewed in the context of total UK offshore emissions.

Operations will take place outwith established 500m zones. It should be noted that the duration of the proposed operations will be approximately 21 days total for the workscope planned by ConocoPhillips with a further 2 days for the work covered under Chrysaor application. Collision risk is considered to be low as is the potential to disrupt fishing effort. Operations are therefore not considered to have a significant effect on other sea users.

The potential for cumulative impacts of marine discharges, atmospheric emissions, seabed impacts and navigation has been considered and is deemed minor.

The operations are 22km from the UK / Norway boundary line and thus transboundary effects are considered unlikely.

A large spill of hydrocarbons is very unlikely during the proposed operations. The pipelines will be sufficiently isolated ahead of work commencing and all deposits will be lowered to the seabed carefully.

The pipe lay operations are in accordance with the National Marine Plan for Scotland's objectives and policies.

Decision

Taking the above considerations into account, the Secretary of State has concluded that the project is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment and that an environmental impact assessment is not required.

2) Mitigation of significant effects

The following are features of the project or measures envisaged that the developer



has proposed to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant
adverse effects on the environment:

N/A