

## SEA – Slyne and Erris Basin

### Comments/observations re IOSEA1:

- . Does the document meet the requirements of the relevant SEA directive?
- . Baseline doc, Fig 5.14 is missing at least three dredge spoil dumpsites in Donegal Bay, near Burtonport and off north coast of Donegal.
- . Baseline doc, Fig 2.10 – arrows for north Atlantic and shelf edge currents are missing
- . Table 5.1 Env report – figures for barium at Corrib field are elevated, presumably due drilling activity. This needs to be highlighted as it is not a baseline figure.
- . Section 5.1.5 Hydrocarbons.
  - Paragraph 1. Background values are below a few mg/l? Too vague – need to put in values.
  - Paragraph 3,
    - line 2 – *Many are toxic to aquatic organisms, have potential to bio-accumulate...*
    - Line 4 – Other offshore sources including *the recycling of accumulated PAH through dredging activities...*
    - Line 6 – elaborate on incomplete combustion of organic material, eg state burning of fossil fuels etc
- . Section 5.1.6 – winds, end of para – reference?
- . Section 5.2.1, line 4 – numbers *decrease* as nutrients present in surface waters *are depleted by* phytoplankton growth ...
- . Fig 5.23 – Corrib has no platform but will be subsea installation (if it goes ahead!)
- . Table 6.4 – I don't think that impacts to sea bed features and impacts to marine life should be put under one heading
- . Section 8.3.1 End para 3. Confusing - needs to be clarified.
- . Section 8.3.2 Contamination of sediments. Very short on detail regarding heavy metals associated with barite. Could include eg sources, types, typical concentrations etc.
- . Section 8.3.2: Very dismissive about cumulative and transboundary impacts with little explanation
- . Section 8.3.3 Potential additional measures weak – maybe could be recommendations?
- . Section 8.4.2 Is this the first time the acronym GWP has been mentioned? If so, need to put in full.
- . Section 8.4.6 Mitigation measures: line 1 fuel use and *potentially* from well testing...
- . Section 8.6.1 Crude: para 2. Ireland has zero spillage as we have only 1 or 2 installations, thus very much reduced risk. This should be mentioned.
- . Section 8.6.4 Cumulative & Transboundary impacts: Max 19 exploration, appraisal and dev wells between now and 2011. Earlier ref in 8.3.2 states max 52.
- . Section 10.2.2 *Potential additional measures* are a bit weak. These could do with being tightened up, ie, specific recommendations, rather than consideration to specifics being requested.
- . Section 10.3.2 *Monitoring the impacts of activities* is a bit too general. Needs to be spelled out eg what, when, by whom, how often?
- . Section 11.1.2, para 2 – need to specify WBM, and refs.
- . Glossary – ground truthing is not used just for aerial remote sensing but also for verification of hydrodynamic mathematical models.
- . References p12-3 – Dransfeld, not Dransfled
- . References p12-4 – Gordon JDM – not DM

### General

- . References to risk need to be classified more cautiously eg significant rather than major, use of term “low risk”.
- . Reference to might better be represented as “NPW guidelines, adapted from JNCC guidelines by IWDG
- . Is North Sea the ideal as a comparison? Would the western basins be more appropriate?
- . Is it normal to use past stats to generate future risk potential?
- . Some sections are very long, with many headings not sub-divided. Sub-division of sections would make for more thorough indexing

- References need to be tightened up. Numerous statements (too numerous to list) unsupported by refs.

**MI role in monitoring of Offshore Industry, as follows:**

Marine Environment Chemist (Margot Cronin)

- provides advice on technical aspects of monitoring programmes for offshore installation or point of discharge;
- examines results of monitoring programmes;
- assesses chemicals/substances proposed for use in drilling, maintenance and production, in accordance with OSPAR Harmonised Mandatory Control System (HMCS);
- assesses data from HOCNFs (Harmonised of Offshore Chemicals Notification Format);
- advises Oil and Gas companies directly on alternative chemicals/substances for use in cases where potential environmental damage is deemed excessive;
- provides observations on applications for surveys etc; and
- compiles data for the Annual OSPAR Report on Discharges, Spills and Emissions from Offshore Oil and Gas Installations.
- provides observations on applications for surveys etc
- plans for future drilling rig and production platform inspections for PW and use of chemicals.

Fisheries Scientist (Paul Connolly)??

- provides observations on applications for surveys etc???