

Minutes of IOSEA2 First Steering Group Meeting

Date: Tuesday 24 April 2007
Time: 10:00 to 16:00 hrs
Venue: DCMNR Main Conference Room, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2

Participants:

Name	Organisation	IOSEA Role
Louise Johnson	WWF	Steering Group
Simon Berrow	IWDG	Steering Group
Koen Verbruggen	GSI	Steering Group
Fiona Fitzpatrick	MI	Steering Group
Eugene Nixon	MI	Steering Group
Denis Toomey	IOOA	Steering Group
Eamonn Kelly	NPWS	Steering Group
Ronan Cosgrove	BIM	Steering Group
Helen McHenry	WDC	Steering Group
Peter Croker	DCMNR	Chairman, Steering Group
Rory Boyd	DCMNR	Convenor, Steering Group
Gemma Byrne	DCMNR	Rapporteur
Iain Dixon	ERT	IOSEA2 ERT Project Director
Matt Dalkin	ERT	IOSEA2 ERT Project Manager
Brendan O'Connor	AquaFact	IOSEA2 AquaFact Project Manager
Caroline Roche	AquaFact	IOSEA2 AquaFact Project Consultant

Apologies:

Name	Organisation	IOSEA Role
Martin White	NUIG	Steering Group
Dave Wall	IWDG	Steering Group
Fergus Cahill	IOOA	Steering Group
Agnes McLaverty	IOOA	Steering Group
Oliver O'Cadhla	CMRC Cork	Steering Group
Dominic Rihan	BIM	Steering Group

Introductions and Presentations

Peter Croker, Chair of the meeting, welcomed the members of the SG to Leeson Lane and led a round of introductions.

The main part of the morning was taken up with presentations from Peter Croker, Iain Dixon, Brendan O'Connor and Matt Dalkin, with introductions to ERT and AquaFact as well as a summary of the IOSEA2 project.

Summary of Discussion

The draft Scenarios Table as prepared by DCMNR was presented and discussed. There was some discussion as to whether the new and existing licences activity should be combined into a single table and whether both Low Case & High Case scenarios should be considered. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

WWF expressed concern at the timeframe within which this IOSEA-2 was being conducted, recognising the international importance of this area for conservation.

It was also suggested that a press release be sent out as soon as possible, stressing that this project is just beginning and alerting the general public that they will be asked for their input at a later stage. It was noted that the choice of phrasing in the press release should be carefully chosen, as the members of

the Steering Group had been invited to participate rather than having been elected as “representatives” of the various sectors and stakeholders.

WWF stated that it believed that the SEA should cover the full life cycle of hydrocarbon development, not just exploration and appraisal activities. However, PC reminded the meeting that any subsequent development/production activities would require a new environmental assessment in the form of an EIA. The current SEA would only cover Phase I and II of the Frontier Exploration Licence cycle and hence a further SEA would be required for Phases III and IV.

The issue of drilling mud was also raised. In Ireland, generally water-based muds are used. Oil-based/synthetic muds (OBM) may be used in the deeper sections in some areas, but these are subject to skip/ship and recycling ashore.

It was also mentioned that the Porcupine Basin is a very important area for marine scientific research, and this needs to be taken account of when exploration does take place.

The afternoon was then taken up with the revision of the ENVID Matrices. Due to a lack of time it was agreed that the revised matrices would be circulated by email and the SG members would try and complete them by the end of the month and email them back to ERT.

Outcomes and next meeting

As there was an urgency in completing the ENVID matrices, it was agreed that the next meeting would be held in just over two weeks time, on the 10th of May at 10 am. The morning session would be devoted to the ENVID workshop. Agenda items for the afternoon to include ERT/AquaFact progress reports, timetable, press release, top hole analysis results for the Porcupine, WWF presentation and Appropriate Assessment issues.

RB will try to organise a scoping meeting with the scoping consultees around the time of the next meeting.

Details of the project and the membership of the steering group will be published on the PAD website. A press release is also to be prepared.

GB to report back on the average top hole section from previously drilled wells in the Porcupine.

Gemma Byrne and Peter Croker

4th May 2007