

Minutes of IOSEA2 Second Steering Group Meeting

Date: Thursday 10th of May 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
Koen Verbruggen	GSI	Steering Group
Fiona Fitzpatrick	MI	Steering Group
Eugene Nixon	MI	Steering Group
Fergus Cahill	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
Brendan O'Connor	AquaFact	IOSEA2 AquaFact Project Manager

Apologies:

Name	Organisation	IOSEA Role
Martin White	NUIG	Steering Group
Simon Berrow	IWDG	Steering Group
Dave Wall	IWDG	Steering Group
Denis Toomey	IOOA	Steering Group
Agnes McLaverty	IOOA	Steering Group
Oliver O'Cadhla	CMRC Cork	Steering Group
Dominic Rihan	BIM	Steering Group
Matt Dalkin	ERT	IOSEA2 ERT Project Manager
Caroline Roche	AquaFact	IOSEA2 AquaFact Project Consultant

Introductions and minutes of last meeting

Peter Croker, Chair of the meeting, welcomed the members of the SG and introduced Fergus Cahill to the group. The draft minutes from the previous meeting were discussed and some changes proposed. These changes will be incorporated into the final version when received in writing.

Summary of Discussion

The main part of the morning was taken up with the completion of the revised ENVID Matrices, facilitated by Iain Dixon.

After lunch, Louise Johnson of WWF gave a brief presentation on the WWF Climate Change document (Ref. 1), which focuses on how climate change could be better incorporated into the strategic environmental assessment process. She reiterated that the WWF believed that the SEA should cover the full life cycle of hydrocarbon development, whereas Ireland will only include FEL Phases 1 and 2 in this SEA project, covering essentially exploration and appraisal activities.

Brief progress reports from ERT and AquaFact showed that they are progressing well on the data collection and collation phase of their work. Peter Croker was asked to supply ERT with various PAD and

PIP reports, as well as academic theses, primarily from the University of Gent, on the Porcupine Basin. PC was also asked to supply data on the ploughmarks in the Connemara area (Ref. 2). Koen Verbruggen was asked to supply a map and some details on the shipwrecks in the area. It was recommended to contact Allen Williams (DCMNR) to secure details on Aquaculture sites along the west coast. The Marine Institute should be contacted for information on Marine and Water-based Tourism potential development plans. Existing MI reports such as the Feasibility Study on the Establishment of a Large Scale Inshore Resource Mapping Project should also be consulted. It was recommended to contact Margot Cronin (MI) for offshore well data regarding chemicals and other discharges as well as the OSPAR reports. Eugene Nixon will forward on data for contaminants in fish to ERT. It was also noted that the locations of marine dumping sites on the west coast will be found on the DCMNR website.

PC went on to give an outline of the revised Project timetable:

Stage	Expected
Draft report completion	End of July
Public Consultation	August / September
Final report completion	End of September

Rory Boyd then went on to discuss the proposed press release. Several suggestions for changes were made by the SG, which will be incorporated into the final version.

Gemma Byrne presented an analysis of the volume of cuttings generated in drilling the top-hole sections of all the wells in the Porcupine Basin. Since there was a large variation in the range of values, Helen McHenry suggested using the median value rather than the mean value. Iain Dixon asked if it would be possible in addition to calculate the volume of cuttings for the cased section of all the Porcupine wells, which PAD agreed to carry out. These calculations are based on the actual volume of rock excavated by the drillbit – some factor will need to be applied to account for the change in volume from rock formation to drill cuttings.

PC discussed forecast exploration activity in the Porcupine Basin (under existing authorisations), informing SG of the one seismic survey scheduled to take place in 2007 as well as a site survey due to take place shortly. No drilling is expected in 2007 but one well should be drilled in 2008 under an existing licence. While PAD do not publish seismic and drilling plans ahead of time, the IOOA website is a useful source of such information.

The issue of an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive (Article 6) was discussed. It was agreed that PAD would meet with DOEHLG/NPWS to discuss how to proceed.

Outcomes and next meeting

ERT and AquaFact to continue with data gathering and report preparation. Specific data requests to be expedited by the data providers.

RB to make suggested amendments to the press release and forward this to the press office. A special IOSEA2 section is also to be created on the PAD website (www.pad.ie). Minutes of the SG meetings, once agreed, will be also posted on the website.

GB to report back on the cuttings volumes from the cased well sections from previously drilled wells in the Porcupine.

The draft report is to be circulated one week prior to the next meeting of the SG. The next meeting has been scheduled for July 5th at 10.30.

Gemma Byrne and Peter Croker

6th of June 2007

Ref. 1 Levett-Therivel and Lewis-Brown: Opportunities to better include climate change in Strategic Environmental Assessments for oil & gas. WWF draft paper, March 2007.

Ref. 2 Games, K.P. (2001): Evidence of shallow gas above the Connemara oil accumulation, Block 26/28, Porcupine Basin. In: The petroleum exploration of Ireland's offshore basins. (Eds: Shannon, P.M.; Haughton, P.D.W.; Corcoran, D.V.) Geological Society, London, Special Publication, 188, 361-373.