

## APPENDIX 1 - SCOPING CONSULTATION

A scoping opinion was formally requested from the environmental consultation authorities and bodies for Wales, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland. Written responses received are summarised below. It should also be noted that a number of the consultation bodies/authorities participated in and made input at the assessment workshop and stakeholder meeting (summarised in Appendix 11) and many have made informal input during discussions with the SEA Team.

Organisation	Comments summarised	Commentary
Environment Agency	No issues for the SEA 7 area of direct relevance to the remit of the EA in England and Wales.	-
	Wish to be kept informed of the DTI Offshore Energy SEA Programme	Noted.
Cadw	Given that the SEA 7 area is some distance from Welsh territorial waters, defer to Historic Scotland and the Environment and Heritage Service, Northern Ireland to comment on cultural environment issues.	Noted.
Environment & Heritage Service, Northern Ireland	The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, should be included under Other Relevant plans and Programmes.	Noted. See Appendix 2.
	Suggest the objective of ‘climatic factors’ is <i>To minimise greenhouse gas emissions</i> .	Noted. See Section 3.
	Question the statement, ‘ <i>greenhouse gas emissions associated with hydrocarbons produced as a result of proposed activities are outside the scope of the assessment</i> ’.	Noted. See Section 5 and Appendix 11.
Historic Scotland	-	N/A
	Content that the environmental implications of the plan will be assessed using activity scenarios based upon likely take up of blocks in SEA 7 area.	See Section 2.
	Note that the environmental effects of strategic alternatives will also be considered.	See Section 2.
	Features relevant to the “historic environment” were defined. Consideration of these issues needs to be appropriate to the plan and the impacts that may result from its implementation.	See Section 5 and Appendix 11.
	Important to identify areas of uncertainty at the strategic level and indicate how they will be taken account of at the project level. However, negates SEA purpose to always “park” assessment of impacts until the project stage. Balanced approach needed.	Noted. See Section 3 and Appendices 10 and 11.
	Content with 3 month consultation period. Prefer to receive paper copies of the Environmental Report via the Scottish Executive Gateway.	Noted.

Organisation	Comments summarised	Commentary
	Several policy documents relevant to the historic environment were listed and it was suggested these be included in the review of the environmental policy framework.	See Appendix 2.
	Protected wreck sites covered in some detail in the Wessex Archaeology report and should be included specifically in the list of data sets.	Noted.
	Suggest rewording of SEA objective for historic environment to “protect the historic environment and cultural heritage of the UK”.	Noted. See Section 3.
	Content with proposed indicators and assessment approach.	See Section 5 and Appendix 11.
	<p>Assessment should take account of following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maritime archaeological resource vulnerable to damage or destruction through processes associated with offshore oil and gas development.</li> <li>• Potential for impact is uncertain and archaeological surveys may be required at the project stage.</li> </ul>	<p>See Section 5 and Appendix 11.</p> <p>See Section 5 and Appendix 11.</p>
	Assessment should consider short, medium and long term effects, permanent and temporary effects and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects.	Noted. See Section 5 and Appendix 11.
	Measures to mitigate any significant environmental impacts should be included in the ER. Mitigation hierarchy should be applied (i.e. avoid, reduce, remedy, offset/compensate, enhance where appropriate).	See Section 5 and Appendices 10 and 11.
SEPA	<p>Scoping Report generally provides appropriate information about the proposed scope and level of detail of the assessment. cf guidance in the Scottish Executive SEA Toolkit (<a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/0">www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/0</a>)</p>	Noted.
	Assessment will not take proper cognisance of the climate change relevant aspects of the licensing programme. The contribution of the programme (both direct and indirect) on climate change is given less focus and this should be addressed.	Noted. See Section 5 and Appendix 11.
SNH and JNCC	<p>Consultation Question 2 – Other Datasets. Should utilise datasets from oil companies operating in the SEA 7.</p>	Noted.
	<p>Consultation Question 4 – Indicators. Whilst ‘No loss or decline in population (measure as a % of relevant bio-geographic population) may be a useful theoretical measurement of ‘Biodiversity, habitats, flora and fauna’, question how this will be implemented in terms of the SEA – For instance, will it be possible to estimate the bio-geographic population to the accuracy necessary to put into context any impacts from SEA7 related</p>	See Section 3 and Appendix 11.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Comments summarised</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
Natural England	activities? Also, what percentages will be used as an indication of decline/loss caused by oil and gas/SEA7 related activities? Read through consultation but will not be responding as SEA 7 area is outside English waters.	Noted.