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MAERSK OIL ESIA-16 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY – ESIS DAN



PREFACE

This document is the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Environmental and Social Impact Statement (ESIS) for the DAN project. The NTS outlines in non-technical language the findings of the ESIS.

The ESIS is supported by seven generic technical sections describing the expected activities for the DAN project (seismic, pipelines and structures, production, drilling, well stimulation, transport and decommissioning).

The ESIS and associated generic technical sections for DAN are available at DEA’s website www.ens.dk.

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REFERENCES

Maersk Oil, “Maersk Oil ESIA-16, Environmental and Social impact statement – DAN”, July, 2015.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Maersk Oil is the operator of 15 oil and gas fields in the Danish sector of the North Sea. The facilities are connected by subsea pipelines through which the produced oil and gas is transported for processing on Dan, Gorm, Halfdan, Harald and Tyra before it is sent onshore via Gorm and Tyra. Maersk Oil has the license to conduct oil and gas exploration and production in Denmark until 2042.

In connection with the ongoing and future oil and gas activities by Maersk Oil in the Danish North Sea, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA-16) has been prepared. The overall aim of the ESIA-16 is to identify the likely significant environmental and social impact of Maersk Oil projects.

The ESIA-16 covers the remaining lifetime of the ongoing projects, and the entire life time for planned projects i.e. from exploration to decommissioning. The ESIA-16 consists of five independent Environmental and Social Impact Statements (ESISs) for the DAN, GORM, HALFDAN, HARALD and TYRA projects.

The ESISs shall replace the Environmental Impact Assessment conducted in 2010 “Environmental impact assessment from additional oil and gas activities in the North Sea, July 2011” which is valid for the period 1st January 2010 to 31st December 2015.

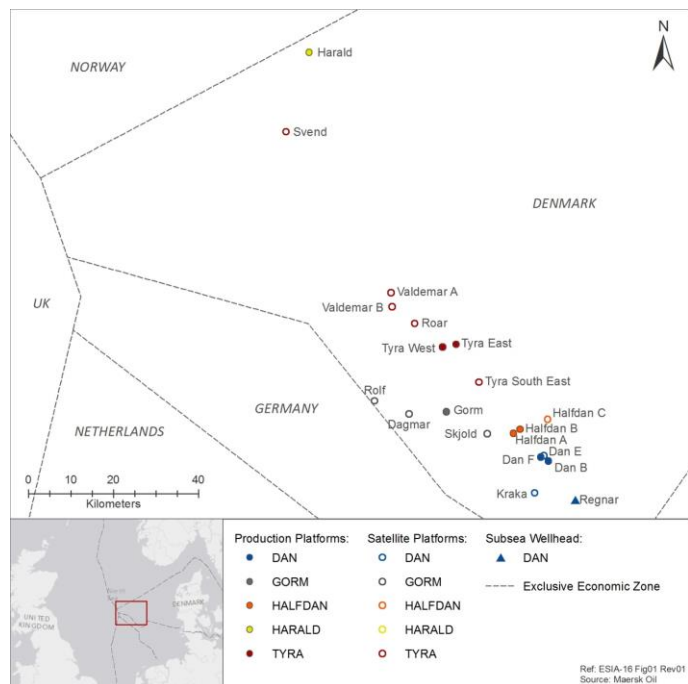


Figure 1-1 Maersk Oil North Sea projects TYRA, HARALD, DAN, GORM and HALFDAN

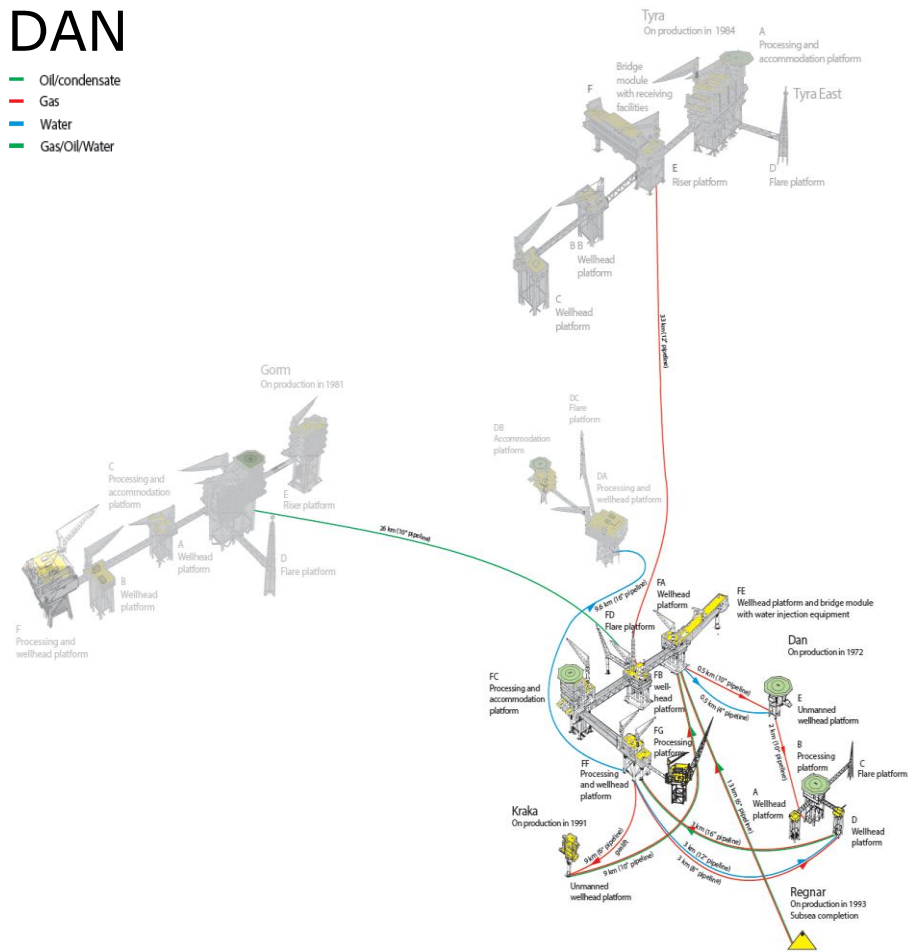


Figure 1-2 Overview of existing DAN facilities (not to scale)

The purpose of the ESIS is to document the assessment of the potential impacts from exploration, production and decommissioning on relevant environmental and social receptors (e.g. water quality, marine mammals, employment, fishery).

The ESIS for the DAN project covers the activities related to ongoing and planned projects for Dan F and its satellites Dan B, Dan E, Kraka and the subsea wellhead Regnar. An overview of the existing pipelines and structures for the DAN project¹ is provided in Figure 1-2.

The ESIA-16 has been made in accordance with the executive order no. 632 of 11/06/2012 on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The ESIS includes a comprehensive description of:

- Existing facilities and planned activities as well as potential accidental events
- Methodology used for the assessments
- Environmental and social baseline
- Environmental and social impact assessment for planned activities and accidental events
- Mitigating measures
- Transboundary impacts
- Natura 2000 screening

A distinction is made in the ESIS between impact as a consequence of planned activities and impact as a result of accidental events.

The responsible authority is the Danish Energy Agency (DEA).

The present document is the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the ESIS for the DAN project.

¹ "DAN project" refers to the project, while "Dan" refers to the platform. The project takes the name from the main processing facility.

2. THE DAN PROJECT

2.1 Overview

The DAN facilities are located in the Danish part of the central North Sea, approx. 220 km west of Esbjerg on the west coast of Jutland, Denmark.

The DAN project includes the platform Dan F and its satellites Dan B, Dan E and Kraka and the subsea wellhead Regnar (Figure 1-2).

The DAN production was initiated at Dan B in 1972, then later at Dan F (1987) at Kraka (1991), and Regnar (1993). The total DAN hydrocarbon production peaked in 2000 and is now on a natural decline. Regnar is not producing since 2006.

In 2014, the annual hydrocarbon production at DAN was 11.7 million barrels of oil (i.e. 1.8 million m³) and 15 billion standard cubic

feet of gas (426 millionm³). In total, more than 728 million barrel of oil and 908 billion standard cubic feet of gas have been produced from DAN since 1972.

2.2 Existing facilities

Dan F is the primary processing platform for the entire oil and gas production from the DAN project. The processed gas is sent to Tyra East, while the crude oil is transported to Fredericia via the Gorm E riser platform. The produced water is discharged to sea at Dan F.

The processing facilities include hydrocarbon processing equipment (oil stabilisation, gas and produced water processing) and critical safety systems such as an emergency shut-down system, emergency blow-down system, fire and gas detection system and fire-water system.

DAN B

Accommodation
8 beds

Helicopter deck
Yes

Wells
16

Platforms
Two wellheads (BA, BD), one combined process module with accommodation (BB), one flare tower (BC)

Bridges
Two connecting the platforms



DAN E

Accommodation
Unmanned

Helicopter deck
Yes, but not in use

Wells
6

Platforms
One wellhead

Bridges
None

DAN F

Accommodation
95 beds

Helicopter deck
Yes

Wells
93

Platforms
Two wellhead platforms (FA, FB), one combined process module and wellhead (FF), one bridge module with well head (FE), one accommodation (FC), one flare tower (FD) and a compressor module (FG)

Bridges
Four and one bridge module

KRAKA, REGNAR

Accommodation
Kraka: Unmanned
Regnar: Unmanned floating buoy

Helicopter deck
No

Wells
Kraka: 7
Regnar: 1 subsea

Platforms
Kraka: one STAR wellhead
Regnar: floating buoy

Bridges
None

2.3 Ongoing projects and planned development

Several activities are planned for DAN to continue and optimise the ongoing production and potentially access new hydrocarbon resources.

Seismic data acquisition. Seismic investigations provide information to interpret the geological structure of the subsurface and to identify the location and volume of remaining and potential new hydrocarbon reserves. Seismic data is also acquired as part of drilling hazard site surveys and as part of seabed and shallow geophysical surveys to map conditions for the design and installation of pipelines, platforms and other structures.

Pipelines and structures. Up to four unmanned production platforms may be installed with 10 well slots each, i.e. a total of up to 40 wells. One platform near the existing Kraka and three in the Dan F area. The production fluids are expected to be transported via two sets of pipelines to a common pipeline to Dan F for processing and export. Dan F accommodation capacity is planned to be expanded and improved and several options are considered, including installation of a new platform with bridge connection to Dan F.

Production. The production at DAN is coming from a mature field. This means that oil and gas production is declining while the water production is increasing. This makes the separation of the fluids extracted from the reservoirs (oil, water and gas) more challenging. Chemicals are used to effectively and safely process and separate the hydrocarbons from the produced water.

The treated produced water is discharged to sea.

The use and discharge of production chemicals requires approval from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA).

Drilling of wells. New development for the DAN project may include drilling of up to 40 new wells (each well taking up to 150 days). Furthermore, 3 free well slots at Dan F may

be used for drilling and 14 existing wells may be subject to re-drill or slot recovery.

Drilling operations are done from a drilling rig placed on the seabed. Maersk Oil uses drilling mud to lubricate and cool drill bits. The mud also has safety functions such as preventing a well blowout. Following strict environmental guidelines, water-based drilling mud and cuttings consisting of rock drilled from the well are discharged into the sea. In some occasions, oil-based mud can be used and the mud and cuttings are brought onshore to be dried and incinerated.

Well stimulation. Well stimulation is performed to improve the contact between the well and the reservoir, thereby facilitating hydrocarbon extraction for a production well and water injection for an injection well. Well stimulation is performed by creating fractures and cracks in the rock which are induced by injection of a fluid with acid stimulation or acid fracturing. Most of the chemicals remain in the formation, but stimulation fluid left in the well will be discharged to sea.

Transport. Personnel and cargo is transported to the facilities daily via helicopters to support production and drilling operations. Vessels may be employed in connection with drilling and other work.

Decommissioning. The timing of decommissioning of the DAN facilities is not decided with the exception of the sub-sea surface wellhead Regnar. Regnar is expected to be decommissioned within the next three years. The whole pipeline and well head system will be rinsed with deaerated seawater before the well is abandoned. The water will be treated on Dan F facilities to remove hydrocarbon traces before it is discharged to sea. The well head will be removed and the pipelines interconnected before they are back-filled with inhibited seawater to avoid corrosion damage until potential re-use.

Decommissioning of the rest of the facilities will be done in accordance with technical capabilities, industry experience and under the legal frameworks at the time of decom-

missioning. The general approach is anticipated to be: wells will be plugged and casing above seabed removed, platform facilities and jackets will be cleaned, removed and brought to shore, pipelines will be cleaned and left in place, survey is carried out to ensure that nothing that could restrict other use of the area would be left.

2.4 Accidental events

Accidental events may take place during exploration, production and decommissioning activities.

Small operational accidental oil or chemical spills or gas release may occur. Large spills with the potential for major significant environmental and social impacts may occur as a result of unlikely major accidents, for example from vessels collisions with a platform, major pipeline rupture or a well blowout.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 Environmental baseline

The North Sea is a semi-enclosed part of the north-eastern Atlantic Ocean. The western part of the Danish North Sea is relatively shallow, with water depths between 20–40 m, while the northern part is deeper, e.g. the Norwegian Trench and the Skagerrak (Figure 3-1).

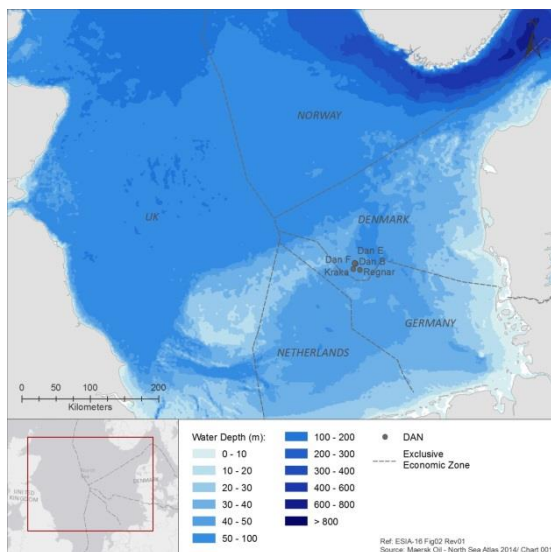


Figure 3-1 Sea bathymetry

The DAN project is located in the central North Sea in an area with depths ranging from about 41 - 44 m and with dominating eastward water currents.

The climate is characterized by large seasonal contrasts influenced by the inflow of oceanic water from the Atlantic Ocean and by the large scale westerly air circulation which frequently contains low pressure systems.

Seabed. The surface sediments in the project area consist of mainly sand and muddy sand. It is considered unlikely that any macrophytes (macro-algae and higher plants) are to be found on the seabed due to the water depths.

The benthic fauna consists of epifauna and infauna (organisms living on or in the seabed, respectively). Biological monitoring in the project area in May 2009 showed that the benthic fauna was dominated by polychaetes followed by bivalves, crustaceans, echinoderms.

Water. The salinity of the water does not show much seasonal variation in the project area with surface and bottom salinity of approx. 35 psu. The surface temperature is around 7 °C during winter and between 15-19 °C in summer. The bottom temperature varies from 6-8 °C in winter and 8-18 °C in summer.

Concentrations of nutrients in the surface layer are between 0.025-0.035 mg/l for phosphate and between 0.1-0.15 mg/l for nitrate.

The plankton community may be broadly divided into a plant component (phytoplankton) and an animal component (zooplankton). Plankton constitutes the main primary and secondary biomass in marine ecosystems and plays a fundamental role in marine food-webs. Zooplankton forms the link in the food web whereby the primary production by phytoplankton is channelled to the highest trophic levels through plankton-feeders such as herring, mackerel, and sandeels.

The DAN project area has an average phytoplankton biomass and abundance in comparison with the rest of the North Sea. The zooplankton community in the central North Sea is generally homogeneous, dominated by copepods.

Fish. The abundance of fish in the GORM project area is relatively low in comparison to other parts of the North Sea. A total of 16 species were recorded in fish surveys carried out in the period from November 2002 to July 2003 at the Halfdan platform located app. 8-21 km from the DAN project area. Herring and sprat were registered during the fall whereas Atlantic horse mackerel and Atlantic mackerel were registered in the summer period. Common dab, American plaice and grey gurnard were registered all time of the year.

The project area is in an area, which is a relatively important spawning ground for cod and whiting. Mackerel and plaice are also known to be spawning in the area.

Marine mammals. Harbour seal, grey seal, white-beaked dolphin, minke whale and harbour porpoise are the most common marine mammals in the North Sea.

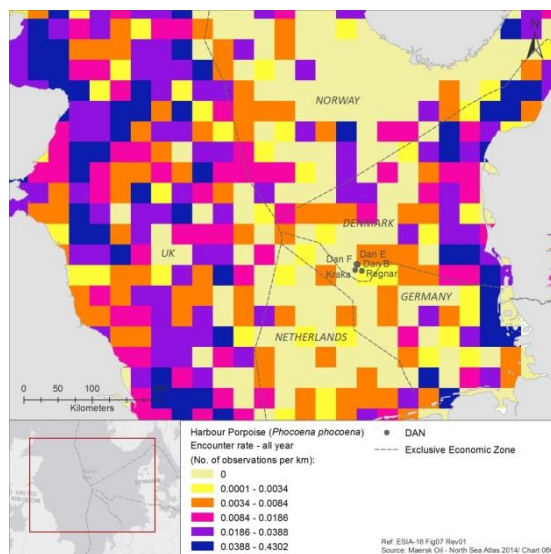


Figure 3-2 Distribution of harbour porpoise in the North Sea

Harbour porpoise is the most common whale in the North Sea, and the only marine mammal which frequently occurs in the project area. They are mostly found in the eastern, western and southern parts of the

North Sea, and generally found in low densities in the central part of the North Sea (Figure 3-2).

Seabirds. Seabirds spend most of their life at sea but breed on rocky coasts and cliffs. In the North Sea region, common seabirds include fulmars, gannets and auk species, kittiwakes and skuas.

Protected areas. Protected areas include Natura 2000 sites, UNESCO world heritage sites and nationally designated areas.

The Natura 2000 site that is the nearest to the DAN project area is the Dogger Bank at a distance of around 26 km. A screening of activities that may have significant impact on the Natura 2000 area has been performed, see section 3.4. The distance to the Wadden Sea and other Nature 2000 site is more than 100 km, and the distance to the nature reserves along the west coast of Denmark is more than 200 km (Figure 3-3).

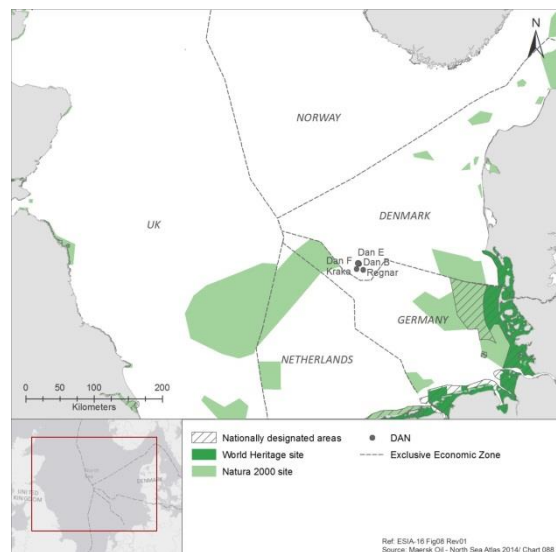


Figure 3-3 Protected areas in the North Sea

3.2 Impacts from planned activities

Continued operation and development of the DAN project may impact the environment. The following impact mechanisms associated to the planned project activities have been assessed in detail in the ESIS:

- Underwater noise
- Physical disturbance on seabed
- Suspended sediments

- Discharges to sea
- Solid waste
- Atmospheric emissions
- Light
- Resource use
- Presence of structures

The impacts vary considerably in intensity, extent and duration. It is concluded that most of the impact mechanisms are assessed to be of only negligible or minor significance.

In this non-technical summary only the impact mechanisms (underwater noise, discharges² and emissions) potentially leading to moderate or major impacts are described.

3.2.1 Underwater noise

A number of activities that are expected to be conducted for the DAN project may generate underwater noise. It includes seismic data acquisition campaigns, production and drilling operations, as well as transport.

Underwater noise will generally have no or insignificant impact on the marine environmental receptors such as plankton, benthic fauna communities, fish, seabirds and protected nature.

However, underwater noise may have the potential to significantly impact marine mammals in the form of hearing impairment or behavioural change. Hearing is the primary sense for many marine mammals for detecting prey, predators, communication and for navigation.

Seismic. The noise levels produced during seismic activities can potentially be above threshold values defined for permanent hearing loss, temporary hearing loss or behavioural changes for marine mammals. Impacts are considered of small intensity and the DAN project area is not of particular importance to marine mammals; the overall impact on marine mammals is assessed to be moderate.

The significance of the impact will depend on the final design of the seismic survey. Mitigating measures that will reduce the environmental risks are applied, typically:

- monitoring of marine mammals during survey
- soft-start procedures
- efficient execution of survey

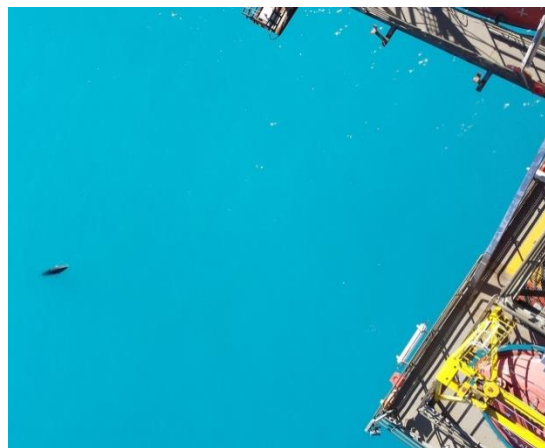


Figure 3-4 Minke whale at DanF (May 2014). Note that the colour from the water was caused by an algal bloom that occurred in the central North Sea in May/June that year.

Conductor and structure ramming. Noise levels with risk of causing hearing damage to marine mammals are restricted to an area very close to the drilling rig. The impact is considered of small intensity and overall assessed to be minor. The above mentioned mitigation measures applies as well

Other activities. The impacts on marine mammals from underwater noise caused by other sources (e.g. drilling, production, vessels etc.) are assessed to be of minor significance, as any displacements due to this type of noise are considered short term and local.

3.2.2 Discharges

The main discharges (physical and chemical) are expected to occur as part of the fluid processing and drilling operations.

Production. Water is produced together with hydrocarbons and the treated produced water is discharged to the sea at the Dan F platform.

² Discharges are assessed to result in only minor impacts. Discharges are however described due to the extent of discharges during the production and planned development.

Chemical use is necessary to optimise the processing of the produced fluids. Traces of production chemicals and oil will be present in the produced water.

Maersk Oil is frequently re-evaluating the best practical options to more environmentally friendly solutions by using different tools.

Chemicals are screened according to their potential to bioaccumulate or degrade slowly in accordance with the OSPAR Recommendation 2010/4 on a harmonised pre-screening scheme for offshore chemicals.

Reduction of the environmental risk of production chemicals discharge is further evaluated through the Risk Based Approach (RBA) in accordance with recent OSPAR guidelines and recommendations. The RBA is currently being implemented.

The RBA allows evaluating, developing and implementing site-specific actions to reduce the environmental risk following the best available technique. The risk reduction options include:

- substitution of chemicals
- application of closed systems (e.g. injection of produced water)
- organisational measures such as management systems in place (training, instructions, procedures and reporting).

Drilling. Water-based drilling mud, drill cuttings and associated chemicals will be discharged to the sea during drilling of up to 57 new wells and re-drilling. The discharge will increase turbidity in the water phase for a short time. The suspended material is expected to settle rapidly on the seabed close to the discharge point.

Modelling of sedimentation of water-based mud and drill cuttings for a typical Maersk Oil well indicates that the mud will settle within a distance of 1-2 km from discharge location in a layer less than 1 mm. Drill cuttings are heavier than drilling mud, and will typically settle in a layer up to 50 mm within 50 m from the discharge.

The impact of the dispersion and sedimentation of the discharge of mud and cuttings is assessed to be of minor negative overall significance to the marine environmental receptors (water quality, sediment type and quality, plankton, benthic communities, fish, marine mammals and seabirds).

The cumulative impact of the drilling and production discharges on the sediment quality and the benthic community has been monitored several times around the Dan F platform and the satellite platform Kraka since 1989. The monitoring results indicate that the impacts on the benthic community or sediment characteristics can be observed within a maximum of 750 m from the platforms.

3.2.3 Atmospheric emissions

Impacts on the climate and air quality relate to emissions of CO₂, N₂O, NO_x, SO_x, CH₄ and NMVOC from combustion processes. Emissions to the atmosphere are primarily a result of venting, fuel combustion and gas flaring in production and drilling operations.

It is evaluated that the impact on climate change and air quality from emissions caused by the GORM project is of moderate negative overall significance.

Maersk Oil has implemented a structured energy efficiency management process and conduct a comprehensive review to identify ways to improve energy efficiency and thereby reduce emissions. The production has become more energy efficient over the years, and in 2013 energy management was included in Maersk Oil's ISO 14001³ certified environmental management system.

3.3 Transboundary impacts

The ongoing operation and development for the DAN project includes activities that are likely to cause a significant adverse transboundary impact to environmental and social receptors. Relevant countries that would possibly be affected have been notified and invited to participate in the assessment procedure.

³ ISO 14001 is an environmental management standard issued by the International Organization for Standardization

During planned activities moderate negative transboundary impacts have been identified for climate and air quality, where the emissions may further contribute to the pool of greenhouse gas. Mitigating measures are described in section 6.

No other significant adverse transboundary impacts from planned activities have been identified.

3.4 Natura 2000 screening

The Natura 2000 network comprises:

- Habitats Directive Sites (Sites of Community Importance and Special Areas of Conservation) designated by Member States for the conservation of habitat types and animal and plant species listed in the Habitats Directive.
- Bird Directive Sites (Special Protection Areas) for the conservation of bird species listed in the Birds Directive as well as migratory birds.

A Natura 2000 screening has been performed in accordance with the EC habits Directive and Order 408/2007. It is assessed that planned activities for the DAN project will not have significant environmental impacts on the conservation objectives of the habitat types or species in the Natura 2000 sites in the North Sea.

4. SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

4.1 Social baseline

4.1.1 Marine spatial planning

Shipping industry. The project area is not an important shipping route for the largest ships equipped with automatic identification systems (AIS)⁴ (Figure 4-1).

Oil and gas industry. A number of oil and gas facilities are operational, and additional facilities are planned. Wind farms are only present in Danish waters off Esbjerg, while a

number of wind farms are planned in UK and German waters.

Fishery. Fishery is an important industry in the North Sea. The main targets of commercial fisheries are cod, haddock, whiting, saithe, plaice, sole, mackerel, herring, Norway pout, sprat, sandeel, Norway lobster, and deep-water prawn.

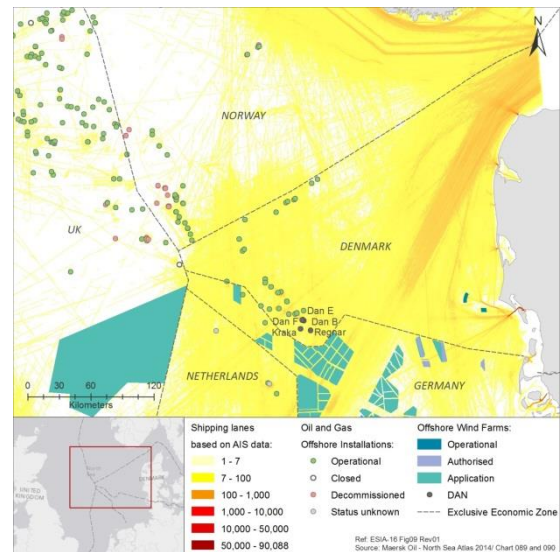


Figure 4-1 Ship traffic and infrastructure.

Tourism and employment. Tourism includes both traditional tourism such as accommodation as well as events within conferences, music and sports. Tourists in Denmark are primarily Danish and German, and to a minor extent tourists from Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands. Tourism is evaluated (2012 data) to create a direct economic added value of 24 billion DKK, typically within the businesses of accommodation, transport and trade.

Oil and gas activities in the North Sea create a significant number of workplaces both on- and offshore. The oil and gas sector employs app. 15,000 persons in Denmark. Of these, app. 1,700 employees are directly employed at the oil companies.

Further spatial use includes military areas, dump sites, cable and pipeline, and reclamation areas.

⁴ Automatic Identification System is an automatic tracking system used on ships and by vessel traffic services for identifying and locating vessels

4.1.2 Tax revenue

Tax revenue and the profits made by the oil and gas sector have a positive impact on the Danish economy. The state's total revenue is estimated to range from DKK 20 to DKK 25 billion per year for the period from 2014 to 2018.

4.1.3 Oil and gas dependency

Denmark has been supplied with and exported gas from its North Sea fields since the 1980s. This production has significantly impacted the security of supply and balance of trade. Denmark is expected to continue being a net exporter of natural gas up to and including 2025 and Maersk Oil has license to operate until 2042.

As part of a long-term Danish energy strategy, the oil and gas production is instrumental in maintaining high security of supply, at the same time as renewable energy represents an increasing share of the Danish energy mix.

4.2 Impacts from planned activities

The continued operation and development of the DAN project may cause impacts to social receptors. Impact mechanisms associated to the ongoing and planned projects are restricted zones, employment and tax revenue and oil and gas dependency.

The social impacts caused by the impacts from planned activities are generally assessed negligible, except as concerns effects for employment, tax revenue and the oil and gas dependency of continued operation and development of the Dan field, which are positive for the Danish economy.

5. IMPACTS FROM ACCIDENTAL EVENTS

Release of hydrocarbons associated to accidental events have been assessed in detail in the ESIS, separately according to their size and potential impacts.

Minor release. Operational accidental spills of chemical, diesel or oil or gas release resulting for example from the loss of con-

tainment of a tank or a small size pipeline. The overall impact from small operational spills or release is generally assessed to be minor negative. The overall impact on seabirds from a minor oil spill is however assessed to be moderate negative due to the possibility of seabirds coming into contact with the oil.

Several measures are introduced to reduce the volume and number of operational spills and gas releases through e.g. maintenance, inspections and training. All spills are reported.

Major release. Major gas release or oil spill from an uncontrolled loss of a large volume which often requires intervention to be stopped for example a well blow out. Such events are unlikely, with frequencies of occurrence of less than 1 in 1,000 years.

Modelling has been carried out for the most credible worst case oil spill scenario based on expected blow out at DAN. The modelling results have been used to assess the environmental and social risk from accidental events based on a scenario without oil recovery or contingency planning.

In general, all receptors evaluated would be subject to impacts of moderate or major negative significance following a large oil release. The impacts on socio-economic receptors caused by a major oil spill are mainly related to fishery and tourism. A major oil spill would potentially have significant, adverse transboundary impacts.

Maersk Oil follows industrial best practices for prevention of major accidents based on identification of hazards assessed through risk assessments. The risk assessment and reduction measures are regularly updated in case of significant new knowledge or technology development.

Emergency response to oil spills and contingency planning are developed by Maersk Oil to limit the consequences in case of a major accident. A tiered approach emergency response plan is developed to limit the consequence in the unlikely case of a major oil spill.

Maersk Oil has access to oil spill equipment offshore and in Esbjerg that can be mobilised to an oil spill location immediately. If necessary, additional equipment will be mobilised from the Danish stock pile and Oil Spill Response Ltd. The equipment at disposition includes boom, skimmers, pumps, dispersants and tanks. Depending on the size, location and timing of the spill, the response capability will be escalated as required.

6. MITIGATION

Maersk Oil has identified several mitigation measures for activities that are likely to have a significant impact on environmental or social receptors. The mitigating measures are focused around reducing the impact of underwater noise, emissions and discharges to sea.

This is achieved through the development of procedures and trainings, or the auditing of current facilities and the design of new facilities.

For new projects Maersk Oil evaluates the feasibility of relevant technological developments that could be applied in its activities (e.g. narrow frequency band air gun, bucket foundation, novel produced water treatment technologies, treatment of drilling mud or drill cuttings offshore, or low NO_x technology) that could reduce the risk on the environment.

These mitigating measures are in place to eliminate or to reduce the environmental and social risks As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP).

In addition to the mitigating measures, several monitoring programs are conducted around Maersk Oil platforms to support the conclusions of the impact assessment.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Environmental impacts associated with the DAN project are generally found to be minor negative or moderate negative, while the project has several social benefits on employment, tax revenue and oil and gas dependency.

Planned activities for the DAN project are not found to have significant environmental impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

Planned activities are found to entail possible moderate negative transboundary impacts for climate and air quality, but otherwise no significant adverse transboundary impacts are expected.