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Discussion 1

"Scallops and lobsters are both important seafood species, so seismic blasting also impacts current and future catch rates for our commercial fisheries. In 2020, fishers reported a massive decline in catches after two seismic vessels started seismic testing for oil and gas in the waters east of Victoria." "Evidence that seismic blasting harms marine life is growing. The sound travels under water faster than it does through air, and can travel for hundreds to thousands of kilometres. It can kill"

Comment | 2 years ago Like +5 Dislike

Discussion 2

FYI.
https://www.pilotenergy.com.au/sites/pilotenergy.com.au/files/asx-announcements/61145739.pdf

Comment Response

Pilot Energy have several decarbonisation and energy projects underway and more detail can be found on their website https://www.pilotenergy.com.au/ This website is dedicated to Pilot Energy's Eureka Marine Seismic Survey.

Comment | 2 years ago Like Dislike

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Discussion 3

Can you please advise of timing of potential survey in consideration of migratory species. Ie; Humpback whales, blue whales. What are the effects of offshore wind turbine farms to migratory species?

Comment Response

We are currently designing the activity so that we avoid unacceptable impact on marine species including marine mammals. We will publish our environmental assessments as soon as they are ready. The project is a marine seismic survey and not a wind farm.

! Concerns | 2 years ago Like +1 Dislike

Discussion 4

Can you please confirm that there will be no impact to access to cliff head for fishing?

Comment Response

There will be no interuption to access to cliffhead for fishing. Our survey will not occur closer than 3 nautical miles from the coast.

Comment | 2 years ago Like +1 Dislike -1

The MSS team has provided a well-worded response confirming that you can still have access to cfliifhead within 3nm. However, to answer your intended question, no you will not have access to the ground that recreational fisher use.

Comment Response

There will be a temporary restriction of access to the fishing areas around the survey while it is taking place. Currently our plan is that this will be limited to 30 days of the year. The time of year the activity will occurr is undecided and being discussed with relevant persons. If you have places or times where you fish please email the team so that we can consider this in our assessments.

Comment | 2 years ago Like Dislike

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Discussion 5

What are your lat and longs and can we please have proof off no harm to lobster and other sea life last time you went through you kill everything

Comment Response

We will soon be publishing our proposed lat/longs for the acquisition area. We are also running information sessions were we'll communicate the predicted levels of impact from the survey, including to rock lobster. Like most activities we will have some impact to the environment, our standards are that they must be of an acceptable level. We do not predict mortal effects to rock lobsters.

! Concerns | 2 years ago Like +3 Dislike -2

The fishing has just recovered from the last seismic survey off Leeman and now they are all going to be killed again. All the recovery work done by the commercial sector in the WCDSF is a waste of time

Comment Response

We understand the pressures on the WCDSF and have met with DPIRD to further our understanding. We are working to establish acceptable times in the year when any effects from seismic can be minimised. We will share our assessments of impacts on fish, fisheries, and fishers as soon as they are ready to be shared. In the meantime we encourage you to participate in the consultation process.

Concerns | 2 years ago Like +1 Dislike

Do you plan to meet with stakeholders and offer additional details regarding the proposed seismic work?

Comment Response

Yes, we are holding information sessions in Geraldton, Dongara, Jurien Bay and Cervantes next week, May 9-12. Details are on the home page of the website. If you would prefer to meet 1-on-1 we can arrange that too, just email contact@eureka3dmss.com.au and we'll be in touch.

Concerns | 2 years ago Like +1 Dislike

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Discussion 6

If fish and shellfish stocks are impacted from seismic work, what time frame would you expect for stock to recover?

Comment Response

We will only undertake this survey if the impacts can be demonstrated to be recoverable, short-term, and localised. We are still completing the impact assessment but typically seismic surveys are undertaken with low to negligible effects at stock/population levels given the resilience of fish/shellfish populations to various anthropogenic impacts.

Comment | 2 years ago Like Dislike

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In the context of localised, what potential impacts can this have this population levels? & what is your definition of localised ?

Comment Response

Determining if an impact is localised depends on the species being studied. We first determine the appropriate spatial context for the receptor, then we look at the distribution, density, uniformity, and dispersal. Depending on the species we also look at movement. What is a localised impact for whales is different for lobster or zooplankton, for example.

Comment | 2 years ago Like Dislike

Do you only need to demonstrate the impact of seismic activities on the species as a whole rather than solely focusing on the proposed work?

Comment Response

We often study the effects of sound from seismic at the individual level first and then study them at a population level if the effect at the individual level could have population level effects.

Comment | 2 years ago Like Dislike

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Discussion 7

Evidence that seismic blasting harms marine life is growing. The sound travels under water faster than it does through air, and can travel for hundreds to thousands of kilometres. It can kill or injure marine animals close by – even tiny zooplankton more than a kilometre away.

Comment Response

The propogation of sound in the marine environment is well understood and can be predicted fairly accurately. We will publish our independent modelling that will show the effect distances on various marine species including zooplankton in due course.

! Concerns | 2 years ago Like +1 Dislike

There is also evidence from international fishing communities of vast declines lasting a decade or more. As a marine user, I amongst others have noted a large decline in areas of the southern Abrolhos Islands and eastern reef areas that declined rapidly during and after the seismic surveys there some time ago. I would like to see greater research into the movement of fish species away from seismic areas due to constant reef and ocean vibrations. I feel this is likely the greater impact.

Comment Response

We will shortly publish our detailed assessment of the effects of sound pressure and partical motion (vibration) on fish populations. In summary, based on the comprrehensive and well researched science, we do not find any correlation or causation between seismic surveys and declines of fish populations given the effects are short-term, localised, and behavioural only.

Concerns | 2 years ago Like Dislike

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Discussion 8

Scallops and lobsters are both important seafood species, so seismic blasting also impacts current and future catch rates for our commercial fisheries. In 2020, fishers reported a massive decline in catches after two seismic vessels started seismic testing for oil and gas in the waters east of Victoria.

Comment Response

To our knowledge the commercial scallop fishing activities occur well outside our activity planning area. We recognise the value of the lobster fishery in the region. We are aware of the claims made of the impacts of seismic testing in other fisheries around Australia. There are many natural variations and human impacts on fish species that we will consider in our impact assessments.

! Concerns | 2 years ago Like Dislike

The sound can travel for hundreds or thousands of kilometres. There are many other shellfish species within the area nearby that form a critical part of the whole marine ecosystem and, therefore, a healthy fishery.

Comment Response

Sound does travel in sound a long way. It also reduces the further from the source at different rates based on many variables. We have commissioned modelling of the distances at which sound reduces to effect thresholds for various species. The distance sound travels is less of a concern than the effect ranges to sensitive species. We will publish our sound modelling report in full once complete.

Concerns | 2 years ago Like Dislike

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Discussion 9

What are your your lat and longs and do you have proof that you will do no damage to lobster/ fish last time it turned it into a grave yard

Comment Response

Hi there, we will publish lat/longs for each point shortly - thanks for the feedback. We will also be publishing our impact assessments which will include our predicted levels of impact to fish and lobster when they are available, hopefully in late April or early May.

Comment | 2 years ago Like +2 Dislike -1

southern and eastern areas of the Abrolhos are still recovering from the last seismic survey. commercial fishers and others have been impacted and still to date. How do you intend to quantify any movement and or loss of fish species from the area, what is the failsafe stop point of reduction and/or loss of marine life in the area that will trigger a cease of the survey?

Comment Response

We acknowledge that there may be behavioral effects to fish, noting that we are ~50km from the Abrolhos Islands and therefore are unlikely to effect fish at or around the islands. There is no evidence of fish population reduction from seismic surveys therefore there is no need for a trigger to stop the survey related to loss of marine life.

Comment | 2 years ago Like Dislike

When are you meeting with the fisherman as most off us are only just finding out that this survey is happening

Comment Response

We have met with WRLC and WAFIC in recent weeks. Our consultation process runs through to 30 June 2023. We are planning to visit fishers in the week commencing 8 May after the Easter period. More details will be provided in our newsletters and on our social media sites. Please encourage your fellow fishers to visit the website and sign up for consultation with us. Thank you.

Comment | 2 years ago Like Dislike

So what is a acceptable level off lose off sea life and are we getting compensation if it not at a acceptable level

Comment Response

We are working on our predicted levels of impact now and we'll publish them as soon as we can. Typically impacts are of an acceptable level when they are short-term, localised, or recoverable. We will look to work cooperatively to avoid interference with fishers, however, if we do interfere with marine users we have committed that no marine user will be worse off as a result of the activity.

Comment | 2 years ago Like Dislike

I like how predicted levels of impact there should be no impact but you're saying it does harm the lobsters/sea life I have seen the damage first hand good fishing one day empty pots the next then the area take years too recover

Comment Response

You are right, there will be some level of impact to marine life. The law does not set up a 'no impact' regime. Rather, it requires us to predict the levels of impact and demonstrate they are of an acceptable level. Seismic surveys and the fishing industry have co-existed successful for years, however, if you have evidence of the contrary please share it with us through contact@eureka3dmss.com.au

Comment | 2 years ago Like +1 Dislike

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Discussion 10

What is the seismic testing for ? Why not put renewable energy inland ? Why as a rate payer has there been no information given out ?

Comment Response

We are looking for hydrocarbon deposits in the activity planning area as part of a commitment made to the Federal Government to explore here. To complete this task we are required to consult in preparation of an approval document called and Environment Plan. That consultation process is how the community becomes informed about these types of activities.

Comment | 2 years ago Like Dislike -1

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The location you pinpointed on the map is inland and therefore not relevant according to the Community Consultation and Engagement Plan. The plan only requires meetings with shires and cities that could be affected by offshore activities

Comment | 2 years ago Like Dislike

Considering your first response, I find it an interesting choice of which environmental service company Pilot has chosen to work with.

Comment | 2 years ago Like Dislike

I would like feed back on how this is going effect our ocean and wildlife that live there.What is seismic testing for ???

Comment Response

We will publish summaries of our environmental assessments for you to comment on. If you would like more information having considered these documents we're happy to provide this to you as part of our consultation processes. The seismic testing is being completed to understand the subsurrface geology of the area for the purpose of exploring for petroleum.

Comment | 2 years ago Like Dislike -3

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Discussion 11

future exploration of any hydrocarbon/fossil fuel reserves should not be allwed and deposits be left in there place. We are supposed to be making a to a Renewable Energy future, not on based on fossil fuels and old technologies. Please provide scientific evidence of the impact on marine live in areas recently having had siesmic testing.

Comment Response

Gas will be required to enable the energy transition and will be relied on to provide low-cost energy for years to come. Our impact assessments will provide a fully referenced analysis of available science on the impacts of seismic on marine life.

Comment | 2 years ago Like Dislike