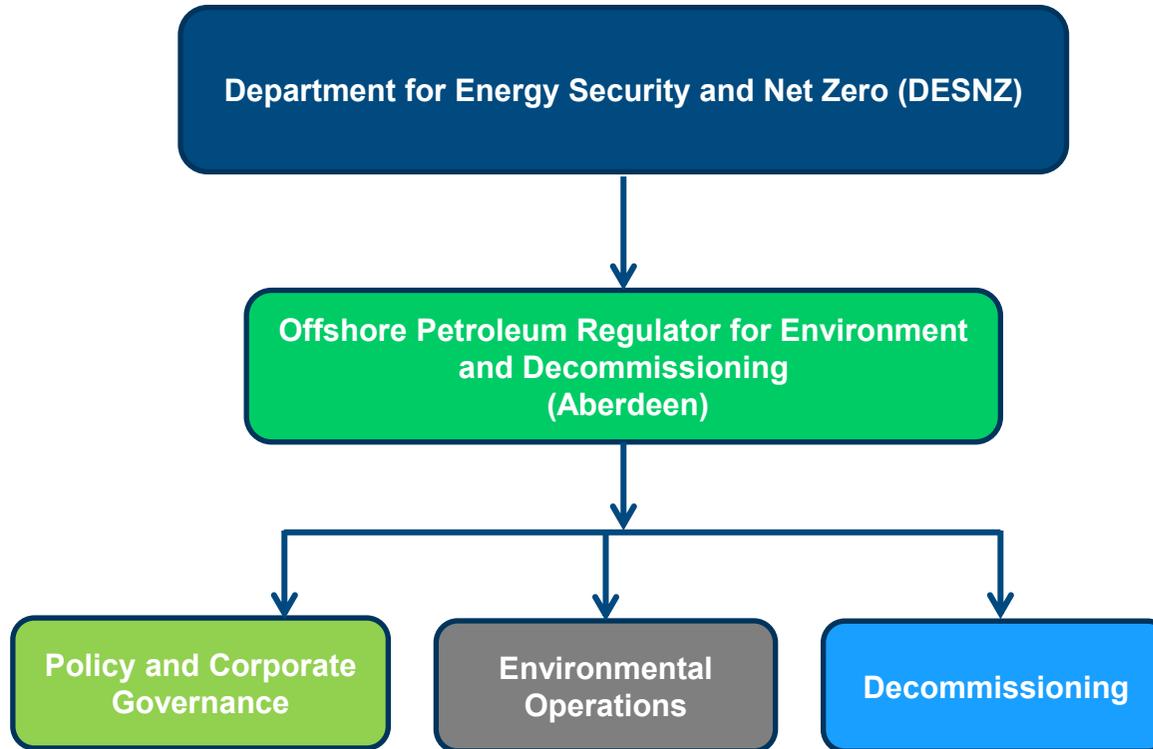

Offshore Activities in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Sarah Rogers – Environmental Manager

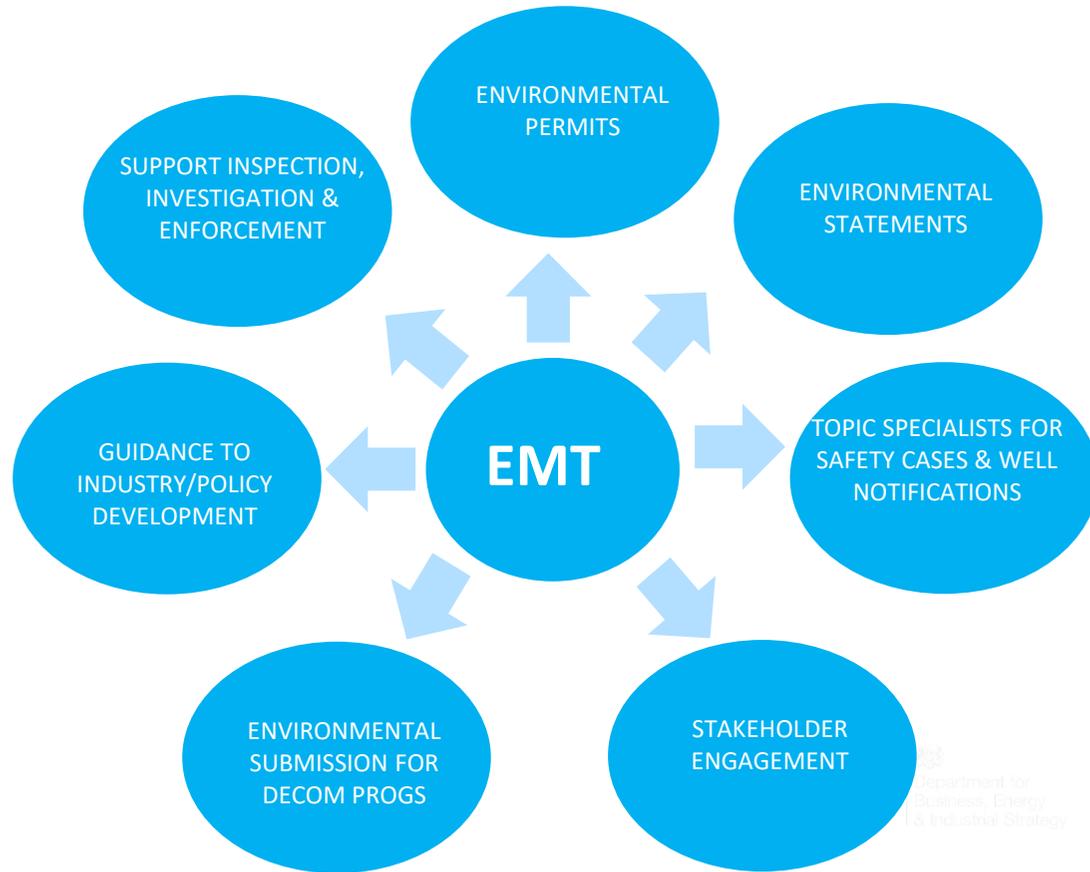


OPRED Team Structure



Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Environmental Management Team (EMT) - What we do



Regulatory Framework

Pollution Prevention & Control Act 1999

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

The Energy Act 2008 (Consequential Modifications)
(Offshore Environmental Protection) Order 2010

The Offshore Combustion Installations (Prevention and
Control of Pollution) Regulations 2013

The Offshore Chemicals Regulations 2002 (as
amended)

The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution
Prevention & Control) Regulations 2005 (as amended)

The Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness,
Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998

The Offshore Installations (Emergency Pollution
Control) Regulations 2002

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme
Regulations 2012

Energy Act (Consequential Modifications
(Offshore Environmental Protection Order 2010

Mercury Export and Data
(Enforcement) Regulations 2010

The Offshore Petroleum Activities
(Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001
(as amended)

The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and
Species Regulation 2017

The Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009

Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production,
Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact
Assessment) Regulations 2020

The Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations
2015

The Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme
Regulations 2014

The Energy Act 2008, Part 4A Works
Detrimental to Navigation

Different Protected Areas

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's)

- International designations for habitats and species

Special Protection Areas (SPA's)

- International designations for birds

Ramsar Sites

- International designations for wetland sites

Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas

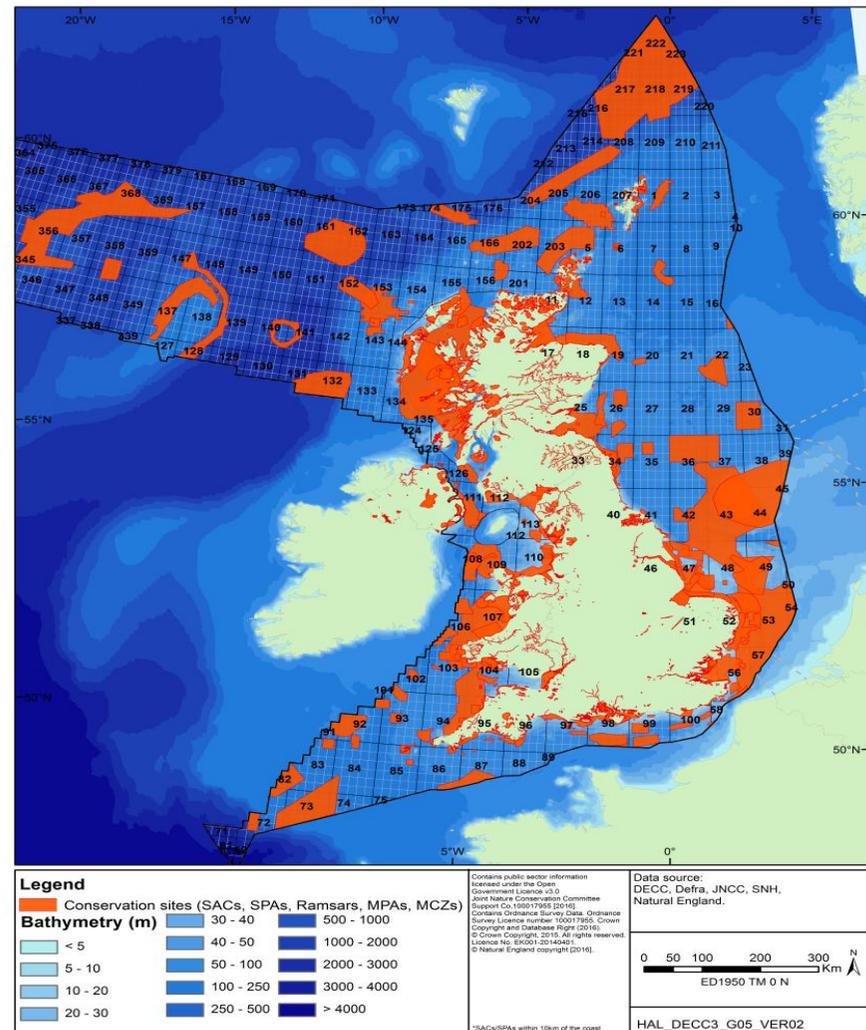
- Scottish designations for habitats and species

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ)

- English, Welsh and Northern Irish designations for habitats and species

Highly Protected Marine Area (HPMA)

- English waters HPMA pilot



Applications within Offshore Protected Sites

Proposed activities that could be undertaken may be site dependent

- Features of a protected site can differ (i.e. different species of habitats).
- There may be seasonal restrictions or underwater noise thresholds.

When planning proposed activities should consider:

- If activity will cross more than one protected site i.e. pipeline laying.
- Protected sites can also overlap (especially in the Southern North Sea).

Early engagement from operator with OPRED is highly recommended to help:

- Understand key issues and planning for an application.
- Identify if there may be certain assessments/survey requirements required to support an application.

Evidence to support an application is key:

- The SNCBs websites provide useful information on each protected site.
- Review relevant data sources e.g. MBES data, ROV footage, environmental surveys, academic papers.
- Recommend a proactive approach before submitting an application.

Applications within Offshore Protected Sites

Need to consider an appropriate timeline for application:

- review and processing of applications for activities in protected sites can take longer
- recommend planning for minimum 2 months.

Note that activities in SACs and SPAs require a Habitat Regulations Assessment to be undertaken by the Competent Authority:

- OPRED is competent authority for offshore oil and gas and offshore CCS projects.
- If Appropriate Assessment (AA) stage is required, then OPRED is responsible for drafting and will send to the relevant SNCB for review (i.e. JNCC/NE/Nature Scot).
- OPRED publishes all completed AAS on.gov.uk.

Useful Links

Relevant environmental regulations:

[Oil and gas: offshore environmental legislation - GOV.UK](#)

Published Appropriate Assessments:

[Oil and gas: offshore environmental legislation - GOV.UK](#)