Sequoia 3D Seismic Survey

ConocoPhillips

Project Update | October 2020

ConocoPhillips Australia is planning to undertake a three-dimensional (3D) marine seismic survey (the Sequoia 3D seismic survey) in Exploration Permit T/49P to enable assessment of the natural gas reservoirs in the eastern offshore Otway Basin. The permit is located in waters west of Tasmania's King Island.

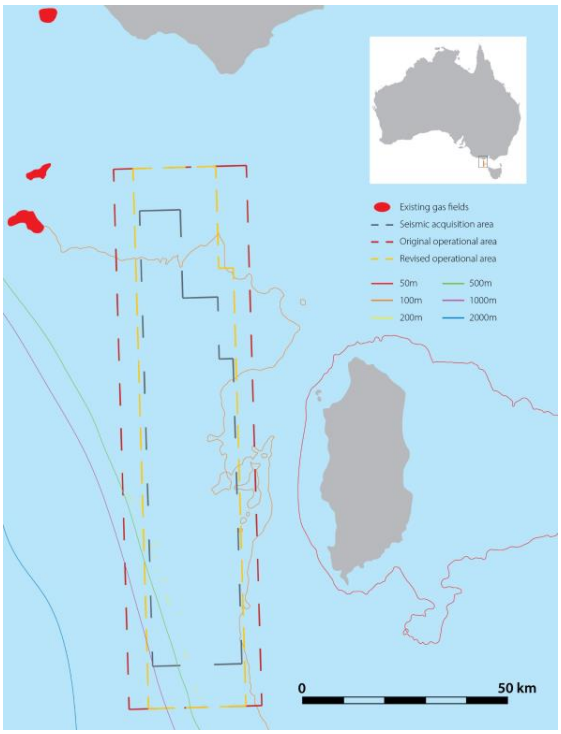
This is the second project update information sheet. Detailed factsheets on topics suchas CSI Technology, Noise Modelling and Spill Modelling are also available.

Changes to the Operational Area

Through ongoing consultation with stakeholders to progress the development of the Environment Plan, ConocoPhillips Australia has reduced the operational area of the Sequoia 3D seismic survey from 6500km^2 to 4090km^2 .

The operational area is slightly larger than the acquisition area as it allows for vessels to turnaround. The reduction in the operational area has resulted in a:

- 27 per cent reduction of Victorian fishing grids affected.
- 19 per cent reduction of Tasmanian Rock lobster grids affected.
- Complete avoidance of the Apollo Marine Park.



Marine Diesel Oil Spill Modelling

ConocoPhillips Australia has commissioned independent experts in vessel marine diesel oil (MDO) spill modelling to undertake vessel MDO spill modelling as part of the development of the Sequoia 3D marine seismic survey Environment Plan (EP). Vessel MDO spill modelling is a tool used to support spill preparedness, response planning and environmental impact assessment. While offshore MDO spills from vessels are rare, ConocoPhillips Australia believes it is important that risks and impacts are assessed and mitigated to as low as reasonably practicable.
Modelling demonstrated that, in the unlikely event of a MDO spill from a seismic vessel:

- There would be minimal entrained oil within the water column
- Low levels of floating oil had the potential to reach a range of sensitive receptors
- Low to moderate levels of oil had the potential to reach Kind Island and Cape Otway.

DID YOU KNOW? Based on a review of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's marine safety database, there are no recorded instances of collisions, grounding or sinking of a seismic vessel or its support vessels in Australian waters in at least the last 30 years.

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Noise Modelling

ConocoPhillips Australia has commissioned independent experts in underwater acoustic modelling and monitoring to undertake underwater sound modelling as part of the development of the Sequoia 3D marine seismic survey Environment Plan (EP). Underwater sound modelling is used to predict underwater sound levels expected to be produced by the Sequoia 3D marine seismic survey sound source and the distances to effects on marine fauna.

Modelling demonstrated that:

- Sound-sensitive fauna, like whales, fish, seals, and invertebrates (e.g., rock lobsters and giant crabs) are identified as residing in or migrating through the survey area.
- There is potential for the Sequoia 3D MSS to impact this fauna. The research indicates that these results are generally temporary and localised.

More information on noise and marine diesel oil modelling is available at:
www.conocophillips.com.au/what-we-do/otway-basin/

Controls ConocoPhillips Australia will put in place to reduce impacts

Based on the science available to us, we will apply controls to reduce the risks and minimise acoustic disturbance to marine life to as low as reasonably practicable. These include:

- Acquiring seismic in the months that have least impact commercially and environmentally. That is why we are applying for the August to October timeframe with a preference for a 60 day window in September to October for seismic acquisition on T/49P.
- Reducing the operational area. We have reduced the operational area from 6500km^2 to 4090km^2.
- Using our CSI Technology which significantly reduces the duration we are acquiring seismic (vs conventional methods). The Dorrigo EP as approved by NOPSEMA was approximately 25 days of acquisition for 1580km^2, we are proposing approximately 30 days of acquisition for 2840km^2.
- Limiting the number of days we are actively acquiring seismic. While we expect to be acquiring seismic over a 60-day window, we will be recording seismic data using the seismic acoustic pulses for approximately 30 days. We allow time for vessel movements and a buffer in case of bad weather and/or environmental restrictions such as the presence of whales.
- Implementing EPBC Act requirements, including:
    - Soft-start procedures- This involves turning on the acoustic pulses at low power and gradually increasing the output.
    - Precaution and Shutdown zones – to minimise potential impact on whale species.
- Using the lowest sound pressure to achieve the desired data quality.
- Designing a survey in such a way reduces the likelihood of having to return to acquire more data and increases our knowledge of the subsurface which could lower the amount of wells that may be drilled.

Contact us

ConocoPhillips invites you to provide feedback, request a meeting and ask questions on the proposed Sequoia seismic survey by contacting us in any one of the following ways:

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