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# **STATUTORY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT EIA SCREENING DETERMINATION FOR END OF OPERATIONS SEABED SURVEY OF THE KINSALE AREA INSTALLATIONS**

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Appropriate Assessment
Cm	Centimetre
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DHPLG	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
EC	European Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
EU	European Union
FPSOs	Floating Production, Storage and Offloading vessels
FSUs	Floating Storage Units
GSRO	Geoscience Regulations Office
Hz	Hertz
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
KADP	Kinsale Area Decommissioning Project
km	Kilometre
m	Metre
m <sup>2</sup>	Square metres
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MPA	Marine Protected Area
OSPAR	The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
PTS	Permanent Threshold Shift
PUDAC	Permits to Use and Discharge Chemicals

## Statutory Environmental Assessment

AA	Appropriate Assessment
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SOPEP	Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan
SPA	Special Protection Areas
UKHO	United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
USBL	Ultra-Short Baseline

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ramboll UK Limited (herein referred to as Ramboll) has been commissioned by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (herein referred to as DECC) to provide assistance with regards to the statutory assessment of an application by PSE Kinsale Energy Limited (herein referred to as the applicant) for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Determination, submitted in respect of the end of operations seabed survey required as part of the Kinsale Area Decommissioning Project (KADP).

The competent authority (DECC) is required to give consideration to the potential for likely significant effects of such activities on the environment, having regard to the EU Directive (2011/59/EU), as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (herein referred to as "The EIA Directive") and relevant jurisprudence and guidelines.

Public consultation on the information provided by the applicant has been undertaken by the DECC. The consultation responses received by the DECC have been taken into consideration in the preparation of this report.

This report provides a review of the applicant's request for EIA screening determination (supported by an EIA Screening / Environmental Risk Report).

The report provides a conclusion that can be used by the DECC to issue an EIA screening determination. The information presented in the applicant's EIA Screening / Environmental Risk Report, is considered to be complete and no further information is required. Overall, it provides adequate information to allow the DECC to issue a screening determination. The table below summarises the overall conclusion of the screening report assessment.

### Summary of Screening Report Assessment for the proposed End of Operations Seabed Survey (KADP)

Outcome of Screening Report Assessment	Overall Screening Opinion / EIA Required?
Likely Significant Effects on the Environment	EIA required
More information is required to inform decision	Unknown if EIA is required — Request further information from the applicant
No Likely Significant Effects on the Environment	EIA not required

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Ramboll UK Limited (herein referred to as Ramboll) has been commissioned by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (herein referred to as DECC) to provide assistance with regards to the statutory assessment of a request by PSE Kinsale Energy Limited (herein referred to as the applicant) for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Determination, submitted in respect of the end of operations seabed survey required as part of the Kinsale Area Decommissioning Project (KADP).

### 1.1 Project Background

The applicant has submitted an application for consent to carry out the end of operations seabed survey required as part of the KADP.

The KADP comprises the decommissioning of the entire Kinsale Area gas fields and facilities in the North Celtic Sea Basin, which include:

- the Kinsale Head gas fields and facilities (including Southwest Kinsale and Ballycotton gas fields) (Petroleum Lease Area No. 1); and
- the Seven Heads gas field and facilities (Seven Heads Petroleum Lease).

It should be noted that KADP decommissioning activities and associated survey works have been subject to a number of separate consent applications, as summarised in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1: Consent applications associated with the KADP.**

Consent Application	Scope of Consent Application	Status
(Nov 2018) Decommissioning of certain facilities within the Kinsale Head and Seven Heads gas fields <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plugging and abandoning of development wells</li><li>• The removal of two platform topsides structures</li><li>• The removal of a number of subsea facilities</li></ul>	Approved (Apr 2019)
(Aug 2019) Decommissioning of certain facilities within the Kinsale Head Petroleum Lease area <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The removal of the Kinsale Alpha and Kinsale Bravo platform sub-structures (jackets) and all associated works</li></ul>	Approved (Feb 2020)
(Oct 2021) Decommissioning of certain facilities within the Kinsale Area gas fields <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The application in relation to the Kinsale Head gas fields covers the following activities:</li><li>• The leaving in situ of all infield pipelines and umbilicals associated with the Kinsale Head gas fields</li><li>• The leaving in-situ of the 24" export pipeline (offshore and onshore section) and the filling of the onshore section with grout</li></ul>	Approved (Dec 2022)

<sup>1</sup> More information available at: <https://www.gov.ie>

<sup>2</sup> More information available at: <https://www.gov.ie>

<sup>3</sup> More information available at: <https://www.gov.ie>

Consent Application	Scope of Consent Application	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of engineering materials (Rock Placement) to protect the pipelines and umbilicals in situ</li> </ul> <p>With regards to the Seven Heads gas field the application covers the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The leaving in-situ all infield pipelines and umbilicals associated with the Seven Heads gas field</li> <li>The use of engineering materials (Rock Placement) to protect the pipelines and umbilicals in situ</li> </ul>	
(Mar 2022) Conduct site clearance surveys of the Kinsale Head (including South West Kinsale & Ballycotton) and Seven Heads Gasfields <sup>4</sup>	The surveys are required to confirm seabed status on various sites following completion of decommissioning of subsea wells and associated facilities (non-intrusive surveys with no seabed interaction)	Approved (September 2022)

The Permits to Use and Discharge Chemicals (PUDAC) associated with the KADP specifies that "In line with OSPAR Agreement 17-02<sup>5</sup>, a monitoring study must be carried out by the Operator to assess the impact of the operations on the seabed. The design of this study must be submitted in advance to the GSRO for its approval".

This report has been prepared as a statutory assessment of the activities proposed by the applicant in their application for consent to carry out the end of operations seabed survey, and provides a conclusion that can be used by the DECC to issue an EIA screening determination.

## 1.2 Documents Reviewed

The following documents have been reviewed to inform this report:

- Kinsale Area Decommissioning Project – PL-01/SH Petroleum Lease. Application to Conduct End of Operations Seabed Survey. Dated 7 November 2022;
- Letter to the Head of Geoscience Regulation Office (DECC). Kinsale Area Decommissioning Project: Application to Conduct End of Operations Seabed Survey – Kinsale Head & Seven Heads Gasfields. Dated 9 November 2022; and
- Kinsale Area Decommissioning Project. Kinsale Area Installations: End of Operations Seabed Survey. Environmental Impact Assessment Screening/Environmental Risk Report. November 2022.

This report has been prepared by competent experts with undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in environmental science (or related disciplines), professional qualifications including chartered status with the Society for the Environment and full membership of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA).

<sup>4</sup> Additional information available at: <https://www.gov.ie>

<sup>5</sup> The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) Agreement 2017-02: OSPAR Guidelines for Monitoring the Environmental Impact of Offshore Oil and Gas Activities



## 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 2.1 Legislative Context

This report has been prepared in line with applicable European and Irish legislation, including the EU Directive on assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA) Directive (2011/92/EU) and as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (herein referred to as 'the EIA Directive').

### 2.2 Relevant Guidance

This report has been prepared having regard to guidance on EIA screening for planning authorities, published by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) in 2018<sup>6</sup>. In addition, the structure and content of this report is based upon the methodology published by the European Commission in 2017<sup>7</sup>, and subsequent guidance published in 2021<sup>8</sup>.

### 2.3 Consultation

#### 2.3.1 Prescribed Bodies

The following bodies were notified of the foreshore licence application:

- Development Applications Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service;
- Irish Maritime Administration, Department of Transport;
- Ship Source Pollution Prevention Unit, Irish Maritime Administration, Department of Transport;
- Marine Survey Office, Department of Transport;
- Irish Coast Guard (& National Maritime Operations Centre), Irish Maritime Administration, Department of Transport;
- Sea Fisheries Protection Authority;
- Sea Fisheries Policy Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
- Department of Defence;
- Mission Support Facility, Irish Air Corps;
- Naval Headquarters;
- Marine Institute, Marine Environment and Food Safety Services; and
- Director of e-Navigation and Maritime Services, Commissioners of Irish Lights;

Two responses were received from the notified bodies:

- Response from the Ship Source Pollution Prevention Unit, Department of Transport, received by DECC on 15 November 2022; and
- Response from the Marine Survey Office, Department of Transport, received by DECC on 29 November 2022.

The following observations were made by the Ship Source Pollution Prevention Unit:

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/53aee9-guidelines-for-planning-authorities-and-an-bord-pleanala-on-carrying/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eia/eia-guidelines/g-screening-full-text.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Commission notice regarding application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (...) published 3/12/2021, URL: <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/eia-support.htm>

- Under the MARPOL Convention and EU law, as applicable in national law, ships may not cause pollution either by discharge to water or emissions to air, when at sea or when at berth in port. Ships include Floating Production, Storage and Offloading vessels (FPSOs), also called a "unit" or a "system"; and Floating Storage Units, (FSUs). Ships berthed at terminals at sea are also obliged to conform to the law.
- Management of ship waste (mainly oil, hazardous and polluting substances, sewage, garbage and polluting emissions to air) and of all cargo residues must be ensured as required under international maritime organisation (IMO), EU and national law. Under existing provisions ships are obliged to discharge waste and cargo residues at port and ports are obliged to provide adequate facilities for their reception from ships.

The following observations were made by the Marine Survey Office:

- A Marine Notice shall be published for the information of all local maritime users detailing the works and any vessels which may be engaged in said works during the survey operation phase.
- The applicant shall be obliged to inform the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) detailing the location and nature of the proposed works to ensure relevant navigation charts and nautical publications are updated. (Fax: 0044 1823 284077, email: [hdc@hdc.hydro.gov.uk](mailto:hdc@hdc.hydro.gov.uk)). Where bathymetry data is produced this shall be forwarded to UKHO so as that relevant navigation charts can be updated.

Appropriate regard has been given to the issues raised in these submissions, and relevant provisions are included in the mitigation and management commitments in section 5 of this report.

### 2.3.2 Public Consultation

The application was advertised by the DECC on their website on 15 November 2022 following receipt of the application on 9 November 2022. Following subsequent receipt of all required documentation, the application completed validation on 14 November 2022. Invitations for submissions were advertised by DECC to be received by close of business on 4 January 2023 to ensure consideration by the Minister. No responses were received from the public in response to this consultation.

### 3. PROJECT DETAILS

Table 3.1 provides details of the consent application for the end of operations seabed survey proposed.

**Table 3.1: Consent Application Details**

Project Title:	Kinsale Area Decommissioning Project (KADP) – End of Operations Seabed Survey
Applicant:	PSE Kinsale Energy Limited
Exploration Licence Reference:	Kinsale Head Petroleum Lease (OPL 1) Seven Heads Petroleum Lease
Date EIA Screening Request Received (Respond within 90 days):	9th November 2022
<p><b>Brief Project Description:</b></p> <p>The PUDAC associated with the KADP specifies that “In line with OSPAR Agreement 17-02, a monitoring study must be carried out by the Operator to assess the impact of the operations on the seabed. The design of this study must be submitted in advance to the GSRO for its approval”.</p> <p>Accordingly, seabed sampling will be undertaken to confirm seabed sediment type, existing contamination status and faunal community type, comparing results with pre-decommissioning surveys undertaken in 2017.</p> <p>Seabed sampling will take place using the research vessel RV Tom Crean (or equivalent). Seabed samples will be collected from the upper 20 cm of surface sediments (approximately) using a Day grab (or equivalent) with a surface area of 0.1 m<sup>2</sup>. A drop down camera will be used to collect seabed imagery prior to any samples being collected. Equipment will be positioned using an acoustic USBL system (Ultra-Short Baseline (acoustic positioning system)) operating at a frequency of 20-40 Hz. At each of the anticipated 33 sample stations (located within 33 km from the coast of Cork), two successful Day grab deployments will be subsampled in order to collect all the required samples for onshore analysis. Sample stations are located at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seven heads fields – 6 stations;</li> <li>• SW Kinsale and Greensand Wellheads – 6 stations;</li> <li>• Kinsale Head platforms and fields– 17 stations;</li> <li>• Ballycotton Wellhead – 2 Stations; and</li> <li>• Kinsale Head-shore export pipeline – 2 stations.</li> </ul> <p>All 33 sampling stations have previously been surveyed and are located in water depths between 85 m and 110 m.</p> <p>The estimated duration of seabed sampling activities is 2-3 days (excluding possible weather standby) and is planned for Q1/Q2 2023 following the completion of decommissioning works.</p>	

## 4. SCREENING CHECKLIST

### 4.1 Determining whether a Project should be subject to an EIA

Under Article 4(1) of the EIA Directive (as amended), projects listed in Annex I shall be made subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Under Article 4(2) of the EIA Directive, member states must determine whether projects listed in Annex II of the Directive shall be made subject to an EIA through either case-by-case examination and / or thresholds or criteria set by the member state.

Table 4.1 sets out the first step in determining whether a project requires an EIA under the EIA Directive.

**Table 4.1: Checklist – EIA Screening**

Screening Criteria	Are criteria met by the project?
a) Is the project listed on Annex I of the EIA Directive?  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If Yes, EIA is required for the project.</li><li>• If No, EIA may be required for the project - Proceed to Section b)</li></ul>	No
b) If No - Is the project listed on Annex II of the EIA Directive?  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If Yes, EIA may be required for the project - proceed to Sections 4.2 and 4.3.</li><li>• If No, EIA is not required for the project.</li></ul>	No, however, the applicant has requested an EIA Screening determination from the DECC and has provided the necessary supporting information.

### 4.2 Information to be provided by the Applicant on the projects listed in Annex IIA of the EIA Directive

Under Article 4(4) of the EIA Directive, a minimum amount of information is required to be provided by the Developer (referred to as applicant in this report) on the characteristics of the project and its likely significant effects on the environment.

The checklist provided in this section (Table 4.2) confirms whether the screening report submitted for a project listed on Annex II of the EIA Directive provides the required information.

The applicant is required by Article 4(4) to consider (where relevant) the available results of other relevant assessments on the effects of the environment carried out pursuant to other Union legislation other than the EIA Directive.

**Table 4.2: 'Information to be provided' criteria, as set out in Annex IIA of the EIA Directive, meet the minimum requirements.**

<b>Does the request for screening determination provide sufficient information, with particular regard to:</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>	<b>Briefly summarise whether the applicant meets the minimum requirements:</b>
<p>a) A description of the project including in particular:</p> <p>(a) A description of the physical characteristics of the whole project and, where relevant, the demolition works.</p> <p>(b) A description of the location of the project, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.</p>	Yes	<p>The applicant has provided an adequate description of the project and the objective of the survey is provided.</p> <p>Detail of a representative vessel and the potential survey/positioning equipment to be used, including a description of operating frequency range, number of samples and volumes, etc, and associated objectives is provided.</p> <p>Figures presenting the location and coordinates of the seabed surveys have been provided by the applicant in the application documents (Application to Conduct End of Operations Seabed Survey – Appendices A and B, and EIA Screening/ Environmental Risk Report – Figures 1.1 and 2.1 and Table 2.2). It is noted that the legend in Figure 1.1 does not identify the red dots, however, it is gathered, from the Figure title, that these indicate the location of sample stations, and legends in other figures confirm this (e.g. Figure 2.1)</p> <p>The applicant has produced a chart of the entire project area and has shown this in relation to potentially sensitive receptors (EIA Screening/ Environmental Risk Report – Figures 3.2 – 3.14).</p> <p>The applicant has described the environmental baseline that encompasses all survey locations (KADP area and surrounding region). The environmental baseline has been described in terms of the physical and biological environment, as well as in relation to other users.</p> <p>Environmental receptors that are or may be present in the location of the seabed surveys are described in a detailed manner, supported by a number of relevant Figures (Figures 3.1 – 3.14).</p>
<p>b) A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the project.</p>	Yes	<p>The applicant has described the physical environment in the KADP area and surrounding region, covering seabed topography, geology and sediments; and climate, oceanography and hydrography.</p> <p>The biological environment is also described, including plankton, benthos, fish and shellfish, marine reptiles, birds, marine mammals, and conservation sites and species. The distribution of conservation sites in relation to the survey area is presented in Figures 3.7-3.9.</p> <p>Other users include offshore energy (renewables and oil and gas), shipping, fisheries, military activity, subsea cables, aggregates, recreation and tourism, and cultural heritage. The level of information provided is considered appropriate.</p>

Does the request for screening determination provide sufficient information, with particular regard to:	Yes / No	Briefly summarise whether the applicant meets the minimum requirements:
<p>c) A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the project on the environment resulting from:</p> <p>(a) The expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant;</p> <p>(b) The use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.</p>	Yes	<p>Estimates of atmospheric emissions to be generated by the survey vessel are presented in Table 4.2.</p> <p>The applicant also provides information on anticipated discharges and waste generation, and accidental release events of fuels in in Table 4.2.</p> <p>Estimated fuel consumption is indicated in Table 4.2. The extent of seabed area to be sampled is also specified in Table 4.2. No other resources are required to support the proposed survey.</p> <p>The applicant has described potential effects on the physical, biological and human environment, and has assessed whether or not these are likely to result in a significant effect.</p>
<p>d) The criteria of Annex III shall be taken into account, where relevant, when compiling the information in accordance with points 1 to 3.</p>	N/A	<p>The criteria in Annex III were taken into account when compiling the information referred to above. See Section 4.3 below for further details.</p>

#### 4.3 Criteria to determine whether a project listed on Annex II of the EIA Directive is likely to have a Significant Effect on the Environment

Under Article 4(3) of the EIA Directive, when carrying out a case-by case assessment to determine whether a project listed in Annex II requires an EIA, the competent authority must take into account the relevant selection criteria set out in Annex III of the Directive. Annex III criteria is grouped into three main categories; 'characteristics of the projects', 'layout of the projects' and 'type and characteristics of the potential impact' of the projects. The checklists provided in this section (Tables 4.3 – 4.5) have been developed to allow the assessor to ascertain whether a screening report submitted for a project listed on Annex II of the EIA Directive meets the requirements for a screening opinion to be determined and determine whether the project is likely to have any significant effects on the environment.

##### 4.3.1 Characteristics of Project

Table 4.3 summarises the consideration given by the applicant to the 'Characteristics of the Projects' in the screening report.

**Table 4.3: 'Characteristics of the Project' criteria, as set out in Annex III of the EIA Regulations**

<b>Does the request for screening determination provide sufficient information, with particular regard to:</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>	<b>Briefly summarise whether the applicant meets the requirements:</b>
a) The size and design of the whole development;	Yes	<p>The project is described in detail, including a representative survey vessel and potential survey/positioning equipment to be used. The project area is detailed, and Figures (including coordinates) of the survey locations are provided.</p> <p>Although the EIA screening report does not provide details on the survey vessel and exact specifications of survey/positioning equipment, it is considered that reasonable assumptions have been made on the likely parameters and indicative equipment specifications have been provided.</p> <p>It is also noted that the application is supported by vessel and equipment data sheets that are aligned with assumptions made in the EIA screening report. It is recommended that DECC request the applicant to confirm the survey vessel and equipment to be used (if any) to make sure that the assumptions used in the EIA Screening Report remain valid.</p>
b) Cumulation with other existing or approved developments;	Yes	<p>The applicant has identified existing users and activities within the survey area and its vicinity. This includes shipping and fishing activity, which is considered as part of the baseline description (section 3.3) and considered in the identification of potential activity/environment interactions (Table 4.2) and consideration of potential effects (section 5). It should be noted that potential effects of the proposed end of operations surveys in-combination with existing activities and users are not clearly labelled as cumulative. However, given the nature of existing activities and users, potential interactions are considered to have been appropriately considered by the applicant.</p> <p>The applicant has also identified the potential for interaction of the proposed end of operation survey with Two Foreshore Licence applications in relation to offshore wind farm site investigation work in the territorial waters off Cork. The proposed programme associated with both Licence applications indicate a three-year window for survey completion (2020-2023). The applicant has stated that the duration and scale of the proposed end of operations survey are such that there is considerable scope to avoid interactions.</p> <p>The applicant has identified the potential for future development associated with the Barryroe oil discovery, however, licence applications for the appraisal or development of the field are yet to be made, and therefore interactions are not expected.</p> <p>On the basis of the above, no cumulative effects associated with relevant future planned developments are reported. The applicant has stated that they will maintain awareness and dialogue with the developers of both wind farms, and any further proposals in relation to the Barryroe field, to ensure that activities do not proceed in a matter which could lead to cumulative impacts.</p>

<b>Does the request for screening determination provide sufficient information, with particular regard to:</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>	<b>Briefly summarise whether the applicant meets the requirements:</b>
c) The use of natural resources, particularly land, soil, water and biodiversity;	Yes	An adequate description of the use of natural resources, specifically fuel for the survey vessel and extent of survey area to be sampled, has been provided by the applicant.
d) The production of waste;	Yes	The applicant has noted that small quantities of vessel waste (litter) will be generated and will be controlled appropriately on board and disposed of on shore. Any waste generated aligns with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) requirements and an adequate description of handling, management, and reduction measures is provided.
e) Pollution and nuisances;	Yes	The applicant has provided adequate detail on potential pollution and nuisances generation, including air and water pollution, and the emission of underwater noise produced by the survey vessel and USBL positioning equipment.
f) The risk of major accidents and / or disasters, which are relevant to the project concerned (including those caused by climate change);	Yes	The vulnerability of the project to risks of major accidents and/or disasters of relevance has also been considered, noting the lack of proneness of natural disasters in the region, and elaborating on accidental events, including risks of oil spills and oil discharges. It is noted that the vessel will meet MARPOL requirements and a Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (SOPEP) will be implemented.
g) Risks to human health (e.g. due to water contamination or air pollution).	Yes	The applicant has adequately described risks to human health, including those arising from interaction with fisheries and shipping interests and accidental events (e.g. oil spills).

#### 4.3.2 Location of Project

The 'Location of Projects' Criteria, as set out in Annex III of the EIA Directive, considers the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by projects with particular regard to the specified criteria.

Table 4.4 provides a template to determine whether a Screening Report submitted by an applicant for a project listed on Annex II of the EIA Directive, meets the requirements for the 'Location of the Projects' Annex III criteria, required for the assessor to determine an EIA Screening Opinion.



**Table 4.4: Checklist to determine whether 'Location of the Projects' criteria, as set out in Annex III of the EIA Directive, meet the minimum requirements to determine a Screening Opinion.**

<b>The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the project are considered in the Screening Report, with particular regard to:</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>	<b>Briefly summarise whether the applicant meets the requirements for a screening opinion:</b>
a) The existing and approved land use;	Yes	<p>The applicant has described the historic and current use of the survey area (Kinsale Area gas fields and Seven Heads gas field and facilities operated by Kinsale Energy) and detailed other users in the survey area and surroundings (including shipping and fisheries activity) that could be affected by the proposed survey works.</p> <p>The application is also supported by a fisheries assessment that specifically considers potential interaction between the proposed survey works and fisheries activities.</p>
b) The relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the areas and its underground;	Yes	<p>The applicant notes the presence of natural resources and their exploitation by other users (e.g. by commercial fisheries), and details measures that minimise risk to these resources (such as oil spill prevention, communication etc.).</p>
c) The absorption capacity of wetlands, riparian areas & river mouths;	Yes	<p>The applicant has identified Cork Harbour, Ballycotton Bay and Blackwater Estuary as designated wetlands of international importance, however, effects on these designated sites are not anticipated.</p> <p>No pathways for interaction have been identified in relation to riparian areas and river mouths.</p>
d) The absorption capacity of coastal zones and marine areas;	Yes	<p>The survey area is situated within the marine environment. The applicant has adequately described the baseline environment and highlighted potentially sensitive receptors. There is no specific reference to the absorption capacity of coastal zones and marine areas, however, the applicant has determined that there is not likely to be a significant effect to any marine or coastal receptors identified.</p>
e) The adsorption capacity of mountain and forest areas;	Yes	<p>Given that proposed survey works will be undertaken at sea, the applicant has indicated that there are no mountain and forest areas that could be affected by the project.</p>
f) The absorption capacity of nature reserves and parks;	Yes	<p>The applicant has made reference to natural designations along the coast (such as Natural Heritage Areas), noted to be predominantly terrestrial and not relevant to the proposed survey works.</p> <p>The applicant has outlined nationally and internationally protected nature conservation sites that may interact with the project (see below).</p> <p>These are all located within the marine environment.</p>

<b>The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the project are considered in the Screening Report, with particular regard to:</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>	<b>Briefly summarise whether the applicant meets the requirements for a screening opinion:</b>
g) The absorption capacity of areas classified under national legislation (e.g. Natura 2000 area);	Yes	The applicant has sufficiently identified nature conservation designations (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar sites, and OSPAR marine protected areas (MPAs)) that may interact with the site, including those with direct overlap and those with designated features that may forage within the site. It is noted that the foraging range of harbour seals is noted to "generally" be 20 km. The AA screening report submitted separately acknowledges that longer foraging distances do occur (e.g. 50 km). Information provided is considered appropriate overall.
h) The absorption capacity of areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards, laid down by legislation and relevant to the development or in which it is considered that there is such a failure;	Yes	The applicant has confirmed there are no areas within or around the location of proposed survey works which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage (e.g. areas where environmental standards have been exceeded).
i) The absorption capacity of densely populated areas;	Yes	The proposed survey works will be undertaken at sea. The applicant has confirmed that there are no densely populated or built-up areas that could be affected by the proposed survey works.
j) The absorption capacity of landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.	Yes	The applicant has indicated that there are no designations with landscape components and that proposed survey works would not be visible from the coast.  The applicant has identified a number of wrecks to be present within the vicinity of the survey area, but at sufficient distance not to be impacted by the proposed survey works.

### 4.3.3 Type and characteristics of the Potential Impact

The 'type and characteristics of the potential impact' criteria, as set out in Annex III of the EIA Directive, consider whether a project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Likely significant effects are considered in relation to the criteria set out in Tables 4.3 and 4.4, with additional regard to the impact on the project factors specified in Article 3(1) of the EIA Directive: population and human health; biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC; Land, soil, water, air and climate; material assets and cultural heritage and the landscape, in addition to the interaction between these factors.

Table 4.5 provides a template to determine whether a Screening Determination could be made in regard to the type and character of the potential impact of a project.

**Table 4.5: Template to Determine Screening Opinion for Type and Character of the Potential Impact of a Project**

Factor (as specified in Article 3(1) of the EIA Directive)	Briefly summarise the environmental receptor / activity interactions considered:	Character of impact		Does applicant conclude a Significant Effect is likely? (Yes/No/ Unknown?)
		Description of character of impact	Does the screening report provide information on character of impact?	
Population and human health	Power generation on survey vessel  Some greenhouse gases will be released into the atmosphere during the works. However, the applicant has determined that concentrations are considered extremely small in a regional context. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.	The magnitude and spatial extent of the impact;	Yes – the applicant quantifies the magnitude of impact where appropriate (e.g. carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) generated by vessel). Limited temporal scale (up to 3 days) and working area (small) is highlighted.	Power generation on survey vessel  No – the applicant has determined that due to the relatively low volume of emissions and duration of survey works, there is no potential for significant effects on local air quality, climate, population and human health.
	Noise generated from survey vessel and positioning equipment.	The nature of the impact;	Yes – the impacts are adequately characterised.	Noise generated from survey vessel and positioning equipment  No – the applicant has made no reference to the potential interaction between underwater noise generated and population and human health, so this is interpreted as an error in Table 4.2, not considered to have any implications on the conclusions of the report.
	No pathway for interaction between underwater noise generated and population and human health is explained, so this is interpreted as an error in Table 4.2, not considered to have any implications on the conclusions of the report.	The transboundary nature of the impact;	Yes – the applicant has determined that no transboundary effects will occur.	

Factor (as specified in Article 3(1) of the EIA Directive)	Briefly summarise the environmental receptor / activity interactions considered:	Character of impact		Does applicant conclude a Significant Effect is likely? (Yes/No/ Unknown?)
		Description of character of impact	Does the screening report provide information on character of impact?	
		The intensity and complexity of the impact;	Yes – the impacts are adequately characterised.	
		The probability of the impact;	Yes – risks to population and human health associated with power generation on survey vessel and physical presence of the survey vessel are rated as limited; and associated with accidental events are not considered likely.	
		The expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact;	Yes - it is inferred that the onset and duration impacts will be the duration of the survey, and effects will be temporary.	
	Physical presence of survey vessel The potential for interaction between the survey vessel activity and other users of the sea (fisheries and shipping interests) is identified. Due to the introduction of only one additional vessel and the short duration of the survey works, these represent a minor increment to activity within the area. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.	The cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing or approved developments;	Yes – the applicant has adequately considered cumulative effects with existing activities users (through interaction) and potential future developments.	Physical presence of survey vessel No – the applicant has determined that due to the small working area and limited duration of the survey works, and its distance from most other offshore activities, and thus there is no potential for significant effects. Activities will be communicated through relevant notices to mariners.
	Accidental events The survey vessel represents a minor increment to vessel traffic in Kinsale Area and potential interaction with other users is limited by its short time in the field. Risks to human health are considered unlikely. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.			Accidental events No – the applicant has determined that the risks to population and human health are limited and not considered likely to result in significant effects. The vessel will display navigational lighting and awareness of the survey will be communicated through Notices to Mariners.

Factor (as specified in Article 3(1) of the EIA Directive)	Briefly summarise the environmental receptor / activity interactions considered:	Character of impact		Does applicant conclude a Significant Effect is likely? (Yes/No/ Unknown?)
		Description of character of impact	Does the screening report provide information on character of impact?	
		The possibility of effectively reducing the impact.	Yes - mitigation measures to minimise impacts to other users are indicated. Good practice operating procedures are detailed.	
Biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC	<p>Discharges and wastes</p> <p>Small quantities of waste will be generated and retained on the vessel and disposed of at a suitable reception facility onshore and thus there will be no interaction with the marine environment.</p> <p>Seabed disturbance</p> <p>A limited extent of seabed sample area will be disturbed during survey works, although no interaction with sensitive benthic habitats and species is anticipated. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.</p>	The magnitude and spatial extent of the impact;	Yes – the applicant has provided detail on sources and level of underwater noise anticipated to be generated. Limited temporal scale (up to 3 days) and working area (small seabed area) is highlighted.	<p>Discharges and wastes</p> <p>No – the applicant has determined that the vessel will meet MARPOL requirements and that all waste will be appropriately disposed of on land, and thus there is no potential for significant effects.</p> <p>Seabed disturbance</p> <p>No - the applicant has determined that due to the small working area and likely absence of sensitive benthic habitats and species within the survey area, there is no potential for significant effects. Seabed camera operations will take place prior to seabed sampling which will confirm that the expected absence of Annex I benthic habitats is correct.</p>
		The nature of the impact;	Yes - the impacts are adequately characterised.	
		The transboundary nature of the impact;	Yes – the applicant has determined that no transboundary effects will occur.	
		The intensity and complexity of the impact;	Yes – the impacts are adequately characterised.	

Factor (as specified in Article 3(1) of the EIA Directive)	Briefly summarise the environmental receptor / activity interactions considered:	Character of impact		Does applicant conclude a Significant Effect is likely? (Yes/No/ Unknown?)
		Description of character of impact	Does the screening report provide information on character of impact?	
	Noise generated from survey vessel and positioning equipment– fish and shellfish The survey vessel and USBL positioning equipment are identified as the main sources of underwater noise, which have sound levels below the exposure criteria for mortality or injury of fish, and an operating frequency above the hearing range of fish. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.	The probability of the impact;	Yes – reference has been made to relevant studies (e.g. effects of anthropogenic sound on fish, tests of hearing in a range of diving species, hearing range of marine turtles).	Noise generated from survey vessel and positioning equipment  No – the applicant has concluded that potential impacts on noise-sensitive species, which include fish, marine mammals, diving birds, and marine turtles, would unlikely become significant.
	Noise generated from survey vessel and positioning equipment – marine reptiles The survey vessel and USBL positioning equipment are identified as the main sources of underwater noise, which have an operating frequency above the hearing range of relevant marine turtle species. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.	The expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact;	Yes - onset and duration of impacts will be limited to the duration of the survey, and effects will be temporary.	
		The cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing or approved developments;	Yes – the applicant has adequately considered cumulative effects with existing activities users (through interaction) and potential future developments.	
	Noise generated from survey vessel and positioning equipment – marine mammals The survey vessel and USBL positioning equipment are identified as the main sources of underwater noise, which have sound levels below proposed injury (permanent threshold shift (PTS) onset) threshold criteria to impulsive noise for marine mammal species relevant to the	The possibility of effectively reducing the impact.	Yes – inferred that impacts are avoided/minimised through limited spatial, temporal extent and nature of surveys.	

Factor (as specified in Article 3(1) of the EIA Directive)	Briefly summarise the environmental receptor / activity interactions considered:	Character of impact		Does applicant conclude a Significant Effect is likely? (Yes/No/ Unknown?)
		Description of character of impact	Does the screening report provide information on character of impact?	
	<p>Kinsale area. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.</p> <p>Noise generated from survey vessel and positioning equipment – waterbirds and seabirds The survey vessel and USBL positioning equipment are identified as the main sources of underwater noise. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.</p> <p>Physical presence of survey vessel The potential for interaction/disturbance of marine mammal, waterbird and seabird species through physical presence of the survey vessel is identified. Due to the introduction of only one additional vessel and the short duration of the survey works, these represent a minor increment to activity within the area. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.</p> <p>Conservation sites and species SPAs and SACs designated for species that have foraging ranges with potential to overlap with the proposed survey area have been considered as per potential interactions identified above. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.</p>			<p>Physical presence of survey vessel No – the applicant has determined that interaction/disturbance of marine mammal and waterbird and seabird species through the physical presence of the vessel is limited, due to the small working area and limited duration of the survey works, and thus there is no potential for significant effects. The survey vessel will use established routes.</p>

Factor (as specified in Article 3(1) of the EIA Directive)	Briefly summarise the environmental receptor / activity interactions considered:	Character of impact		Does applicant conclude a Significant Effect is likely? (Yes/No/ Unknown?)
		Description of character of impact	Does the screening report provide information on character of impact?	
Land, soil, water, air and climate	<p>Power generation on survey vessel</p> <p>Some greenhouse gases will be released into the atmosphere during the works. However, the applicant has determined that concentrations are considered extremely small in a regional context. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.</p> <p>Discharges and wastes</p> <p>Small quantities of waste will be generated and retained on the vessel and disposed of at a suitable reception facility onshore and thus there will be no interaction with the marine environment</p> <p>Seabed disturbance</p> <p>A limited extent of seabed sample area will be disturbed during survey works. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.</p>	The magnitude and spatial extent of the impact;	Yes – the applicant has quantified the magnitude of impact where appropriate (e.g. CO2 generated by vessel, extent of sampled area). Limited temporal scale (up to 3 days) and working area (small) is highlighted.	<p>Power generation on survey vessel</p> <p>No – the applicant has determined that due to the relatively low volume of emissions and duration of survey works, there is no potential for significant effects on local air quality, climate, population and human health.</p> <p>Discharges and wastes</p> <p>No – the applicant has determined that the vessel will meet MARPOL requirements and that all waste will be appropriately disposed of on land, and thus there is no potential for significant effects.</p> <p>Seabed disturbance</p> <p>No - the applicant has determined that due to the small working area, there is no potential for significant effects.</p>
		The nature of the impact;	Yes – the nature of the impact has been characterised sufficiently.	
		The transboundary nature of the impact;	Yes – the applicant has determined that no transboundary effects will occur.	
		The intensity and complexity of the impact;	Yes – the impact has been characterised adequately.	
		The probability of the impact;	Yes – the likelihood of occurrence has been presented.	
		The expected onset, duration, frequency and	Yes – the onset, duration and frequency of the effects are limited to	



Factor (as specified in Article 3(1) of the EIA Directive)	Briefly summarise the environmental receptor / activity interactions considered:	Character of impact		Does applicant conclude a Significant Effect is likely? (Yes/No/ Unknown?)
		Description of character of impact	Does the screening report provide information on character of impact?	
		reversibility of the impact;	within the survey time period.	
		The cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing or approved developments;	Yes – the applicant has adequately considered cumulative effects with existing activities users (through interaction) and potential future developments.	
	Accidental Events Although it is not screened in Table 4.2, the potential for risks of oil spills affecting water quality is described in Section 5.3. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.	The possibility of effectively reducing the impact.	Yes – Compliance with MARPOL requirements.	Accidental Events No – the applicant has indicated that the vessel will operate to MARPOL requirements and implement a SOPEP and has determined that the risks of oil spills are small and there is no potential for significant effects.
Material assets, cultural heritage and landscape	Noise generated from survey vessel and positioning equipment The survey vessel and USBL positioning equipment are identified as the main sources of underwater noise, which have sound levels below the exposure criteria for mortality or injury of fish, and an operating frequency above the hearing range of fish (including commercially exploited fish species). Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.	The magnitude and spatial extent of the impact;	Yes – the applicant has quantified the magnitude of impact where appropriate (extent of sampled area) and provides detail on sources and level of underwater noise anticipated to be generated. Limited temporal scale (up to 3 days) and working area (small seabed area) is highlighted.	Noise generated from survey vessel and positioning equipment No – the applicant has concluded that potential impacts on noise-sensitive species, which include commercially exploited fish species, would unlikely become significant.
		The nature of the impact;	Yes – impacts has been characterised adequately.	

Factor (as specified in Article 3(1) of the EIA Directive)	Briefly summarise the environmental receptor / activity interactions considered:	Character of impact		Does applicant conclude a Significant Effect is likely? (Yes/No/ Unknown?)
		Description of character of impact	Does the screening report provide information on character of impact?	
	Seabed disturbance A limited extent of seabed sample area will be disturbed during survey works, although no interaction with wreck sites is anticipated. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.	The transboundary nature of the impact;	Yes – the applicant has determined that no transboundary effects will occur.	Seabed disturbance No - the applicant has determined that due to the small working area and distance between sampling station and wreck sites, there is no potential for significant effects. Seabed imagery will occur prior to seabed sampling and therefore should confirm the absence of any wrecks.
	Physical presence of survey vessel The potential for interaction with fisheries and shipping interests through physical presence of the survey vessel is identified. Due to the small working area and the short duration of the survey works, these represent a minor increment to activity within the area. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.	The intensity and complexity of the impact;	Yes – the impact has been characterised adequately.	
		The probability of the impact;	Yes – the likelihood of occurrence has been presented.	
		The expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact;	Yes - onset and duration of impacts will be limited to the duration of the survey, and effects will be temporary.	
	Accidental events Risks of collision with another vessel and risks of oil spills have been identified. Consideration for receptor – activity interactions are considered adequate.	The cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing or approved developments;	Yes – the applicant has adequately considered cumulative effects with existing activities users (through interaction) and potential future developments.	
		The possibility of effectively reducing the impact.	Yes - activities will be communicated through relevant notices to mariners to minimise the likelihood for interactions.	
				Accidental events No – the applicant has determined that due to the duration and scale of survey works and that the vessel will operate to MARPOL requirements and implement a SOPEP and has determined that the risks of vessel collision and oil spills are small and there is no potential for significant effects. The survey activities will be communicated through notices to mariners and the vessel will display appropriate navigational lighting.

Factor (as specified in Article 3(1) of the EIA Directive)	Briefly summarise the environmental receptor / activity interactions considered:	Character of impact		Does applicant conclude a Significant Effect is likely? (Yes/No/ Unknown?)
		Description of character of impact	Does the screening report provide information on character of impact?	
The interaction between the factors	<p>The applicant has considered the potential for in-combination effects and cumulative effects associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing activities and users,</li> <li>Celtic Interconnector;</li> <li>Ireland-France subsea cable;</li> <li>Two Foreshore Licence applications in relation to offshore wind farm site investigation work in the territorial waters off Cork; and</li> <li>Barryroe oil discovery developments.</li> </ul> <p>The applicant has concluded in relation to these cumulative developments that due to timings of the projects and/or duration and scale of the proposed survey works, interactions are not considered likely.</p>	The magnitude and spatial extent of the impact;	Not applicable	No – the applicant has concluded that due to low probability of interactions, there is no potential for significant effects. The applicant has stated that they will maintain awareness and dialogue with the developers of both wind farms, and any further proposals in relation to the Barryroe field, to ensure that activities do not proceed in a matter which could lead to cumulative impacts.
		The nature of the impact;	Not applicable	
		The transboundary nature of the impact;	Yes – the applicant has determined that no transboundary effects will occur.	
		The intensity and complexity of the impact;	Not applicable	
		The probability of the impact;	Not applicable	
		The expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact;	Not applicable	

Factor (as specified in Article 3(1) of the EIA Directive)	Briefly summarise the environmental receptor / activity interactions considered:	Character of impact		Does applicant conclude a Significant Effect is likely? (Yes/No/ Unknown?)
		Description of character of impact	Does the screening report provide information on character of impact?	
		The cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing or approved developments;	Not applicable	
		The possibility of effectively reducing the impact.	Not applicable	

## 5. MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITMENTS

The following mitigation and management commitments have been made by the applicant in the documentation reviewed. Table 5.1 documents the commitments made and whether these would be considered industry best practice or whether a condition is recommended to be included should permission be granted.

**Table 5.1: Checklist to identify Mitigation Measures committed to by the applicant.**

Discipline	Mitigation Measure Proposed	Industry Standard	Project Specific
Physical Presence / Interactions with Other Sea Users	<p>The vessel will display navigational lighting and awareness of the survey will be communicated through Notices to Mariners.</p> <p>The applicant will inform the UKHO detailing the location and nature of the proposed works to ensure relevant navigation charts and nautical publications are updated. Where bathymetry data is produced this shall be forwarded to UKHO so as that relevant navigation charts can be updated.</p>	X	
Discharges to the Sea	The vessel used for the survey will meet MARPOL requirements (e.g. in relation to Annex I and Annex IV on the prevention of pollution by oil and sewage from ships respectively, under the Sea Pollution Act 1991 as amended). Similarly, the vessel will meet MARPOL Annex V requirements. This includes the implementation of a Garbage Management Plan (under the Sea Pollution Act 1991 as amended and the Sea Pollution (Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships) Regulations 2012 as amended) which details specific waste management procedures, documents the segregation and safe handling and storage of waste and waste reduction measures.	X	
	The vessel will operate to MARPOL requirements for a Special Area, requiring oily water separation and monitoring prior to discharge. Discharges must be 15ppm or less, recorded in the Oil Record Book and only be made when underway.	X	
	The vessel will implement a Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (SOPEP) in accordance with guidelines issued by the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organisation. Kinsale will ensure that such plans are in place prior to any work taking place as part of standard contractor management.	X	
Physical disturbance: sensitive seabed features.	Should any wrecks and/or archaeological material/features be identified during the course of the proposed survey works, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) shall be notified by applicant. No survey works with potential to physically interact with wrecks or archaeological material/features will be permitted to be undertaken without prior permission from the DHLGH.		X

## Statutory Environmental Assessment

Discipline	Mitigation Measure Proposed	Industry Standard	Project Specific
General	Wastes including litter will be retained on the vessel and disposed of at a suitable reception facility on return to onshore. Kinsale will ensure that such plans are in place as part of standard contractor management.	X	
	Kinsale Energy will maintain a dialogue with developers associated with recent foreshore licence applications within Cork territorial waters, and further proposals in relation to the Barryroe field, to ensure that activities do not proceed in a manner which could lead to cumulative impacts.		X
	The applicant must seek prior Department approval for the vessel(s) and survey equipment to be used prior to commencement of the proposed activities. In this event confirmation will be required that the survey equipment and methodology on the vessel(s) are equivalent to that described in the EIA/AA Screening Reports and that the description of the development used to inform the Environmental Risk Assessment is still valid.		X

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

Table 6.1 provides a summary of the review of the applicant's screening assessment.

**Table 6.1: Conclusions of screening assessment, based on checklists provided in Table 4.3-4.5, for projects listed on Annex II of the EIA Directive**

<p>Summary of features of project and of its location indicating used to assess the need for EIA or otherwise:</p> <p>The applicant has submitted an application for consent to carry out the end of operations seabed sampling survey required as part of the KADP, which comprises the decommissioning of the entire Kinsale Area gas fields and facilities in the North Celtic Sea Basin.</p> <p>The PUDAC associated with the KADP specifies that "In line with OSPAR Agreement 17-02, a monitoring study must be carried out by the Operator to assess the impact of the operations on the seabed. The design of this study must be submitted in advance to the GSRO for its approval".</p> <p>Accordingly, seabed sampling is proposed to be undertaken to confirm seabed sediment type, existing contamination status and faunal community type, comparing results with pre-decommissioning surveys undertaken in 2017.</p> <p>Seabed samples will be collected from the upper 20 cm of surface sediments (approximately) using a Day grab (or equivalent) with a surface area of 0.1 m<sup>2</sup>. A drop-down camera will be used to collect seabed imagery prior to any samples being collected. Equipment will be positioned using an acoustic USBL system (Ultra-Short Baseline (acoustic positioning system)) operating at a frequency of 20-40 Hz. At each of the anticipated 33 sample stations (located within 33 km from the coast of Cork), two successful Day grab deployments will be subsampled in order to collect all the required samples for onshore analysis.</p>	
Do you agree with the applicant's screening assessment? If no, why?	Yes. The Screening Report has been prepared on behalf of the applicant by competent experts. Given the nature, size and location of the proposed activities and the mitigation commitments made by the applicant, significant effects are not likely to occur on the environment either from this project alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
Is the project likely to have significant residual effects on the environment?	No. Given the nature, size and location of the proposed activities and the mitigation commitments made by the applicant, likely significant effects are not predicted on the environment either from this project alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
Is EIA required? (Yes / No / More Information Required?)	No. Information provided by the applicant is considered sufficient to conclude that significant effects are not likely to occur on the environment and that an EIA is not required.
What further information is required to inform decision (if any)?	N/A

**Table 6.2: Summary of Screening Report Assessment for the proposed End of Operations Seabed Survey (KADP)**

Outcome of Screening Report Assessment	Overall Screening Opinion / EIA Required?
Likely Significant Effects on the Environment	EIA required
More information is required to inform decision	Unknown if EIA is required — Further information required from the applicant
No Likely Significant Effects on the Environment	EIA not required