

Bonaparte MC3D Marine Seismic Survey Environment Plan

1. Purpose of this report

NOPSEMA has accepted the Bonaparte MC3D Marine Seismic Survey Environment Plan (the EP) submitted by Schlumberger Australia Pty Limited (the titleholder) for a seismic survey activity in the Bonaparte Basin within the period 1 November 2022 to 30 June 2024.

As required by the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 (the Environment Regulations), the public was provided with an opportunity to comment on the EP. After this period, the titleholder took into account public comments and prepared a Report on Public Comment which is published on NOPSEMA's website¹.

Following the public comment period, the titleholder submitted the EP for assessment by NOPSEMA on 20 July 2022. NOPSEMA has since completed its assessment of the EP and has determined that it is satisfied that the EP meets the criteria for acceptance² on 19 December 2023.

This report explains how NOPSEMA took into account the key matter raised by stakeholders in making its decision.

This report accompanies the accepted Bonaparte MC3D Marine Seismic Survey Environment Plan, Version 7.0 submitted by the titleholder, which is available on the NOPSEMA website and should be referred to for further information.

1.1. Information relevant to NOPSEMA's decision:

In making the decision to accept this EP, NOPSEMA took into account:

- the Environment Regulations;
- NOPSEMA Assessment Policy (PL0050), Environment Plan Assessment Policy (PL1347), Environment Plan Decision Making Guidelines (GL1721) and Consultation in the course of preparing an Environment Plan guideline (N-04750-GL2086);
- the Bonaparte MC3D Marine Seismic Survey Environment Plan;
- the information raised by relevant persons, government departments and agencies that is relevant to making a decision;
- the information raised through public comment that is relevant to making a decision: there was 1 public comment submission received during the public comment period with issues raised in relation to the key matter outlined in the below report;
- relevant plans of management and threatened species recovery plans developed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and relevant guidance published by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water;

During the assessment of this EP, NOPSEMA primarily focussed on the following topics:

¹ Titleholder report on public comments – Bonaparte MC3D Marine Seismic Survey Environment Plan, December 2023

² Environment Regulations, Regulation 10A Criteria for acceptance of environment plan

- effectiveness of relevant persons consultation with regards to ensuring a broad capture/identification of relevant persons, as well as the adoption of appropriate measures as a result of relevant persons consultation;
- management of underwater noise impacts to whales to acceptable levels;
- appropriateness of the implementation strategy particularly in regard to the Management of Change (MOC) process; and
- management of impacts to commercial fisheries.

2. Next steps

At the time of making this decision, Schlumberger Australia Pty Ltd was an applicant for a title. That application must be approved by the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA) (and Schlumberger Australia Pty Ltd therefore become the titleholder) before the activity described in the EP may take place.

Responsibility for the ongoing environmental performance of the seismic survey activity remains, at all times, with the titleholder.

NOPSEMA has legislated responsibilities to inspect and investigate offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage activities, and to enforce compliance with environmental law. These functions will be applied to this activity in accordance with NOPSEMA's policies.

3. Sensitive Information

Sensitive information received during the public comment period, such as the names and contact details of commenters and specific information identified by the commenter or relevant person as 'sensitive', is not published in this report. Sensitive information is contained in a sensitive information part of the EP which has been considered by NOPSEMA during its assessment process.

4. Further information

If you would like further information about the activity, please contact the nominated liaison person specified in the EP and on NOPSEMA's webpage for the Bonaparte MC3D marine seismic survey.

If you would like to be notified of regulatory information on the activity, such as start and end dates and enforcement actions (if any), please subscribe to updates from NOPSEMA's [website](#).

How NOPSEMA has taken into account key matters raised during public comments during the assessment and decision making process for Bonaparte MC3D Marine Seismic Survey Environment Plan

#	Issues raised for public comment	Title applicant's response	NOPSEMA's assessment and decision
1	<p>Survey interactions with commercial diving operations.</p> <p>Matter: The Bonaparte Seismic Survey could overlap with the decommissioning of the Northern Endeavour FPSO where diving operations may be required.</p> <p>Claim: The EP states that the survey is likely to commence as early as September 2022 and will be completed before 30 June 2024. The Northern Endeavour FPSO is due to be decommissioned before September 2022 and there may be a requirement to use divers during the decommissioning/disconnection activities. Please include Petrofac as part of the Stakeholder's list.</p>	<p>An assessment on the potential impacts from the proposed Bonaparte MC3D MSS on commercial dive operations (including those in relation to oil and gas activities) has been undertaken within the EP. Specifically, the separation distance, which is a key factor in determining the potential impacts on dive operations, between the Northern Endeavour FPSO and the Bonaparte MC3D MSS is shown in Figure 35. The Northern Endeavour FPSO is located 40 km to the north of the Bonaparte MC3D Operational Area and 55 km north from the Acquisition Area.</p> <p>Section 7.2.4 of the EP provides a summary of the known and potential impacts from seismic operations on commercial dive operations. This includes control measures that would be implemented, based on distance between diving operations and the seismic vessel in accordance with guidance documents.</p> <p>Section 7.2.4 also provides an assessment, based on distance of the closest installations to the Bonaparte MC3D Acquisition Area in regard to the potential for commercial divers being present in the water. Utilising</p>	<p>NOPSEMA acknowledges the matter raised and agrees there is the potential for the activity to have adverse impacts on commercial diving operations that are in relatively close proximity to the seismic source.</p> <p>In making a decision regarding this matter, NOPSEMA took into account the Bonaparte MC3D Marine Seismic Survey Environment Plan, relevant guidance from the Diving Medical Advisory Committee (DMAC), the claim made by the relevant person and NOPSEMA's Decision Making Guidelines (GL1721).</p> <p>The defined acceptable level as outlined in the EP (no health impacts to divers or underwater recreational activities as a result of the seismic survey) is consistent with Guidance Note DMAC 12 Rev. 2.1 – June 2020. In addition, all reasonable control measures were adopted including notifications in response to the matter raised.</p> <p>Given the information provided above NOPSEMA is satisfied that there will be no adverse impacts on commercial diving operations.</p>

		<p>the underwater sound modelling results, an assessment was undertaken, and it was determined that based on distance between the two activities, the sound levels emitted within the water column will be below the threshold sound levels for safe diving operations. The risk assessment provided within the EP determined the potential risk from the Bonaparte MC3D to diving operations would be Low.</p> <p>Although the risk to diving operations has been determined to be low, SLB is committed to ensuring those impacts remain as low as reasonably practicable. As such, Schlumberger commits to operating in accordance with Rev 2.1 of 'Safe Diving Distance from Seismic Survey Operations' that was released by the Diving Medical Advisory Committee in 2020.</p> <p>In addition, notification of the relevant stakeholders in the proposed Bonaparte MC3D MSS is outlined within Table 27 of the EP, which states that all relevant stakeholders will be provided four weeks notification prior to commencement of the Bonaparte MC3D. Petrofac will be included as part of this notification process to all relevant stakeholders and will be notified four weeks prior to the Bonaparte MC3D commencing, which will enable Petrofac to advise of any diving operations at the FPSO location.</p>	<p>NOPSEMA has concluded that after taking into consideration all the environmental management requirements, that the activity will not cause unacceptable impacts to commercial diving operations.</p>
--	--	---	---

		<p>In addition to the four-week pre-start notification, Petrofac will also receive the 48-hour look-aheads that will be distributed every 24 hours advising of where the survey vessel will be operating.</p> <p>Based on the discussion above, no changes have been made to the EP to address the comments received from Petrofac.</p>	
--	--	---	--