**THE ROLE OF CEFAS IN THE REGULATION OF THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY**

**STATUTORY CONSULTATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENTS (ES) AND PETROLEUM OPERATIONS NOTICES 15 (PON 15)**

Under the Offshore Chemicals regulations (OCR) and EU Directive 85/337 contractors wishing to exploit offshore oil and gas reserves in UK coastal waters are obliged to provide evidence that they have considered and satisfactorily mitigated the risks that their operations may pose to the marine environment. CEFAS is a statutory consultee in the assessment of both PON 15s and ES in English and Welsh Waters. Teams within CEFAS:

- verify the accuracy of the presented information
- provide expert guidance regarding any possible impacts on fish stocks and
- advise on measures that might be necessary to mitigate any environmental impacts to acceptable levels

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**EU DIRECTIVE 85/337 (ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS OF CERTAIN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROJECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT)**

**OSPAR DECISION 2000/2 ON A HARMONISED MANDATORY CONTROL SCHEME**

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI)**

**ANNEX 1 PROJECT**

**ANNEX 2 PROJECT**

**OFFSHORE CHEMICALS REGULATIONS 2002**

**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT (ES)**

**&**

**PON 15**

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**SCOTTISH WATERS**

**SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT (SEERAD)**

**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SCIENCE (CEFAS)**

**ENGLISH AND WELSH WATERS**

**UK OFFSHORE CHEMICAL NOTIFICATION SCHEME (OCNS)**

**HARMONISED OFFSHORE CHEMICAL NOTIFICATION FORMAT (HOCNF)**

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**FISHERIES RESEARCH SERVICES ABERDEEN (FRS)**

**INDUSTRY VIA CEFAS PRODUCT TEMPLATES AND PRODUCT LISTS ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB**

www.cefas.co.uk/ocns

CEFAS has developed a unique system that allows for an exchange of information that meets the needs of:

- operators who require data on products in order to carry out site specific risk assessments to support ES and PON 15 applications, and
- chemical suppliers, who wish to keep confidential most of the information supplied to the UK regulator in the form of an HOCNF.

Following a successful product re/submission CEFAS generates a 'Product Template' for the supplier. This document contains the minimum information that CEFAS have identified as necessary to calculate a Hazard or Risk Quotient to support a PON 15 application from an operator.

Operators obtain these documents directly from their chemical suppliers thus protecting their rights to non-disclosure if required. However, suppliers should be aware that, unless product risk can be estimated and discussed on PON 15s by operators, products will not be allowed for use offshore.

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**CONTACT the OCNS staff at CEFAS Laboratory, Remembrance Avenue, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, CM0 8HA.**

**Telephone:** 01621 787200, **Fax:** 01621 784989, or via our web-site:

http://www.cefas.co.uk/ocns