



Victoria Analogue Site Survey Bridging Document: Public Summary July 2008

This summary of the bridging document to the Gippsland Basin Generic Site Survey Activities EP has been submitted to comply with Regulation 11(7)(8) of the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Management of Environment) [P(SL)(MoE)] Regulations 1999.

Introduction

Apache Energy Limited (Apache) has prepared a Bridging Document to the Generic Site Survey Activities Environment Plan (GSSA EP) covering an analogue site survey over 6 proposed drill sites. The site surveys are a requirement prior to undertaking drilling operations at these nominated exploration drill sites.

Apache is proposing to undertake the analogue site surveys in late July prior to undertaking exploration drilling at the sites in the last quarter of 2008.

Project Description

The survey sites are confined to exploration permit area Vic/P59 in the Victorian Commonwealth waters (see **Figure 1**) and will use the vessel MV Pacific Crest to undertake the work.

The analogue site surveys will be conducted over a 4km by 4km grid around each well site, except for the Dory and Nemo sites, which will be surveyed as one large 5.4 km by 7.4 km site.

The Generic Environment Plan (EP) for Apache's Site Survey Activities in the Gippsland Basin 2008-2013 (EA-70-RI-009) will be used for the survey, as it covers the expected environmental risks and control measures to be undertaken during the survey program.

All work during the survey will be undertaken in accordance with the regulations and guidelines set out in the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act's Schedule: Specific Requirements as to Offshore Petroleum Exploration and Production – 1995* (amended 2005) and the *Petroleum (Submerged lands)(Management of Environment) Regulations 1999* (as amended 2005).

VIC/P59
PROPOSED SITE SURVEYS

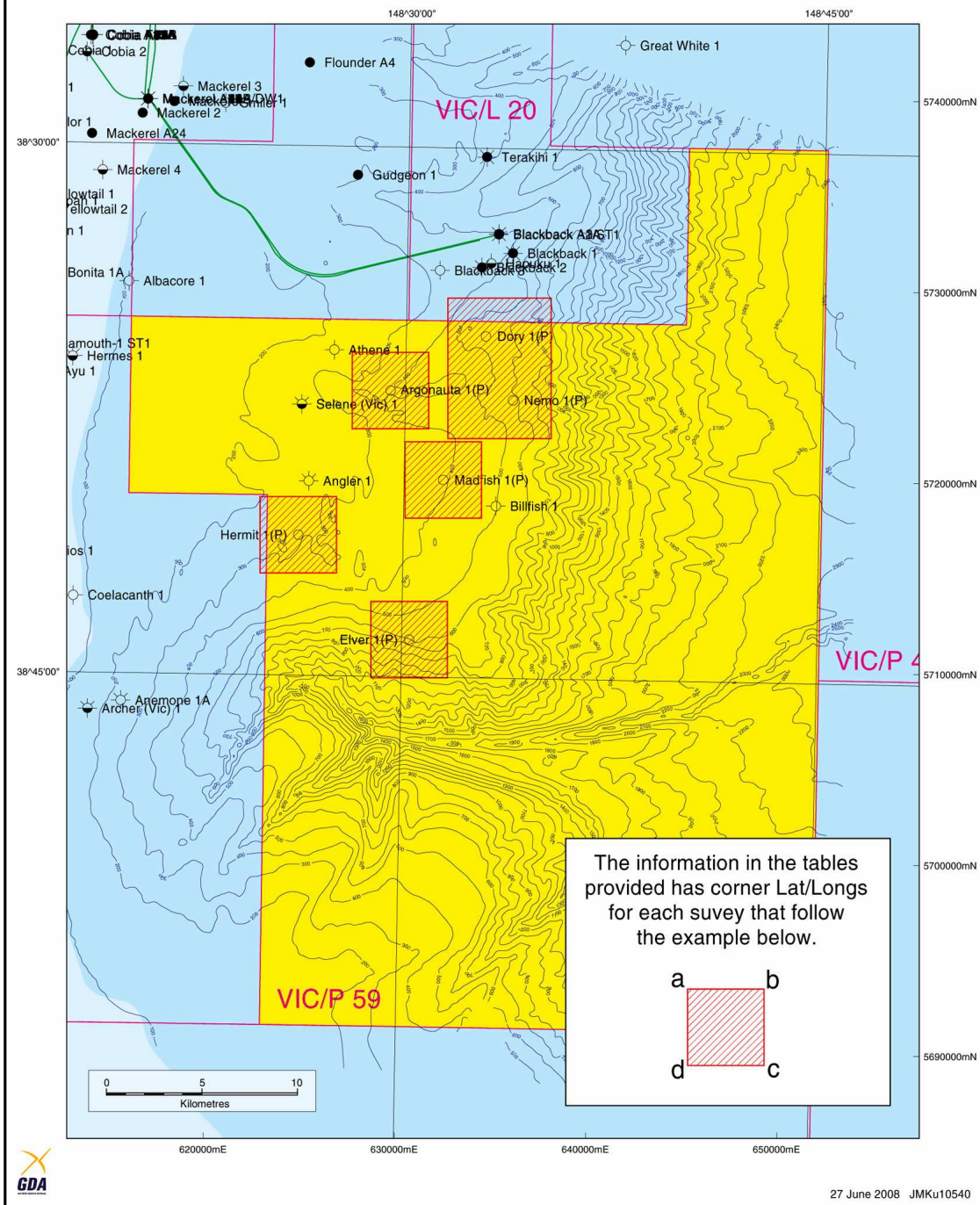


Figure 1: Location of the proposed site surveys (Dory, Elver, Hermit, Nemo, Argonauta and Madfish) in Vic/P59

Apache has contracted Tri-Surv to carry out the following surveys at each of the sites:

- Multibeam Bathymetry survey;
- Side Scan Sonar survey; and
- Sub-bottom profiling survey using a sparker system

The side scan sonar fish will be towed approximately 10 m above the seabed floor at a distance behind the vessel of three times the water depth, i.e., with a maximum distance of 3 km.

The acoustic sparker and hydrophones of the sub-bottom profiling system will be towed approximately 20 m behind the vessel.

The survey is expected to be carried out over 24 hours for 20 days. All survey sites are located in deep water. No sediment sampling will be undertaken during the survey.

It is not expected that refuelling is required over the survey period of 20 days. The vessel's fuel capacity is 240,000 L with an average daily fuel consumption of 4,500 to 5,000 L.

The vessel is sourced from the Victorian Port of Welshpool. Prior to the survey, the vessel has been in dry dock in Hobart, Tasmania being fitted with the survey equipment. Apache will require that all project vessels fully comply with AQIS requirements in relation to the prevention of biofouling and ballast water management.

Project environment

Distances from the survey sites (measured from the well locations) to key regional features on the Victorian mainland are listed below.

Table 1: Distance of survey sites to Key Regional Features

Well Name:	Dory-1	Elver-1	Hermit-1	Nemo-1	Argonauta-1	Madfish-1
Closest mainland point:	86.7 km N	102.7 km NNW	96.6 km NNW	90 km N	90.1 km N	94.7 km N
Closest Town:	87.6 km Marlo	103.6 km Lakes Entrance	97.4 km Lakes Entrance	90.1 km Marlo	90.9 km Marlo	95.5 km Marlo
State waters boundary:	81 km N	97.1 km NNW	90.9 km NNW	84.2 km N	84.6 km N	89.5 km N
Closest Conservation area:	86.6 km Beware Reef	103.3 km Cape Conran Park	97.2 km Gipps Lakes Coastal Park	89.5 km Beware Reef	90.9 km Beware Reef	94.7 km Beware Reef
Port Operating out of: Barry Beach	188.6 km W	182.5 km W	178.1 km W	189.8 km W	183 km	185 km

An "Area to be Avoided" exists around the current operating petroleum facilities that occur to the north and northwest of the site survey areas. Under the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act, 1967, unauthorized vessels larger than 200 gross tonnes are not permitted within this area.

Two traffic separation schemes (TSS) were implemented to enhance safety of navigation by separating shipping into one-direction lanes for vessels heading north eastwards and those heading south westwards. One separation area is located south of Wilson's Promontory, outside the Gippsland Basin, and the other south of Esso/BHP Billiton's Kingfisher B platform (DAFF, 2002). Apache's permit area Vic/P-59 is located within and adjacent to the traffic separation scheme in the Gippsland Basin. **Table 2** details the specific site survey locations

that are situated within the TSS. Standard 'Notice to Mariners' will be issued to alert shipping traffic of the location of the survey vessels and dates for survey activities.

Table 2: Analogue Site Survey - Well Location Details

Well Name:	Dory-1	Elver-1	Hermit-1	Nemo-1	Argonauta-1	Madfish-1
Water Depth (m LAT)	550	700	290	580	450	600
TSS*	Inside	Outside	Inside	Inside	Inside	Inside

* TSS – Traffic Separation Schemes

Environmental Management

Additional information to the Generic Environment Plan (EP) for Apache's Site Survey Activities on the specific environmental issues associated with the analogue site surveys are described in detail in the Bridging Document.

A summary of the environmental guidelines and commitments for the analogue site survey is outlined in **Table 2** and **Table 3**.

Table 2: Apache Environmental Guidelines and Environmental Commitments for July 2008 Analogue Site Survey

Activity	Requirement
Deck drainage, chemical storage and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain good housekeeping practices. • Store chemicals in banded areas away from open drains and chemical containers are to be intact. • Use drip trays under all machinery and fuel points and valves. • In the event of a spill, take all actions to control the spill and divert deck drainage to on board containment tanks for treatment through the oil in water separator. • Ensure absorbent material is on board to use in soaking up chemical or oil spills on deck. • Maintain oil water separators regularly to ensure 15 ppm oil concentration alarm is functional. • Report all releases of oil in water of > 15mg/l to Apache Perth office. • Report all spills > 80 L to DPI within 2 hours by contacting the DPI Safety & Environment Manager on 0418 528 420 and the Apache Perth office. • Report all spills < 80 L through Apache incident reporting system.
Liquid Discharges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under routine operating conditions, discharge treated sewage, grey water and main deck drainage at sea level.
Incident Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Apache incident reporting system to report incidents within 2 hours (PSLA Sub-regulation 26).

Activity	Requirement
Spillage of diesel fuel or oil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow Apache refuelling procedures (AE-91-IQ-098). • Carry out diesel refuelling during daylight hours only, weather permitting. • In event of a spill take all actions to control it. • Do not use dispersant without AMSA approval. • Report all spills >80L to DPI within 2 hours either directly by contacting the DPI Safety & Environment Manager on 0418 528 420 or via Apache Perth office. • Report all spills <80L through the Apache incident reporting system. • Implement Apache's Gippsland Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP) if required.
Discharge of combustion products from engines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include inspections and tuning of engines and equipment on a regular maintenance schedule.
Solid waste management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food scraps • Garbage • Litter • Scrap metal and wood etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food scraps can be macerated and disposed overboard (vessel is 51 nm / 95 km from nearest land). (MARPOL 1973/78 requirement) • Do not dispose of debris, garbage or litter into the sea (skips need covers to prevent wind blown rubbish – especially plastics and cups). • Segregate industrial waste (scrap metals / drums etc) wherever possible for appropriate disposal onshore. • Do not use polystyrene cups. • Reduce, reuse and recycle waste wherever practicable. • Record the volume and type of waste taken off vessel and forward to the Apache Environmental Department at the end of the survey.
Sewage discharge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat sewage to secondary level prior to discharge in line with MARPOL 1973/78 requirements. • Maintain the sewage treatment plant in order to ensure effective treatment.
Operational Environmental Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through inductions and educational material present on the vessel, all personnel are familiar with the environmental requirements of the EP to ensure these guidelines and procedures are being followed. • Ensure all personnel sign off on the vessel register book confirming their induction.
Side Scan Sonar (SSS) and Sub-bottom Profiling (SP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement DEWHA's EPBC Act Policy Statement 2.1 - Interaction between offshore seismic exploration and whales • APPEA's whale and dolphin interactive CD to be available on the vessel
Large Animal Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill in whale and dolphin observation data sheet and forward to the Apache Environmental Department at the completion of the survey program (Appendix in Generic EP).

Table 3: Perth Office Commitments

Activity	Requirement
Prior to SSS and SP survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic Site Survey Activities EP (2008-2013) is available to all personnel involved in survey program. Environmental induction is carried out for all personnel involved in the survey programme. Inform all stakeholders of proposed survey.
Environmental Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit survey vessel at least once whilst under contract to Apache. Review electronic waste and chemical log received from vessel at the completion of the survey program.

Consultation

Apache will continue with its consultation process to ensure all commercial fishing operators are reminded of the pending program of work. Apache is working with a Victorian based fishing liaison representative to implement this process.

Other notifications, in the form of emails will be sent to the fishing groups listed in the attached **Table 4**, which, whilst it overlaps the groups represented by LEFCOL, will ensure the fishing associations are well informed of the proposed survey programme. The process of notifications and the invitation to meet and discuss any aspects of the survey programme, will be an ongoing process.

Daily reports from the survey will be forwarded to the Apache representative as well as any nominated DPI officer.

Table 4: Organisations which will be informed and consulted in relation to the proposed survey

Stakeholder	Contact
LEFCOL	Dale Sumner – General Manager
Commonwealth Fisheries Association	Michelle Wilson – Liaison Officer
Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Bronwen Jones – Environment Officer
Seafood Industries Victoria	Ross McGowan – Executive Director
Victoria Scallop Industry Association	Steve Melissakis - President
South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association	Gail Richey – Executive Officer
South East (Non-Trawl) Fishing Industry Association	Charles Farquhar – Executive Director

Stakeholder	Contact
Department of Defence	Mark Bolger – Hydrographic office
DPI	Kourosh Mehin (Kousosh.Mehin@dpi.vic.gov.au) Cynthia Crowe (Cynthia.Crowe@dpi.vic.gov.au)

Further Details

For further information about the analogue survey Bridging Document to the Generic Site Survey Activities Environment Plan, please contact:

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