



Marine Notice No. 38 of 2021

*Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishers,
Yachtsmen and Seafarers*

Pre-lay anchoring activities at the Seven Heads Gasfield – South Coast of Ireland

1. Notice of Activity

The Department of Transport has been informed that the Kinsale Energy Limited Subsea Wells Abandonment Campaign, which commenced mid-April 2021 and is expected to run through to November 2021 (see Marine Notices [No. 12 of 2021](#) and [No. 25 of 2021](#)), is continuing in June and July 2021.

2. Details of Activity

The Stena Spey Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) is performing the campaign off the South Coast of Ireland with the rig to be positioned at various locations as outlined below.

There will be three areas of operation:

- Southwest Kinsale Gasfield (including Greensand location) – current location
- Seven Heads Gasfield
- Ballycotton Gasfield

The Stena Spey is currently operating at the Southwest Kinsale Gasfield and will re-locate to the Seven Heads Gasfield area which consists of five (5) wells (48/24-5A, 48/24-6, 48/24-7A, 48/24-8 and 48/24-9) in early July.

This Marine Notice relates to pre-lay anchoring activities at the Seven Heads 48/24-7A location, which will occur prior to the rig relocating to the area.

In advance of the Stena Spey arriving at the Seven Heads location in July 2021, the intent will be to pre-lay the eight (8) anchor mooring spreads at the first location (Seven Heads C – Well 48/24-7A), with these operations expected to happen from early June 2021 (**current window is 10-13 June 2021**), using the Maersk Anchor Handling Vessels outlined below. A total of 600m of anchor chain will be pre-laid at each of the anchor lines with a 600ft laydown pennant to aid recovery and connection to the rig anchor chain on arrival of the Stena Spey.

On arrival at the Seven Heads field, the Stena Spey will pick up the pre-laid anchor spread at the 48/24-7A well location and the mooring spread from the South West Kinsale Wells 4/5 location will be placed on the second of the Seven Heads wells (48/24-8).

This process will continue with a mooring spread to be positioned on the next location after every rig move operation at Seven Heads, before moving to the Kinsale Energy Limited operated Ballycotton well (48/20-2).

For information, a further Marine Notice will be prepared and issued in advance of the Stena Spey re-positioning to the Seven Heads location later in 2021.

3. Details of Vessels

The “Stena Spey” semi-submersible drilling rig (Call Sign **GCWP**) will be positioned using eight pre-laid anchors deployed by the attending anchor handling vessels.

The anchor handling vessels that will accompany the Stena Spey throughout the entire campaign are the MV “Maersk Maker” (Call Sign **OZGO2**), and the MV “Maersk Mariner” (Call Sign **OWGQ2**).

In addition to the term charter Anchor Handling Vessels, once the Stena Spey is moored at the Seven Heads location a third term charter Anchor Handling Vessel will be chartered and this will stay with the rig until such time that the rig departs for the UK at the end of the campaign.

The rig will also retain its permanent Standby Vessel, MV “VOS Pathfinder” (Call Sign **2AL07**) that will be in the field throughout all operations.

All vessels will be listening on VHF CH. 16 throughout the operation.

4. Location Details

The Stena Spey (Call Sign **GCWP**) will be positioned at the Seven Heads 48/24-7A well location, as set out below.

| RIG POSITION AT SEVEN HEADS (48/24-7A). | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | | | Location Details (WGS 84) | |
| Rig Name | Pivot point | Heading (True) | Latitude | Longitude |
| Stena Spey | Centre Rig | 270.1° (269.6° G) | 51° 11' 43.268" North | 08° 20' 07.377" West |

Anchor Positions will be approximate as set out in the below tables.

Anchor Positions at Seven Heads (48/24-7a)

| Anchor | Bearing (True) | Anchor Chain Length | Latitude | Longitude |
|--------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 110.5° | 1,300m (4,265ft) | 51° 11' 58.991" N | 08° 21' 12.106" W |
| 2 | 157.5° | 1,300m (4,265ft) | 51° 12' 23.127" N | 08° 20' 34.870" W |
| 3 | 202.5° | 1,300m (4,265ft) | 51° 12' 23.144" N | 08° 19' 40.914" W |
| 4 | 247.5° | 1,300m (4,265ft) | 51° 12' 00.338" N | 08° 19' 04.559" W |
| 5 | 303.5° | 1,300m (4,265ft) | 51° 11' 19.131" N | 08° 19' 10.577" W |
| 6 | 337.5° | 1,300m (4,265ft) | 51° 11' 03.476" N | 08° 19' 40.888" W |
| 7 | 022.5° | 1,300m (4,265ft) | 51° 11' 03.492" N | 08° 20' 34.869" W |
| 8 | 067.5° | 1,300m (4,265ft) | 51° 11' 26.258" N | 08° 21' 11.225" W |

All co-ordinates are referenced to WGS84 and water depth at these locations is c. 103m (339ft).

Further location information is available in Appendix 1.

All vessels, particularly those engaged in fishing, are requested to give the rig (and pre-laid anchor patterns) a wide berth and to keep a sharp lookout in the relevant areas.

All mariners are reminded of their responsibilities under the International Collision Regulations and are reminded of [Marine Notice No. 17 of 2007](#), which gives general advice in relation to the activities of vessels engaged in survey work for hydrographic, seismic, fishing research and underwater operations.

The International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) are implemented in Irish law by the *Merchant Shipping (Collision Regulations) (Ships and Water Craft on the Water) Order 2012* [S.I. No. 507 of 2012], and the *Signals of Distress (Ships) Rules 2012* [S.I. No.170 of 2012]. [See Marine Notice No. 06 of 2013.](#) These Statutory Instruments may be purchased by mail order from Government Publications, Office of Public Works, 52 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 6476834/1890-213434. They are also available online at: www.irishstatutebook.ie.

Note: Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

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09/06/2021

Encl: Appendix 1: Location of Activity

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie
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Appendix 1: Location of Activity

