



An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications

# Petroleum and Exploration Development in Ireland

Report by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and  
Communications for the six months ended 31 December  
2023, in accordance with Section 57 of the *Petroleum  
and Other Minerals Development, Act 1960*.

Prepared by the Geoscience Regulation Office

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

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# **PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN IRELAND**

**Report Covering Period  
1 July 2023 – 31 December 2023**

Report by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications for the six months ended 31 December 2023, in accordance with Section 57 of the *Petroleum and Other Minerals Development Act, 1960*, and the said Section 57 as applied by the *Continental Shelf Act, 1968*.

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**Note:** Block numbers refer to blocks in the Williams Grid.

# **INTRODUCTION**

## **This Report sets out:**

- the particulars of all Authorisations granted by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications that were current during the reporting period,
- the amount of money relating to petroleum exploration and development collected by the Minister during the reporting period, and
- other information relating to petroleum exploration and development in Ireland.

# PART ONE

## PETROLEUM AUTHORISATIONS

### PETROLEUM LEASES

A **Petroleum Lease** vests in the Lessee the exclusive right to produce petroleum from the leased areas.

Lease	Commencement Date	Block Numbers (p) = part block	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Participants (* = Operator)	% Interest
<b><u>Offshore Petroleum Lease No. 1: Kinsale/Ballycotton</u></b>	7 May 1970	48/20, 48/25, 49/16 & 49/21	1033.91	*PSE Kinsale Energy Limited	100%
<b><u>Corrib Petroleum Lease</u></b>	15 November 2001	18/20(p) & 18/25(p)	29.6694	*Vermilion Exploration and Production Ireland Limited Nephin Energy Limited Vermilion Energy Corrib Ireland Limited Vermilion Energy Ireland Limited	1.5% 43.5% 36.5% 18.5%

(p) part block      \* operator

The Seven Heads Petroleum Lease expired on 12 November 2022. Remaining decommissioning operations under the Seven Heads Petroleum Lease carried out under surviving clauses of the Lease.

## Lease Undertakings

A **Lease Undertaking** gives the Holder the right to a Petroleum Lease over that part of the area covered by the Undertaking.

Undertaking	Licence Period	Block No. (p) = part block	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Participants (* = Operator)	% Interest
<b><u>Dunmore Lease Undertaking</u></b>	1 March 2016 – 28 February 2018 (extension application under consideration)	50/6(p) & 50/7(p)	15.1778	*Barryroe Offshore Energy PLC Atlantic Petroleum (Ireland) Limited Sosina Exploration Limited Marginal Field Development Co	65.25% 16.50% 8.25% 10%
<b><u>Helvick Lease Undertaking</u></b>	1 March 2016 – 28 February 2018 (extension application under consideration)	49/9(p)	4.6317	*Barryroe Offshore Energy PLC Atlantic Petroleum (Ireland) Limited Sosina Exploration Limited Lansdowne Oil and Gas Limited Marginal Field Development Co	56.25% 16.50% 8.25% 9% 10%
<b><u>Old Head of Kinsale Lease Undertaking</u></b>	1 March 2019 - 28 Feb 2022 (extension application under consideration)	49/17, 49/22 & 49/23	40.1434	*Island Expro Limited Company St Stephen's Gas Limited St. Stephen's Energy Limited	65% 20% 15%
<b><u>Schull Lease Undertaking</u></b>	1 March 2019 - 28 Feb 2022 (extension application under consideration)	57/1 & 57/2	23.9184	*Island Expro Limited Company St Stephen's Gas Limited St. Stephen's Energy Limited	62.5% 25% 12.5%

(p) part block

\* operator

## OFFSHORE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION LICENCES

A **Petroleum Exploration Licence** vests in the Holder the exclusive right of carrying out exploration for petroleum in a specific licensed offshore area.

**Eight** offshore Petroleum Exploration Licences were current during the reporting period. **Four** of these Licences were subject to the 1992 '*Licensing Terms for Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration and Development*'. **Four** Licences were subject to the 2007 '*Licensing Terms for Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production and Development*'.

A **Standard Exploration Licence** is issued for a period of six years in respect of an area with water depths of up to 200 metres and is subject to an annual rental fee for the first three years of €182 per km<sup>2</sup>, increasing to €365 per km<sup>2</sup> thereafter.

A **Deepwater Exploration Licence** is issued for a period of nine years in respect of areas in which the water depth exceeds 200 metres and is subject to an annual rental fee for the first three years of €91 per km<sup>2</sup>, increasing to €182 per km<sup>2</sup> for years 4 to 6 and €365 per km<sup>2</sup> for the remainder of the licence. There are no extant Deepwater Exploration Licences during the period.

A **Frontier Exploration Licence** may be issued in respect of an area with special difficulties related to physical environment, geology or technology – where such an area is specified and announced by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications as a 'Frontier Area'. This Licence type is valid for a period of not less than twelve years and is comprised of a maximum of four phases. Annual rental during the first phase is €29 per km<sup>2</sup>, €60 per km<sup>2</sup> during the second phase and €121 per km<sup>2</sup> for the remainder of the licence.

The 1992 & 2007 Terms also provide for an application fee of €9,122 in each case.

Licence	Licence Period	Block No. (p = part block)	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Participants (* = Operator)	% Interest
<b>3/05</b> Frontier	1 July 2005 – 30 June 2022 (extension application under consideration)	18/10, 19/1 & 19/6	715.8703	*Island Rockall JV Limited Island Oil & Gas Limited	50% 50%
<b>4/06</b> Frontier	1 December 2006 – 30 November 2022 (extension application under consideration)	27/17 (p), 27/18, 27/22 (p) & 27/23	741.4741	*Island Oil and Gas Limited	100%
<b>1/07</b> Standard	1 February 2007 – 30 June 2014 (extension under consideration)	41/25 (p), 42/21 (p), 41/30 (p), 42/26 (p), 50/5 (p) & 51/1 (p)	302.2209	*Barryroe Offshore Energy Plc	100%
<b>2/07</b> Standard	1 February 2007 – 31 January 2013 (Lease Undertaking application under consideration)	50/11 (p)	65.3437	*Barryroe Offshore Energy Plc Atlantic Petroleum (Ireland) Limited Sosina Exploration Limited	72.50% 18.33% 9.17%

Licence	Licence Period	Block No. (p) =part block	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Participants (* = Operator)	% Interest
<b>5/13</b> Frontier	13 December 2013 – 12 December 2028	35/25(p), 35/30, 36/21(p), 36/26(p), 44/5(p) and 45/1(p)	712.3241	*Woodside Energy (Ireland) Pty Limited	100%
<b>**1/19</b> Frontier	1 February 2019 – 31 January 2034	44/14(p), 44/15(p), 44/19, 44/20, 44/25, 45/21 and 45/26	1498.4821	*AzEire Limited	100%
<b>2/19</b> Frontier	1 February 2019 – 31 January 2034	44/2(p), 44/3(p), 44/7(p), 44/8(p), 44/11(p), 44/12, 44/13(p), 44/16(p) and 44/17	1323.5121	*Sosina Exploration Ltd	100%
<b>4/19</b> Frontier	1 August 2019 – 31 July 2034	18/14, 18/15, 18/19 and 18/20 (p)	945.0947	*Europa Oil and Gas (Inishkea) Limited	100%

(p) part block      \* operator

\*\*FEL 1/19 was relinquished with effect as of and from 31 January 2021



## LICENSING OPTIONS

A **Licensing Option** gives the Holder the first right to an Exploration Licence over all or part of the area covered by the Option.

Option No	Option Period	Block Nos. ((p) = part block)	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Participants (* = Operator)	% Interest
<b><u>16/26</u></b> Offshore	1 July 2016 – 30 June 2018 (follow-on authorisation application under consideration)	18/24(p), 18/25(p), 18/29(p) and 18/30(p)	302.4861	*Predator Oil and Gas Ventures Limited Theseus Limited	50%  50%
<b><u>16/30</u></b> Offshore	1 December 2016 - 30 November 2019 (follow-on authorisation application under consideration)	49/13(p), 49/14(p), 49/15(p), 49/18(p), 49/19, 49/20 and 49/23(p)	799.4052	*Predator Oil and Gas Ventures Limited Theseus Limited	50%  50%

(p) part block

\* operator

## PETROLEUM PROSPECTING LICENCES

A **Petroleum Prospecting Licence** is non-exclusive and confers on the Licensee the right to search for petroleum in any area where an Exploration Licence, Reserved Area Licence or Petroleum Lease is not in force.

There are no extant Petroleum Prospecting Licences.

## **PART TWO**

### **MONEYS RECEIVED**

During the six months ended 31 December 2023 the total amount of all moneys collected by the Minister either by way of rentals under or by virtue of any lease, licence or permit, sale of data, gas storage and application fees was **€84,565.50**. Details are as follows:

<b>Rentals</b>	<b>Application fees</b>	<b>Assignments of interest</b>	<b>Sale of Data</b>	<b>Gas storage</b>	<b>Total</b>
€84,565.50	€0	€0	€0	€0	€84,565.50

**PART THREE**  
**OTHER INFORMATION**

**EXPLORATION/APPRAISAL WELLS drilled during the 6 months to 31  
December 2023**

There were no exploration or appraisal wells spudded during the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023.

**SEISMIC SURVEYS carried out or commenced in the 6 months to 31  
December 2023**

There were no seismic surveys offshore Ireland during the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023.

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