



**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 2021, 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

[www.gov.ie/decc](http://www.gov.ie/decc)

# **PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN IRELAND**

**Report Covering Period  
1 July 2021 – 31 December 2021**

Report by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications for the six months ended 31 December 2021, 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*.

# **CONTENTS**

|   | <b>Page(s)</b> |
|---|----------------|
| <b>INTRODUCTION</b>                           | <b>3</b>       |
| <br>  |                |
| <b>PART ONE      PETROLEUM AUTHORISATIONS</b> |                |
| <br>  |                |
| 1. Petroleum Leases                           | <b>4</b>       |
| <br>  |                |
| 2. Lease Undertakings                         | <b>5</b>       |
| <br>  |                |
| 3. Offshore Petroleum Exploration Licences    | <b>6</b>       |
| <br>  |                |
| 4. Licensing Options                          | <b>8</b>       |
| <br>  |                |
| 5. Petroleum Prospecting Licences             | <b>9</b>       |
| <br>  |                |
| <b>PART TWO      MONEYS RECEIVED</b>          | <b>10</b>      |
| <br>  |                |
| <b>PART THREE    OTHER INFORMATION</b>        | <b>11</b>      |

**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<br><small>((p) = part block)</small> | Area (km <sup>2</sup> ) | Participants<br>(* = 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<br>Nephin Energy Limited<br>Equinor Energy Ireland Limited<br>Vermilion Energy Ireland Limited | 1.5%<br>43.5%<br>36.5%<br>18.5% |
| <b><u>Seven Heads Petroleum Lease</u></b>                         | 13 November 2002  | 48/23 (p), 48/24 (p) & 48/29 (p)                   | 87.02                   | *PSE Seven Heads Limited<br>Island (Seven Heads) Limited  | 87.5%<br>12.5%                  |

(p) part block      \* operator

## 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.<br>(p) =part block | Area<br>(km <sup>2</sup> ) | Participants<br>(* = Operator)  | %<br>Interest                          |
|---|--|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| <b><u>Dunmore Lease Undertaking</u></b>             | 1 March 2016 – 28 February 2018<br>(extension under consideration) | 50/6(p) & 50/7(p)            | 15.1778                    | *Providence Resources PLC<br>Atlantic Petroleum (Ireland) Limited<br>Sosina Exploration Limited<br>Marginal Field Development Co                                  | 65.25%<br>16.50%<br>8.25%<br>10%       |
| <b><u>Helvick Lease Undertaking</u></b>             | 1 March 2016 – 28 February 2018<br>(extension under consideration) | 49/9(p)                      | 4.6317                     | *Providence Resources PLC<br>Atlantic Petroleum (Ireland) Limited<br>Sosina Exploration Limited<br>Lansdowne Oil and Gas Limited<br>Marginal Field Development Co | 56.25%<br>16.50%<br>8.25%<br>9%<br>10% |
| <b><u>Old Head of Kinsale Lease Undertaking</u></b> | 1 March 2019 - 28 Feb 2022   | 49/17, 49/22 & 49/23         | 40.1434                    | *Island Expro Limited Company<br>Valhalla Oil and Gas (Porcupine) Limited<br>St. Stephen's Energy Limited   | 65%<br>20%<br>15%                      |
| <b><u>Schull Lease Undertaking</u></b>              | 1 March 2019 - 28 Feb 2022   | 57/1 & 57/2                  | 23.9184                    | *Island Expro Limited Company<br>Valhalla Oil and Gas (Porcupine) Limited<br>St. Stephen's Energy Limited   | 62.5%<br>25%<br>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.

**Sixteen** offshore Petroleum Exploration Licences were current during the reporting period. **Five** of these Licences were subject to the 1992 '*Licensing Terms for Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration and Development*'. **Eleven** 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.<br>(p) = part block   | Area<br>(km <sup>2</sup> ) | Participants<br>(* = Operator)  | %<br>Interest                |
|-------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <b>3/04</b><br>Frontier | 15 November 2004<br>– 14 November<br>2025   | 44/18, 44/23, 44/24,<br>44/29, & 44/30                                | 1,295.6387                 | *Eni Ireland BV<br>Providence Resources Plc<br>Sosina Exploration Limited                       | 36.913%<br>57.353%<br>5.734% |
| <b>3/05</b><br>Frontier | 1 July 2005 – 30<br>June 2022   | 18/10, 19/1 & 19/6  | 715.8703                   | *Island Rockall JV Limited<br>Island Oil & Gas Limited  | 50%<br>50%                   |
| <b>4/06</b><br>Frontier | 1 December 2006 –<br>30 November 2022   | 27/17 (p), 27/18,<br>27/22 (p) & 27/23                                | 741.4741                   | *Island Oil and Gas Limited<br>Lundin Exploration BV  | 50%<br>50%                   |
| <b>1/07</b><br>Standard | 1 February 2007 –<br>30 June 2014<br>(extension under<br>consideration)               | 41/25 (p), 42/21 (p),<br>41/30 (p), 42/26 (p),<br>50/5 (p) & 51/1 (p) | 302.2209                   | Providence Resources Plc.   | 100%                         |
| <b>2/07</b><br>Standard | 1 February 2007 –<br>31 January 2013<br>(Lease Undertaking<br>under<br>consideration) | 50/11 (p)   | 65.3437                    | *Providence Resources Plc<br>Atlantic Petroleum (Ireland) Limited<br>Sosina Exploration Limited | 72.50%<br>18.33%<br>9.17%    |

| Licence                   | Licence Period  | Block No.<br>(p) = part block   | Area<br>(km <sup>2</sup> ) | Participants<br>(* = Operator)                      | %<br>Interest |
|---------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|---|---------------|
| <u>1/11</u><br>Standard   | 14 July 2011 –<br>13 July 2021 (Lease<br>Undertaking<br>application under<br>consideration) | 48/22(p),<br>48/23(p), 48/24(p),<br>48/27(p), 48/28(p),<br>48/29(p) & 48/30(p)                | 613.9969                   | *Exola DAC<br>Lansdowne Celtic Sea Limited          | 80%<br>20%    |
| <u>**1/13</u><br>Frontier | 5 July 2013 –<br>4 July 2030  | 44/4(p), 44/5(p),<br>44/9(p), 44/10,<br>44/14(p), 44/15(p)                                    | 1051.7511                  | Antrim Exploration (Ireland) Limited                | 100%          |
| <u>**2/13</u><br>Frontier | 5 July 2013 –<br>4 July 2028  | 43/9, 43/10(p),<br>43/14 & 43/15(p).  | 768.0209                   | Europa Oil and Gas (Ireland West)<br>Limited        | 100%          |
| <u>**3/13</u><br>Frontier | 5 July 2013 –<br>4 July 2028  | 54/1(p), 54/2,<br>54/6(p) & 54/7.   | 781.968                    | Europa Oil and Gas (Ireland East)<br>Limited        | 100%          |
| <u>5/13</u><br>Frontier   | 13 December 2013<br>– 12 December<br>2028   | 35/25(p), 35/30,<br>36/21(p), 36/26(p),<br>44/5(p) and 45/1(p)                                | 712.3241                   | Woodside Energy (Ireland) Pty<br>Limited            | 100%          |
| <u>1/17</u><br>Frontier   | 1 July 2017 – 30<br>June 2032   | 54/3 and 54/8   | 522.5155                   | Europa Oil & Gas (Ireland East) Ltd                 | 100%          |
| <u>12/18</u><br>Frontier  | 1 August 2018 – 31<br>July 2033   | 53/29(p), 53/30(p),<br>54/21, 54/22, 54/26,<br>54/27 & 61/5(p)                                | 1405.276                   | Eni Ireland BV                                      | 100%          |
| <u>1/19</u><br>Frontier   | 1 February 2019 –<br>31 January 2034  | 44/14(p), 44/15(p),<br>44/19, 44/20, 44/25,<br>45/21 and 45/26                                | 1498.4821                  | AzEire Limited                                      | 100%          |
| <u>2/19</u><br>Frontier   | 1 February 2019 –<br>31 January 2034  | 44/2(p), 44/3(p),<br>44/7(p), 44/8(p),<br>44/11(p), 44/12,<br>44/13(p), 44/16(p)<br>and 44/17 | 1323.5121                  | *Providence Resources Plc<br>Sosina Exploration Ltd | 80%<br>20%    |
| <u>3/19</u><br>Frontier   | 1 July 2019 –<br>30 June 2034   | 19/7, 19/8(p),<br>19/11(p), 19/12(p),<br>19/16(p) and 19/17                                   | 959.7287                   | *DNO North Sea (U.K.) Limited                       | 100%          |
| <u>4/19</u><br>Frontier   | 1 August 2019 – 31<br>July 2034   | 18/14, 18/15, 18/19<br>and 18/20 (p)  | 945.0947                   | Europa Oil and Gas (Inishkea)<br>Limited            | 100%          |

(p) part block \* operator

\*\*FEL1/13 was relinquished with effect from 04 Jul 2020

\*\*FEL2/13 was relinquished with effect from 04 Jul 2020

\*\*FEL3/13 was relinquished with effect from 04 Jul 2019

FEL3/08 expired on 30 June 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.<br>(p) = part block   | Area<br>(km <sup>2</sup> ) | Participants<br>(* = Operator)                               | %<br>Interest  |
|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|--|----------------|
| <b>16/26</b><br>Offshore | 1 July 2016 –<br>30 June 2018 follow-<br>on authorisation<br>application under<br>consideration)           | 18/24(p), 18/25(p),<br>18/29(p) and<br>18/30(p)                            | 302.4861                   | *Predator Oil and Gas Ventures<br>Limited<br>Theseus Limited | 50%<br><br>50% |
| <b>16/30</b><br>Offshore | 1 December 2016 -<br>30 November 2019<br>follow-on<br>authorisation<br>application under<br>consideration) | 49/13(p), 49/14(p),<br>49/15(p), 49/18(p),<br>49/19, 49/20 and<br>49/23(p) | 799.4052                   | *Predator Oil and Gas Ventures<br>Limited<br>Theseus Limited | 50%<br><br>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.

| Licence No. | No. of Years | Licence From  | Licensee                      |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1/19        | 3            | 23 April 2019 | Providence Resources Plc      |
| 1/20        | 2            | 1 March 2020  | Woodside Energy (Ireland) Pty |

## **PART TWO** **MONEYS RECEIVED**

During the six months ended 31 December 2021 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 **€27,407**. 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> |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| €27,407        | €0                      | €0                             | €0                  | €0                 | €27,407      |

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

**EXPLORATION/APPRAISAL WELLS drilled during the 6 months to 31  
December 2021**

There were no exploration or appraisal wells spudded during the period 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021

**SEISMIC SURVEYS carried out or commenced in the 6 months to 31  
December 2021**

There were no seismic surveys offshore Ireland during the period 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021.

Geoscience Regulation Office,  
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

29-31 Adelaide Road  
Dublin  
D02 X285  
Ireland

Tel: + 353-1-6782000  
Email: [GSRO@decc.gov.ie](mailto:GSRO@decc.gov.ie)

[www.gov.ie/decc](http://www.gov.ie/decc)