



**International Offshore Petroleum
Environmental Regulators**

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Annual General Meeting

14-15 September 2026 | Aberdeen, Scotland

Communiqué

The International Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulators (IOPER) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 14-15 September 2026, hosted by the United Kingdom's Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED). The AGM was attended by regulators from Australia, Canada, Ireland, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States, with observer participation from the Falkland Islands and Cyprus.

The AGM reaffirmed the importance of international collaboration as regulators respond to common challenges associated with decommissioning, ageing infrastructure, carbon capture and storage, emerging technologies, stakeholder expectations and the energy transition. Members shared regulatory updates, considered developments across the offshore energy sector, and exchanged lessons learned on a range of environmental management issues, including offshore survey activities and the management of nesting birds on offshore installations. Members recognised the continuing value of IOPER as a forum for sharing experience, promoting collaboration and identifying emerging issues relevant to offshore environmental regulation.

Country Updates

Members shared updates on developments within their respective jurisdictions, highlighting a range of common challenges and emerging priorities. Recurring themes included decommissioning and end-of-life liabilities, ageing infrastructure, environmental stewardship, energy transition activities, stakeholder expectations and regulatory capability. Members also welcomed participation from observer jurisdictions and agreed to facilitate information sharing and regulatory knowledge exchange through established IOPER collaboration channels.

Working Group Updates and Key Themes

Members considered updates from Working Groups and participated in a number of themed discussions. Members recognised the continued value of these forums for supporting collaboration, sharing lessons learned and addressing common regulatory challenges across jurisdictions.

- **Management of Ocean Noise by Multinational Energy Regulators (MONMER):** Members received an update on MONMER activities, noting its continued growth and role as the primary international forum for collaboration and information sharing on marine sound issues. Members agreed to move away from a Marine Sound Working Group and will maintain awareness of



International Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulators

developments through ongoing engagement with MONMER given the continued and growing importance of the topic for offshore petroleum and carbon storage activities.

- **Oil Spill Working Group (OSWG) / Environmental Response Network:** Members received an update on the Oil Spill Working Group and reaffirmed the importance of maintaining environmental response preparedness and sharing lessons learned. Members supported the transition of the group towards a broader environmental response network, recognising the value of continued collaboration on environmental incident response and recovery matters.
- **Offshore Renewables Roundtable:** Members participated in a roundtable discussion on offshore renewables, shared experiences from their respective jurisdictions and agreed to continue engaging as renewable energy technologies develop. Discussions highlighted differing levels of offshore renewable energy development while identifying common regulatory challenges relating to environmental assessment, marine spatial planning, stakeholder engagement, regulatory coordination and future workforce capability. Members noted the increasing relevance of these issues across the offshore energy sector and recognised the role of the Global Offshore Wind Regulators Forum for collaboration amongst regulators for the offshore wind sector specifically.
- **Community Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, Including First Nations Peoples:** Members discussed approaches to community consultation and engagement, including engagement with Indigenous and First Nations peoples. Discussions highlighted increasing stakeholder interest in offshore activities and the growing importance of transparency, meaningful engagement and maintaining public confidence in regulatory decision-making. Members exchanged experiences and recognised the value of effective consultation and communication as part of environmental regulation. Industry stakeholder perspectives were also explored with IOGP on decommissioning and EnerGeo on geophysical survey service sector perspectives.
- **Environmental Management of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS):** Members discussed the environmental management of carbon capture and storage and shared updates on the status of CCS activities within their jurisdictions. Members noted that while Norway has operational experience, most jurisdictions remain in the early stages of project development and regulatory framework implementation. The discussion highlighted the value of continued information sharing as regulatory approaches and industry activity evolve.
- **IOPER Decommissioning Working Group:** Members received an update from the IOPER Decommissioning Working Group and noted its continued value as a forum for sharing regulatory experience and lessons learned on decommissioning-related matters. Discussions over the reporting period covered topics including comparative assessments, post-decommissioning monitoring, waste management and long-term liabilities. Recognising the increasing significance of decommissioning across member jurisdictions, members agreed that the Working Group should continue and pursued more in-depth.



International Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulators

- **Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation:** Members received an update from NOPSEMA on the use of artificial intelligence to support regulatory activities and discussed emerging opportunities and challenges associated with AI. Discussions highlighted the rapid pace of technological development, potential applications within regulatory organisations, and the importance of appropriate governance and data security arrangements. Members recognised AI as an emerging area of interest and agreed on the value of continued information sharing.

Future Activities

Members agreed to establish an Emerging Trends Working Group to support discussion and information sharing on new and evolving issues relevant to offshore environmental regulation. The inaugural meeting will be held virtually on 20 January 2027, followed by the IOPER mid-year meeting on 14 April 2027. The location and date of the next AGM will be agreed at the January meeting.