

## Project Update | July 2021

ConocoPhillips Australia is planning to undertake a three-dimensional (3D) marine seismic survey (the Sequoia seismic survey) in Exploration Permit T/49P to enable assessment of the natural gas reservoirs in the eastern offshore Otway Basin. The permit is in waters west of Tasmania's King Island.

Since the last project update regarding the proposed Sequoia 3D marine seismic survey, ConocoPhillips Australia has continued to consult with relevant stakeholders and the Environment Plan remains under independent assessment with NOPSEMA.

### Improvements to environmental protection

As we get closer to the proposed start date of the Sequoia seismic survey, we can confirm further details of the improvements in environmental protection we have been able to make.

These improvements have been made by following our assessment processes, by continuing to listen to feedback from our stakeholders, and through the rigorous regulatory permitting process.

### Precaution applied to Giant Crab

DPIPWE lists giant crabs as a depleted stock in Tasmania. As such, precaution is required to ensure impacts from the Sequoia Survey remain within acceptable levels. In February we removed part of the giant crab fishing grounds from our survey. Based on further assessment and feedback, and given the lack of certainty about the effects of seismic sound on giant crabs, we have decided to increase the excise area out of an abundance of caution.

The excise area will now cover the entire giant crab fishing grounds and known giant crab habitat in deeper waters in the south west corner of the survey (see Figure 1).

In addition, we will seek to engage the University of Tasmania to undertake a literature review of the effects of seismic sound on giant crabs with a view to determining research priorities for seismic effects on this vulnerable species.

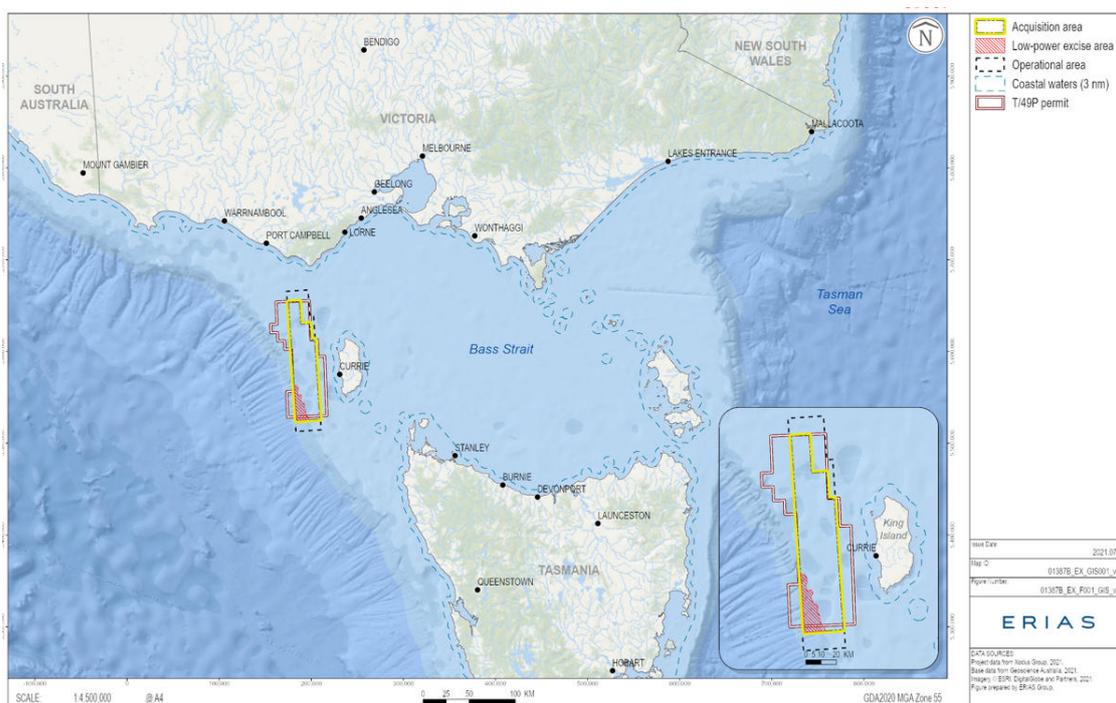


Figure 1 Proposed Sequoia 3DMSS survey area

## Survey design

We have optimised the design of the survey to reduce our acquisition time by clarifying the boundaries of our geophysical targets. We can also confirm there will be no acquisition in waters shallower than 70m.

## Commercial Fishing Adjustment Protocol

We are committed to the principle that a commercial fisher should not be economically impacted as a direct result of the Sequoia Survey. To achieve this objective, we have a practical, evidence-based process to provide reasonable monetary adjustment to a commercial fisher who experiences a reduction of catch, displacement of fishing activity or fishing gear loss or damage during the Sequoia Survey. Consultation has been conducted in good faith with key fishing associations in order to receive and include their feedback in the development of this Protocol. This Protocol will be finalised prior to the survey commencing.

## Southern Right Whale Monitoring Program

We are undertaking a comprehensive and coordinated land-based observing and aerial surveillance program to track endangered southern right whales in offshore waters and along the Victorian and Tasmanian coastlines. Regular flights are set to start in the week commencing 15 July, depending on weather. The Sequoia survey will be managed to ensure this species is protected.

## Timing

The survey acquisition is expected to commence between 10-15 August and will conclude by 31 October 2021. Our primary control has always been to acquire seismic between August and October as the time window that results in the least overall environmental impact. As we get closer to our planned start date, we can now confirm that the vessel may arrive in the region and commence preparatory work for the survey in early August.

## Ongoing consultation

Face to face visits are a preferred way for community and fisheries engagement, and we intend on visiting key regional ports and King Island before and during the survey to keep people up to date with progress of our activity, however recent COVID-19 outbreaks and border closures may restrict these visits.

## Contact Us

ConocoPhillips Australia seeks to understand different stakeholder opinions, interests and activities that may be relevant, or need to be taken into account when preparing the Environmental Plan for the Sequoia 3D seismic survey. You are invited to provide feedback, request a meeting and ask questions on the proposed Sequoia 3D seismic survey by contacting us in one of the following ways:

E [sequoia@conocophillips.com](mailto:sequoia@conocophillips.com) P 07 3182 7122 [www.conocophillips.com.au](http://www.conocophillips.com.au)