TRIPLE WIN: PIPELINE AND CABLE DECOMMISSIONING FOR SOCIETY
MASTS/SUT DECOMMISSIONING WORKSHOP

Peter Hayes
Offshore Energy Environmental Advice Group Leader
PIPESLINES

• UKCS ~ 30,000 km of pipeline
• Diameter: 2 to 44 inches
• Length: <0.1 km to >400 km
• Carbon steel, concrete coating, steel alloy, polymer, anti corrosion coating
• Installation methods:
  – Trenched
  – Trenched and buried
  – Surface laid
  – Surface laid and rock dumped
COMMERCIAL FISHING

• 2015 ~ 1.9 million km of UK demersal trawl tracks

• Gear type:
  – Demersal
    • Nephrops
    • Dredge

• Fishers interact with pipelines:
  – Deliberate targeting for trawling:
    • Reef effect
    • Safe trawling
  – Coincidental trawling
CHALLENGES

• Understand the scale of the interaction between fishing and pipelines
  – How have pipelines been installed
  – Insight into the significance of the problem
  – Industry collaboration

• Understanding the consequences of changes to the location of fishing grounds
CHALLENGES

• Understand the scale of the interaction between fishing and pipelines
  – How have pipelines been installed
  – Insight into the significance of the problem
  – Industry collaboration

• Understanding the consequences of changes to the location of fishing grounds
WHERE WE ARE TODAY

• The decommissioning of a legacy
  – Existing oil and gas pipelines
  – Large scale pipeline infrastructure
  – Case-by-case approach
  – Stepwise planning

• Expectation
  – Trenched and buried will remain in-situ
  – Surface laid pipelines will have to be removed where possible
  – Appropriate mitigation for pipelines that remain in-situ

• Consequences
  – Permanent legacy of surface infrastructure
  – Interaction with commercial fishing and the environment
  – High decommissioning costs
TRIPLE WIN APPROACH?

• The future of decommissioning
  – Renewables, telecommunication, power supplies, new oil and gas and carbon capture etc
  – Scale of pipeline infrastructure
  – Benefits from new data, technological advances, lessons learned, data management, standardisation of approaches
  – Regional assessment
  – Planning over the project life-cycle

• Expectation
  – All pipelines/cables to be installed by trenching and burial where possible
  – Surface laid pipelines/cables will have to be removed where possible
  – Appropriate mitigation for pipelines left in-situ

• Consequences
  – Reduced scale of long term legacy from surface infrastructure
  – Reduced short/long term interaction with commercial fishing and the environment
  – Reduced decommissioning costs

• Political climate and policy needs 20 to 30 years from now.
Thank you for listening

Questions