

Environmental and emergency response services

Oil and gas sector



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1 Braer off Shetland.
2 Oil platform.

Services

- Regulatory advice
- Oil & chemical spills
- Ecotoxicology
- Analytical chemistry
- EIAs
- Product assessment
- Habitat mapping
- Hazard and risk assessment
- Approval scheme design
- Decommissioning surveys

Wide ranging services

The oil and gas industry requires reliable environmental information on which to base management decisions. Regulators ensure that the industry operates compliantly. Cefas provides advice, research and a wide range of services, to both operators and regulators. We aim to contribute to a sustainable industry that takes due concern for environmental issues, safeguarding revenue and reputation.

Research

Quality research is a key component of our service. Our multi-disciplinary base allows us to research the long-term impacts of oil and gas operations. Our research identifies potential areas for concern, such as toxicological impact, reduced biodiversity and habitat loss. We advise on the actions that need to be taken, by government and industry, to maintain and improve the health of our seas.

Managing oil and chemical spills

Oil and chemical spills must be assessed swiftly to minimise harm to the marine environment. Our emergency response team provides advice on spill management options and their environmental impacts and benefits. Using our modelling capability, and oil fingerprint identification techniques, we continually develop a greater understanding of spill behaviour in the marine environment. Our advice and research aims to reduce environmental impacts on sensitive habitats, such as Marine Protected Areas and wetlands.

Product development and approval

We manage, on behalf of the UK Government, the approval scheme for chemicals used by the offshore oil industry. This scheme provides the rigorous assessment to ensure that all chemicals used by the industry meet regulatory requirements. Chemicals assessment and approval schemes can be tailored to meet specific sector or international requirements. We also advise on the national and international regulatory framework currently in place to enhance environmental protection.

The approval process involves hazard and risk assessments of products based on toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation potential. Our laboratory is fully equipped to test these parameters, under a wide range of environmental conditions using internationally recognised procedures.

We are also responsible for the development and conduct of statutory toxicity test procedures and associated advice required for the approval of products used to treat oil spills in the marine environment (e.g. dispersants, sorbents, surface cleaners etc).

Monitoring

We specialise in the design and implementation of marine and freshwater monitoring programmes. Applications include: offshore installation decommissioning surveys; long-term impact assessment; post spill environmental recovery or remediation effort assessment.

Contact us

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About us

Cefas is a multidisciplinary scientific research and consultancy centre providing a comprehensive range of services in fisheries management, environmental monitoring and assessment, and aquaculture to a large number of clients worldwide. We have more than 500 staff based in 3 laboratories, our own ocean-going research vessel, and over 100 years of fisheries experience. We have a long and successful track record in delivering high-quality services to clients in a confidential and impartial manner. (www.cefas.co.uk)

Cefas Technology Limited (CTL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cefas specialising in the application of Cefas technology to specific customer needs in a cost-effective and focussed manner. CTL systems are developed by teams that are experienced in fisheries and environmental management and in working closely with clients to ensure that their needs are fully met. (www.cefastechnology.co.uk)

Customer focus

With our unique facilities and breadth of expertise in environmental and fisheries management, we can rapidly put together a multi-disciplinary team of experienced specialists, fully supported by our comprehensive in-house resources.

Our existing customers are drawn from a broad spectrum with wide ranging interests. Clients include:

- international and UK government departments
- the European Commission
- the World Bank
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO)
- oil, water, chemical, pharmaceutical, agro-chemical, aggregate and marine industries
- non-governmental and environmental organisations
- regulators and enforcement agencies
- local authorities and other public bodies

We also work successfully in partnership with other organisations, operate in international consortia and have several joint ventures commercialising our intellectual property.



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4 *Crossaster papposus*.

5 Sea test tanks.