

LNG study shows vaporisation impact on marine life minimal

By **Upstream staff**

SEAWATER-based vaporisation of liquefied natural gas aboard offshore LNG receiving terminals has far less impact on surrounding marine life than previously estimated, writes Anthony Guegel.

A study commissioned by the Center for Liquefied Natural Gas (CLNG), an industry advocacy group, indicates the effects of open-loop vaporisation on fish populations have been overestimated by already conservative evaluations performed for previous environmental impact statements (EIS).

Conservationists and sport fishing groups have expressed fear that the pumping of voluminous amounts of seawater into vaporisers would suck in and destroy too many fish eggs, larvae and other species in the food chain.

However, studies performed to compile an EIS for several proposed offshore LNG facilities have previously concluded that the impact of such vaporisation systems is minor.

The CLNG study was performed by Exponent, a multi-disciplinary organisation of scientists, physicians, engineers and regulatory consultants.

CLNG, a coalition of LNG producers, shippers, terminal operators and developers, energy trade associations and natural gas consumers, commissioned Exponent to carry out its own evaluation.

According to Exponent, estimates of impacts were "significantly lowered" after adjusting the fish-equivalent methodology used in the EIS with a more scientifically appropriate approach consistent with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) approach for stock assessments.