

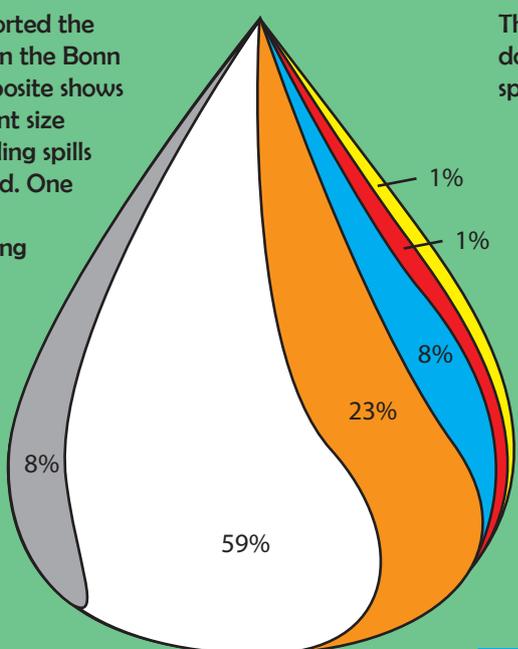
The nine countries bordering the North Sea work together within the Bonn Agreement to undertake aerial surveillance using specially equipped aircraft and specialised personnel to detect spills of oil and other harmful substances and enforce international environmental regulations.

Colour key - Spill volume



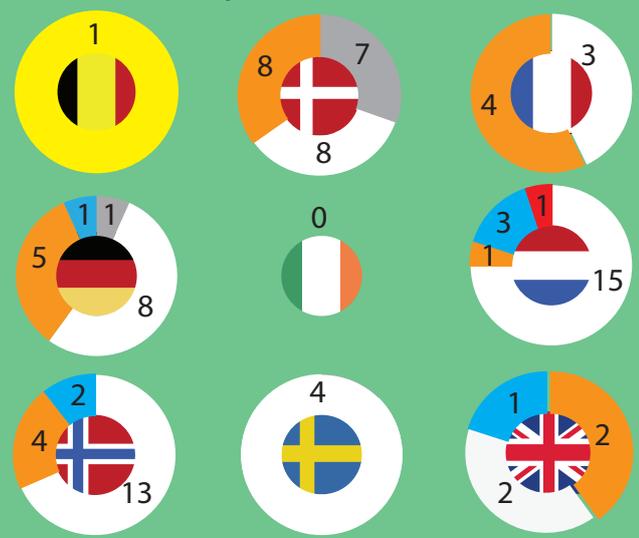
Percentage of spills per category

In 2015, Contracting Parties reported the estimated volumes for 80 slicks in the Bonn Agreement area. The figure opposite shows the slicks subdivided into different size categories by percentage, including spills where volume was not estimated. One spill over 100m³ was reported during 2015, with the largest being 436m³. The number of confirmed detections was 17% lower than in 2014. Most slicks were in a size category that did not warrant action to combat them, since they would evaporate, dissolve and disperse naturally.



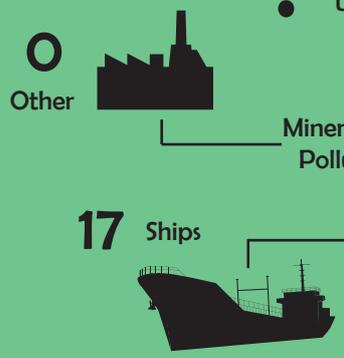
Spills per category by country

The number of observed spills per volume category, broken down per country, highlighting the relative proportion of the spills observed nationally.

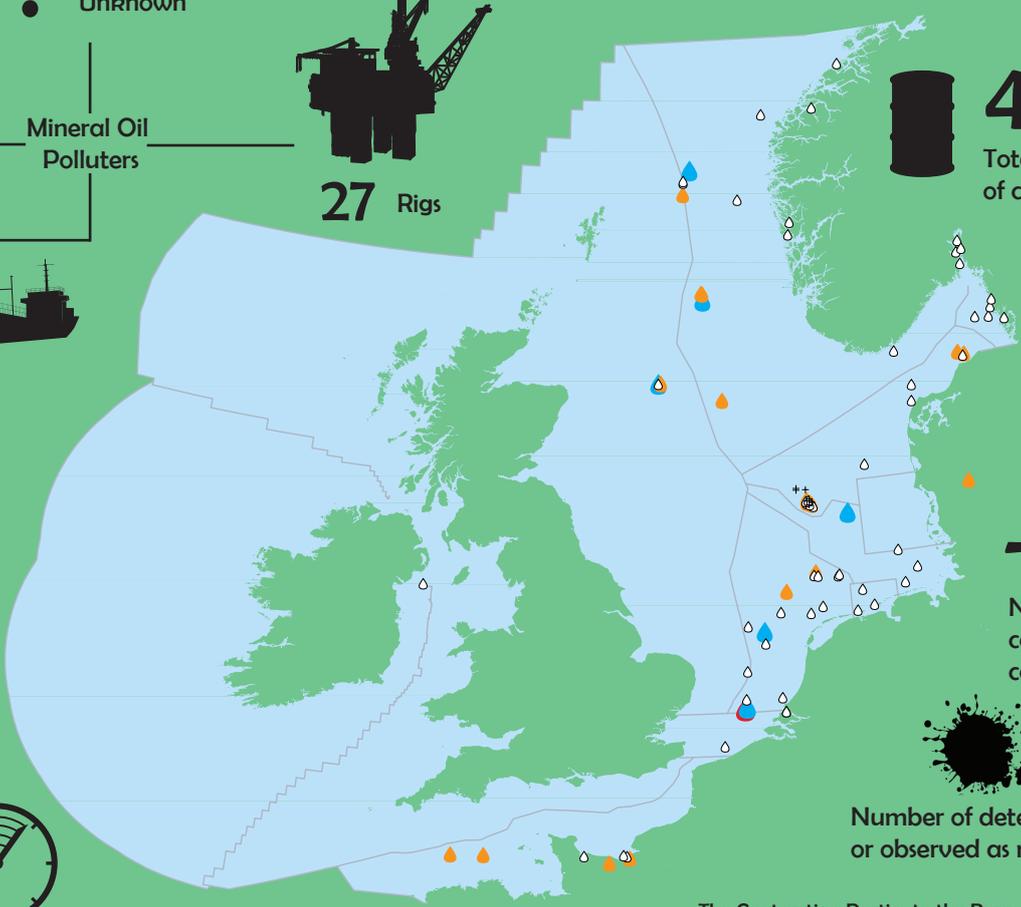


56
Number of "other substances" detected

44
Unknown



Location of spills



491m³
Total estimated volume of confirmed/observed spills

-19%
Number of flight hours compared to 2014

-20%
Number of detections confirmed as mineral oil compared to 2014

88
Number of detections confirmed or observed as mineral oil

147
Number of "unknown" substances detected

436m³
Largest reported oil spill

290
Total number of detections

The Contracting Parties to the Bonn Agreement consider the aerial surveillance data currently available to be too sparse and too diverse to allow for a reliable overall annual estimation of oil inputs in the entire Bonn Agreement area and that such estimates should be interpreted as indicative only.