

Environmental Risk Assessment

In the Oil and Gas Industry

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Oil and gas fields in production on the NCS

- First oil discovery: 1969
- First oil production: 1971
- Fields in production today:
 - 57 fields in the North Sea
 - 12 fields in the Norwegian Sea
 - 1 field in the Barents Sea
- Exploration activity:
 - 72 wells drilled in 2009, 46 in 2010, 54 in 2011
- Landbased activity
 - oil refineries
 - oil terminals/gas terminals
 - petroleum prosessing plants
- Supply bases, waste treatment facilities, decommissioning plants





Facts (2011)



- Approximately 50 reporting offshore units
- Different choices of development on the NCS:
 - 12 concrete gravity based platforms
 - 32 fields with steel installations
 - 9 production vessels
 - 6 semi-submersible platforms
 - 4 unmanned wellhead installations
 - a large and increasing number subsea installations
 - a number of drilling rigs
- 60 400 m water depth + one at 1100 m
- 45 320 km from the shore



The Norwegian regulatory authorities for the oil and gas activities





Klif organisation



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Section for the Oil and Gas Industry in Klif

16 employees

- Chemical engineeres
- Marine biologists
- Toxicity experts
- Chemists

Cooperation and assistance

- Internal:
 - offshore control, hazardous waste,
 - chemicals, climate, legal affairs, etc.
- External:
 - PSA, NPD, NCA etc.



Draugen photo: NCA



Main tasks and responsibilities

- Issue licences/permits
 - Offshore industry including oil spill preparedness and response requirements
 - Land based petroleum plants and terminals
 - Decommissioning plants
- Adviser for the MoE
- Give comments during opening processes and on EIAs
- International work
 - OSPAR, EU
 - Contact and coopetation with many countries
- Development of regulations and requirements
- Assist in preparing Integrated Management Plans for the marine resources and ecosystems
- Follow up and control the industry
 - enviromental monitoring , advisory services, follow up reports etc
- Provide information on environmental status to the public





Permits and requirements

Exploration drilling, production drilling, production, pipelines, storage of CO2

- Discharges to sea of oil, chemicals and cuttings
- Injection for pressure support and storage
- Emissions to air of CO2, NOx, nm VOC
- Oil Spill Preparedness





Pressures on the environment from oil and gas activities



Many pollution sources

Main pressures include:

 operational and accidental discharges of crude oil and produced water containing substances such as oil components, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, alkyl phenols, heavy metals

In addition concerns related to:

- atmospheric emissions,
- cutting piles
- low level naturally occuring radioactive materiale,
- placement of installations and pipelines on the seabed.



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Main environmental challenges related to oil and gas activies in Norway

- Long-term impact of discharges of oil components cannot be ruled out.
- National emissions of climate gases have to be reduced by 20% by 2020. Huge challenge to reduce emissions from the petroleum sector. Electrification and CCS may be necessary.
- Activities in the north and closer to the coast will be a challenge for the oil spill preparedness and response
- More chemicals needed in order to meet the goal of the petroleum authorities to exploit more of the existing field
- Water production increases as fields are older
- decommissioning a new business /landbased facilities





Basis for environmental risk assessment (ERA)

- Activity description:
 - Exploration drilling, or
 - Drilling of production wells, or
 - Production
- Risk assessment (RA), identification of:
 - Risk reducing measures
 - Expected acute pollution (oil spill) scenarios
 - described as release rate and duration



Main elements in ERA

- 1. For expected scenarios: Modelling of oil spill distribution on the sea surface and in the water column based on relevant data on
 - oil weathering
 - oceanic and coastal current data
- 2. Criteria for environmental damage
 - Vulnerability considerations connected to a.o. fish and seabirds affect how the criteria for damage is described
- 3. Modelling of possible damage to sensitive species in the affected area



Scenarios from the sea area off Lofoten islands



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Scenarios from the sea area off Lofoten islands

Scenario	Release	Release	Volume (t)
no	rate (t/d)	duration	
1	500	2 hours	42
2	35	14 days	490
3	1000	2 days	2000
4	4500	2 days	9000
5	8500	2 days	17000
6	4500	2 days	
	1000	13 days	29000
	200	35 days	
7	4500	14 days	63000
8	4500	50 days	225000
9	15000	4 days	60000



Oil spill distribution modelling results (DnV 2010)





Effect on Seabirds



Modelled seabird loss probability given as share of stock of different species at a 4500 tonn/d – 50 days oil spill (Source: DNV 2010).



Effect on Fish



Scenario 7 and 8, modelled possible loss of cod and herring year class reqruiting



Mass balance Nordland VI oil spill, no response





Evaporated Surface -Water column -Biodegradated -Recovered -On beach -Sediment -Outside grid (Source: SINTEF 2010)



Mass balance Nordland VI, oil spill collection



Evaporated Surface • Water column • Biodegradated • Recovered • On beach • Sediment • Outside grid • (Source: SINTEF 2010)



Possible oil spill recovery challenge



Source: SINTEF 2010



Results from ERA

- Modelling of oil spill transport and distribution both on the sea surface and in the water column is necessary
- It is possible to compare different sensitive areas based on ERA
- The same ERA method and basis criteria must be used in order to be able to compare areas
- ERA can identify valuable and vulnerable areas connected to possible oil spills
- The need for oil spill preparedness can be identified based on RA/ERA



Methodology: www.olf.no

Environmental Risk Assessment of Exploration Drilling in Nordland VI

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