Interspill abstract for Conference Stream on Future Risk/ Future Requirements

The competition for space in the Greater North Sea and its approaches continues to grow year on year. The area contains some of the busiest shipping lanes in the world and is also a major oil and gas production area. However, in recent years there have been new demands for space such as the huge increase in the planning and installation of offshore wind farms. International targets to increase the coverage of marine protected areas have also reduced potential for development in sensitive areas and emerging uses, such as other marine renewables, have the potential to use additional space.

Therefore in order to reduce the risk of spills and their impact on the environment the Bonn Agreement BE-AWARE I and II projects aim to identify the most effective future risk reduction and response measures. Firstly by identifying areas at increased risk of accidents and the potential for spills in those areas, both now and in 2020, and secondly by modelling the out flow of oil for 10 different risk reducing and response scenarios. The results will then be combined with an environmental and socioeconomic vulnerability analysis of the area to assess the impact of the different scenarios allowing the Bonn Agreement Contracting Parties to adopt sub regional risk management conclusions.

The BE-AWARE project ran from January 2013 until December 2014 and the BE-AWARE II Project runs from December 2013 until November 2015 and both have been part funded by the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.