Aerial Surveillance Programme

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 100 m³ was reported during 2015, with the largest being 436 m³. 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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colour key - Spill volume</th>
<th>Not Estimated</th>
<th>&lt;0.1 m³</th>
<th>0.1-1 m³</th>
<th>1-10 m³</th>
<th>10-100 m³</th>
<th>&gt;100 m³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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 100 m³ was reported during 2015, with the largest being 436 m³. 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.

Location of spills

- Total estimated volume of confirmed/observed spills: 491 m³
- Number of flight hours compared to 2014: -19%
- Number of detections confirmed as mineral oil compared to 2014: -20%
- Number of detections confirmed or observed as mineral oil: 88