

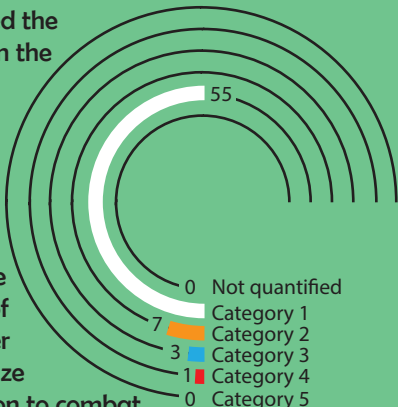
The nine countries bordering the North Sea work together within the Bonn Agreement to undertake aerial surveillance using specially equipped aircraft and specialised personnel to detect spills of oil and other harmful substances and enforce international environmental regulations.

Colour key - Oil Spill volume

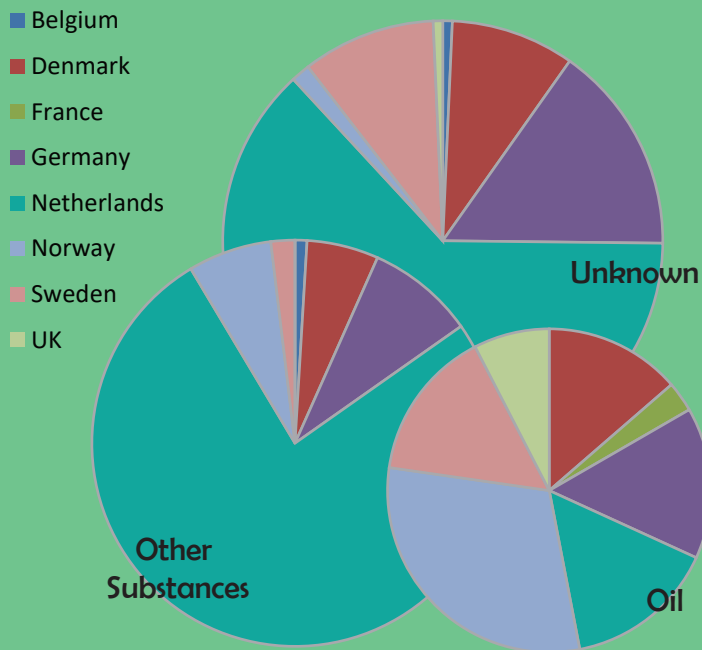


Oil spills per category

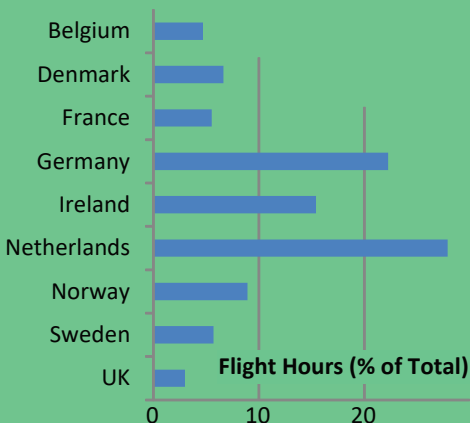
In 2017, Contracting Parties reported the estimated volumes for 66 oil slicks in the Bonn Agreement area. The figure opposite shows the oil slicks subdivided into different size categories by amount, including spills where volume was not estimated. No spills over 100m³ were reported during 2017, with the largest being 39,7m³. The number of confirmed detections was 24% lower than in 2016. 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 (relative sizing)



Information on spills



39,7m³
Largest reported oil spill




314
Total number of detections



105 Number of "other substances" detected

143 ?
Number of "unknown" detections

-24%
Number of detections confirmed as mineral oil compared to 2016




52,83m³
Total estimated volume of confirmed/observed spills



3983 -11%
Number of flight hours (% compared to 2016)



66
Number of detections confirmed or observed as mineral oil



38
Number of "mineral oil" detections from "unknown" sources

▲ Oil ▼ Other Substance ? Unknown

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.