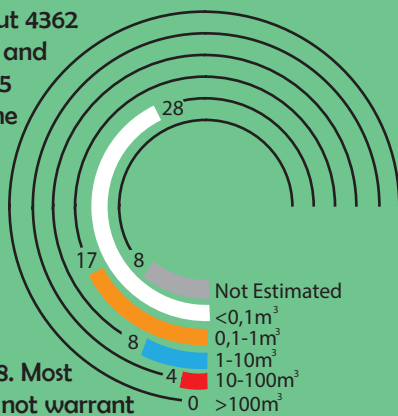




The countries bordering the North Sea work together within the Bonn Agreement to undertake aerial surveillance using specially equipped aircraft and personnel to detect spills of oil and other harmful substances and enforce international environmental regulations.

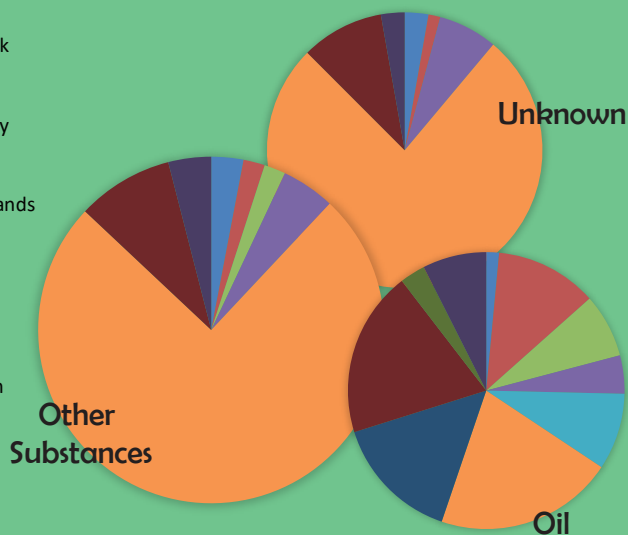
### Oil spills per category

In 2019, Contracting Parties carried out 4362 hours of National Surveillance Flights and reported the estimated volumes for 65 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 100m<sup>3</sup> were reported during 2019, with the largest being 75,2m<sup>3</sup>. The number of confirmed detections was 32% lower than in 2018. Most slicks were in a size category that did not warrant action to combat them, since they would evaporate, dissolve and disperse naturally.

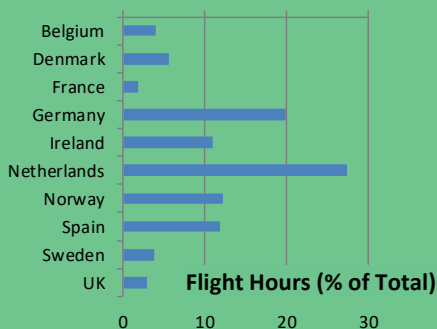


### Spills per category by country (relative sizing)

- Belgium
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom



### Information on spills



**-36%**  
Number of detections confirmed as mineral oil compared to 2018

**65**  
Number of detections confirmed or observed as mineral oil

**100**  
Number of "other substances" detected

**114 ?**  
Number of "unknown" detections

**279**  
Total number of detections

**179,66<sup>3</sup>**  
Total estimated volume of confirmed/observed spills

Largest reported oil spill  
**75,2 m<sup>3</sup>**

**45 ?**  
Number of "mineral oil" detections from "unknown" sources

**4451** -8%  
Total number of flight hours [National and Tour d'Horizon flights] (% compared to 2018)

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.