



Bonn Agreement Accord de Bonn

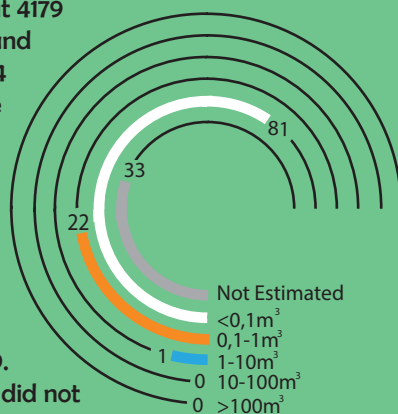
Aerial Surveillance Programme

2020

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.

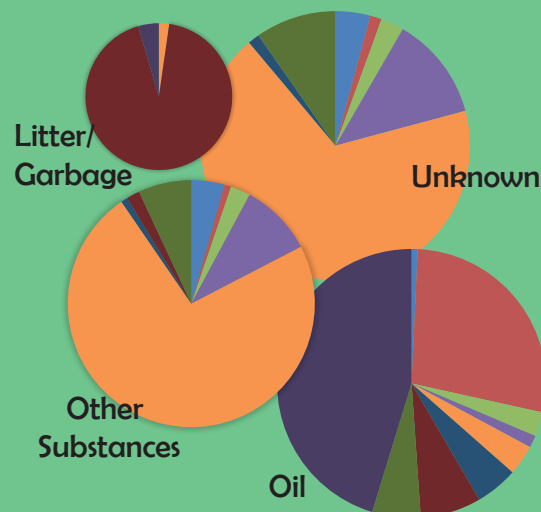
Oil spills per category

In 2020, Contracting Parties carried out 4179 hours of National Surveillance Flights and reported the estimated volumes for 104 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 2020, with the largest being 2,75m³. The number of confirmed detections was 63% higher than in 2019. Most slicks were in a size category that did not warrant action to combat them, since they would evaporate, dissolve and disperse naturally.

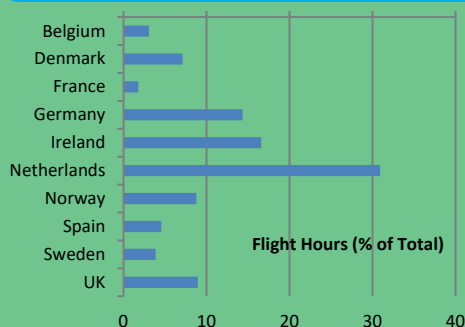


Spills per category by country (relative sizing)

Belgium
Denmark
France
Germany
Ireland
Netherlands
Norway
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom



Information on spills



+63%

Number of detections confirmed as mineral oil compared to 2019

425

Total number of detections

137

Number of detections confirmed or observed as mineral oil

Largest reported oil spill

2,75m³



39 ?

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

115

Number of "other substances" detected

129?

Number of "unknown" detections

44

Number of "Garbage/Litter" detections

11,11³

Total estimated volume of confirmed/observed spills

4235 -9%

Total number of flight hours [National and Tour d'Horizon flights] (% compared to 2019)

Oil (▲) Other Substance (▼) Unknown (?)
Garbage (●) Litter (○) Object (●)

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.