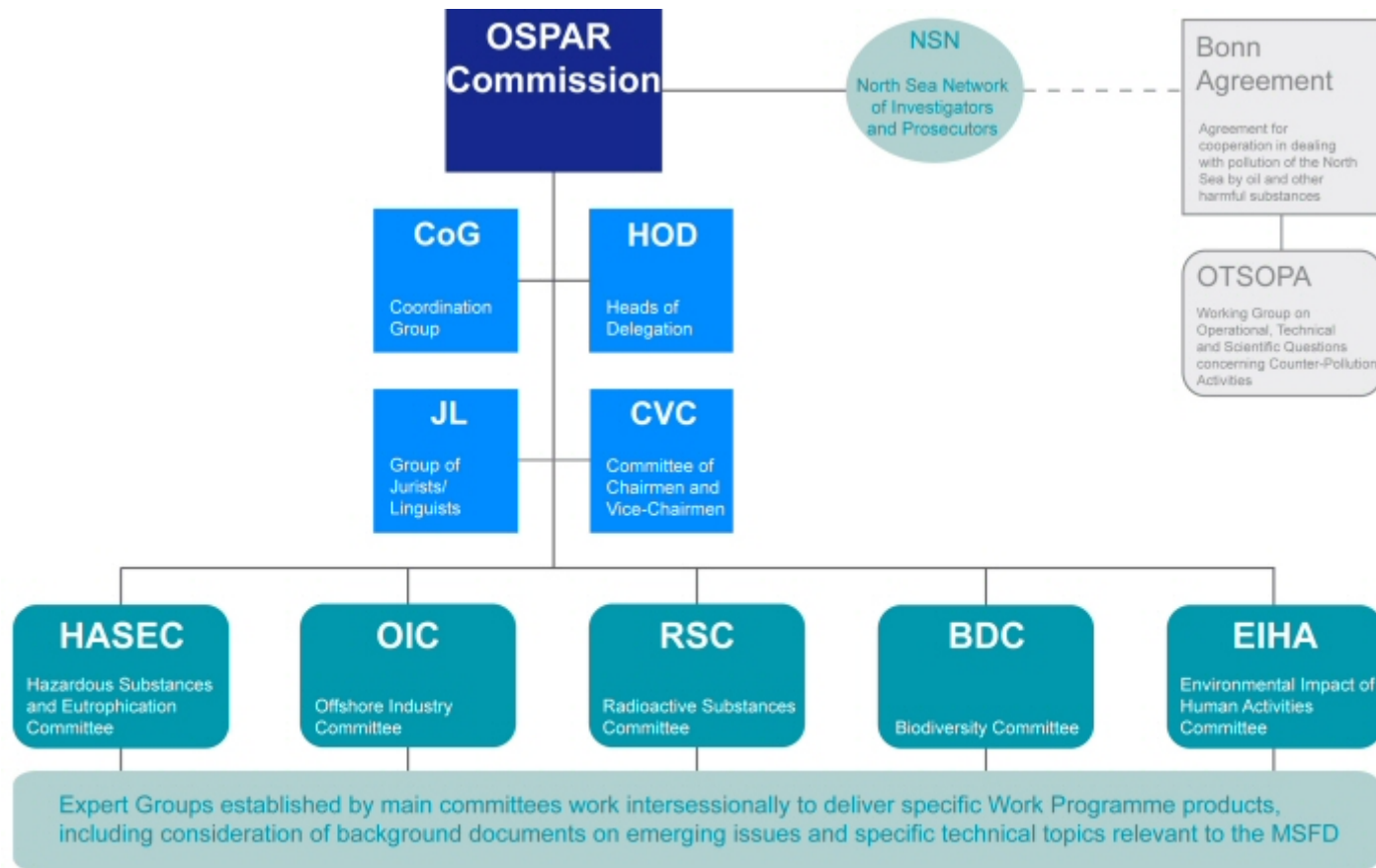


OSPAR's Activities on the Prevention of Significant Acute Oil Pollution from Offshore Drilling Activities and Associated International Developments

OSPAR Convention Area (in blue)



OSPAR Structure



Who are the Contracting Parties?



Belgium, Denmark, Finland,
France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland,
Luxembourg, The Netherlands,
Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden,
Switzerland and United Kingdom,
together with the European
Community.

What is the purpose of the Convention?



“The Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, take all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution and shall take the necessary measures to protect the maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities so as to safeguard human health and to conserve marine ecosystems and, when practicable, restore marine areas which have been adversely affected.”

DRILLING OPERATIONS

POTENTIAL SOURCES OF EFFECTS

ACCIDENTS

- Oil spills
- Chemical spills
- Gas releases
- Dropped objects
- Collisions

WASTES RETURNED TO SHORE

- Solid wastes
- Liquid wastes and tank washings
- Muds and cuttings

HELICOPTERS

SEMISUBMERSIBLE RIG

DERRICK

PONTOONS

RISER

ANCHORS

BLOW OUT PREVENTOR

ATMOSPHERIC EMISSIONS

- Combustion emissions from power generation
- Fugitive emissions from fuel and chemical storage
- Local exhaust ventilation emissions
- Dust from bulk loading
- Combustion emissions if well test flaring

JACK-UP RIG

DERRICK

RIG LEGS

SPUD CANS

DISCHARGES TO SEA

- Sediments from riserless drilling
- Cooling water
- Ballast water
- Dissolution of corrosion protection and antifouling protection
- Deck drainage and washings
- Sewage and food waste
- Machinery space and other oily drainage
- Muds and cuttings
- Brines, cement returns and other drilling chemicals

OTHER INTERACTIONS

- Physical presence of rig and support vessels
- Airborne noise
- Underwater noise
- Light
- Physical disturbance of seabed from anchoring or spud cans
- Rock dumping to prevent scour around the spud cans

Key

- Routine
- Optional
- Accidental events

The incident



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- The Deepwater Horizon Drilling rig suffered a catastrophic blowout on the 20th of April 2010.
 - 11 men lost their lives and an estimated 4.9 million barrels of oil were spilled.

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- Several processes were initiated internationally to both check the current fitness of offshore regimes and, where appropriate, to initiate improvements with the objective of avoiding a reoccurrence of such a tragic event both in the United States and elsewhere

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- The American Presidential Commission.
 - The US Joint Investigation Team of the Departments of the Interior and Homeland Security (USCG/BOEMRE).
 - The North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum (NSOAF).
 - The International Regulators Forum (IRF).
 - The European Union
 - G20

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- EC issued Communication “Facing the challenge of the safety of offshore oil and gas activities” in October 2010.
 - Specific Commission proposals expected later this year.
 - European Parliament debated, and rejected, calls for a moratorium on deep drilling in October 2010.
 - Council of Ministers published conclusions of the safety of offshore oil and gas activities – December 2010
 - European Parliament held a hearing on safety of offshore oil and gas in March 2011.
 - Report (Motion) prepared by Energy / Environment committees of EP and voted through on 13th September 2011.

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- September of 2010 meeting of the OSPAR Commission and an OSPAR Ministerial meeting in Bergen, Norway.
 - Meeting discussed possible moratoria but there was no general support for such a move. Ministers agreed on an OSPAR Recommendation 2010/18 “On the prevention of significant acute oil pollution from offshore drilling activities”.
 - This Recommendation called for reviews by contracting parties and established a process for assessing the relevance of the Deepwater Horizon incident for the existing OSPAR framework for the offshore industry, both nationally and internationally.

Relationship between OSPAR and other processes



- At the OIC meeting in March 2011 Contracting Parties agreed that:
- There was a need to avoid duplication of work carried out in the EU or in forums such as NSOAF and the G20 and that OSPAR should concentrate on possible gaps.
- While the activities of other forums would be relevant to OSPAR, they should not pre-judge any decision to be taken by OSPAR.
- There was a need to work closely with authorities responsible for emergency prevention, preparedness and response (e.g. the Bonn Agreement) taking into account environmental risks and the sensitivity of marine ecosystems to oil pollution.

What is expected?



- An Intersessional Correspondence Group – ICG DRILLEX is to assess the results of investigations of drilling in extreme conditions and their relevance to potential environmental impacts
- The terms of reference for this group are to present to OSPAR 2012:
 - a. a report based on Contracting Parties national reviews following the Deepwater Horizon accident;
 - b. a report based on external reviews including the North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum (NSOAF), European Commission, the International Regulators Forum (IRF) and the USA Presidential investigation; and
 - c. based on a and b, an assessment of their relevance to OSPAR with a view to taking additional action if needed.

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- OSPAR's Offshore Industry Committee (OIC) 2011 concluded in early March that further work would be needed in order to take on board any findings from other investigative processes. Considered but did not reach agreement on the idea of OSPAR Guidelines.
 - Preliminary report "Investigations of Drilling in Extreme Conditions and their Relevance to Potential Environmental Impacts" prepared. This report was presented to OSPAR 2011 in June.

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- DRILLEX examined CPs procedures / regulations for:
 - Rig assessment
 - Well design and control
 - Incident prevention
 - Contingency planning – scenarios / environmental risks / preparedness
 - Incident response – training / equipment / personnel
 - Defining “extreme conditions” or “high risk”

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- DRILLEX preliminary report indicated and documented that a substantial amount of work had been undertaken by CPs in their own national review process but that more time would be needed to consider the outputs of some of the ongoing national and international processes.
 - OSPAR Commission agreed that DRILLEX continue its work and will hold a meeting to assist this process on 11th October 2011.
 - Objective of the work is to:
 - **“evaluate the need for, and suggest a way forward regarding possible new OSPAR recommendations, guidelines or other types of actions/measures.”**

OSPAR – future work and challenges



- As indicated, contracting parties will meet next week to continue the work of DRILLEX.

Challenges will include:

- How to add value without duplicating other processes
- To what extent OSPAR, which is a convention for the protection of the environment, should involve itself in safety issues.
- How it is possible to protect the environment without involving itself in safety issues to some extent!
- If a measure is proposed resulting from the process, what form should it take – voluntary Agreement or Recommendation or binding Decision.

OSPAR and global approaches



- OSPAR is one of several regional conventions. For example the Helsinki and Barcelona conventions cover the Baltic and Mediterranean seas respectively.
- The 2011 OIC meeting involved representatives from the Mediterranean and provided an opportunity to exchange information and experience on offshore oil and gas activities in both Regional Seas Conventions.
- However, one reason that separate Conventions exist is that different regions may have different environmental sensitivities, cultural and regulatory backgrounds. Oil spilled in the Arctic provides different challenges to oil spilled in the warmer waters of more southerly latitudes.
- Any global initiative should recognise the competence and experience of the regional conventions in its consideration of potential measures.

International Co-operation

Bonn Agreement – North Sea States
intergovernmental co-operation dealing with
pollution and in particular aerial surveillance
co-ordination

Mancheplan - France and UK
provides for a joint response to SAR and
counter pollution activities

NORBRIT – Norway and UK

Joint response, is more focused on counter
pollution.

