Legislation

- Petroleum Act 1998
  - Licensing
- Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations 2005
  - Regulation of oil to sea
- Offshore Chemical Regulations 2002
  - Use and discharge of chemicals
- Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998
- Offshore Installation (Emergency Pollution and Control) Regulations 2002
  - Oil Spill Response, Preparedness and Management
United Kingdom Continental Shelf (UKCS)

470 INSTALLATIONS
• 10% floating
• 30% subsea
• 50% small steel
• 10% large steel or concrete potential derogations

>10,000km pipelines

Incident Reporting Systems

• PON1
• Aerial Surveillance
The total tonnage of oil produced from UKCS between 2002 and 2004

289,000,000

0.000098% spilled.
UKCS Statistics 2002 – 2004

Number of Incidents Per Month

- 2004
- 2003
- 2002

Main Causes of Oil Spill Incidents

- Hose Failure
- Pipework Leak
- Caisson Overflow
- Seal Failure
- Tank Filling Overflow
- Level Controller
- Drain Overflow
- Valve Failure

UKCS Statistics 2002 – 2004

- Mike Reid Senior Investigations Officer
- Craig Bunyan Environmental Inspector
Investigation Policy

- Size, scale and nature of the spill
- Environmental impact and potential impact
- Location of incident, e.g., special area of conservation or other environmentally sensitive area
- Permit holders/operators past performance
- Previous enforcement record of the installation
- Seriousness of any potential breach of law
- Notification that may give rise to public concern or media interest

Common Factors From Incident Investigation

- Routine operations
- Procedures ‘not followed’ or ‘not in place’
- Competency / training / environmental risk awareness
- Equipment failure
- Lack of communication
- Operator Error
Offshore Environment and Decommissioning

Post Incident Implications

- Potential environmental impact
- Stakeholder reputation
- Staff morale
- Possible disruption to production / drilling downtime
- Company / Regulatory Investigation
- Cleanup costs
- Hire / manufacture of replacement equipment
- Court appearance / publicity

Learning Outcomes

- Although routine task – reinforce Risk Assessment procedures
- Consult relevant procedures
- When necessary – review and reissue relevant procedures
- Review competency and training
- Ensure roles and responsibilities are understood
- Communication is key to success
- Maintain ownership of task
- Lateral learning between companies
UK Offshore Oil and Gas
Environmental Incident Review

Mike Reid
Senior Investigations Officer

Craig Bunyan
Environmental Inspector

March 2006