

**Table 4.17 Operational discharges of oil and oil spills
from offshore installations: 1982-2000**

North Sea	Tonnes		
	With produced water	On drill cuttings	Spills
1982	927	8,600	162
1983	1,700	14,500	186
1984	1,430	19,800	130
1985	2,150	20,200	310
1986	2,710	13,000	3,540
1987	3,330	12,400	516
1988	3,234	18,500	2,627
1989	3,423	13,400	517
1990	4,393	12,310	899
1991	5,490	11,230	192
1992	4,850	7,169	225
1993	4,232	4,588	224
1994	4,418	3,820	174
1995	5,855	3,180	84
1996	5,706	3,826	127
1997 ¹	5,767	0	866
1998	5,692	0	137
1999	5,641	0	120
2000	5,395	0	78

Source: *Department of Trade and Industry*

¹ For drill cuttings from 1 January 1997, the UK has been operating a limit of 10 grams of oil per kilogram of cuttings as the upper limit allowed for discharges with cuttings, in accordance with international obligations. This is not currently technically achievable, so the UK did not discharge mineral oil contaminated cuttings into the sea during 1997 to 2000.

Source publication: *Digest of Environmental Statistics*, Published March 2002
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/des/index.htm>