

Press Release

Publication of the 2004 Annual Survey of Reported Discharges Attributed to Vessels and Offshore Oil & Gas Installations Operating In the United Kingdom Pollution Control Zone

This annual survey has been published and released under the approval of the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

The recording of an overall 13.5% increase in reported discharges of pollutants into the sea when comparisons are made with the previous year (2003) is explained by the adoption of a more pro-active approach to reporting minor spills by the off shore industry. The total volume of oil and gas accidentally discharged into the sea actually fell by 30% when compared with the previous year.

Discharges into the sea attributed to vessels have continued to decline at an average rate of 15% per year since the Year 2000.

During 2004 there were 10 successful oil pollution prosecutions. Total fines amounted to £132,200.

The Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) has been conducting these annual surveys on behalf of the MCA and DTI since 1978 and will continue to do so on their current contract.

Toby Stone, Head of MCA's Counter Pollution and Response Branch said, "The results of this survey show a continued overall decrease in volumes of discharges into the seas around the United Kingdom. This takes into account the new and more stringent reporting procedures adopted by Department of Trade and Industry and the Off Shore Industry."

The 2004 report is available for viewing on: - www.mcga.gov.uk once you have called up the website, click on the counter pollution page.

Figure 1: Annual totals for reported discharges attributed to vessels and offshore oil and gas installations 2000-2004.

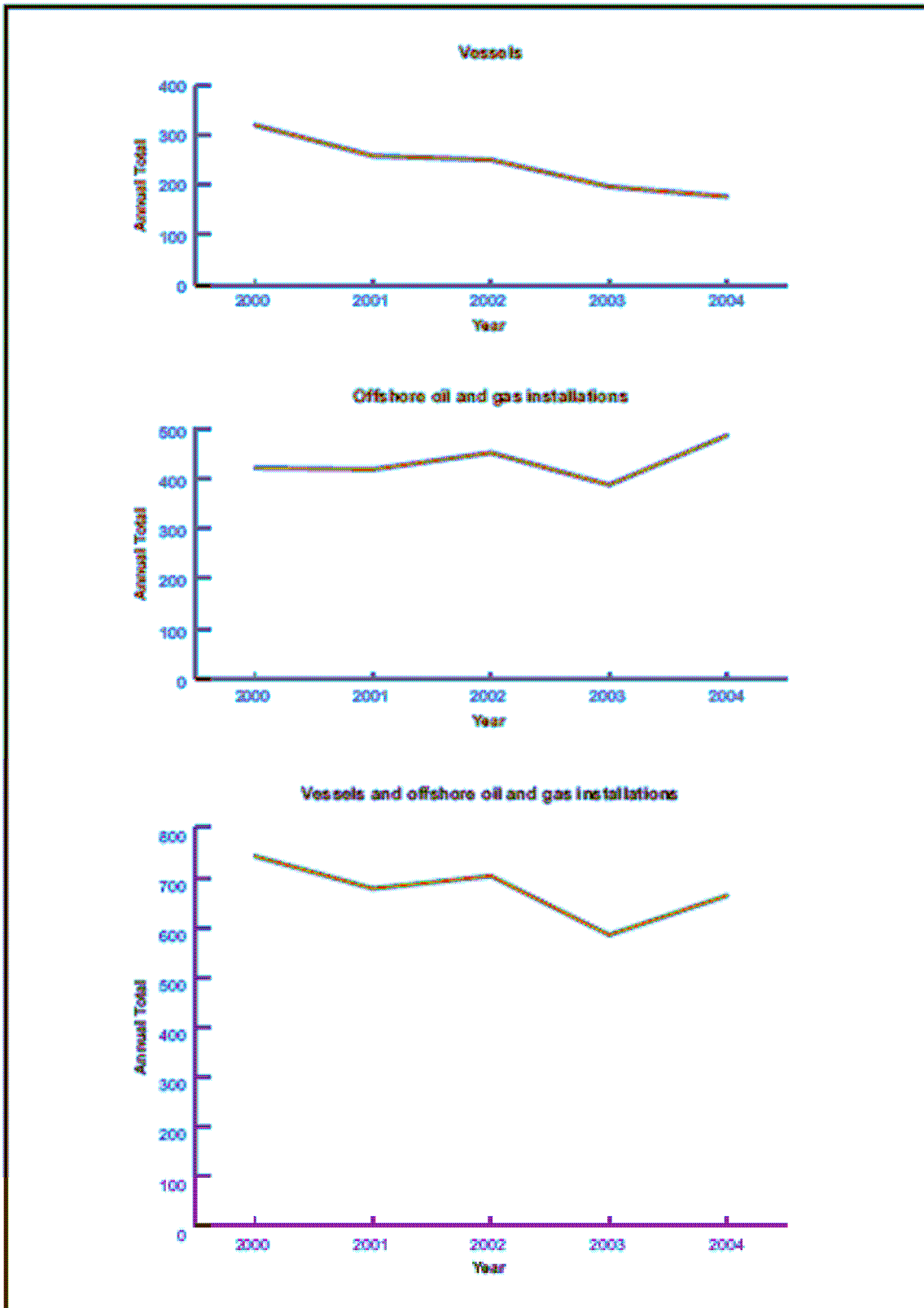


Figure 3: Locations of reported oil discharges attributed to vessels.

