

Supplement to “Update of Comparative Occurrence Rates for Offshore Oil Spills” (Anderson & LaBelle, 2000)

MEAN – The average value. The mean is the mathematical expectation of the spill rate. It is the best single statistical estimate of the rate. The means for the Confidence Intervals vary slightly from the Spill Rates in Anderson & LaBelle (2000) due to the difference in which they were calculated.

CONFIDENCE INTERVALS – Define a range of values within which the true mean rate is likely to lie. In this table, 95-percent confidence intervals are quoted, which implies that there is a 95-percent probability that the true mean rate will lie somewhere between the UPPER and LOWER Limits.

CALCULATIONS – The 95-percent Confidence Intervals were calculated for OCS pipeline spills using observations of the number of spills for fixed production amount. OCS pipelines during the 1964-1999 time period produced 12 billion barrels of oil. This production was split into 12 one-billion-barrel increments of production. The spills associated with these 12 increments represented 12 observations of the spill rate from which the mean, upper, and lower bounds were calculated in the standard statistical process. The Confidence Intervals for the other spill rates were also calculated using a fixed volume of oil handled. The other spill sources' exposure volumes were not evenly divided by one billion barrels. For these other cases, a size of the fixed volume amount increment was found such that the number of increments for both time horizons was very near a whole number.

95-Percent Confidence Intervals for Anderson & LaBelle (2000) Spill Rates

Spill Source	Anderson & LaBelle (2000)			95-Percent Confidence Interval Calculations	
	Number of Spills	Volume (Bbbl)	Spill Rate	Mean	Lower-Upper Limits
OCS Platforms¹					
Last 3 Spills (in 1973) - 1999	3	9.50	0.32	0.31	0.00 - 0.66
Last Spill (in 1980) - 1999	1	7.41	<0.13	0.14	0.00 - 0.40
1985-1999	0	5.81	0.00	0.00	--
OCS Pipelines					
1964 - 1999	16	12.00	1.33	1.33	0.54 - 2.12
1985 - 1999	8	5.81	1.38	1.33	0.00 - 2.77
Worldwide Tankers					
1974 - 1999 All Spills	278	239.67	1.16	1.16	0.91 - 1.41
In Port	117		0.49	0.49	0.38 - 0.60
At Sea	161		0.67	0.67	0.50 - 0.84
1985 - 1999 All Spills	113	138.31	0.82	0.81	0.53 - 1.10
In Port	50		0.36	0.36	0.22 - 0.51
At Sea	63		0.46	0.45	0.26 - 0.64
Tankers U.S. Waters					
1974 - 1999 All Spills	46	44.50	1.03	1.03	0.50 - 1.57
In Port	30		0.67	0.67	0.30 - 1.04
At Sea	16		0.36	0.36	0.13 - 0.59
1985 - 1999 All Spills	20	27.57	0.73	0.73	0.10 - 1.35
In Port	12		0.44	0.44	0.07 - 0.81
At Sea	8		0.29	0.29	0.00 - 0.64
Alaska N. Slope Tankers					
1977 - 1999 All Spills	11	12.60	0.88	0.87	0.40 - 1.35
In Port	4		0.32	0.32	0.01 - 0.62
At Sea	7		0.56	0.55	0.13 - 0.98
1985 - 1999 All Spills	8	8.72	0.92	0.92	0.25 - 1.59
In Port	4		0.46	0.46	0.04 - 0.88
At Sea	4		0.46	0.46	0.00 - 1.03
Barges U.S. Waters					
All Petroleum Products					
1974 - 1999	187	43.48	4.30	4.32	3.18 - 5.45
1985 - 1999	77	25.02	3.08	3.11	1.87 - 4.35
Crude Oil Only					
1974 - 1999	26	7.32	3.55	3.55	1.35 - 5.74
1985 - 1999	5	4.08	1.23	1.25	0.00 - 2.52

Spill Rate = Spills per billion barrels (Bbbl) handled; Bbbl = 10⁹ bbl

¹ OCS Platform Spill Rates were based on a discerned trend—so the 1964-1999 rate was not presented in the paper. There were zero OCS platform spills in the last 15 years of the data series—rather than proclaim a spill rate of 0.00, MMS chose to calculate this rate from the last observed platform spill, 1980, and noted that the rate for 1985-1999 would be something less than this value (< 0.13 but greater than 0.00).