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Effects of North Sea oil and gas developments on fisheries

[Abstract only]

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North Sea oil and gas developments have introduced pressures on the fishing industry, on fishing operations, and on the marine ecosystem including commercial fish species. Operational incompatibilities and competition for personnel, facilities on land and space at sea may arise.

Among the pollutants are various accidental and operational inputs of hydrocarbons, dispersants used in clean-up, and process chemicals. Effects can be assessed on various bases: toxicity for specific organisms, impairment of food chains, and perturbation of natural populations.

Much is being done to resolve dissonances between the industries and to pre-empt operational incompatibilities.

Numerous measures have been introduced to minimize any pollution threats. Research continues to explore and quantify the effects on the marine ecosystem.