

OSPAR Recommendation 2020/02 amending OSPAR Recommendation 2001/1 for the Management of Produced Water from Offshore Installations (as amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2006/4 and 2011/8)

Source: OSPAR 20/12/1, Annex 13

RECALLING Article 5 of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (“OSPAR Convention”), which requires the Contracting Parties to take all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution from offshore sources in accordance with the provisions of the OSPAR Convention, in particular as provided for in Annex III;

RECALLING Article 4 of Annex III to the OSPAR Convention that establishes that the use on, or the discharge or emission from, offshore sources of substances which may reach and affect the maritime area shall be strictly subject to authorisation or regulation by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties and that competent authorities shall provide for a system of monitoring and inspection;

RECALLING OSPAR Recommendation 2001/1 for the Management of Produced Water from Offshore Installations (as amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2006/4 and 2011/8);

WISHING to up-date OSPAR Recommendation 2001/1 for the Management of Produced Water from Offshore Installations (as amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2006/4 and 2011/8);

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic RECOMMEND:

1. Purpose and Scope

1.1. The purpose of this Recommendation is to amend and update Recommendation 2001/1 for the Management of Produced Water from Offshore Installations (as amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2006/4 and 2011/8).

2. Provisions

Preambular paragraph recalling OSPAR Decision 2000/2 is amended as follows:

RECALLING the programmes and measures stipulated in OSPAR Decision 2000/2 on a Harmonised Mandatory Control System for the Use and Reduction of the Discharge of Offshore Chemicals, as amended by OSPAR Decision 2005/1;

RECALLING the programmes and measures stipulated in OSPAR Recommendation 2017/01 on a Harmonised Pre-screening Scheme for Offshore Chemicals, as amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2019/04;

RECALLING the programmes and measures stipulated in OSPAR Recommendation 2010/3 on a Harmonised Offshore Chemical Notification Format (HOCNF), as amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2014/17 and 2019/03;

Preambular paragraph recalling OSPAR Quality Status Report is amended as follows:

RECALLING the conclusion of the Quality Status Report 2010 (OSPAR Publication 497/2010) and Intermediate Assessment 2017 on the impacts of the discharges of produced water to the maritime area;

Preambular paragraph recognising produced water is a source of contamination is amended as follows:

RECOGNISING that produced water is a source of contamination by oil and other substances and a potential source of pollution of the sea in the maritime area and needs to be controlled through the use of BAT and BEP;

Preambular paragraph recognising the need to control volume of produced water discharged is amended as follows:

RECOGNISING that there is a need to control the volumes of produced water discharged from offshore installations, especially as producing fields mature, with a view to reducing the discharges of oil, including aromatics, and other substances;

Preambular paragraph considering OSPAR background on current and emerging techniques is amended as follows:

CONSIDERING the OSPAR background document (OSPAR Publication 602/2013) on examples of current techniques and emerging techniques that may be part of a BAT and BEP solution for produced water management on offshore installations; and

Section 1 (Definitions)

2.1 In Section 1 (Definitions) of Recommendation 2001/1, the definition of “BTEX”, “performance standard” and “other substances” are amended as follows:

“BTEX”	means Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Ortho-xylene, Meta-xylene and Para-xylene;
“performance standard”	means a limit value for a concentration in mg/l;
“other substances”	means all or any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- solid particles from the reservoir;- substances from the reservoir such as heavy metals;- particles of scale and corrosion products;- substances including offshore chemicals, introduced into the production system for operational purposes or treatment prior to disposal;

2.2 In Section 1 (Definitions) of Recommendation 2001/1, the definition of offshore chemicals from OSPAR Decision 2000/2 is inserted:

“offshore chemicals” means all chemicals intentionally used in connection with offshore exploration and production activities in the maritime area. Offshore chemicals comprise both substances and preparations.

Section 3 (Goals)

2.3 In Section 3 (Goals) of Recommendation 2001/1, paragraph 3.1(b) is replaced by the following:

ensure that an integrated approach is adopted, so that the reduction is not achieved in a way that causes pollution in other areas and/or other environmental compartments.

2.4 In Section 3 (Goals) of Recommendation 2001/1, paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 are deleted and paragraph 3.4 is renumbered as 3.2.

2.5 In Section 3 (Goals) of Recommendation 2001/1, paragraph 3.5 is renumbered as 3.3 and replaced by the following:

In accordance with the objective and the timeframe of the OSPAR Strategy with regard to Hazardous Substances, Contracting Parties should aim to achieve a continuous reduction in discharges of hazardous substances *via* produced water, by making every endeavour to move towards the target of cessation of discharges of hazardous substances with the ultimate aim of achieving concentrations in the marine environment near background values for naturally occurring substances and close to zero for man-made synthetic substances.

Section 4 (Programmes and Measures)

2.6 In Section 4.1 (General Principles in pursuing the goals) of Recommendation 2001/1, paragraph 4.1.3 is replaced by the following:

Contracting Parties should encourage operators under their jurisdiction to include the prevention and reduction of discharges of produced water, and oil and other substances contained therein, as a priority item for continuous improvement in their environmental management systems.

2.7 In Section 4.1 (General Principles in pursuing the goals) of Recommendation 2001/1, paragraph 4.1.4 is replaced by the following:

Contracting Parties should ensure that when offshore installations, or relevant parts of them, are relocated for use elsewhere in the maritime area, an assessment and evaluation should take place to ensure that the relocated installation, or the relevant relocated part of an installation, performs according to BAT and BEP in respect of the management of produced water.

2.8 In Section 4.2 (Performance standards) of Recommendation 2001/1, paragraph 4.2.2 is replaced by the following:

Contracting Parties should report on an annual basis to the meeting of the Offshore Industry Committee the offshore installations which fail to meet the performance standard for dispersed oil of 30 mg/l for discharged produced water. For each such installation, the report should include an evaluation of the BAT and BEP for that installation, including the options:

- a. which have been considered in order to meet this performance standard, but
- b. which have not been considered feasible including the reasons for this, so as to ensure that information is available on the reasons why these offshore installations cannot meet the performance standard.

2.9 In Section 4 .2 (Performance standards) of Recommendation 2001/1, paragraph 4.2.3 is replaced by the following:

Contracting Parties should ensure that operators continue to review BAT and BEP for the management of produced water including the achievable concentrations of oil and other substances.

2.10 In Section 4.2 (Performance standards) of Recommendation 2001/1, paragraph 4.2.4 is replaced by the following:

Contracting Parties should continue to exchange information on the levels of dispersed oil, BTEX and other substances in produced water on an annual basis.

Section 5 (Improvement Programmes)

2.11 In Section 5 (Improvement Programmes) of Recommendation 2001/1, paragraph 5.2 is replaced by the following:

For offshore installations which fail to meet the performance standards laid down and scheduled in paragraphs 4.2.1 and 4.2.2, Contracting Parties should, once the failure to meet the targets has been established, report to the next meeting of the Offshore Industry Committee the content of the improvement programmes referred to in paragraph 5.1, including the problems that they are addressing:

- a. for offshore installations discharging not more than 2 tonnes of dispersed oil per year, the average concentration of dispersed oil, the quantity of produced water discharged, the total quantity of dispersed oil discharged and the type of treatment equipment installed;
- b. for offshore installations discharging more than 2 tonnes of dispersed oil per year, the details as in indent (a) above, together with a full account of measures taken or planned in order to achieve compliance with the performance standard.

Section 6 (Sampling)

2.12 In Section 6.1 (Discharges of produced water from manned installations) of Recommendation 2001/1, paragraph 6.1.1 is replaced by the following:

For offshore installations that discharge produced water continuously, the determination of the quantity of dispersed oil discharged should be based on the results of at least 16 samples per month. Samples should be taken at equal time intervals.

2.13 In Section 6.1 (Discharges of produced water from manned installations) of Recommendation 2001/1, delete paragraph 6.1.3.

2.14 In Section 6 .2 (Discharges of produced water from unmanned installations, batch discharges and small discharges) of Recommendation 2001/1, paragraph 6.2.1 is replaced by the following:

For the following discharges of produced water, the frequency and timing of sampling should make sure that samples of the effluent are representative, taking into account operational aspects and logistics:

- a. batch discharges of produced water;
- b. discharges of produced water from unmanned offshore installations;

- c. discharges of produced water containing not more than two (2) tonnes of dispersed oil per annum.

2.15 In Section 6.2 (Discharges of produced water from unmanned installations, batch discharges and small discharges) of Recommendation 2001/1, after 6.2.1 insert paragraph 6.2.2 as follows:

Where discharges of produced water from unmanned installations contain more than two (2) tonnes of dispersed oil per annum and operational logistics prevent the collection of at least 16 samples per month, the use of online analysers, monitors or other suitable methods should be considered.

Section 7 (Analysis)

2.16 In Section 7 (Analysis) of Recommendation 2001/1, paragraph 7.1 is replaced by the following:

For the purpose of this recommendation, the concentration of dispersed oil should be determined by the reference method specified in the next paragraph or an alternative method yielding equivalent results. These alternative methods may include on-line analysis techniques or continuous monitoring. Such methods should be calibrated against the reference method and approved by the competent authority.

2.17 In Section 7 (Analysis) of Recommendation 2001/1, after paragraph 7.2 insert a new paragraph 7.2.1 as follows:

The reference method for the determination of the dissolved oil (BTEX) content in produced water is ISO 11423-1 using GC-MS, or another method that produces equivalent results.

2.18 In Section 7 (Analysis) of Recommendation 2001/1, paragraph 7.4 is replaced by the following:

Total oil can be calculated by adding the BTEX content to the dispersed oil content. The amount of BTEX should be calculated on the basis of the quantity of produced water discharged per year (m³) and the flow-weighted average values of BTEX in the produced water. Sampling analyses of BTEX should be undertaken on at least a six-monthly basis.

Section 9 (Implementation Reports)

2.19 In Section 9 (Implementation Reports) of Recommendation 2001/1, delete paragraph 9.2.

3. Entry into force

3.1 This Recommendation has effect from 1 January 2021.