



Oily waste from offshore decommissioning – Future challenges and opportunities

Offshore Norge Decommissioning Seminar 2025

Steinar Nesse, Vice president

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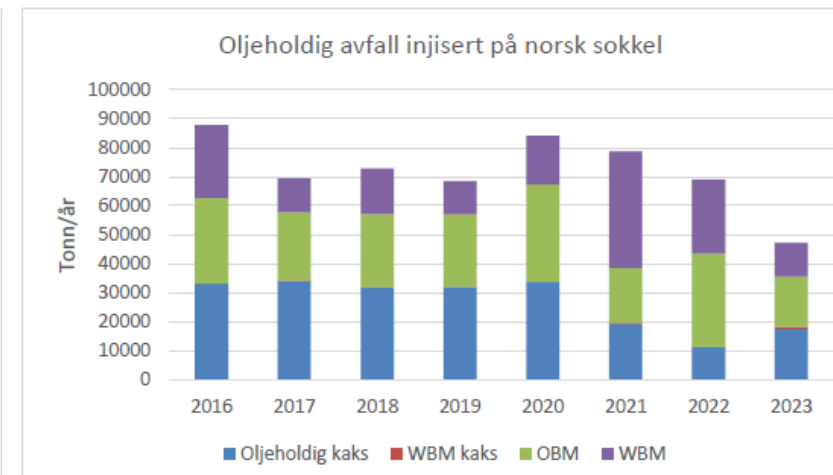
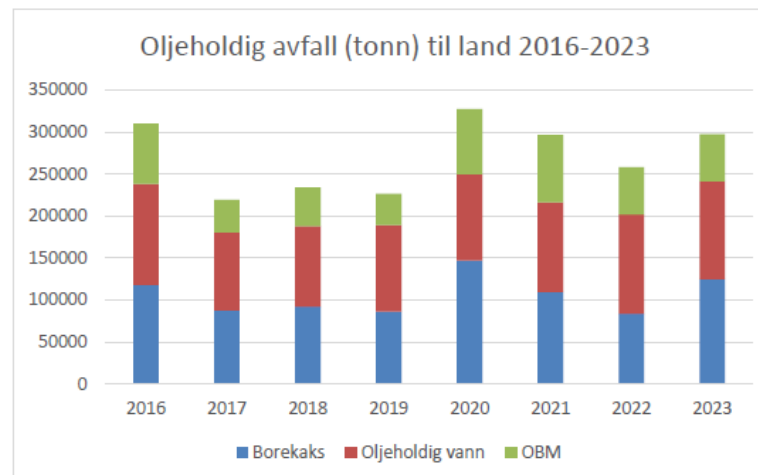
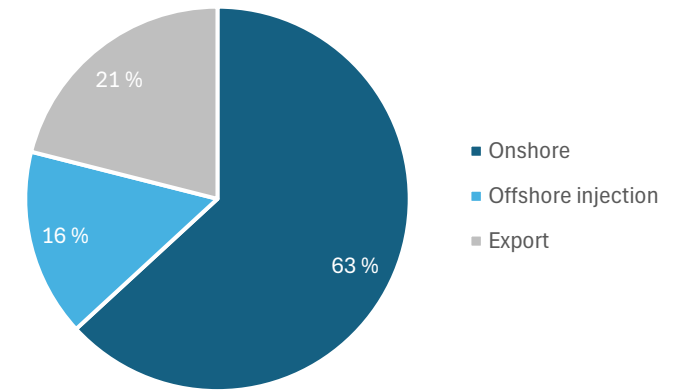
Changes in regulatory framework

- ① EU new waste regulation (*EUs avfallsforordning*) states a general ban on export of hazardous wastes also between EU countries (including EEA), expected from May 2026. Detailed regulations will follow within 3 years.
 - Such wastes shall generally be managed within each country with few exemptions to the requirement and with strict criteria for such.
 - The annual export of oily wastes from the Norwegian offshore petroleum industry is considered in the order of 100 000 m³ per year, or about 20-30 percent.
- ② National requirement for oil content in water for discharge to sea will be lowered from 30 to 15 mg/l, from 1 January 2026.
 - Could result in increased oily waste for management

NCS oily waste prognosis vs. capacity

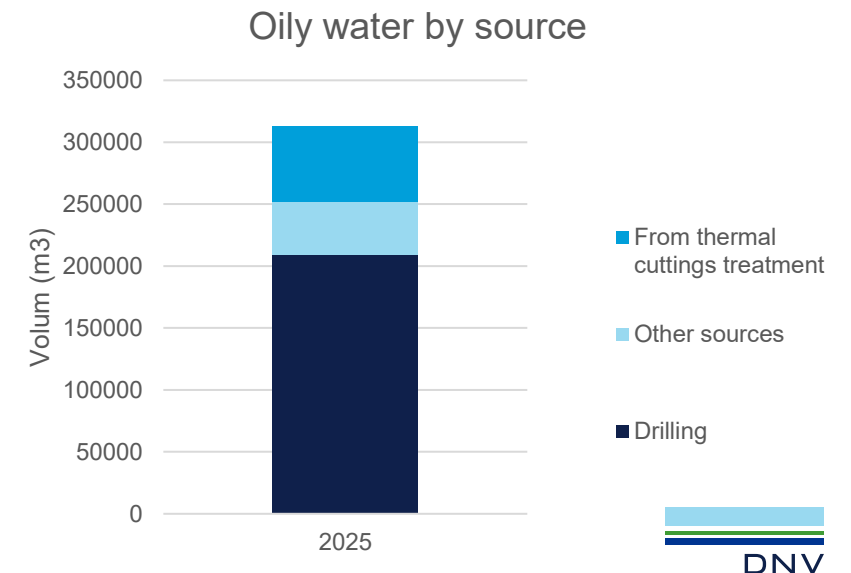
- Annual onshore treatment demand expected in the magnitude of 290 000 – 350 000 m³, high uncertainty.
- Annual theoretic capacity is about 290 000 m³.
- I.e., there is a future gap in capacity!
- Waste volume shipped to shore is not even over the year, and onshore storage capacity is limited, hence in periods the situation may become particularly critical.

Oily waste management solutions



Oily wastes from offshore decommissioning activities

- Waste types and amount:
 - Old well fluids being drained out and contained during P&A
 - 0-850 t/well (135 t applied as average value)
 - Topsides cleaning activities, tanks, etc.
 - Pipelines cleaning
 - Estimated to 6 000 – 43 000 m³/yr based on activity level next few years and generic waste figures
- Management options:
 - Offshore treatment and discharge
 - Offshore injection
 - Ship to shore



Challenges and waste management opportunities

- Challenges:
 - Insufficient onshore storage and treatment capacity
 - Export limitations
- Opportunities:
 - Ensure sufficient knowledge of the waste contents
 - Apply waste hierarchy principles to limit waste (avoid, reduce, etc.)
 - Do not mix little contaminated waste with problematic waste
 - Explore local opportunities, e.g., treatment & discharge and injection possibilities
 - Contractual issues and planning (predictability; what, how much and when)
 - Increase onshore storage and treatment capacity
 - Cross-industry dialogue on best practice and experience exchange

steinar.nesse@dnv.com

+47 915 44 834

www.dnv.com

