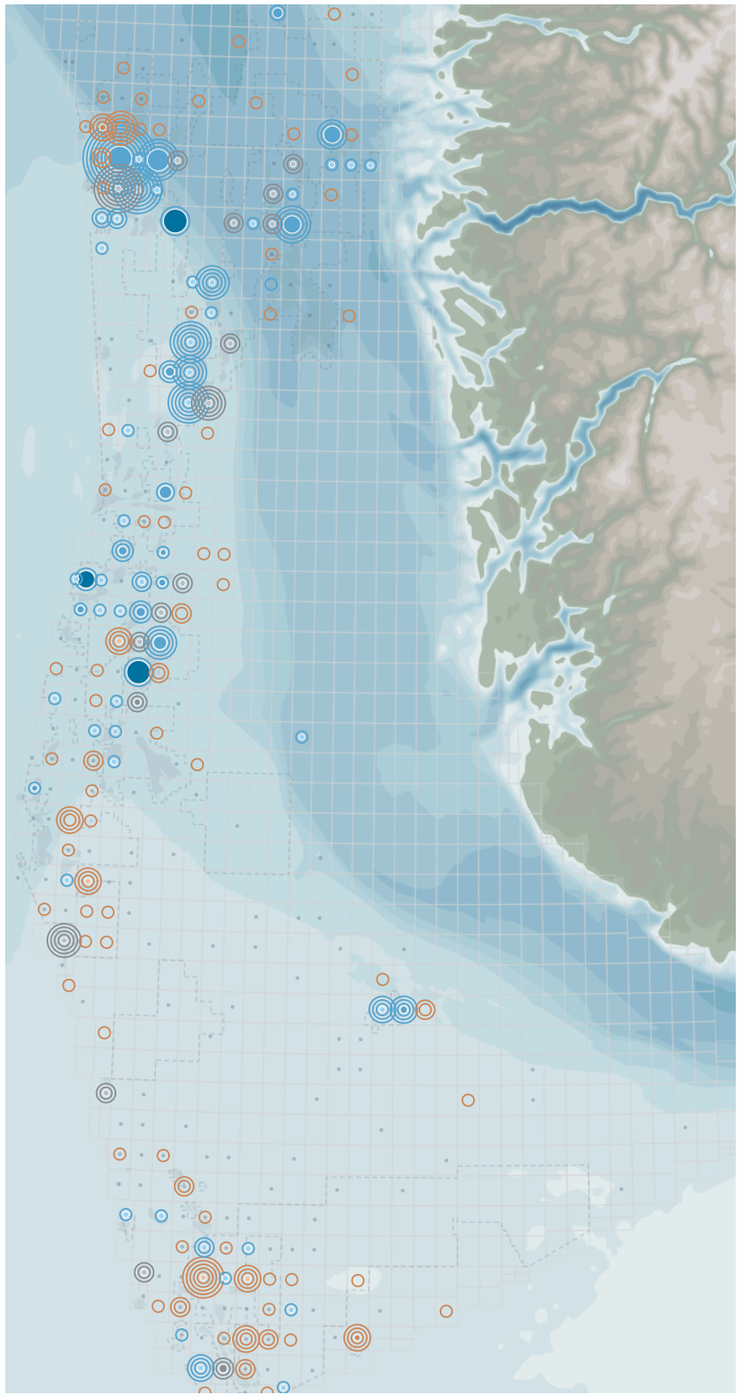
Big finds belong to the North Sea's first decades; the last ten years drilled more accurately and found little

Exploration wellbores by quarter-block and era; rings = wells, disc = volume found, colour = success and size

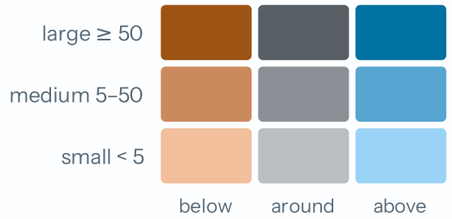


1986–2005

260 exploration wellbores · 49% found oil or gas · 1,156 million Sm³ o.e. discovered

Volume per discovery

million Sm³ o.e.



Technical success vs the 45% North Sea average



Each glyph is one quarter of a Sodir block in one era. No disc means no new discovery there; the ring colour still shows whether its wells beat the average.

NOTES

Success is shrunk towards the North Sea average (three-well prior) so one well does not make an outlier. Volume is attributed to the well that made each discovery (field volumes to the founding discovery); discoveries rated production unlikely have no published volume and count as zero.

DECLARED EXCEPTION

direct-labels. Hundreds of glyphs: a bivariate legend, ring key and hover replace labels. Colour is bivariate (3 x 3, corners labelled); rings and disc area carry count and volume as well.

CONFIDENCE

Derived: our calculation from observed data; the method is stated.

SOURCE Sodir FactPages and FactMaps; base map Relief (Copernicus DEM GLO-90, EMODnet Bathymetry), 2026-11-09 **UNITS** wells; million Sm³ o.e. **CONFIDENCE** Derived **PLATE** 2026-11-09 · ad501ba

Adam McCarthy