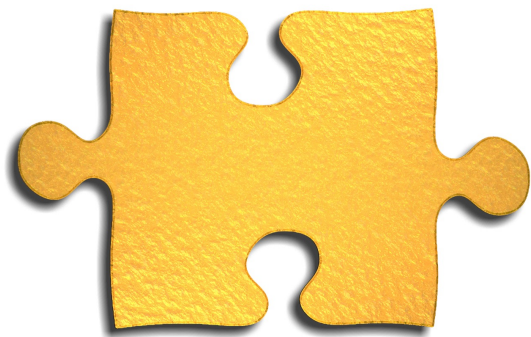


Subsea & DSV Market outlook to 2031



DSV market's New World Order



*Strategic Offshore Research - NUI Bergen International Diving
seminar – November 2025*

Presentation Structure:

- SOR introduction
- Vessel demand review
- North Sea demand and utilisation review
- Supply - newbuilds and scrapping
- Market forecast
- Vessel control and fleet alignment



Strategic Offshore Research – market intelligence

October 2nd, 2025
Editor: Ian McIntosh

first-hand
Subsea Newswire
First Class Commercial Intelligence

STRATEGIC OFFSHORE RESEARCH

Subsea Contracting

1. NORWAY: DeepOcean has Equinor simultaneous marine operation and production contract for work on Aasgard and Visund. Contract also includes engineering and procurement plus offshore work. Workscope includes Aasgard-B riser remove plus installation of new riser and dynamic umbilical connecting Berling tie-back. Visund work is production riser replacement. Summer 2026 sees offshore work with Edda Freya.

2. UK: Hibiscus confirms Teal West well spud 4km from Anasuria FPSO. Second quarter 2026 is anticipated tie-back though subsea construction contract is yet to be confirmed. Original award with Ocean Installer was terminated. Mid-2026 is expected first oil. Operator has procured flowline and umbilical directly.

3. BRAZIL: Tender evaluation is well advanced at Trident for subsea construction work on Boris, Cobra and Bravo developments. As soon as next year first offshore work is due for 2028 completion.

4. BRAZIL: Petrobras has confirmed tender submission deadline for Sepia-2 subsea construction programme is extended. Mid-October is new bid date. 2030 is scheduled field start-up.

5. UK: Harbour is thought to have multiple J-block discoveries under consideration for tie-back developments. Lead projects are thought Dunnotar and Peach North. Timings are to be confirmed. In southern sector further development of Tolmount East is thought being considered.

6. POLAND: Acteon's UTEC has award from Orsted/PGE for structural monitoring on Baltica-2 wind farm development. Data will be incorporated into Acteon's NX2 digital platform. End 2027 is due to see wind farm commissioned.

7. UK/SINGAPORE/MALAYSIA/INTERNATIONAL: Broker DMC has 12-man 300 msw rated self-propelled hyperbaric lifeboat for sale from Singapore. Boat is Lloyds classed, IMCA compliant and in 2019 manufactured. Port side launch davit is also included. Additionally for sale is 2020 refurbished portable hyperbaric reception facility, also with 12-diver capacity, currently in Johor. Broker further has three and six-man 2011-built, DnV rated dive chambers available from Johor, with 2013-built three-man bell.

Vessel Activity

8. GUYANA/INTERNATIONAL: Through to March next year Havila Phoenix remains on charter to DOF. Two one-year extension options are still available. Vessel remains on ExxonMobil Guyana field support duties though there remains potential that work could cease end this year or next.

October 6th, 2025
Editor: Andrew Hamilton

first-hand
Field Development Newswire
Key Offshore Construction Intelligence

STRATEGIC OFFSHORE RESEARCH

New Discoveries

1. NAMIBIA: Rhino reports third Orange Basin PEL/85 find with Block 2914A Volans well in 1,200 msw. Well found 26-metre gas condensate pay "opening up exciting new play fairway different to recent Sagittarius and Capricornus". Further analysis is ongoing.

Emerging Plans

2. MEXICO: Harbour has "partner alignment" on phased FPSO plan for Pemex-operated Zama in Sureste Basin Block 7. Harbour and Talos hope to assume joint control of 800 million barrel field, targeting first quarter 2026 FEED and end-2026 FID. Pemex proposed two platforms and dual 68km pipelines to shore for late this year FID but is facing liquidity issues. Meanwhile, Harbour is inviting expressions of interest for Block 30 Kan FPSO, subsea construction and wellhead platform contracts. Operator already upgraded reserves 50% to 150 million barrels and has started development planning with end-2026 anticipated FID.

Early Prospects

3. NORWAY: Harbour is preparing Camilla North ILX prospect well in 35/8. Main gas condensate reservoir is same as Vega to south. Well duration is 62 days with "no testing planned" says operator.

4. UK: This December Petrogas launches pre-FEED and FEED tenders for 47/31 Abbey where tie-back to Harbour Tolmount or York pipeline is favoured. End-January is due EPIC subsea tender and 2028 is thought production.

5. UK: Harbour is thought to have multiple J-block discoveries under consideration for tie-back developments. Lead projects are believed Dunnotar and Peach North. Timings are to be confirmed. In southern sector further development of Tolmount East is thought being considered.

6. MALAYSIA: Total plans new Kenyalang hub off Sabah targeting four trillion scf gas across SK/313 and 301B. Operator says area is "prolific basin" and notes growing regional demand. Total is targeting 2030 delivery of 50,000 boe/d to supply Malaysia LNG.

7. EGYPT: QatarEnergy has Shell deal for 27% in North Cleopatra block in 2,600 msw. Herodotus basin block is adjacent to Chevron North El-Dabaa. Shell retains 36% operatorship.

8. SOUTH AFRICA: Tower says NewAge partner talks for Algoa-Gamtoos license "do not seem very productive despite draft document" and expects continued "slow process". Up to 50% stake is offered to finance seismic across 1.4 billion barrel deepwater slope and fan leads.

Floating Production

9. BRAZIL: Petrobras has launched P/91 Buzios-12 FPSO tender under "Build Operate Transfer" model. FPSO will have 16 wells producing 180,000 b/d oil and 420 million scf/d gas for next decade production. Unit will also be hub for gas export to Rio.

SOR - formed 2001

Key **newswires** on Subsea and Construction/Field Development markets

Ian McIntosh, since 1988, has been leading market reporter/analyst

Newswires are the foundation of everything the company does which is driven by constant market contact



FrontRunner newsletter and research/forecasts



ISSN 1475-4169

October 6th, 2025

"Trust me, I'm a contractor"

Even when contractor consolidation seems overdue and essential, there's always one group that's not jumping up and down for joy. The end clients. Consolidation inevitably means less choice for the clients and often both sooner and later, higher prices.

margin. If anywhere is going to get in a tizz about Saipem, Subsea 7 and reduced competition, it's Brazil. That's happening now. The Brazilian authorities are all over the Subsea 7/ Saipem deal like a rash.

The Brazilian anti-trust regulator is the Council for Economic Defence, Cade

just appears muddying the waters for its own sake and does have an after-taste of sour grapes. Then again which contractor wouldn't take the opportunity to make life more difficult for a competitor. After all, it's fair in love and contracting.

At least Petrobras has been quite



ISSN 1475-4169

September 22nd, 2025

The Waiting is the hardest part

Waiting can sometimes be like an art-form. The ones waiting can make a real effort to look disinterested while the slow ticking of time is eating them up inside. Yet playing a waiting game is never that easy and takes strong nerves. And sometimes preparation as well.

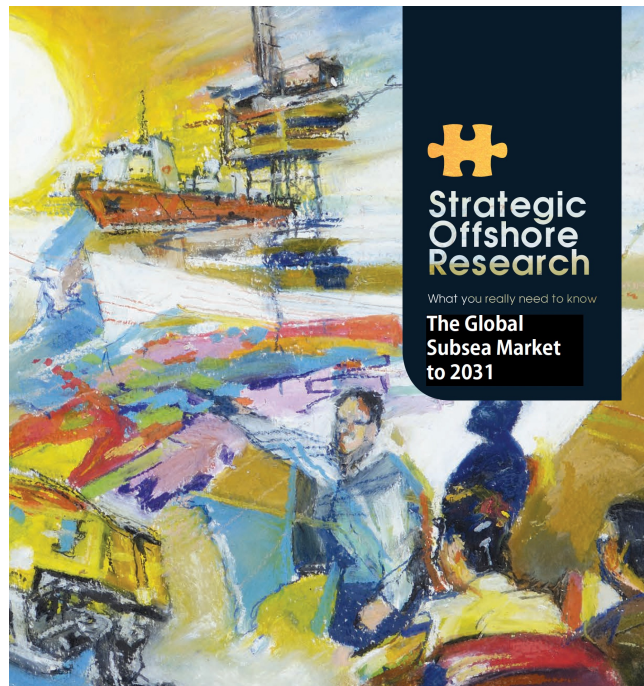
The merger of Saipem and Subsea 7 will take a long time to be finalised. There's no point getting impatient

different this time around. The offshore and subsea markets are in a phase and commercial environment they have not seen before.

Critically, the direction of money flow has really changed. There's not an awful lot of new investment in the market, outside of Middle East interests splashing money about - often with little joined up direction, money is flowing out of the industry. Most often

that "at least 40% of cashflow" can be distributed as dividends.

That they can pay dividends is great. That shows they are making profits and effectively have surplus cash on hold. Yet might some need that money later? The safety-net might not be gone, but are they cutting holes in it, or at least setting it low enough that the level of protection it might provide becomes borderline. A nasty bump might be



Twice a month **FrontRunner** opinion-based newsletter designed to stimulate debate and question market moves

Definitive vessel focused annual long-term market forecast

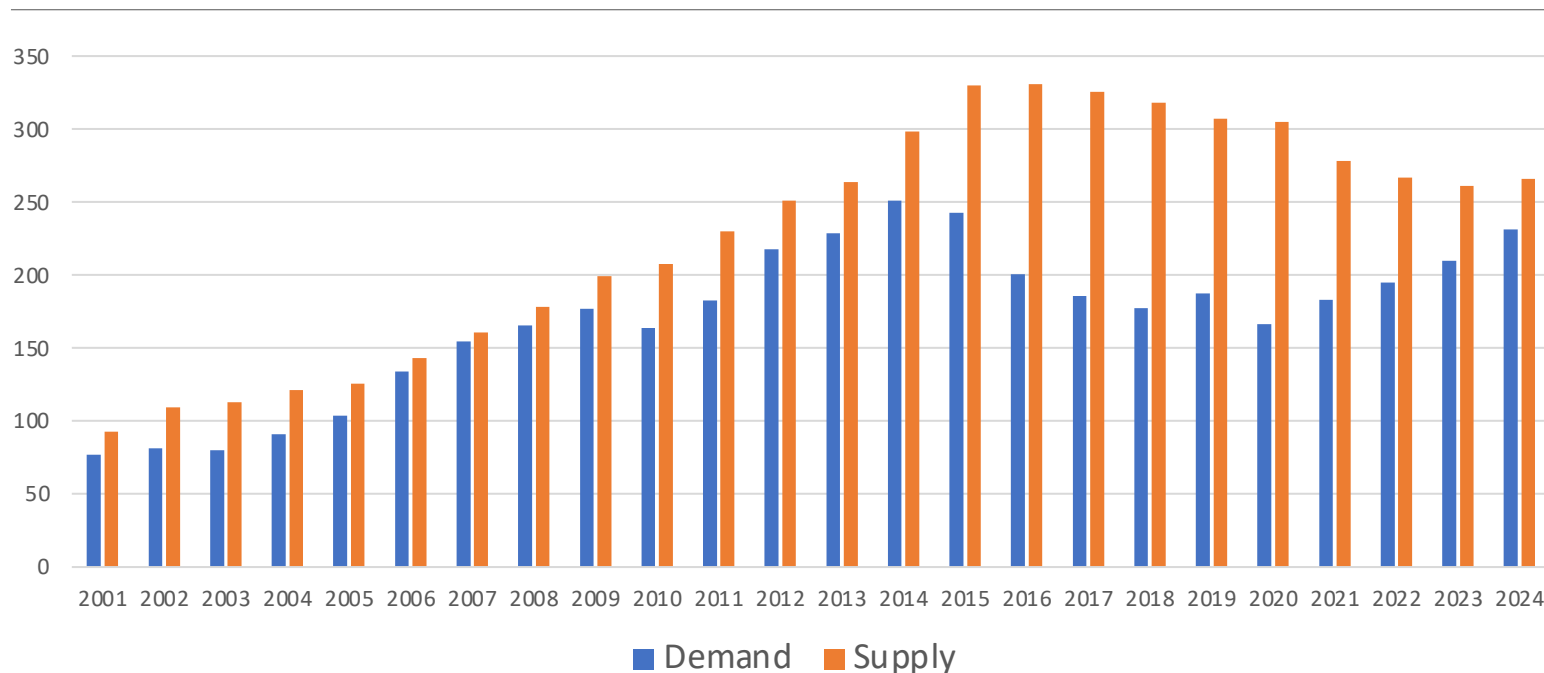
Bespoke market forecasting both ad-hoc and on regular basis

Constant consulting work for operators, contractors and financial investors either exposed to or looking at sector

Supply makeover changes everything



Subsea support vessel demand and supply

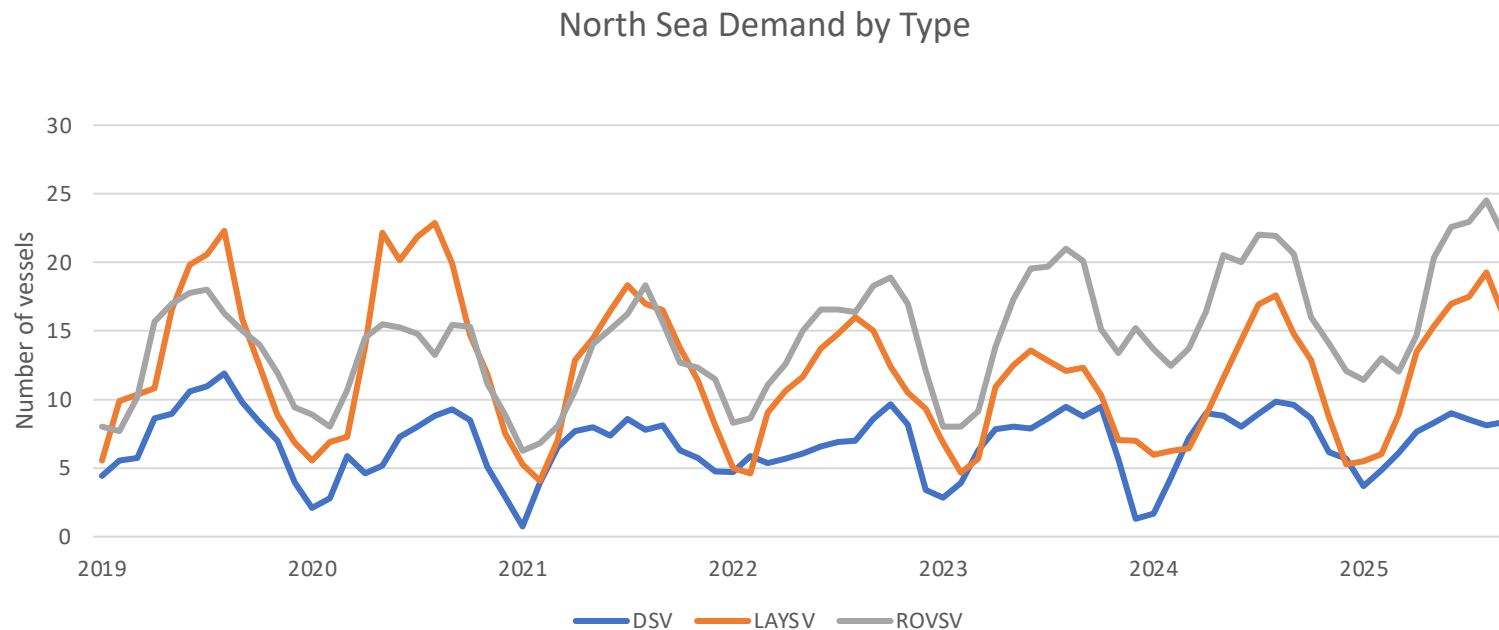






Demand stable but more seasonal

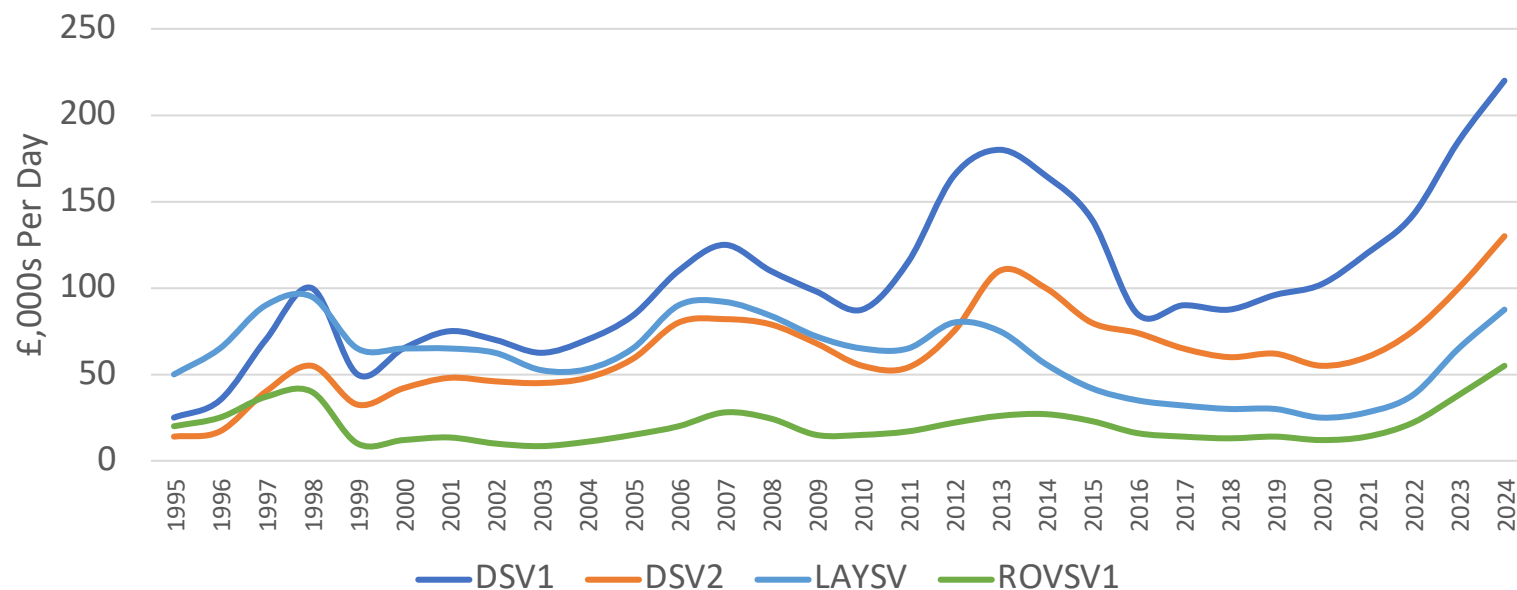
North Sea demand from 2019





Pay your money, make your choice

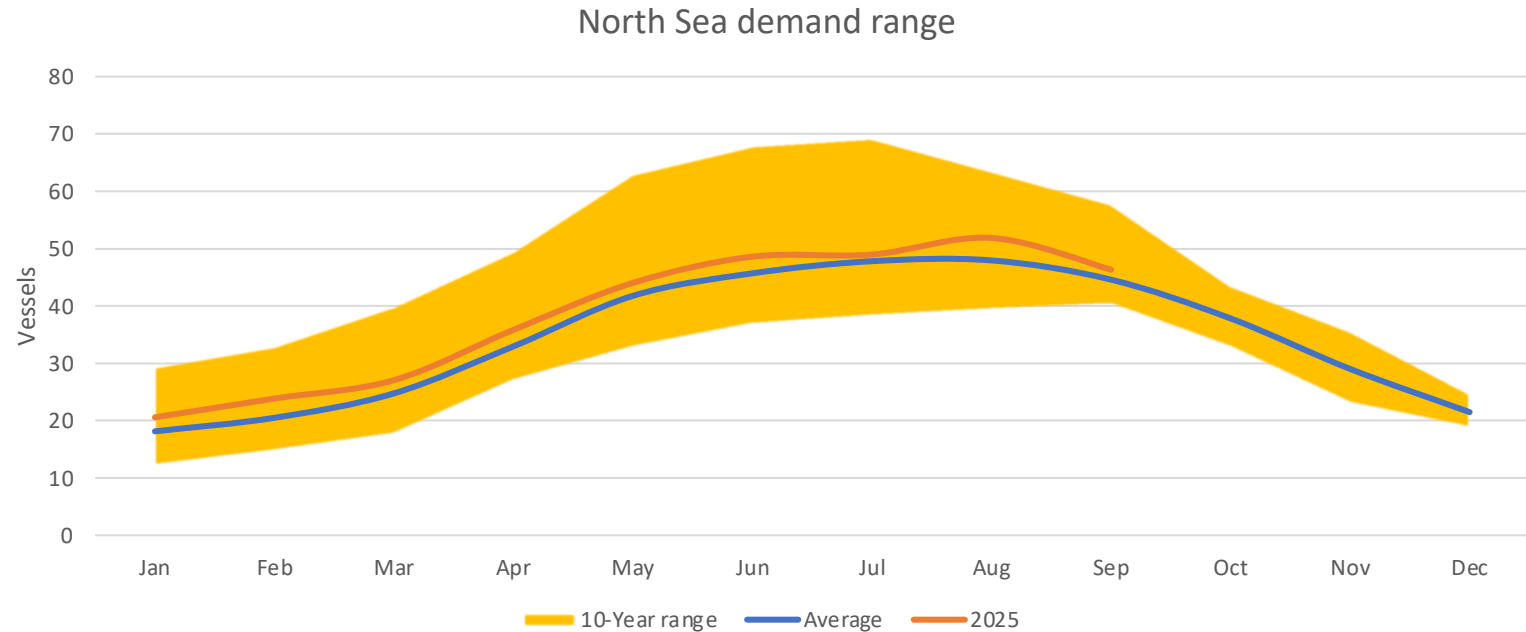
Subsea vessel day-rates





A new normal of demand

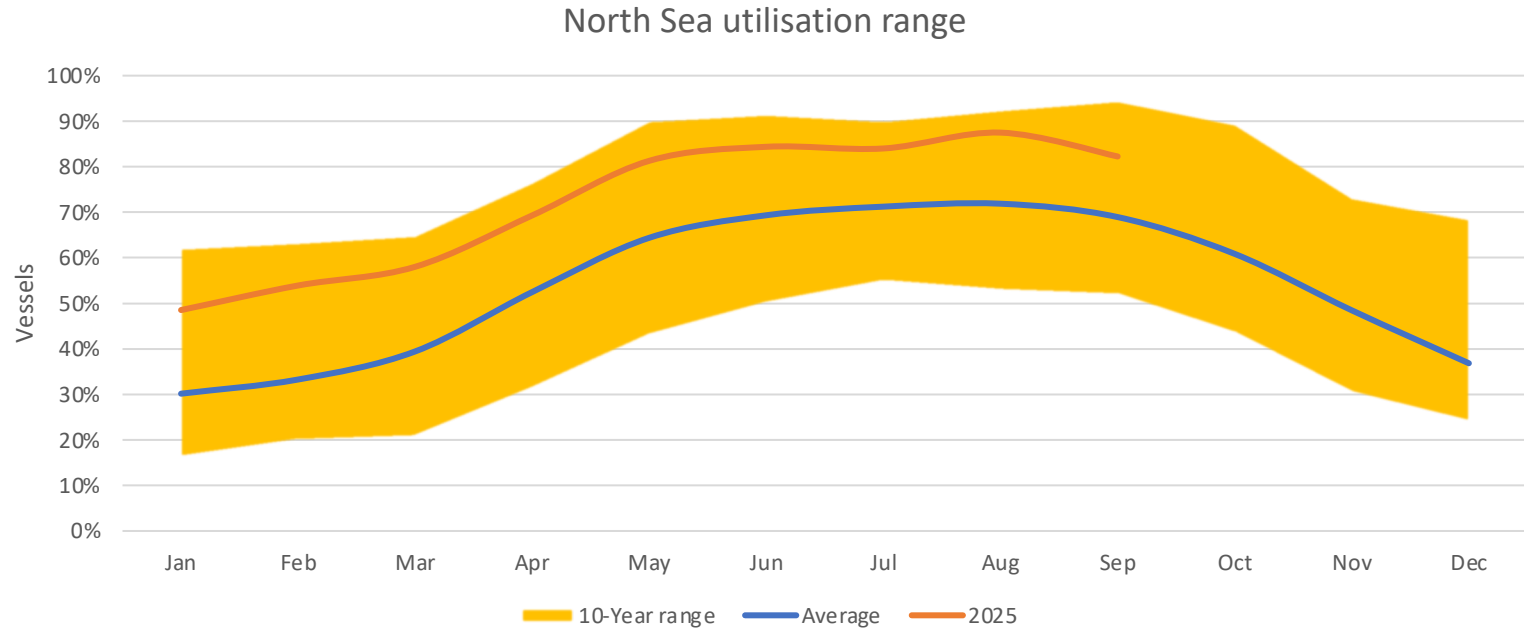
North Sea demand range 2015 to 2025 – all vessel classes





More seasonal but summer peak still comes

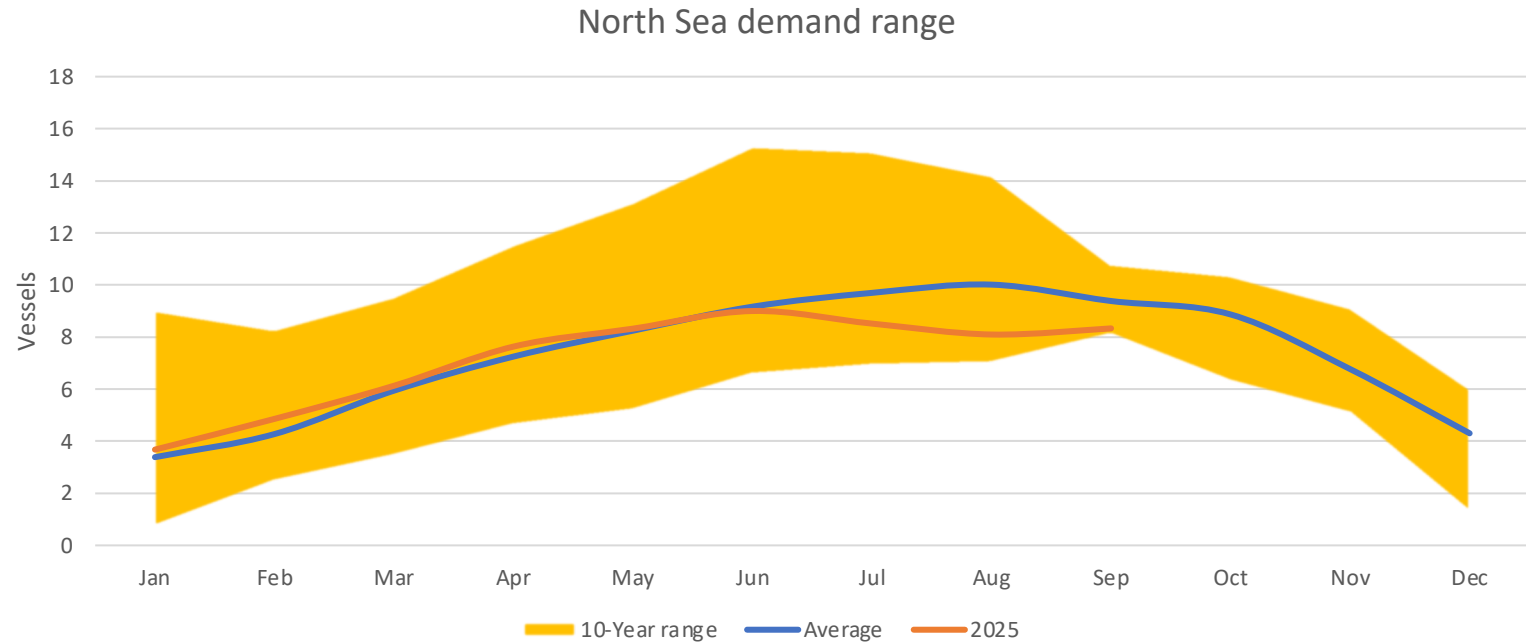
North Sea vessel utilisation 2015 to 2025





UK lets whole region down

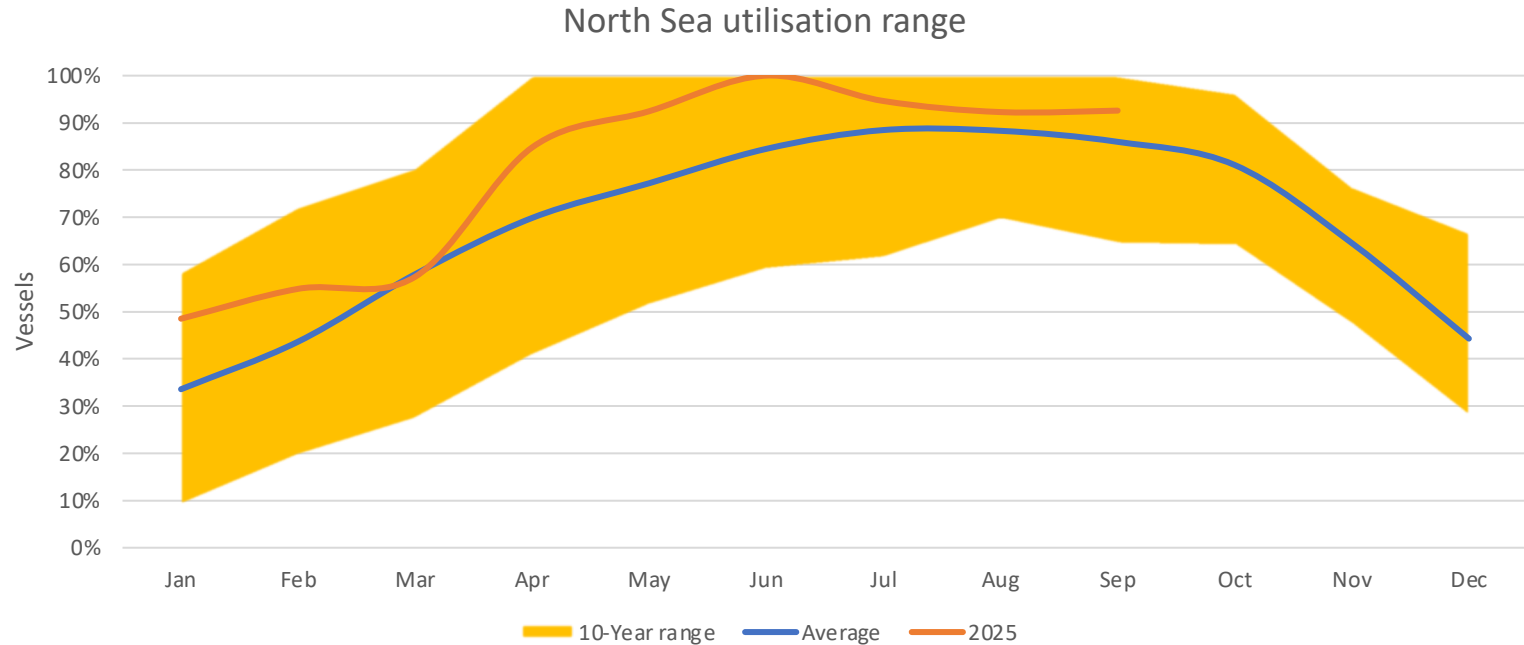
Seasonal North Sea DSV demand





Supply reacts to get things tight

Seasonal North Sea DSV utilisation

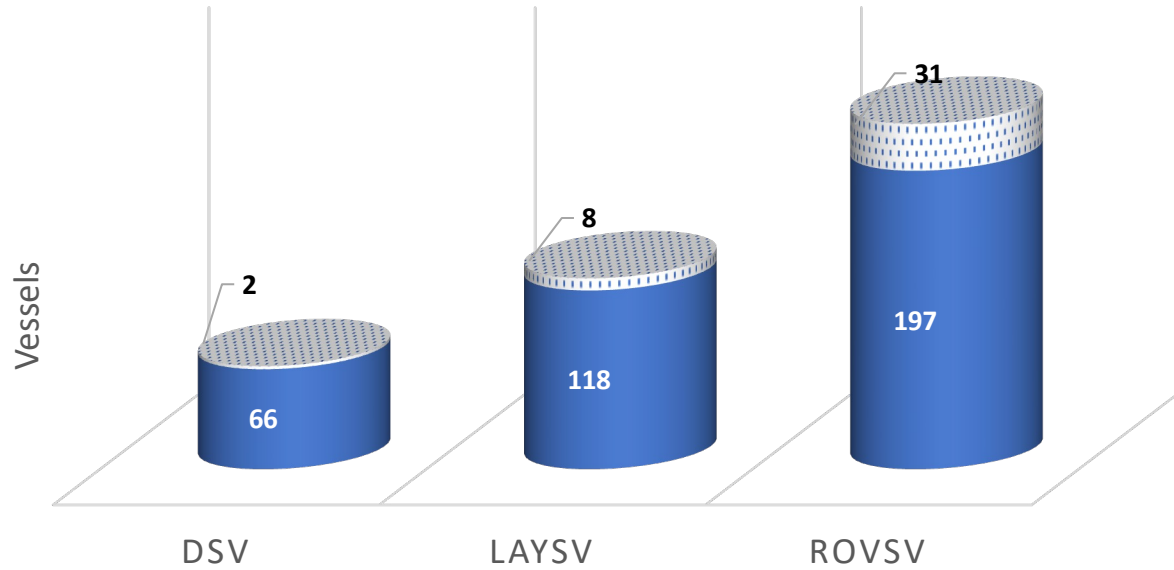




Newbuilds back at lower end

Existing subsea vessel fleet and additions

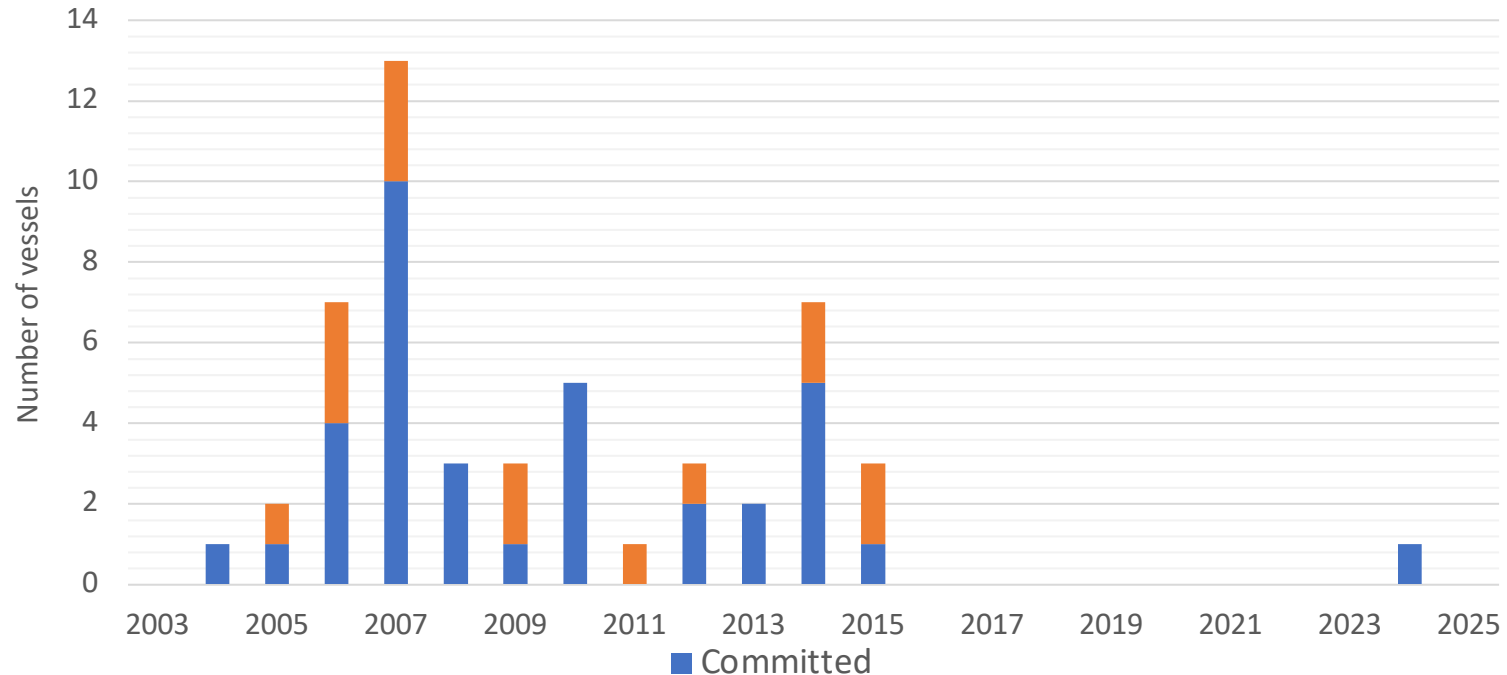
Solid columns: delivered; gradient columns: additions through 2023, active fleet includes subsea vessels currently, temporarily working outside markets





No one wants to be first mover

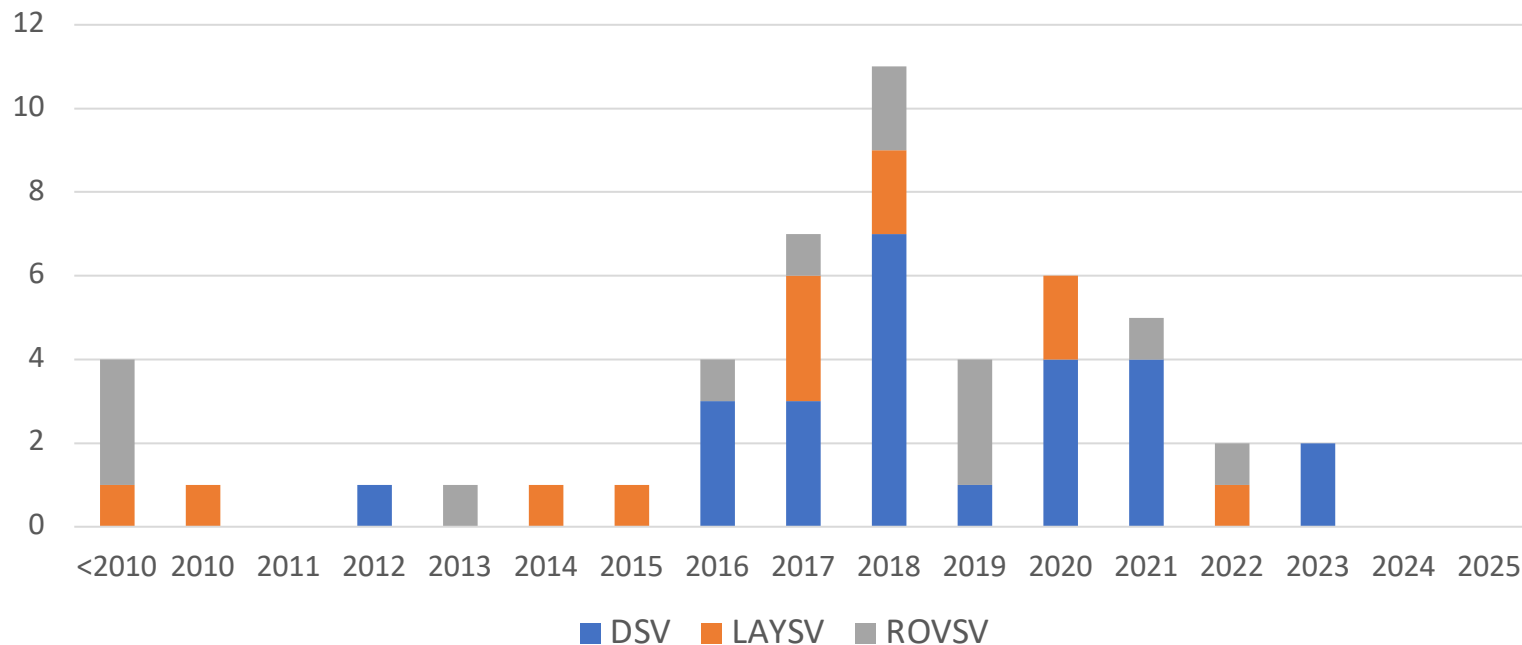
Committed and speculative DSV builds by order date





Scrapping changes things for good

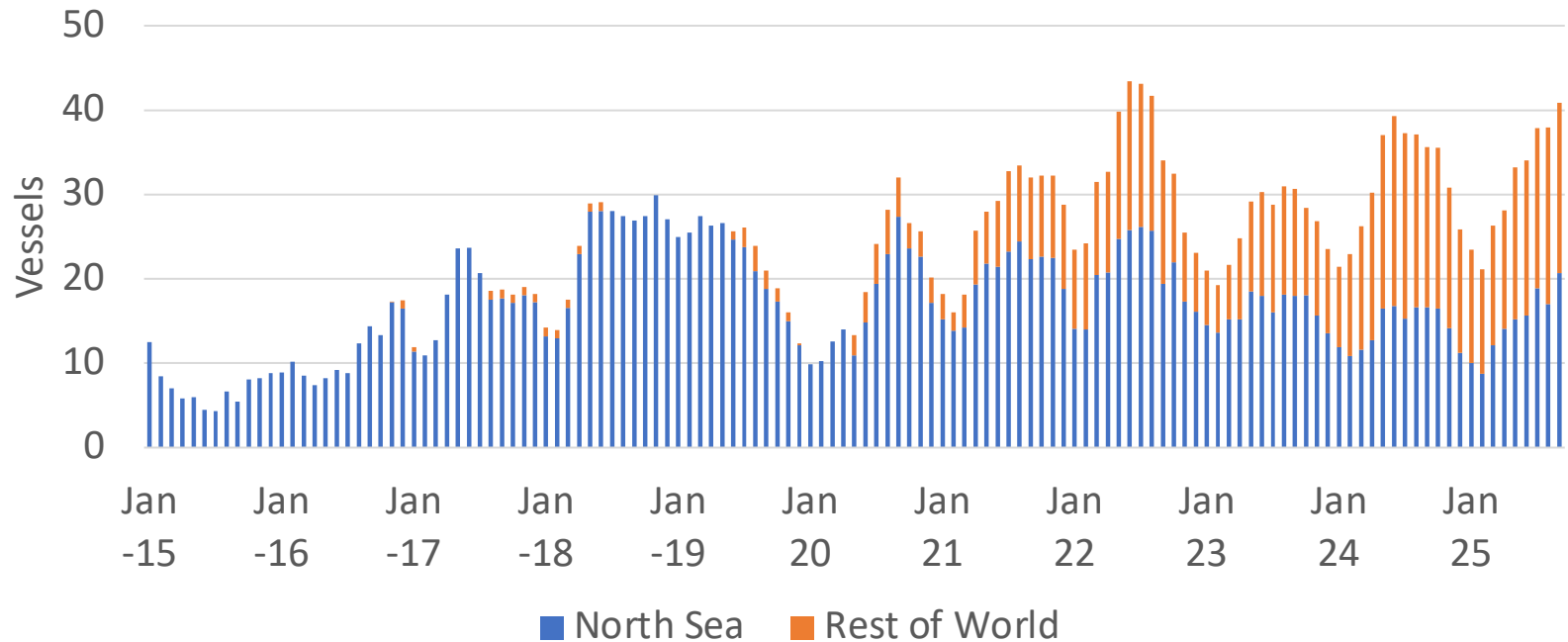
Subsea vessels scrapped since 2010 by type





More two-way traffic from and to wind

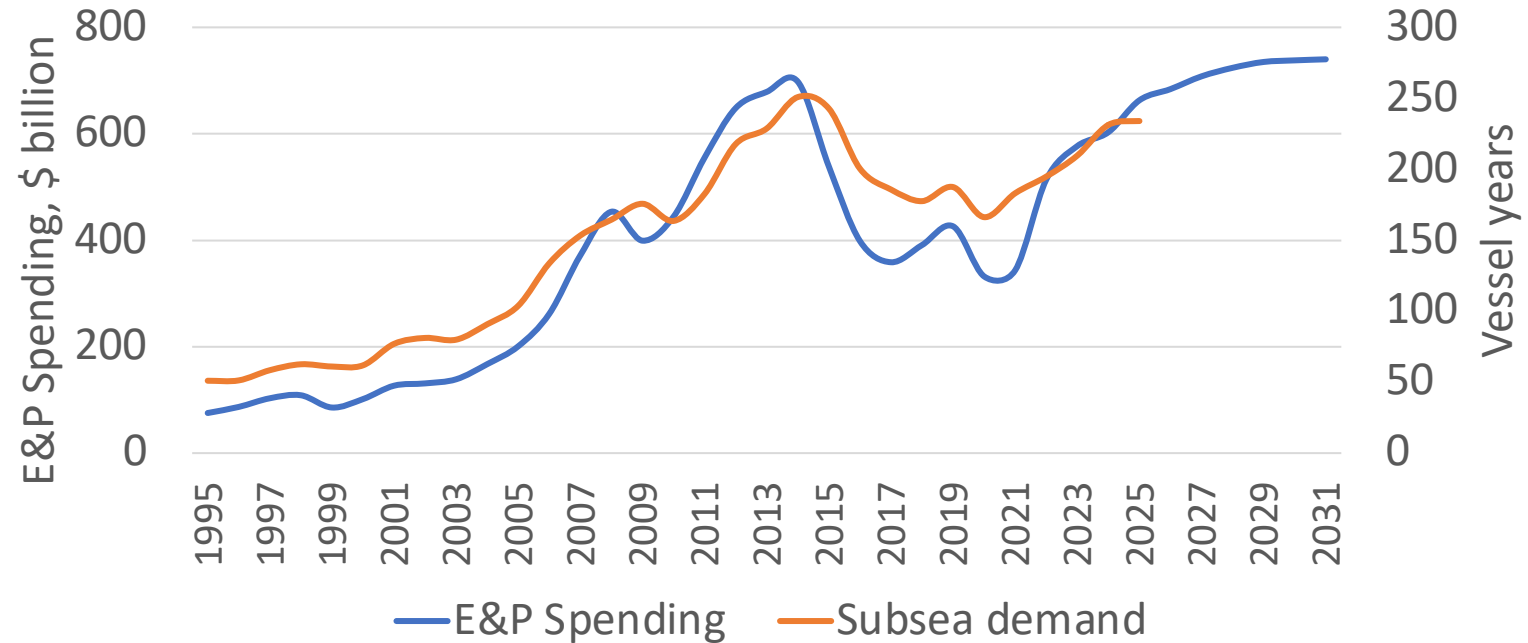
Global windfarm demand for oil and gas ships from 2015





Show me the money

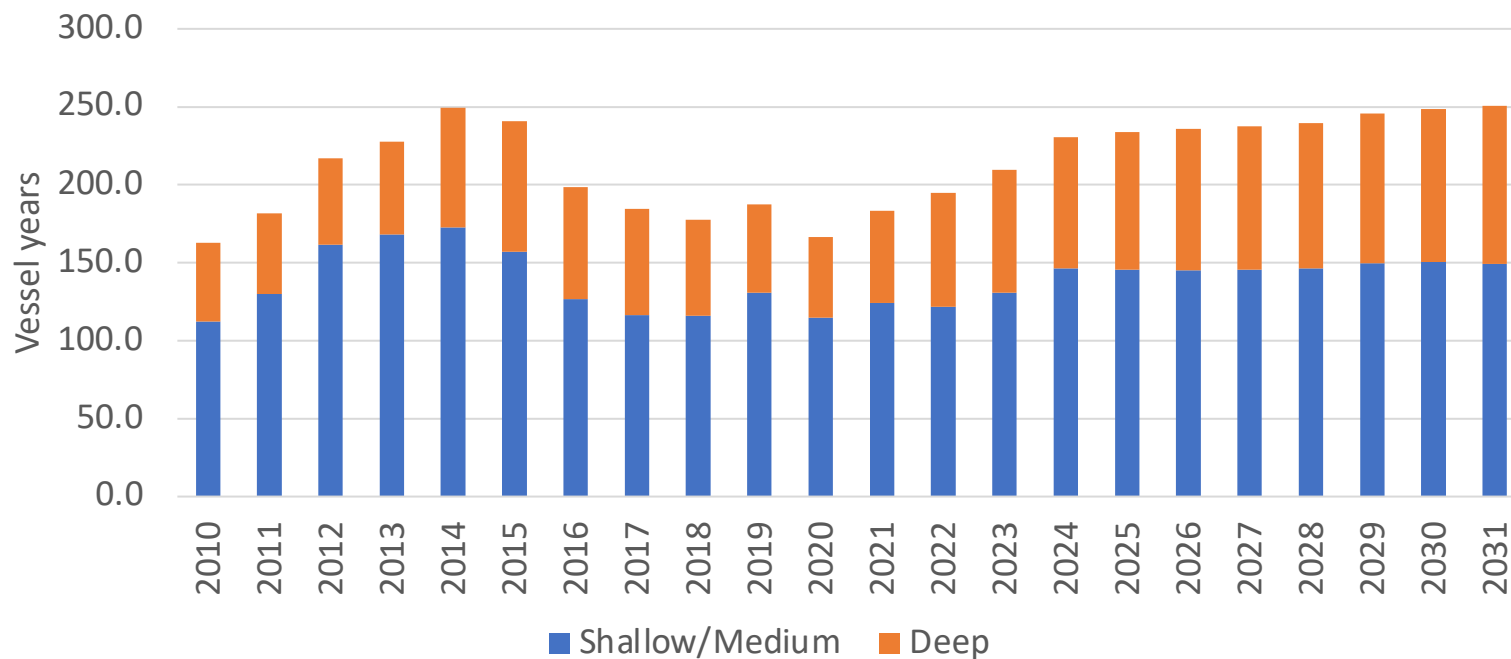
E&P Spending and subsea demand





Deepwater back in town

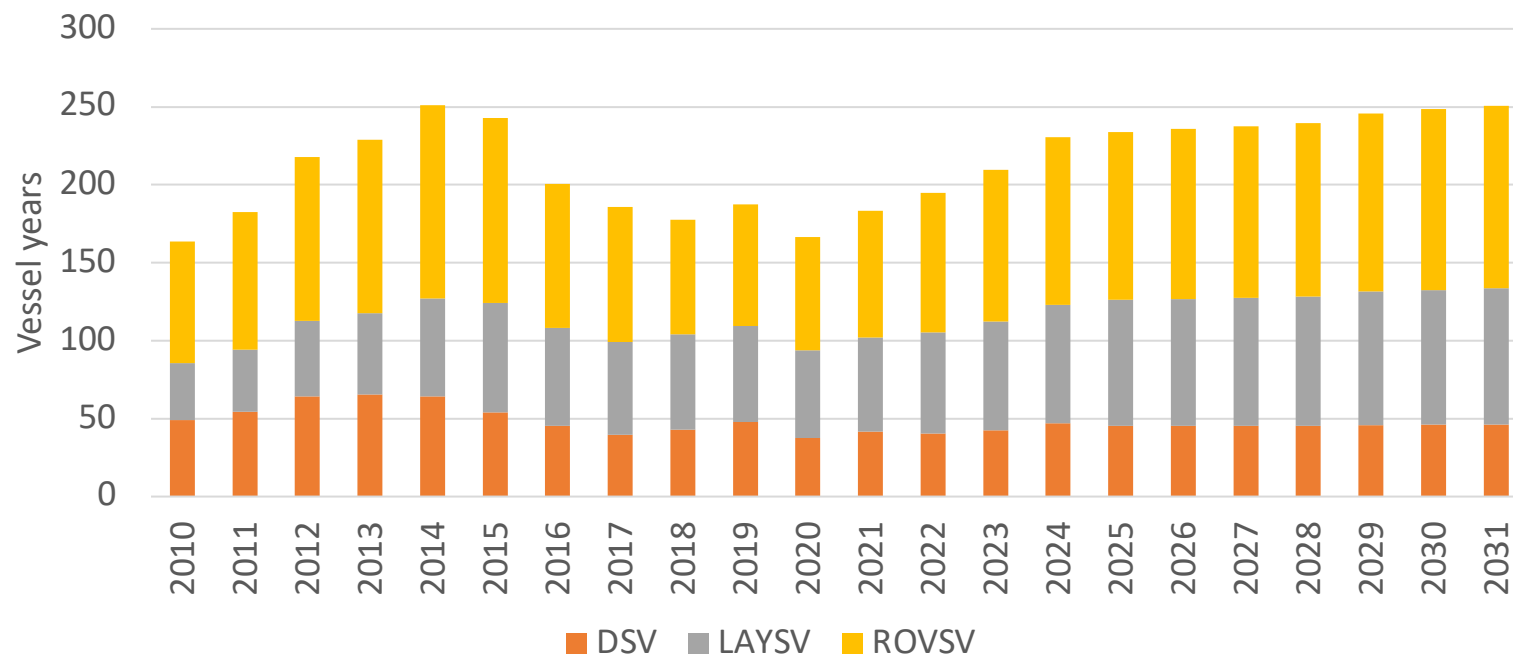
Global demand by depth range to 2031





Steady as she goes

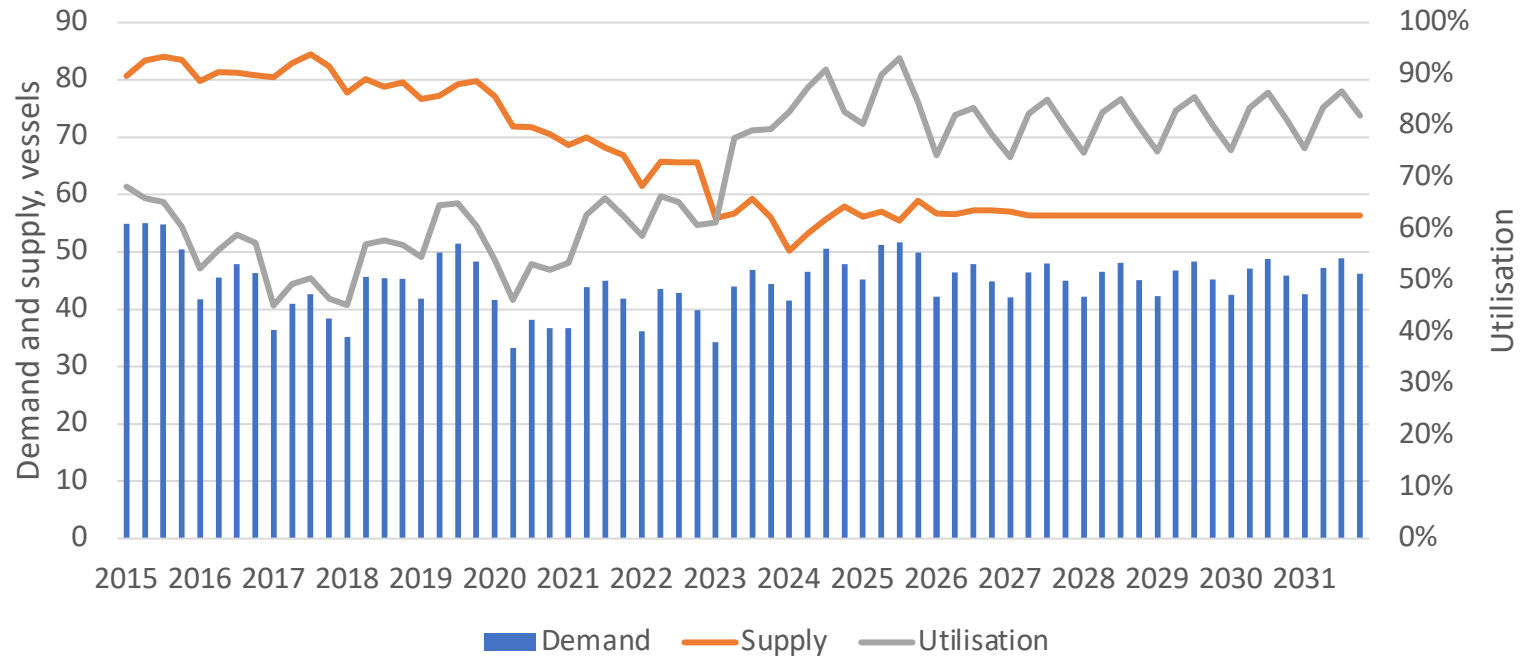
Global demand by vessel type to 2031





In a rarified atmosphere

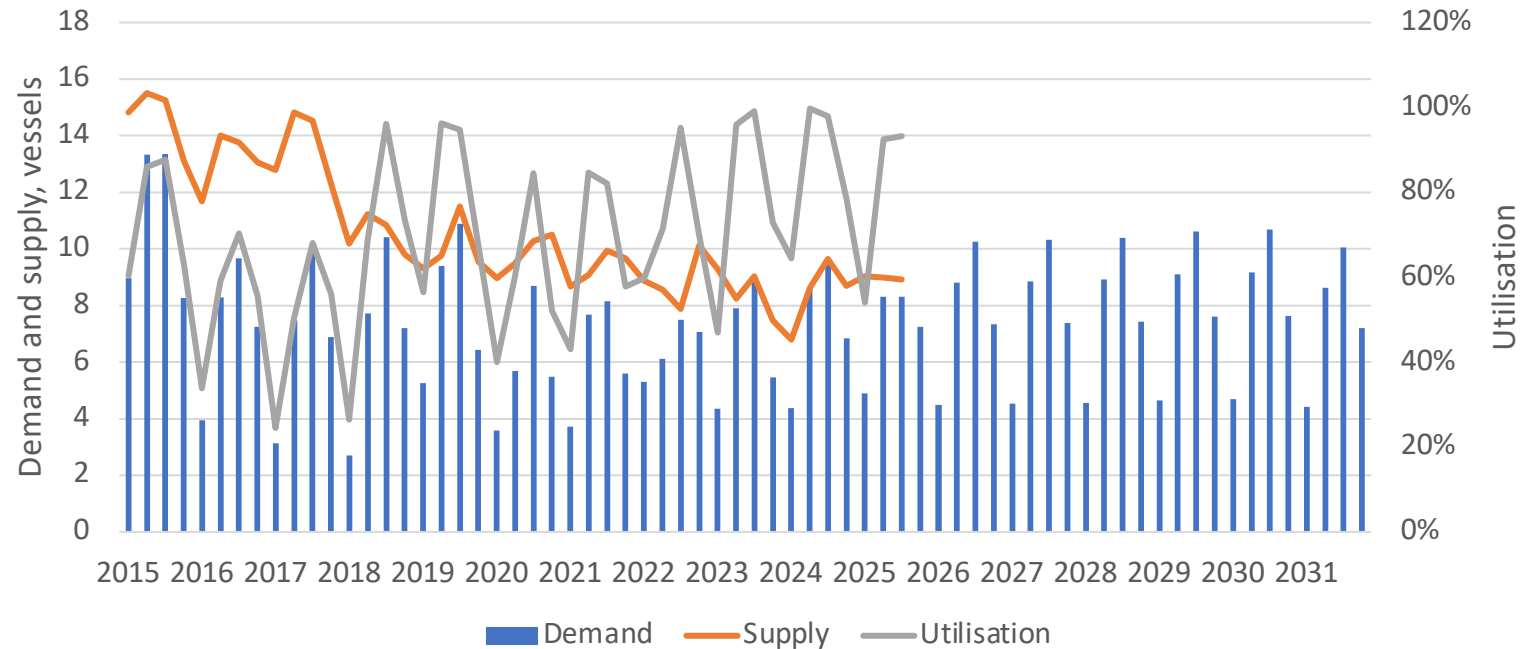
Global DSV supply and demand by quarter





Peaks can hurt sometimes

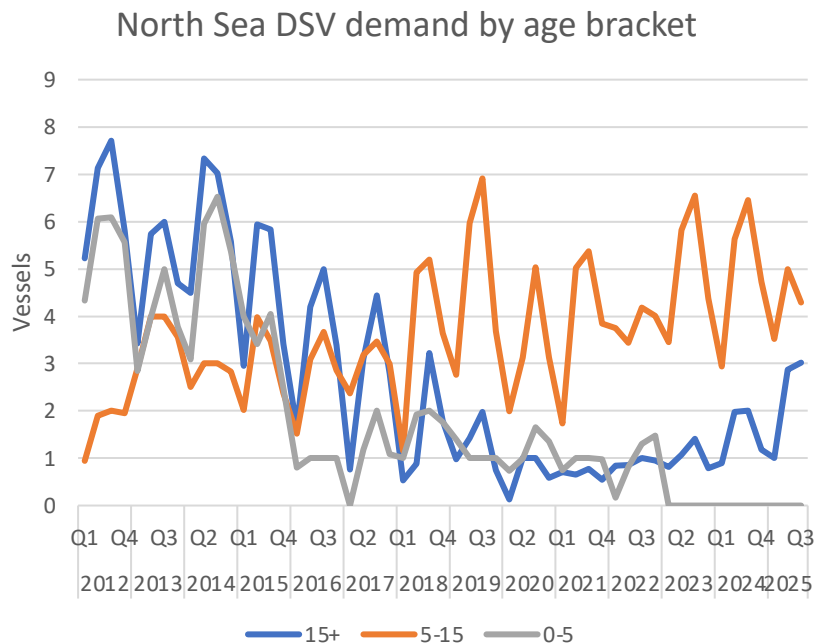
North Sea DSV supply and demand by quarter



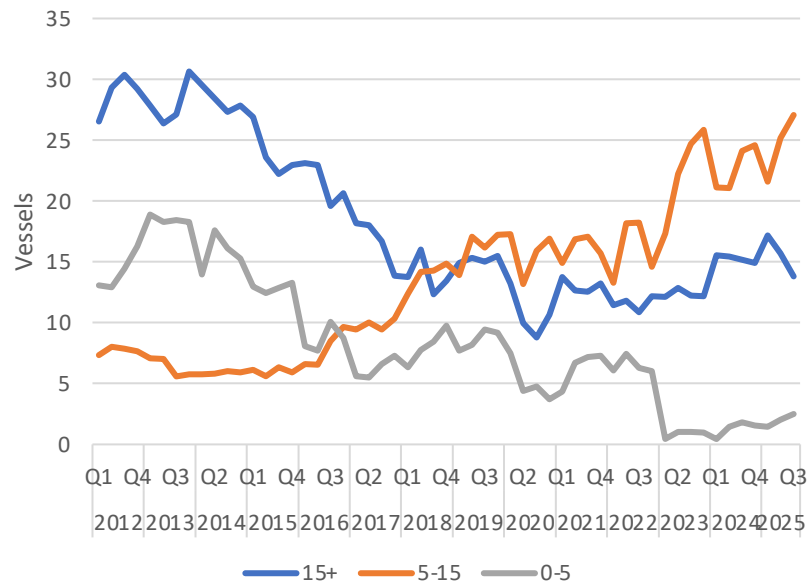
Younger vessels deployed to Rest of World



DSV demand by age bracket



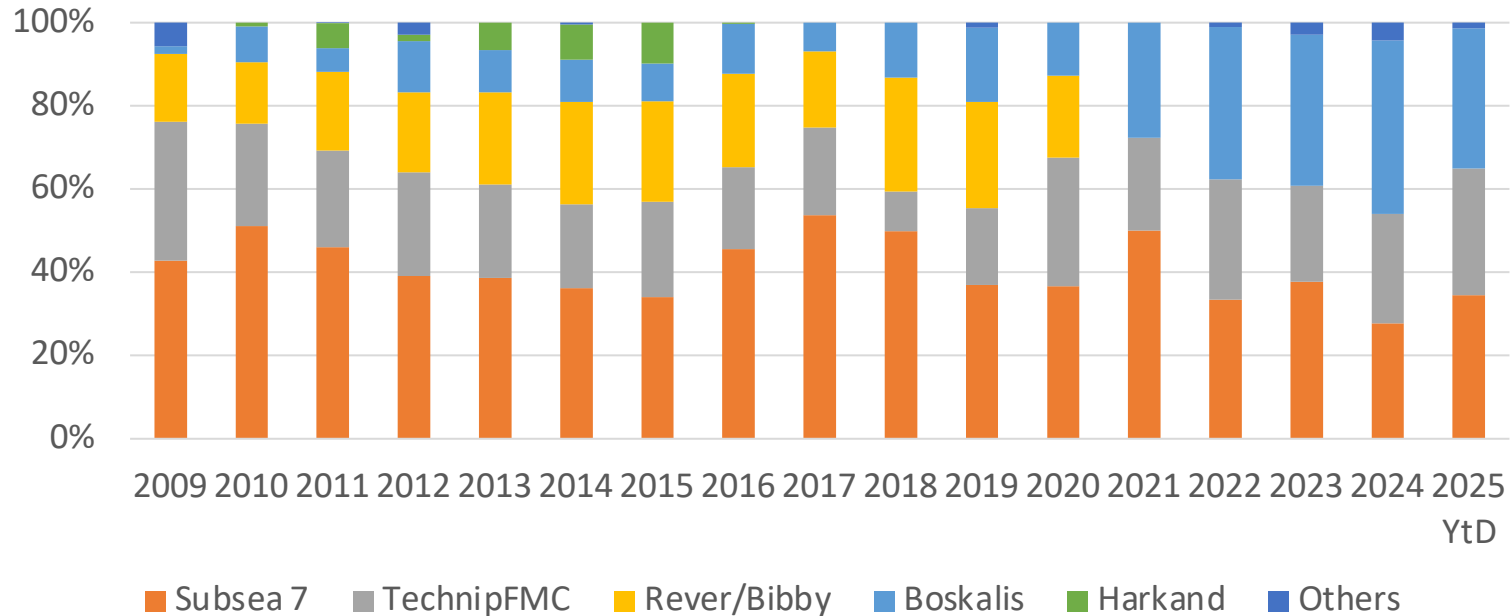
Rest of World DSV demand by age bracket





Boskalis moves some tonnage out

North Sea DSV demand by contractor





Concentrated vessel control

Most of the fleet aligned

Contractor	Fleet	Comments
Boskalis	5	One is smaller Constructor chartered out
Mermaid	5	One chartered out for US Gulf, but access to more too
Seamec	7	One on Safeen charter
Subsea 7	4	
TechnipFMC	3	
DeepOcean/Shelf	3	
Helix	2	Concentrate on well intervention
Aqueos	1	US Gulf mainly
K Subsea	1	Shell Brunei long-term
DOF	2	One long term Brazil but seldom does diving
Sapura	1	For Asia Pacific, though currently West Africa
DCN	1	Picasso could be North Sea candidate
Marine Platforms	1	Mermaid involved as well
CCC	1	Middle East, but overkill for that market

North Sea Issues:

- Only 3 players
- TechnipFMC - has to increasingly look after own in-house and integrated work. Seems to always have one vessel outside North Sea for project work, and can also use DSVs in construction roles rather than diving
- Subsea 7 - has to cover international work as well, Seven Pegasus kept away from North Sea
- Boskalis – key swing supplier but moved some tonnage
- Helix's Seawell (currently in warm lay-up) and Well Enhancer concentrate on well intervention



Supply limited and little in free market

International fleet – significant vessels

International coverage:

Mermaid – key markets are Middle East and Thailand but wants into North Sea

Shelf – three vessel fleet all chartered and remains Asia Pacific specialist

Seamec - bought for India. Swordfish chartered to Safeen. Still looking for more to add to fleet

DOF - still has Skandi Singapore in Asia, and Achiever in Brazil though Sistac handles any diving on board

Other regional ships – Kelly Ann Candies in US Gulf, PMS Mayo in Egypt, Sapura Constructor, Wilchief-1 in India

New boats found homes making for much more aligned fleet, but all away from North Sea:

African Pioneer (ex UDS Matisse) to Marine Platforms

Oriental Dragon to DeepOcean/Shelf but chartered on to Safeen

Picasso to DCN

Wadad Aletheia (ex Toisa Pelagic) to CCC

Now also aligned – Trapiche Emerald to Mermaid, Fire Opal to DeepOcean/Shelf

Boats without permanent homes - MPV Everest, Lichtenstein, Sapphire, GSP Falcon (ex Wellservicer)

Left over and remaining builds: only UDS-controlled Andy Warhol – still at build yard, sale very on/off

Solitary newbuild: very regional Jana-201 for Saudi Arabia



Key Points

- Oil and gas' demand still increasing and not going away and likewise DSV demand isn't going away
- Demand/Supply balance is tight and stays tight with DSV rates increasing
- Unique cycle of very under pressure market balance but with limited newbuilds. Fleet replacement still elephant in the room
- North Sea demand modest but utilisation red hot
- Higher prices make North Sea more seasonal again
- Newer boats staying away from North Sea
- Forward demand robust and has long legs



Contact – Strategic Offshore Research



Ian McIntosh,
Managing Director,
Strategic Offshore Research Ltd.,
1 Queen's Lane South,
Queen's Cross
Aberdeen, AB10 6XW,
Scotland.

Phone +44 (0) 1224-498020
Mobile +44 (0) 7980-744035
Email ian@strategicoffshore.com
Website www.StrategicOffshore.com