

Stories only to be told to my friends, of the first DIVING CONTRACTORS in the Norwegian Sector of the North Sea

The first drilling rigs had diving equipment installed. ROVs were introduced as an alternative intervention method ultimo 1970s. Pioneer diving was primarily bounce diving with two-man bell systems, with heliox as breathing gas. An alternative method was surface supplied diving helmets. Although the first saturation dive in the North Sea was introduced in January 1971 this technique only became a 'normal' method during medio 1970s, mainly with the introduction of the DSYS

No	Drilling Rigs	Operators	Diving Contractors	Start	End	Well	MSW	Comm.
1966								
	Ocean Traveler	Semi-Sub drilling rig, new from Avondale Shipyards, New Orleans, "Hull 1082", original owner ODECO. On completion of the 52 days tow across the Atlantic, arrived Dusavika, Stavanger 22 nd June 1966.						
1	Ocean Traveler	Esso Expl. Nor	Ocean Systems Inc	19 July -66	10 Oct -66	8/3-1	94	Ref.: //1//
	Ocean Systems Inc. (OSI)	"General Offshore Divers" was established in connection with Dan 'Hugh' Wilson's first heliox oilfield dive onboard the drillship Cuss I, offshore California on 9 th December 1962. In the late summer of 1964 the company became an affiliate of "Union Carbide", the world's biggest supplier of chemicals and gases (incl. helium), and "Hugh" became the Operations Manager of the world's first industrial diving company. With William (Bill) Giannotti, the Manager, Foreign Operations, he organised the first bell-diving operation in Norwegian waters. The early OSI supervisor in Stavanger was Lyle Kirlin. Early North Sea diving crew was Jim Thompson, Dan Eden, Bob Colomy, Jerry Todd, Randy Green, with the Norwegians Odd Gaaskjenn and Idar Johnsen. Michael F. Williams and Ron Imrie later managed OSI, Stavanger in the 1970s. OSI had many owners, and became part of Oceaneering in 1984. Ref.: //2//						
2	Ocean Traveler	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	18 Oct -66	09 July - 67	25/11-1	126	Ref.: //1//
1967								
3	Ocean Traveler	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	11 July -67	09 Aug -67	16/2-1	113	Ref.: //1//
	Ocean Viking	When ODECO wanted to make another Semi-Sub drilling rig, similar but strengthen compared to Ocean Traveler, Phillips influenced the rig to be built in Norway. This to strengthen the use of Norwegian goods and services. "The good luck rig" on the Norwegian shelf was towed from Aker Nyland Ship Yard, Oslo on 17 March 1967. The rig's first well was drilled for Total in the British sector, starting 25 March 1967. Ref.: //2 - 3//						
4	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Sanford Brothers	14 July -67	31 Oct -67	16/11 -1	67	Ref.: //1//. First fatal diving accident at 3 rd October 1967. The British diver, R. J. Lyons, while doing water stop decompression ascended uncontrolled to surface.
	Sanford Brothers	The company was established in Morgan City, Louisiana, in September 1959 by the brothers Joe and Tom Sanford. A PPCON relation offered the contract on Ocean Viking, and the Sanford's had the chamber constructed from a 60" pipe. This was their only diving contract in the North Sea. In 1966 the brothers had a tax-free exchange were they received a princely chunk of Westinghouse stock. Westinghouse bought the company, renamed it Sanford Marine, and the brothers left diving. Ref.: //2//						
5	Ocean Traveler	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	11 Aug -67	24 Sept -67	16/7-1	80	Ref.: //1//
6	Ocean Traveler	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	26 Sept -67	10 Dec -67	16/1-1	115	Ref.: //1//
7	Ocean Viking	Elf Petr. Norge	Sanford Brothers	07 Nov -67	19 Jan -68	16/6-1	117	Ref.: //1//
	Drillship	"Drillship" was delivered in 1937 as the floating whale factory Thorshøvdi. Converted into, at the time world's largest drilling ship by Aker Nyland Mek Verk, Oslo in 1967. Many problems arose during the drilling of 2/8-1, the rig's only well drilled in the Norwegian sector, due to the weather conditions. Drillship was at Rosenberg Ship Yard, Stavanger, for repairs and modifications from 19 January to 8 March 1968.						
8	Drillship	Amoco Norway	OSI	28 Nov -67	02 July -68	2/8-1	69	Ref.: //1//
	Ocean Traveler	The rig was at repair at Rosenberg Ship Yard, Stavanger from 15 December 1967 to 15 April 1968. The new Diving Contractor onboard became Divcon.						

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No	Drilling Rigs	Operators	Diving Contractors	Start	End	Well	MSW	Comm.
1968								
Ocean Viking								
The rig was at repair at Rosenberg Ship Yard, Stavanger from 19 January to 28 February 1968. The new Diving Contractor onboard became Comex during the drilling of well 7/11-1. Uncertain of the actual time for the change of diving contractors. Please advice.								
9	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Sanford Bros, Comex	28 Feb -68	15 June -68	7/11-1	78	Ref.: //1//, Cod Field
Comex								
Henri Delauze started the Compagnie Maritime d'Expertises (Comex) in November 1961 in Marseilles, France. Comex was made a medium size diving company mostly on foreign (Algeria, Viet Nam, etc.) construction diving. Delauze had a hyperbaric complex established in Marseille in 1965, and had Dr. Xavier Fructus managing experimental diving while altering decompression tables. By introducing new technology with alternative contractual and training methods Comex became the world's leading diving contractor in the best part of the 1970s and -80s. Ref.: However, the marked was changing, financial difficulties introduced and 5 th June 1992 the ownership of Comex Services was transferred to Stolt Tankers and Terminals and the new company Stolt Comex Seaway was established. The company was renamed Stolt Offshore S.A. in 2000. Stolt-Nielsen sold its ownership in Stolt Offshore S.A. in 2005. Stolt Offshore S.A. formally changed the name to Aceergy S.A. on 10th April 2006. The combination between Aceergy S.A. and Subsea 7 Inc. was completed, and the first day of trading in the new Subsea 7 Inc. was on Monday January 10, 2011. Ref.: //2//								
10	Endeavour	Conoco Norway	OSI	31 Mar -68	19 May -68	9/4-1	68	Ref.: //1//, First Jack-Up rig in Norwegian sector.
11	Glomar Grand Isle	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	08 May -68	12 July -68	16/9-1	89	Ref.: //1//
12	Endeavour	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	23 May -68	29 June -68	9/8-1	68	Ref.: //1//
13	Orion	Norske Shell	Divcon	24 May -68	30 June -68	17/11-1	75	Ref.: //1//
Divcon								
Was started by Murray Black, previously one of the managers in Associated Divers (the biggest diving company offshore California in the early days) in August 1962 and was the global leader in petroleum related diving in the late 60s. Even when Divcon was grooving, had 26 diving contracts in 23 different countries, it was loosing money. In 1971 Oceaneering became the dominant force in the diving field as it acquired Divcon, which was approx. 5 times larger than Oceaneering at the time. Ref.: //3//, //4//.								
14	Ocean Viking	Elf Petr. Norge	Comex	17 June -68	26 Aug -68	17/4-1	105	Ref.: //1//
15	Orion	Norske Shell	Divcon	06 July -68	11 Nov -68	1/3-1	71	Ref.: //1//
16	Ocean Traveler	PPCON	Divcon	21 July -68	14 Oct -68	7/11-2	82	Ref.: //1//, Cod Field
17	Gulf Tide	Gulf Expl.	OSI	31 Aug -68	18 Oct -68	7/12-1	71	Ref.: //1//
18	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Comex	31 Aug -68	05 Feb -69	7/8-1	82	Ref.: //1//
19	Ocean Traveler	PPCON	Divcon	17 Oct -68	07 Feb -69	7/11-3	79	Ref.: //1//, Cod Field
20	Sedneth 1	Norske Shell	?	30 Dec -68	24 Mar -69	17/10-1	88	Ref.: //1//

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1969								
At Rosenberg Ship Yard, Stavanger, repairing pontoons. From 06 February to 20 April 1969.								
21	Ocean Traveler	Norske Murphy	Divcon	10 Feb -69	03 Apr -69	2/3-1	59	Ref.: //1//
22	Sedneth 1	Norske Shell	?	28 Mar -69	06 May -69	9/12-1	61	Ref.: //1//
23	Orion	Amoco Norway	Divcon	07 Apr -69	10 June -69	7/3-1	64	Ref.: //1//
24	Ocean Viking	Elf N.	Comex	21 Apr -69	30 May -69	2/6-1	69	Ref.: //1//
25	Sedneth 1	Norske Shell	?	14 May -69	27 July -69	1/3-2	73	Ref.: //1//
26	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Comex	30 May -69	01 July -69	8/10-1	66	Ref.: //1//
27	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Comex	02 July -69	31 July -69	7/11-4	79	Ref.: //1//, Mime Field
28	Orion	Amoco Norway	Divcon	14 July -69	03 Oct -69	2/11-1	68	Ref.: //1//, Valhall Field
29	Ocean Traveler	Norske Murphy	Divcon	26 July -69	13 Aug -69	2/3-2	58	Ref.: //1//, Left Norwegian sector for South Africa.
30	Ocean Viking	Syracuse Oil N	Comex	02 Aug -69	19 Aug -69	11/10-1	63	Ref.: //1//
31	Glomar Grand Isle	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	04 Aug -69	16 Oct -69	25/10-1	124	Ref.: //1//, Balder Field
32	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Comex	25 Aug -69	16 Sept -69	2/4-1	71	Ref.: //1//
33	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Comex	18 Sept -69	24 Dec -69	2/4-2	70	Ref.: //1//, The Ekofisk Discovery well.

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1970								
34	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Comex	27 Jan -70	31 May -70	2/4-3	71	Ref.: //1//, Ekofisk Field
35	Glomar Grand Isle	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	28 Apr -70	04 July -70	25/8-1	129	Ref.: //1//, Balder Field
36	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Comex	02 June -70	01 Aug -70	2/4 -4	71	Ref.: //1//, Ekofisk Field
37	Neptune 7	PPCON	Comex	21 June -70	27 Aug -70	2/4-5	68	Ref.: //1//, Ekofisk Field
38	Orion	Amoco Norway	Divcon	28 June -70	30 July -70	2/8-2	69	Ref.: //1//
39	Glomar Grand Isle	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	09 July -70	03 Aug -70	25/10-1 R	124	Ref.: //1//, Balder Field
40	Gulf Tide	Texaco	OSI	19 July -70	29 Aug -70	9/4-2	70	Ref.: //1//
41	Orion	Amoco Norway	Divcon	01 Aug -70	22 Nov -70	2/5-1	68	Ref.: //1//, Tor Field
42	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Comex	03 Aug -70	11 Dec -70	2/7-1	71	Ref.: //1//, Eldfisk Field
43	Glomar Grand Isle	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	05 Aug -70	25 Aug -70	25/10-2	121	Ref.: //1//
44	Glomar Grand Isle	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	27 Aug -70	13 Sept -70	25/10-3	126	Ref.: //1//
45	Neptune 7	PPCON	Comex	28 Aug -70	10 Dec -70	2/4-6	70	Ref.: //1//, Vest Ekofisk Field
46	Gulf Tide	Norske Murphy	OSI	30 Aug -70	18 Sept -30	9/19-1	59	Ref.: //1//
47	Glomar Grand Isle	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	14 Sept -70	24 Sept -70	25/11-2	130	Ref.: //1//
48	Glomar Grand Isle	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	25 Sept -70	14 Oct -70	25/11/-3	127	Ref.: //1//
49	Glomar Grand Isle	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	15 Oct -70	20 Nov -70	25/11-4	127	Ref.: //1//
50	Neptune 7	Elf Petr. Norge	Comex	12 Dec -70	17 Jan -71	10/8-1	81	Ref.: //1//
51	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Comex	13 Dec -70	02 Mar -71	2/7-2	71	Ref.: //1//

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1971								
Hugh W. Gordon								
Brown & Root barge with divers from Taylor onboard left Stavanger 12 Jan -71 reroute to Ekofisk to commence the first saturation dive in the North Sea.								
52	Mærsk Explorer	Amoco Norway	?	15 Jan -71	20 Apr -71	2/5-2	66	Ref.: //1//, Tor Field
53	Neptun 7	Elf Petr. Norge	Comex	17 Jan -71	08 Feb -71	16/5-1	103	Ref.: //1//
	Gulf Tide	PPCON	OSI	15 Feb -71	15 Aug -74		71	Oil Production platform at Ekofisk. Production commenced 15 June 1991.
	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Comex	09 Mar -71			73	The second fatal diving accident in the Norwegian sector was with Thomas Michael Courtney Lally, a 32 year old British diver.
54	Neptune 7	Elf Petr. Norge	Comex	30 Mar -71	22 July -71	25/1-1	101	Ref.: //1//, Frigg field
55	Mærsk Explorer	Conoco Norway	?	22 Apr -71	29 May -71	7/9-1	70	Ref.: //1//
	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Comex	03 May -71			70	The third fatal diving accident in the Norwegian sector was with Michael Bruhneen, a 35 year old British diver.
56	Mærsk Explorer	Conoco Norway	?	31 May -71	23 July -71	8/12-1	62	Ref.: //1//
57	Transworld 61	Conoco Norway	?	03 July -71	19 Aug -71	9/11-1	65	Ref.: //1//
58	Mærsk Explorer	Amoco Norway	?	03 July -71	05 Aug -71	7/1-1	82	Ref.: //1//
59	Neptun 7	Elf Petr. Norge	Comex	22 Jul -72	25 Aug -71	25/1-2	103	Ref.: //1//, Frigg field
60	Mærsk Explorer	PPCON	?	24 Jul -71	08 Oct -71	2/4-7	68	Ref.: //1//, Tor Field
61	Glomar Grand Isle	Esso Expl.	OSI	07 Aug -71	08 Sept -71	15/6-1	115.5	Ref.: //1//
62	Glomar Grand Isle	Esso Expl.	OSI	09 Sept -71	26 Oct -71	15/6-2	115	Ref.: //1//
63	Ocean Tide	Norske Murphy	Sub Sea International	08 Oct -71	20 Nov -70	2/3-3	56	Ref.: //1//
64	Mærsk Explorer	PPCON	?	27 Oct -71	01 Nov -71	17/12-1	115	Ref.: //1//
65	Neptun 7	Elf Petr. Norge	Comex	14 Nov -71	27 Jan -72	25/1-3	105	Ref.: //1//, Frigg field
66	Zapata Explorer	PPCON	?	25 Nov -71	29 Mar -72	2/4-8	66	Ref.: //1//, Tor Field
67	Ocean Tide	PPCON	Sub Sea International	02 Dec -71	07 Feb -72	8/1-1	67	Ref.: //1//

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No	Drilling Rigs	Operators	Diving Contractors	Start	End	Well	MSW	Comm.
1972								
68	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Comex	14 Mar -72	21 June -72	17/12-1R	115	Ref.: //1//
69	Zapata Explorer	Amoco Norway	?	02 Apr -72	15 June -72	2/5-3	67	Ref.: //1//, Southeast Tor Field
70	Orion	PPCON	?	14 Apr -72	11 Oct -72	2/7-3	69	Ref.: //1//
71	Glomar Grand Isle	Esso Expl. Nor	OSI	02 May -72	08 July -72	25/10-2	121	Ref.: //1//
72	Zapata Explorer	Amoco Norway	?	16 Jun -72	13 Sept -72	2/8-3	69	Ref.: //1//
73	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Comex	23 June -72	03 Sept -72	2/7-4	72	Ref.: //1//, Edda Field
74	Zapata Nordic	Norske Shell	?	10 July -72	26 Nov -72	1/6-1	69	Ref.: //1//, Albueskjell Field
75	Neptun 7	Elf Petr. Norge	Comex	01 July -72	09 Dec -72	25/4-1	122	Ref.: //1//, The discovery well, Heimdal Field.
76	Ocean Tide	Conoco Norway	Threex Diving Comp.	14 July -72	19 Aug -72	9/4-3	72	Ref.: //1//, First 3X offshore rig diving contract.
<p>Threex Diving Company With NOK 20.000 in shares started Odd Graaskjenn, Gunnar Moelegaard and Leif-Tore Skjervén 3X Diving Company, to become the first Norwegian offshore diving company, in September 1968. In the early years 3X supplied local divers to the international offshore diving companies, as: OSI, Comex, Cocéan, CG Doris, in addition to diving on regular construction sites along the Norwegian coast. 3X had the first Norwegian decompression chambers, Yokohama mixed gas diving helmets and bell-systems. In 1973, with the intent to expand into saturation diving, they became short of founding and decided to cooperate with the ship owner Fred Olsen, who controlled the Dolphin offshore companies. Odd left in 1974 (to start Scan Dive), Gunnar and Leif-Tore in 1979, and the company changed name to Sub Sea Dolphin. In December 1998 Stolt Comex Seaway acquired the business of Sub Sea Dolphin for approximately \$17 million.</p>								
77	Ocean Tide	Conoco Norway	Threex Diving Comp.	28 Aug -72	14. Nov -72	2/1-1	66	Ref.: //1//
78	Zapata Explorer	Amoco Norway	?	03 Sept -72	31 Oct -72	2/5-4	68	Ref.: //1//
79	Ocean Viking	PPCON	Comex	03 Sept -72	01 Jan -73	2/7-5	72	Ref.: //1//, Edda Field
80	Zapata Explorer	Amoco Norway	?	3 Nov -72	07 Dec -72	2/9-1	67	Ref.: //1//
81	Zapata Nordic	Norske Shell	?	28 Nov -72	12 Jan -73	1/6-2	69	Ref.: //1//
82	Zapata Explorer	Amoco Norway	?	09 Dec -72	09 Feb -73	2/5-5	65	Ref.: //1//, Southeast Tor Field

References:

- //1// - Norwegian Petroleum Directorate's Fact Pages
(<http://factpages.npd.no/FactPages/Default.aspx?nav1=wellbore&nav2=PageView%7CExploration%7CAll&nav3=6821>)
- //2// - The History of Oilfield Diving. An Industry Adventure. By Christopher Swann
- //3// - Funn! Historien om Ekofisks Første 20 år. By Stig S. Kvendseth
- //4// - Between the Devil and the Deep. By Murray D. Black