

# Offshore Oil Operations: Innovations in Maintenance, Safety, and Asset Integrity Management

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## ABSTRACT

Offshore oil activities are unique in nature and need to have well-articulated plans to achieve equipment integrity, people safety, and environmental responsibility. Severe operational environments, high corrosion risks and the lack of accessible infrastructure create severe difficulties in terms of maintenance, safety, and asset integrity. Traditional maintenance approaches, such as reactive and scheduled preventive maintenance, often lead to operational inefficiencies, unplanned downtimes, and increased costs. To address these challenges, recent advancements in predictive analytics, Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), artificial intelligence (AI), and digital twins have transformed offshore asset management. As a result of these technological advancements, operational efficiency is enhanced, and risks are decreased via data-driven decision-making, early defect detection, and real-time condition monitoring. Additionally, innovations such as autonomous inspection systems, robotic maintenance, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) enhance safety by reducing human intervention in hazardous environments. This study explores the latest technological advancements in offshore oil operations, focusing on predictive maintenance, asset integrity, and safety enhancements while evaluating their impact on cost reduction, regulatory compliance, and long-term operational sustainability.

**Keywords :** Offshore oil, Maintenance strategies, Safety management, Predictive maintenance, Technological advancements, Risk assessment.

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## Introduction

Offshore oils are central to the delivery of oil and natural gas across the global market since it contributes a large market share of provided crude oils. These operations include heavy structures such as drilling platforms, FPSO units and subsea equipment, which are mostly subjected to extreme marine environments. The

main difficulties of exploring offshore oil profiles are the weather conditions, the technical complexities of drilling in deep waters, and operational hazards [1]. Reliability of operations and the health and safety of assets are some of the factors that can significantly impact the sustainability and profitability of offshore oil operations.

With the help of digital technology and innovation in recent decades, prediction and automation have become the best approach to maintaining offshore oil fields. The correlation of the IIoT [2], AI and ML aids in monitoring, detecting faults in advance and determining the best time to schedule maintenance [3]. Also, robotic inspection and AUV improve condition assessment integrity, delivering reduced human exposure to hazardous environments. These innovations also enhance equipment reliability and, at the same time, increase operation uptime and decrease frequent maintenance, hence enhancing offshore operations.

Safety retention ranks as an absolute priority for offshore oil activities primarily because of their dangerous operational conditions. Third parties, therefore, have sophisticated safety management systems, digital twins, and remote monitoring technologies to manage and regulate risks and compliance with requirements [4]. The management of assets should incorporate risk-based inspection and corrosion monitoring in the frameworks to prevent structural collapses and negative impacts on the environment. For sustainability to be realized in the industry, relevant advanced integration technology has to be adopted as it increases operational readiness and lessens the effects on the environment.

### ***Significance of the Study***

The value of this research is the integration of the assessment of innovations in maintenance, safety and asset integrity whilst covering offshore oil operations. Being high-risk and capital-intensive undertakings, there is the need to establish maintenance techniques for such operations, extending from conventional preventive maintenance to highly technical predictive maintenance employing AI and IoT capabilities to reduce equipment breakdowns and enhance productivity. In the same respect, safety-enhancing technologies such as real-time monitoring and the use of automation systems are crucial in managing operational risks and safeguarding workers' lives.

Therefore, this study identifies and discusses these advancements to improve operational effectiveness, minimize unscheduled shutdown time and support the sustainability of offshore oil production.

### ***Structure of the Study***

The paper is structured as follows: Section II covers maintenance strategies in offshore oil operations, including traditional and predictive approaches. Section III explores safety innovations. Section IV presents a comparative analysis. Section V reviews related literature. Section VI concludes with key findings and future directions.

### **Maintenance Strategies In Offshore Oil Operations**

Offshore oil operations are highly complex and capital-intensive, requiring robust maintenance strategies to ensure operational efficiency, safety, and environmental compliance. The harsh marine environment, characterized by extreme weather conditions, corrosion, and equipment wear, poses significant challenges to asset reliability and longevity. Effective maintenance strategies, including preventive, predictive, and condition-based approaches, are essential for minimizing unplanned downtime, optimizing production, and extending the lifespan of critical infrastructure. Recent developments in digital technology, such as digital twins, the IoT [5], [6], and AI, are allowing data-driven decision-making and real-time monitoring, which is transforming maintenance procedures.

According to reports, maintenance strategies have evolved gradually throughout industrial history and are now a continuous process [7]. Ever since cavemen started using rudimentary implements to improve their agricultural and construction skills, people have maintained crude tools and machines. Pneumatic switches, transmitters, valves, and pumps are components of oil and production facilities [8]. Their uses and capabilities are restricted. Due to the robustness and ease of use of the systems, maintenance was only carried out when the devices entirely failed.

Primitive maintenance philosophy is the term used to describe this maintenance technique.

### ***Traditional Maintenance Approaches***

Offshore oil operations rely on traditional maintenance approaches such as reactive and preventive maintenance to ensure asset reliability. These methods help mitigate equipment failures but often lead to higher costs and unplanned downtime:

#### **1) Corrective Maintenance**

The following five types of preventative maintenance might be useful:

- **Fail repair:** This focuses on getting the malfunctioning item or piece of equipment back to working condition.
- **Overhaul:** In this context, "inspect and repair only as appropriate" refers to the process of fixing or restoring an item or piece of equipment so that it may be used again, fully compliant with maintenance serviceability standards.
- **Salvage:** This pertains to the utilization of salvaged materials from products that cannot be fixed in the overhaul, repair, or rebuild processes, as well as the disposal of nonrepairable materials.
- **Servicing:** A corrective maintenance activity may need this kind of maintenance; for instance, welding, crankcase refilling, and other repairs may be necessary after engine repair.
- **Rebuild:** This is the process of returning a piece of equipment or an object to a condition that is as near to its original state as feasible in terms of appearance, functionality, and lifespan.

#### **2) Preventive Maintenance**

Figure 1 shows the seven components of PM [9]. Below is a discussion of each component [2].

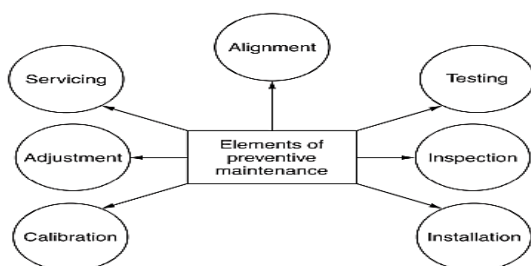


Figure 1. Elements of Preventive Maintenance.

- **Inspection:** Conduct periodic inspections of materials and things to assess their suitability for use by comparing their mechanical, electrical, and physical attributes (where applicable) to predetermined criteria.
- **Servicing:** Preventing impending failures requires regular maintenance such as cleaning, lubricating, charging, preserving, etc.
- **Calibration:** The method of routinely determining an item's value by comparing its qualities to a standard; it requires two tools, one of which is a certified standard with established accuracy, to detect and correct any discrepancy in the material's or parameter's precision between the two.
- **Testing:** Periodic inspection and testing to ascertain functionality and identify electrical and mechanical wear and tear
- **Alignment:** Making adjustments to an item's designated variable parts in order to attain peak performance
- **Adjustment:** Modifying certain material variables on a regular basis in order to get the best possible system performance.
- **Installation:** To maintain the designated system tolerance, limited-life devices or those undergoing wear or time cycle deterioration should be replaced on a regular basis.

### ***Predictive Maintenance***

Several maintenance techniques are used in industrial organizations, including Pd.M., PM, and reactive maintenance (RM). RM is the most conventional of these approaches, starting with a failure rectification after it has occurred. On the other hand, the goal of PM is to schedule preventive actions before a possible asset breakdown occurs. The fact that the state of an asset does not affect its maintenance schedule is a significant flaw in PM techniques [10]. However, one application of Pd.M. called Condition-Based Monitoring (CBM) incorporates asset condition data into maintenance planning. Commonly recorded machine parameters include things like temperature and vibration. Data collection, data preparation, and maintenance decision definition are the three basic categories into which CBM-related tasks fall. The first phase, known as data acquisition, is recording and gathering information, often via sensors. In contrast, alerting systems,

spreadsheets, operator records, and discussions about shift transfers are not substitutes for the intuition and experience of the people involved when making scheduling decisions for preventative maintenance. Data preparation, the second half of a CBM's duty, is analyzing and adjusting the data acquired in the first portion, for example, by lowering noise levels.

### **Safety Innovations In Offshore Oil Operations**

Safety is a critical concern in offshore oil operations, where harsh environmental conditions, high-pressure systems, and complex machinery pose significant risks to workers and infrastructure. Continuous advancements in safety innovations, including automation, real-time monitoring, and predictive analytics, have enhanced risk management and operational efficiency [11]. Technologies such as robotics, AI, digital twins, and IoT-enabled sensors are revolutionizing safety protocols by enabling early hazard detection and proactive decision-making. This paper explores key safety innovations in offshore oil operations, highlighting their impact on accident prevention, worker protection, and overall operational sustainability.

The process whereby informed decisions are taken to meet safety criteria is one definition of safety management. To put it another way, safety management is the management procedure used to attain a condition of liberty from intolerable risks of loss, damage, or personal injury." Risks or malfunction techniques of research are essential to the procedure of managing system safety. Providing an intervention mechanism to interrupt the chain of events leading up to an accident is the main goal of safety management. Among the many tasks involved in safety management is the discovery and elimination of flaws in the processes of risk assessment, control, monitoring, and hazard identification [12]. The above description establishes safety management as a crucial component of the safety management system that handles the execution of control measures and decision-making related to safety. The foundation of every safety-related

decision-making process is the systematic identification and evaluation of risks in relation to pre-established levels of acceptability and tolerance. It is common practice to base risk mitigation and elimination efforts on cost-benefit analyses, with additional consideration given to societal, legal, and moral considerations.

### ***API Security Risk Assessment (SRA)***

The American Petroleum Institute (API) established the Security Risk Assessment (SRA) methodology as a technique for evaluating potential security threats for facilities that process petroleum and petrochemicals. This methodology is now part of API standard (STD) 780 (2013). It covers a vast array of security concerns, from theft and internal sabotage to terrorism, and it works for a wide range of stationary and portable applications. The API SRA covers a wide variety of assets and activities in the industrial sector [13]. Pipelines, chemical, refining, and petrochemical manufacturing processes, as well as transportation operations (truck, marine, and rail) that deal with or process hazardous goods, all fall under this category. The API SRA methodology can be used to help comply with regulations like the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (6 CFR Part 27, 2007). According to API STD 780 (2013), security risks should be managed in a performance-oriented, risk-based process to protect assets, the public, the environment, employees, and the company's continuity. Figure 2 shows the five steps of the SRA:



Figure 2. API SRA Process

### ***Safety Culture and Human Factors***

#### **3) Safety Culture**

Smith and his colleagues identified 25 distinct mistakes that contributed to the Macondo catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico in 2013. It said that the majority of these mistakes were latent ones brought on by subpar leadership as a consequence of a subpar safety culture. An organization's values, beliefs, and underlying presumptions are what is known as its culture. This is not the same as an organization's climate, which is more about how safety behaviors really take place in the workplace and are based on how people perceive and feel the organizational environment. A workgroup, plant, or organization's underlying safety culture is also thought to be indicated by its safety environment. It focusses on studies that have examined this concept in the context of the offshore industry because of the strong correlation between climate and occupational safety.

#### **4) Human Factors**

The primary objective of the joint HF engineering research was to examine the preexisting standards, laws,

rules, and specifications for the building and installation of offshore helidecks, particularly with regard to the location of methane vents and other sources of flammable gas. Additional goals included studying the consequences of ingestion and determining criteria for methane volume concentration, assessing monitoring and sensor technologies, and researching and recommending mitigating options [14]. The investigation's findings and suggestions for improvement have the potential to influence safety protocols and rules designed to reduce the frequency and severity of the serious flight safety problems seen by helicopters operating offshore sites in the Gulf of Mexico. Additionally, evaluating present and future gas detection technologies is useful for selecting a solution that efficiently lowers the danger of methane ingestion.

### ***Emergency Response and Evacuation Systems***

The first stage in developing practical and efficient emergency response training for the oil and gas/hydrocarbon industry should be to compile and go over all of the hazards that have been identified, following a review of the Safety Case, Safety Report, or other important hazards study for the specific installation, site, or location [15]. The best practice is to summarize the hazards using a simple pie chart and rank them from most serious to least serious. Afterward, make a table or spreadsheet with all the required emergency training items and arrange for them to happen at the same intervals as in the safety study. An interval of, say, five years should be established before site-specific emergency response plans, cause-and-effect diagrams, plumbing and instrument diagrams, locations of relevant gas and fire detectors, and, if required, staff input are included in the development of individual scenarios.

### ***Asset Integrity Management (AIM) In Offshore Oil Operations***

Activities including planning, controlling, and monitoring are all part of an Asset Integrity Management System (AIMS), which aims to take



advantage of opportunities while controlling risks. A system must be established to ensure the integrity of assets at all times across their full life cycle. Measures for control include processes, procedures, physical resources, process control systems, and emergency plans specifically for this purpose (NOPSEMA, 2012). Asset Integrity processes are essential for lowering business risks. Originally designed for industries with low or unstable profit margins, like the refining and petrochemical sectors, it should now be applied everywhere proper management is crucial for the well-being of the company, its ability to stay in business, and its efficiency. Additionally, it should be applied in any situation where equipment aging poses a serious threat [16]. Aqueducts are common instances of infrastructure that are both ancient and have complicated repercussions; for instance, the potential for water waste and massive discharges, which may have economic and reputational consequences, need the use of Asset Integrity approaches.

#### ***Structural Health Monitoring (SHM)***

The term "structural health monitoring" refers to the steps taken to ensure that engineering structures are being properly assessed for damage and overall condition. Engineering structures may have their operating conditions and structural performance monitored with the use of SHM's sensor systems and the related hardware and software capacities. The purpose of SHM is to track a building's condition and performance over time by collecting data on the building's operating environment and structural reaction via a network of sensors [17]. A revised assessment of the structure's capacity to carry out its intended function, taking into account the natural deterioration and aging caused by operating conditions, is the final product of this procedure for long-term SHM. After catastrophic events, such as blast loads or earthquakes, SHM is used for rapid condition assessment in order to provide precise data on the strength of the structure.

#### ***Corrosion Management***

Corrosion management may be defined as an overarching system for preventing or slowing corrosion; it may involve maintenance tasks or, at most, be considered an aspect of asset integrity; and it is typically associated with the management systems of operators' businesses rather than those of higher management domains [18]. It includes managing corrosion policies generally, which includes creating, implementing, reviewing, and maintaining such policies. A greater failure probability, higher maintenance costs, and downtime are consequences of poor corrosion control. Improving asset dependability during operation may be achieved by considering corrosion as a potential concern during the design stage. Management and control of corrosion may be accomplished by establishing a balance between the material and its environment and using an appropriate corrosion management strategy (CMS). A corrosion management plan is a collection of rules and regulations meant to prevent corrosion in assets throughout their creation, operation, and maintenance.

#### ***Life Cycle Assessment of Offshore Structures***

An industrial system's "cradle to grave" evaluation may be done using life cycle assessment. Raw material extraction from Earth is the first step in the manufacturing process, which concludes with the return of all resources to Earth. The purpose of a life-cycle assessment is, therefore, to thoroughly analyze the total environmental impact of a product, a process or an activity by evaluating the energy, material and waste inputs, which in turn are transformed and released into the environment and assessing the degree of harm caused by those entries on the environment [19]. The evaluation takes into account the whole product, process, or activity life-cycle, which covers everything from the processing and extraction of raw materials to manufacture, shipping, distribution, use, maintenance, recycling, and finally, disposal. The Life Cycle Assessment methodology produces an extensive environmental accounting system for potential

products and processes which evaluates product environmental effects throughout its whole existence while creating an inclusive view of environmental concerns.

### Literature Review

The section reviews existing studies about offshore oil operations, which analyze maintenance approaches together with safety improvements, reliability analysis methods, sustainability practices, and risk reduction techniques.

Liu et al. (2021) analyzed the feasibility of connecting a microgrid supplying energy to an offshore gas and oil platform to a wind farm. They start with a presentation of the microgrid's architecture and running mechanism. They look at the source-load characteristics and the network factors that might change the microgrid's voltage and frequency. Afterwards, the microgrid models are shown. The models were used to study the impacts of four common disruptions on the microgrid: changes in offshore wind power generation, its trip-off, a subsea cable failure, and the start-up of a high-power induction motor [20].

Taboada, Diaz-Casas and Yu (2021) evaluate several approaches to maintenance strategy implementation and choose the best one. The second step is to evaluate the pros and cons of each type of maintenance approach. The third goal is to show how probabilistic and stochastic life cycle cost (LCC) models may optimize and improve maintenance procedures and strategies for offshore wind farms, taking dependability and maintenance processes into account [21].

Yeshitila, Kitaw and Jilcha (2021) goal of this research is to determine why oil-related workplace accidents continue to occur despite the industry's strict safety regulations. Consequently, this research aims to examine how lean thinking might improve operational safety in offshore oil exploration and production. Specifically, it will examine how lean thinking can streamline upstream work processes to raise workplace visibility, lower waste, boost structural sustainability,

and minimize HSE hazards. The research focuses on the human aspect of improving workplace safety via direct employee participation, worker engagement, and the implementation of lean philosophy, practices, and technologies [22].

Grimaldo-Guerrero and Contreras-Rueda (2020) explore the instance of oil exploration in the Arctic, a delicate environment; identify metrics and approaches used to fortify the sector for sustainability; and provide a summary of offshore oil industry experiences. The findings suggest that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is essential for bolstering the development plan from political and institutional frameworks. They also show how this can enhance the tools and lead to betterment in the economic, social, and ecological aspects [23].

Du et al. (2019) provide a means of evaluating the dependability of the power systems used by offshore oil platforms. The first thing to do is take the platform's environment and the components' failure factors into account to construct a reliability model for each offshore component. The reliability of certain platform types may be evaluated using an approach that incorporates a collection of multi-state equivalent generators. In addition, the state assessment uses a hybrid of the breadth-first method and the Dijkstra algorithm to determine the power loss in the current system state. The load-shedding result is replaced with the preferred trip sequence in the EMS system, which is based on the reality of the offshore platform. This leads to a more accurate and practical assessment of the offshore platform project [24].

Naseri and Barabadi (2018) take a look at the challenges and dangers of using expert opinion to evaluate the risks of offshore activities in the Arctic. The results of risk assessments, which are crucial for decision-making in Arctic offshore activities, need a mountain of data and information. Nevertheless, such information is uncommon at the present time owing to the restricted industrial operations in the Arctic offshore, in contrast to locations with regular climates. An abundance of

difficulties and concerns confront decision-makers due to a lack of evidence on the likelihood of an undesirable event occurring and, in light of the harsh Arctic climatic conditions, the magnitude of possible catastrophic effects [25].

Kpakpo et al. (2017) study's overarching goal is to provide a fresh approach to wind farm maintenance plan optimization and analysis. By analyzing the wind farm's profitability in relation to failures, scheduled shutdown scenarios, and maintenance budgets, they

want to assist wind farm operators in optimizing maintenance expenditures. The benefit of this strategy is that it combines the technical vision of O&M (optimization and maintenance) with the financial vision of profitability. Multiple agents constitute the basis of the platform concept. The goal is to make scenario optimization and calculation a reality [26].

Table I provides the study of related work based on offshore oil operations, including study, Approach, Key findings, challenges and limitations.

TABLE I. SUMMARY OF LITERATURE REVIEW BASED ON OFFSHORE OIL OPERATIONS

Reference	Study On	Approach	Key Findings	Challenges	Limitations
Liu et al. (2021)	Integration of wind power in offshore microgrids	Modelling and analysis of microgrid operations	Identified impacts of wind power variations and disturbances on microgrid stability	Voltage and frequency variations, subsea cable failures	Limited to specific case studies, lacks real-world validation
Taboada, Diaz-Casas and Yu (2021)	Optimization of maintenance strategies	Cost-benefit analysis and stochastic LCC models	Demonstrated cost-effectiveness of optimized maintenance strategies for offshore wind farms	Reliability degree and maintenance process uncertainties	Limited application beyond offshore wind farms
Yeshitila, Kitaw and Jilcha (2021)	Improving offshore oil operational safety	Lean thinking and workforce engagement	Lean philosophy improves workplace visibility and reduces HSE risks	Resistance to change, employee engagement challenges	Focuses only on human factors, lacks technological aspects
Grimaldo-Guerrero and Contreras-Rueda (2020)	Sustainability in offshore oil operations	Review of industry experiences and methodologies	Strategic Environmental Assessment can improve sustainability in offshore oil industry.	Institutional and political barriers	Focused on Arctic region, limited generalization
Du et al. (2019)	Reliability assessment of offshore power systems	Multi-state generator model and algorithms	Combined breadth-first and Dijkstra algorithms improve power system reliability assessment.	Environmental and component failure uncertainties	Limited validation with real-world offshore platforms
Naseri and Barabadi (2018)	Risk assessment in Arctic offshore operations	Expert judgment in risk assessment	Data scarcity in Arctic operations leads to challenges in risk evaluation	Harsh Arctic conditions, lack of historical data	Reliability of expert judgment, subjective biases



Kpakpo et al. (2017)	Maintenance optimization for wind farms	Multi-agent systems for cost analysis	Combines technical and financial perspectives for maintenance cost optimization	Modeling complexities, uncertainties in failure rates	Limited to wind farm operations, not generalizable
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## Conclusion

The offshore oil and gas sector plays a pivotal role in the Blue Economy, with operations extending to increasingly extreme environments, driving technological advancements and necessitating robust safety and maintenance strategies. Traditional maintenance approaches like corrective and preventive maintenance have evolved alongside predictive maintenance techniques, enhancing operational reliability and minimizing unplanned downtime. Safety innovations, particularly through structured frameworks like API's Security Risk Assessment, have significantly improved risk management and accident prevention. Overall, the integration of advanced maintenance practices and comprehensive safety protocols has contributed to a more resilient offshore oil and gas industry. However, challenges remain in the high implementation costs and the need for skilled personnel to manage advanced technologies.

Research in the future should center on finding ways to use new technologies like AI, ML, and the Internet of Things to improve maintenance accuracy and decrease operational risks via real-time monitoring and predictive analytics. Additionally, further exploration into sustainable practices and renewable energy integration can aid in minimizing environmental impact while maintaining production efficiency. Advancing safety protocols to address evolving threats, such as cyber-attacks on digital infrastructure, is also crucial for ensuring continued offshore operational security and resilience.

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