

OSPAR threatened and/or declining species & habitats Roadmap



**OSPAR
COMMISSION**

**2017-2025 Roadmap for the implementation of
collective actions within the Recommendations
for the protection and conservation of OSPAR
listed Species and Habitats**

Information Document



What is OSPAR?

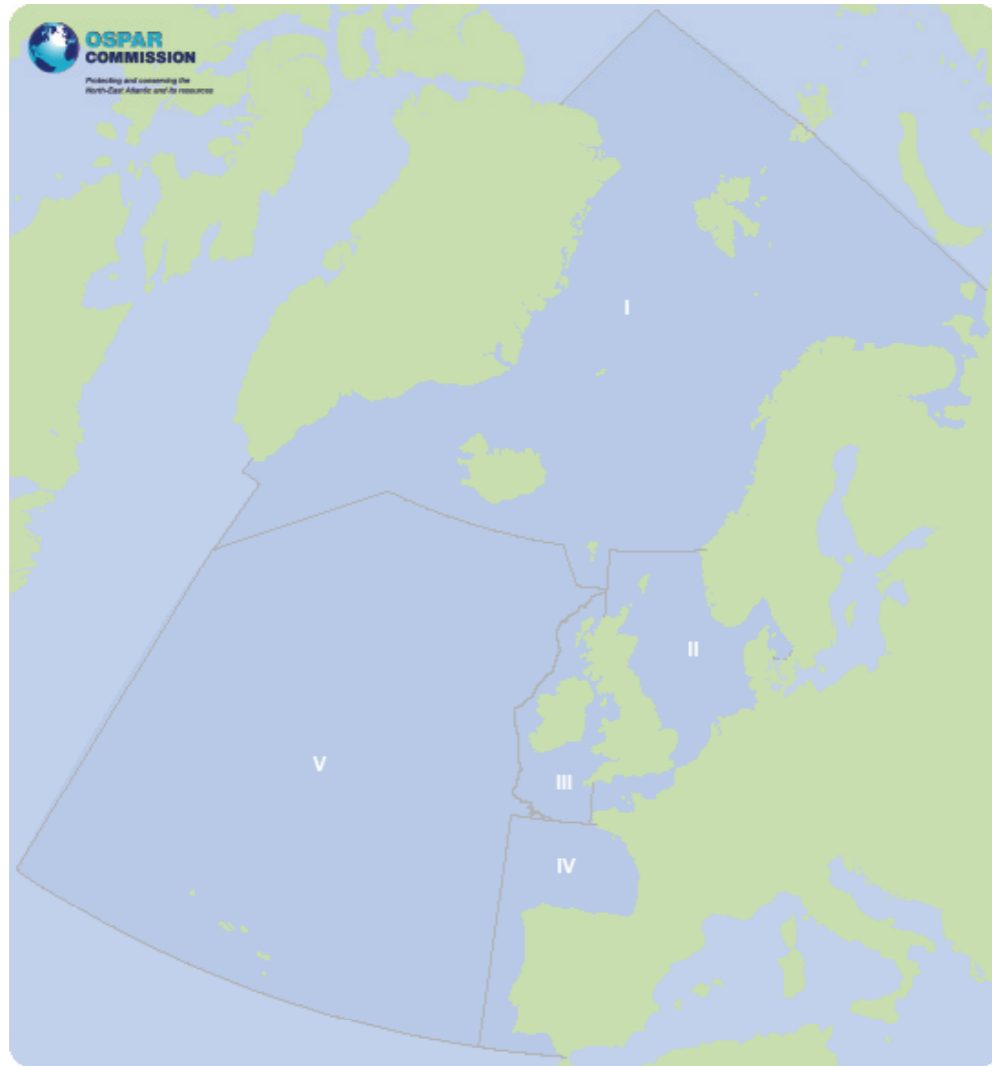
OSPAR is the mechanism by which 15 Governments & the EU cooperate to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic.

OSPAR started in 1972 with the Oslo Convention against dumping and was broadened to cover land-based sources of marine pollution and the offshore industry by the Paris Convention of 1974. These two conventions were unified, up-dated and extended by the 1992 OSPAR Convention. The new annex on biodiversity and ecosystems was adopted in 1998 to cover non-polluting human activities that can adversely affect the sea.

The fifteen Governments are Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

OSPAR is so named because of the original Oslo and Paris Conventions (“OS” for Oslo and “PAR” for Paris).

- Region I – Arctic Waters
- Region II – Greater North Sea
- Region III – Celtic Seas
- Region IV – Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast
- Region V – Wider Atlantic



2017-2025 Roadmap for the implementation of collective actions within the Recommendations for the protection and conservation of OSPAR listed Species and Habitats

The Roadmap facilitates the implementation of collective actions adopted within the OSPAR Recommendations for the protection and conservation of the species and habitats considered to be under threat and/ or in decline in the North-East Atlantic. The Roadmap describes the various types of actions that OSPAR will work on over the coming years and provides a timetable to guide the achievement of these actions.

This information document gives a brief summary of the Roadmap and details threatened and/or declining species and habitats from OSPAR’s list.

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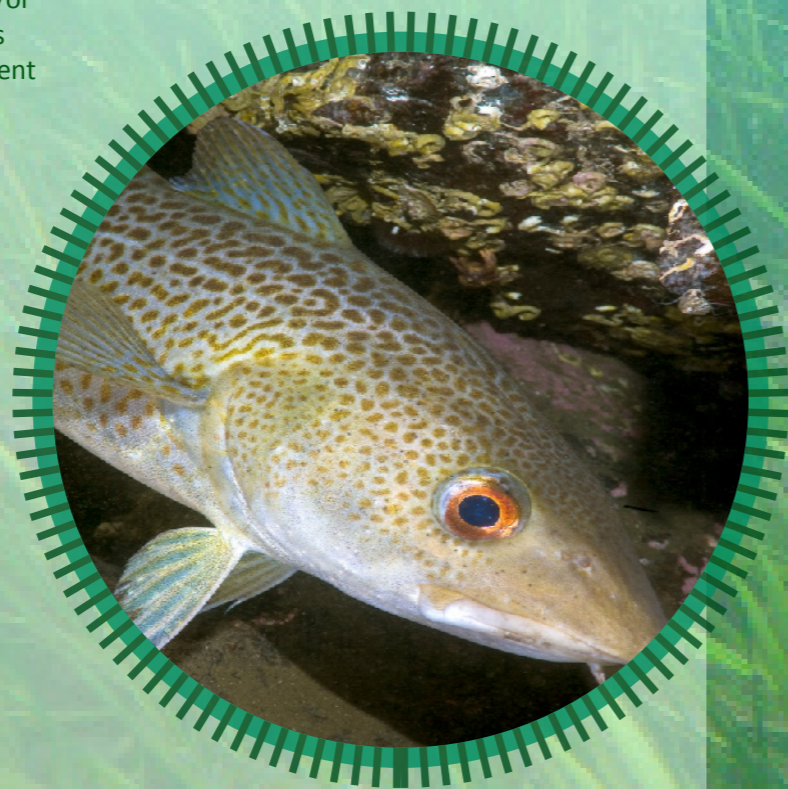
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[Annex 5](#) of the OSPAR Convention on the “Protection and Conservation of Ecosystems and Biological Diversity of the Maritime Area” was adopted in 1998. It provides the basis for work undertaken on habitats and species of conservation concern in the North-East Atlantic. Since its adoption and coming into force the OSPAR Contracting Parties have worked together to determine a list of species and habitats that are considered to be under threat and/or in decline in the OSPAR Maritime Area. Species and habitats are nominated by Contracting Parties and evaluated, through case reports against the Texel/ Faial criteria ([Agreement 2003-13](#)). The result is the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats, the OSPAR list, ([Agreement 2008-6](#)).

In 2010, OSPAR Ministers committed to halt the decline of species and habitats with the strategic objective to prevent further loss by 2020, in particular to restore threatened and/or declining species and habitats by establishing measures to protect such species and habitats from the pressures of human activities ([Bergen statement](#) §24).

Through the [OSPAR North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy](#) (NEAES 2010-2020) the OSPAR Commission has agreed to:

- improve the status of threatened and/or declining species and habitats, in particular of those on the OSPAR List, and ensure that they are effectively conserved, working, where appropriate, with other competent authorities (§1.2a);
- aim to ensure that the effects of human activities and pressures on the marine environment, individually or cumulatively, do not adversely affect species, habitats and ecosystems, in particular those on the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats (North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (§1.2c).



Cod *Gadus morhua* © Fosshagen

For each of the species and habitats included on the OSPAR list OSPAR has developed a [Background Document](#) that compiles information on the feature including any threats by human activities. The information in the Background Document is the basis for the drafting of an OSPAR Recommendation.

[OSPAR Recommendations](#) identify the actions that need to be taken in order to further the protection and conservation in the relevant regions of the OSPAR Maritime Area of the listed feature. The Recommendations include actions that are implemented nationally by the Contracting Parties to OSPAR, and also collective actions which require a coordinated implementation effort by many Contracting Parties or by OSPAR in collaboration with other competent authorities.

As acknowledged in the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (§1.2a) not all the actions to improve the status of threatened and/or declining species and habitats are within the remit of the OSPAR Commission. In these cases OSPAR will work with the relevant competent authorities, in line with Article 4 of Annex V of the Convention and through [Memoranda of Understanding](#) (MOUs), where agreed, to raise these issues to their attention. These actions are included among the collective actions.

Action through OSPAR Recommendations

Taking collective action through the Species & Habitats Roadmap

The Roadmap for the implementation of collective actions within the Recommendations for the protection and conservation of OSPAR listed Species and Habitats 2017-2025 (POSH Roadmap) has been developed in response to the need for a strategic approach to deliver the actions set out in the Recommendations for protection and conservation of the OSPAR listed species and habitats.

The Roadmap describes the various types of actions that OSPAR will work on over the coming years and provides a timetable to guide the achievement of these actions. The actions across the Recommendations have been clustered or grouped into a number of categories. These enable the implementation of the actions on a coordinated basis including defining responsibilities for their implementation both within the mandate of the Commission, as well as with regard to other competent authorities with which the Commission collaborates.

The objective of the current Roadmap is the implementation of the collective actions of the habitats and species Recommendations, during an initial period from 2017-2025. The implementation of collective actions may inform or support actions implemented at a national level.



Where can I find the complete Roadmap document?

The 'Roadmap for the implementation of collective actions within the Recommendations for the protection and conservation of OSPAR listed Species and Habitats' was adopted by the meeting of the OSPAR Commission in June 2017. The document is available as [Annex 6 of the summary records of the meeting](#). The [46 collective actions from the POSH Roadmap](#) can be found on the [OSPAR website](#).

What are the collective actions and where can I follow up on their implementation?

The collective actions for the OSPAR listed features range from the identification of nursing grounds for species where a new MPA may need to be proposed, to the development of monitoring strategies for habitats or mitigation measures against threats from human activities and pollution. In the POSH Roadmap the collective actions have been grouped into 46 actions. The actions are presented online at: www.ospar.org/work-areas/bdc/species-habitats/implementation-of-species-and-habitat-recommendations.

Collective actions are implemented through a lead country approach. Actions where a lead country is available are prioritised for implementation before other actions that will be implemented at a later stage.

Action Sheets will be completed for each of the actions by the lead, to outline the work plan for an individual action including: participants, events, timeline, links to other actions, stakeholders, other competent authorities, products and barriers to progress. Action sheets are living documents.

Collective actions and their implementation



The POSH Roadmap was adopted by the OSPAR Commission in June 2017. Implementation of the Roadmap will be the responsibility of the Biodiversity Committee (BDC). An Intersessional Correspondence Group on Species and habitats (ICG-POSH) was established in 2014 to ensure the coherent implementation of the actions of the Recommendations. ICG-POSH reports annually on implementation progress.

Whilst ICG-POSH is the subsidiary body of BDC, it also reports to the Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee (EIHA) in relation to pressures from human activities. ICG-POSH is responsible for coordination and management of the Roadmap.

The Roadmap for implementation is intrinsically linked to other processes in OSPAR as a central part of the adaptive management cycle for improving the status of threatened and/or declining species and habitat (Figure. 1). The POSH Roadmap covers the implementation of actions and the lead country taking forward a collective action will also report on the implementation. Other strands of work relate to the assessment of the status of the listed features, for example through work under the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP). Assessing the status of the listed features will inform future decisions on implementation by generating information on whether the currently implemented actions have had the desired effect. Only through implementing all elements of the adaptive management cycle will it be possible to achieve the objectives to improve the status of threatened and/or declining species and habitats.

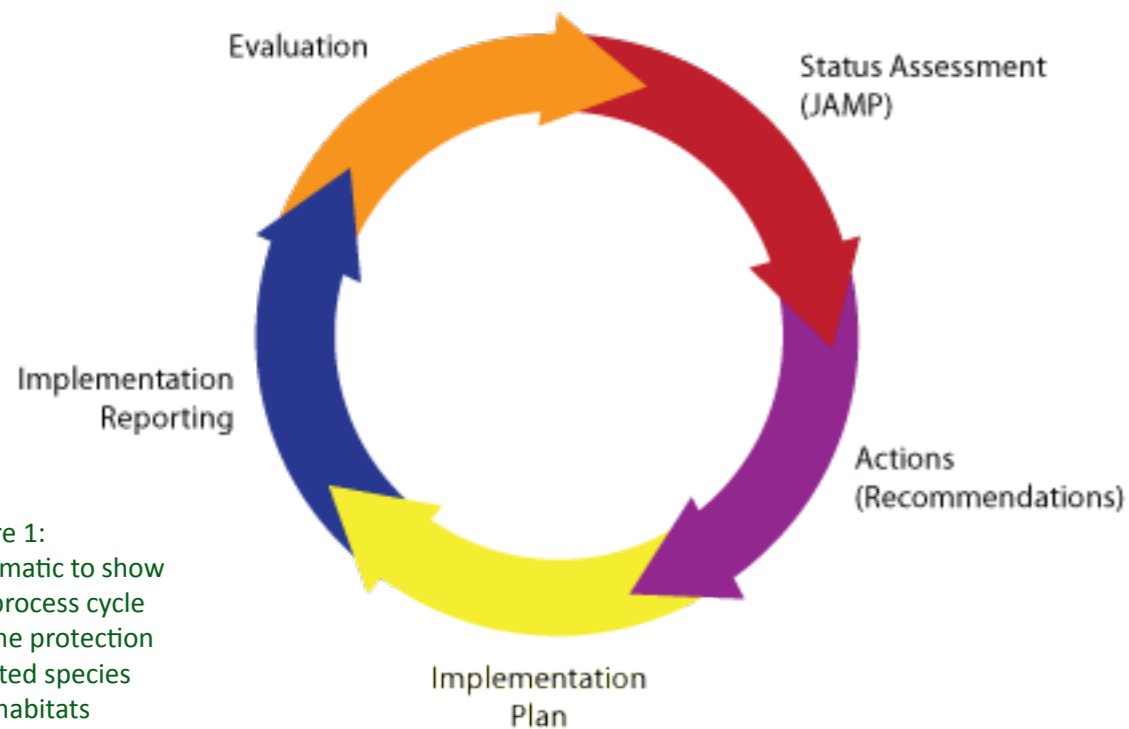


Figure 1: Schematic to show the process cycle for the protection of listed species and habitats

Based on the progress in implementation and other work in relation to the OSPAR List, BDC can propose revisions to the Roadmap to the OSPAR Commission for adoption if necessary. This Roadmap is valid from 2017-2025. During this period Contracting Parties will report on the status of implementation of all Recommendations in 2019 and the Quality Status Report will deliver an assessment of the maritime environment of the North-East Atlantic, including for threaten and/or declining species and habitats in 2023.

Annex 1: OSPAR Agreement 2008-04. OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats

Introduction

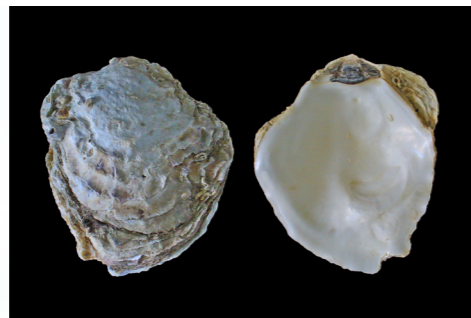
1. The OSPAR Biological Diversity and Ecosystems Strategy sets out that the OSPAR Commission will assess which species and habitats need to be protected. This work is to guide the setting of priorities by the OSPAR Commission for its activities in implementing Annex V to the Convention (“On the Protection and Conservation of the Ecosystems and Biological Diversity of the Maritime Area”).
2. This OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats has been developed to fulfil this commitment. It is based upon nominations by Contracting Parties and observers to the Commission of species and habitats that they consider to be priorities for protection. The evidence in support of those nominations has been collectively examined by the OSPAR Commission and its subordinate bodies on the basis of the relevant Texel/Faial criteria for the identification of species in need of protection (Reference number 2003-13). The data used has been reviewed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), in order to give assurance that its quality is suitable for the purpose for which it has been used. The information used has been compiled into a justification report, which is being published separately (Case reports for the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats (OSPAR publication 2008/358)).
3. The purpose of the list is to guide the OSPAR Commission in setting priorities for its further work on the conservation and protection of marine biodiversity. The inclusion of a species or of a type of habitat on this list has no other significance.
4. Fish species affected by fishing in this list are marked with an asterisk (*). These species are subject to management by an international or national fisheries authority or body. The OSPAR Commission has no competence to adopt programmes or measures on questions relating to the management of fisheries. Where the OSPAR Commission considers that action is desirable in relation to such a question, it is to draw that question to the attention of the authority or international body competent for that question. The inclusion of species affected by fishing in this list must be read in this context.
5. In order to avoid duplication of work, other international agreements (in particular, EC Directives (including the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna and the Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of birds) and measures under the Berne Convention, the Bonn Convention (including its regional agreements) and the Ramsar Convention, amongst other relevant instruments) should also be taken into account by Contracting Parties to the extent that they are bound by them or committed to them.
6. The OSPAR Biodiversity and Ecosystems Strategy makes clear that it may be necessary to consider separate populations of species for the purposes of the strategy on the same basis as whole species. This list therefore specifies certain populations of species where separate treatment is justified, because the different populations are subject to differing pressures. Where this is done, there is no implication that other populations of the same species may be threatened and/or declining.
7. The OSPAR Commission wishes to consider any information that could improve the basis for the judgements that have been made in drawing up this list.
8. This OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats will be subject to further development. Species and habitats will be added to or removed from the list, in the light of changes to their conservation status and to the threats they face and in the light of the latest scientific assessments, according to the Texel/Faial criteria.
9. The footnotes form an integral part of the list.

¹ Replaces agreement 2004-6. See OSPAR 08/24/1, §7.12

² Corrections made by OSPAR 2014 to the naming of *Gadus morhua* stocks to align with the standard naming of the ICES cod divisions.

³ The assessments of that data by the OSPAR Commission and by ICES differ in respect of *Polysticta stelleri*, *Puffinus assimilis baroli*, *Thunnus thynnus* and Oceanic ridges with hydrothermal vents/fields. The justification for the OSPAR assessment of these species and habitats is set out in the justification report.

The list: Invertebrates



Azorean Barnacle

Flat Oyster

Azorean Limpet

SCIENTIFIC NAME	Common name		OSPAR Regions ¹ where the species occurs	OSPAR Regions where the species is under threat and/or in decline
	English	French		
INVERTEBRATES				
	Ocean quahog	<i>Cyprine d'Islande</i> (<i>Praire d'Islande</i>) (<i>Clam d'Islande</i>)	I, II, III, IV	II
<i>Arctica islandica</i>				
<i>Megabalanus azoricus</i>	Azorean barnacle	<i>Balane des Azores</i>	V	All where it occurs
<i>Nucella lapillus</i>	Dog whelk	<i>Pourpre petite pierre</i>	All	II, III, IV
<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Flat oyster	<i>Huître plate</i>	I, II, III, IV	II
<i>Patella ulyssiponensis aspera</i>	Azorean limpet	<i>Patelle des Azores</i>	V	All where it occurs



Ocean Quahog



Dog Whelk

The list: Birds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	Common name		OSPAR Regions where the species occurs	OSPAR Regions where the species is under threat and/or in decline
	English	French		
BIRDS				
<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i>	Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Goéland brun</i>	I	All where it occurs
<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Ivory gull	<i>Mouette blanche</i>	I	All where it occurs
<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Steller's eider	<i>Eider de Steller</i>	I	All where it occurs
<i>Puffinus assimilis baroli</i> (auct.incert.)	Little shearwater	<i>Puffin de Macaronésie</i>	V	All where it occurs
<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Balearic shearwater	<i>Puffin des Baléares</i>	II, III, IV, V	All where it occurs
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Black-legged kittiwake	<i>Mouette tridactyle</i>	I, II, III, IV, V	I, II
<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Roseate tern	<i>Sterne de dougall</i>	II, III, IV, V	All where it occurs
<i>Uria aalge</i> – Iberian population (synonyms: <i>Uria aalge albionis</i> , <i>Uria aalge ibericus</i>)	Iberian guillemot	<i>Guillemot de Troil</i>	IV	All where it occurs
<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Thick-billed murre	<i>Guillemot de Brünich</i>	I	All where it occurs



Roseate Tern

Birds

The list: Fish



SCIENTIFIC NAME	Common name		OSPAR Regions where the species occurs	OSPAR Regions where the species is under threat and/or in decline
	English	French		
FISH				
* <i>Acipenser sturio</i>	Sturgeon	<i>Esturgeon d'Europe</i>	II, IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Alosa alosa</i>	Allis shad	<i>Alose vraie ou Grande Alose</i>	II, III, IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	European eel	<i>Anguille européenne</i>	I, II, III, IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Centroscyrnus coelolepis</i>	Portuguese dogfish	<i>Pailona commun</i>	All	All where it occurs
* <i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>	Gulper shark	<i>Squale-chagrin commun</i>	IV, V	All where it occurs
* <i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>	Leafscale gulper shark	<i>Petit squale</i>	All	All where it occurs
* <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking shark	<i>Requin pèlerin</i>	All	All where it occurs
<i>Coregonus lavaretus oxyrinchus</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Houting	<i>Corégone oxyringue</i>	II	All where it occurs
* <i>Dipturus batis</i> (synonym: <i>Raja batis</i>)	Common Skate	<i>Pocheteau gris</i>	All	All where it occurs
* <i>Raja montagui</i> (synonym: <i>Dipturus montagui</i>)	Spotted Ray	<i>Raie douce</i>	II, III, IV, V	All where it occurs
* <i>Gadus morhua</i> — populations in the OSPAR regions II and III ⁵	Cod	<i>Cabillaud (morue)</i>	All	II, III
<i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i> (synonym: <i>Hippocampus ramulosus</i>)	Long-snouted seahorse	<i>Cheval de mer(hippocampe) à long bec</i>	II, III, IV, V	All where it occurs
<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i>	Short-snouted seahorse	<i>Cheval de mer (hippocampe) à museau court</i>	II, III, IV, V	All where it occurs
* <i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	Orange roughy	<i>Hoplostète orange</i>	I, V	All where it occurs
* <i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	<i>Requin taupe</i>	All	All where it occurs
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	Sea lamprey	<i>Lamproie marine</i>	I, II, III, IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Raja clavata</i>	Thornback skate / ray	<i>Raie bouclée</i>	I, II, III, IV, V	II
* <i>Rostroraja alba</i>	White skate	<i>Raie à bec pointu</i>	II, III, IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Salmo salar</i>	Salmon	<i>Saumon de l'Atlantique</i>	I, II, III, IV	All where it occurs ⁶
* <i>Squalus acanthias</i>	[Northeast Atlantic] spurdog	<i>Aiguillat commun</i>	All	All where it occurs
* <i>Squatina squatina</i>	Angel shark	<i>Ange de mer</i>	II, III, IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	Bluefin tuna	<i>Thon rouge</i>	V	All where it occurs ⁷

The list: Reptiles



Leatherback Turtle

SCIENTIFIC NAME	Common name		OSPAR Regions where the species occurs	OSPAR Regions where the species is under threat and/or in decline
	English	French		
REPTILES				
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead turtle	<i>Tortue caouanne</i>	IV, V	All where it occurs
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback turtle	<i>Tortue luth</i>	All	All where it occurs



Loggerhead Turtle

Reptiles

The list: Mammals

SCIENTIFIC NAME	Common name		OSPAR Regions where the species occurs	OSPAR Regions where the species is under threat and/or in decline
	English	French		
MAMMALS				
<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Bowhead whale	<i>Baleine franche boréale</i>	I	All where it occurs
<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue whale	<i>Baleine bleue</i>	All	All where it occurs
<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	Northern right whale	<i>Baleine franche noire</i>	All	All where it occurs
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Harbour porpoise	<i>Marsouin commun</i>	All	II, III



Blue Whale Harbour Porpoise Northern Right Whale



Bowhead Whale

The list: Habitats

DESCRIPTION	OSPAR Regions where the habitat occurs	OSPAR Regions where such habitats are under threat and/or in decline
HABITATS		
Carbonate mounds	I, V	V ⁸
Coral Gardens	I, II, III, IV, V	All where they occur
<i>Cymodocea</i> meadows	IV	All where they occur
Deep-sea sponge aggregations	I, III, IV, V	All where they occur
Intertidal <i>Mytilus edulis</i> beds on mixed and sandy sediments	II, III	All where they occur
Intertidal mudflats	I, II, III, IV	All where they occur
Littoral chalk communities	II	All where they occur
<i>Lophelia pertusa</i> reefs	All	All where they occur
Maerl beds	All	III
<i>Modiolus modiolus</i> beds	All	All where they occur
Oceanic ridges with hydrothermal vents/fields	I, V	V
<i>Ostrea edulis</i> beds	II, III, IV	All where they occur
<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reefs	All	II, III
Seamounts	I, IV, V	All where they occur
Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	I, II, III, IV	II, III
<i>Zostera</i> beds	I, II, III, IV	All where they occur



Habitats

OSPAR threatened and/or declining species & habitats Roadmap