

OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic

Meeting of the Intersessional Correspondence Group on the implementation follow up of measures for the protection and conservation of species and habitats (ICG-POSH)

Paris (France): 9-11 October 2018

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

Action 2 - Development sheet

Action 2	<p>Improve the OSPAR habitat mapping database in relation to all listed Habitats, and publish regularly updated quality assessments and distribution records; in particular, to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Improve the data contained within the database relating to listed habitats; (2) Clearly define the questions that can be asked of the data in the database and identify gaps/ what other needs are there to deliver OSPAR requirements? (3) Develop the content of the database to respond to the needs for use of this database.
Participants	<p>Lead Contracting Party (CP): UK (Helen Lillis/Amy Ridgeway, Joint Nature Conservation Committee)</p> <p>Participating CPs: All – see Appendix 1 below for specific individuals</p> <p>Observers: Oceana – see Appendix 1 below for specific individuals</p>
Plan:	<p>This action is relevant to all habitats in all regions.</p> <p>(1) Improve the data contained within the database relating to listed habitats</p> <p>This task is an ongoing requirement, with no finalisation date. It is repeated every 1-2 years, depending on requirements (see Timeline, below). The activities involved in delivering this task are below, with dates to reflect the annual/biennial nature of this task. Actual dates for the next update (as agreed at BDC) are given in parentheses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just before the BDC meeting (February 2019): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ JNCC compile all submitted data and complete a draft updated OSPAR T&D habitats database for NE Atlantic ○ JNCC submit a paper to BDC summarising updates to database and requesting sign-off for publication • One month after BDC meeting (March 2019): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ JNCC complete the final updated OSPAR T&D habitats database for NE Atlantic and publish via EMODnet Seabed Habitats portal (and hence, via OSPAR Data and Information System). • Five months before ICG-POSH 2020 meeting (May 2020):

- JNCC and Secretariat send out a data call to CP participants¹
- JNCC arrange a webinar with CP participants to assist with data formatting
- Three and two months before ICG-POSH meeting (July & August 2020):
 - JNCC send out data call reminder and request status updates from CP participants.
- Just before ICG-POSH meeting (September 2020):
 - JNCC compile all submitted data and complete a draft updated OSPAR T&D habitats database for NE Atlantic
 - JNCC submit a paper to ICG-POSH summarising updates to database contents

NOTE: This timeline will need periodic review, following agreement of the assessment timeline for the listed species and habitats.

(2) Clearly define the questions that can be asked of the data in the database and identify gaps/ what other needs are there to deliver OSPAR requirements?

A description of the sorts of questions that can and cannot be asked of the data in the database:

- has been included in a 'read me' file in the database download package, and
- will shortly be included on the [page about this database](#) on the OSPAR website.

ICG-POSH 17 were asked to discuss this list of questions and identify if there are additional questions they would like the database to be able to answer. However, until further developments are made in developing assessment indicators it will be difficult for the ICGs to define their requirements.

(3) Develop the content of the database to respond to the needs for use of this database.

This task is an ongoing requirement, with no finalisation date. In general, specific activities cannot be defined until the needs are identified (see task 2). As a rough guide, JNCC will aim to compile and act on user needs for the database in the years in between database updates (see Timeline below). This means the next review of the data format and update process would be before ICG-POSH 19.

Recently JNCC have requested that the OSPAR Secretariat adds a link to the guidelines for data submission which includes the data exchange format to the [page about this database](#) on the OSPAR website

Following ICG-POSH 17 it was agreed that the 2019 review of the data schema will begin with a webinar with data providers and ICG-POSH members to discuss potential improvements.

- April/May 2019: webinar with data providers and ICG-POSH members to discuss

¹ As requested at ICG-POSH 17, make sure the call is specific about the fact that null responses are also required.

	<p>potential improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2019-February 2020: implement improvements (duration dependent on discussions during webinar and available resources).
Timeline	<p>Most of the work contained within this action is ongoing with no finalisation date.</p> <p>Long-term timetable for updates to the database – dates are subject to change depending on requirements and future updates will be decided closer to the time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019: no data call – review of data schema • 2020: data call for publication of updated database in March 2021 (final updates before 2023 QSR) <p>Interim milestones for current database update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ paper to ICG-POSH summarising updates to database contents and data exchange format • February 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ draft updated OSPAR T&D habitats database for NE Atlantic ○ paper to BDC summarising updates to database and requesting sign-off for publication • March 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ final updated OSPAR T&D habitats database for NE Atlantic published via EMODnet Seabed Habitats portal (and hence, via OSPAR Data and Information System). ○ Updated OSPAR web page that includes a description of the data exchange format, and a list of questions that can and cannot be asked of the data in the database (see Nov 17 ICG-POSH paper for list of questions).
Events	<p>No meetings planned; although we aim to arrange the following (as described above):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April/May 2019: webinar with data providers and ICG-POSH members to discuss potential improvements (task 3) • May 2020: webinar with data providers to assist them with their data preparation (task 1)
Links to other actions	<p>The database that is updated through Action 2 may be used to deliver several of the other actions, including:</p> <p>Action 1 – provide evidence to enable sharing of “knowledge including on status ... to help promote action by others”;</p> <p>Action 3 – provide evidence on distribution and extent of habitats to help “Develop and implement an appropriate monitoring and assessment strategy addressing the distribution, extent and condition of coastal habitats”</p> <p>Actions 15 & 16 – provide evidence on distribution and extent of habitats to help “... draw to the attention of relevant competent organisations instances where fishing</p>

	<p>activities/other physical disturbance constitute a threat to relevant ... habitats ...”</p> <p>Additionally, the following actions may result in additional data to populate the database that is updated through Action 2:</p> <p>Action 6 – “develop a strategy to encourage commercial fishermen to report incidental by-catches [of] key habitat forming species, including information about location and date. This would aim to improve (a) knowledge on habitat occurrence (b) where appropriate, understanding of the habitat as a VMEs”.</p> <p>Action 7 – “Carrying out appropriate periodic monitoring...”</p> <p>Action 9 – “Evaluate the extent to which ecological data from commercial <i>Nephrops</i> stock assessment and commercial video footage and photographic evidence can be used to assess the status of sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities, and as appropriate develop protocols for assessment purposes”</p>
Added value of action by OSPAR	This action is not being taken forward through other fora
Resources	None required
Barriers to Progress	<p>Lack of human resources in CPs for formatting and submitting the data may mean that the database is not complete with the best available data.</p> <p>Reduced capacity in JNCC to deliver this work in 2018/19 due to temporarily reduced staff resources.</p>
Stakeholders to engage	<p>It is important to contact the various potential data providers in academia, NGOs, Governments and industry. The specific institutes and individuals are too numerous to mention and it is the responsibility of each CP representative to contact the potential data providers in their country.</p> <p>It is also important to liaise with ICG-COBAM and ICG-MPA as key end-users when determining requirements and gathering user stories to drive the development of the database.</p> <p>The EMODnet Seabed Habitats consortium (led by JNCC) has a requirement to collate and publish seabed habitat data, including data about the OSPAR T&D habitats; therefore, it is important to work with that project, avoid duplication of effort and make use of the resources they have available to improve the database.</p>
Other Competent Authorities:	<p>The EMODnet Seabed Habitats consortium (led by JNCC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is required to seek out, format and publish data, maps and models on seabed habitats in Europe, which includes OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitats. Each project partner is responsible for habitat data collation in all EU Member States with coastlines (see Appendix 2 for contact details). This means that they are available to provide additional resource to the CP representatives listed in Appendix 1 for accessing and formatting data for the database. At the data call, the CP representatives have been encouraged to contact the EMODnet Seabed Habitats partners, and vice versa. • Is responsible for making the database freely available to view and download

	<p>online, via the EMODnet Seabed Habitats online interactive map, and maintaining links with ODIMS via web services.</p>
Product(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A database of observations of and mapped extent of habitats on the OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining species and habitats in the North-East Atlantic, viewable and downloadable via the EMODnet Seabed Habitats portal, and via ODIMS (points, polygons). • Guidelines for data submission – given directly to CP participants, but soon to be available also via the OSPAR website • Annual papers to ICG-POSH giving updates on technical matters related to this action • Annual/biennial papers to BDC requesting sign-off for publication of database

Appendix 1: Representatives from each Contracting Party who participate in this action

Key for contacts table below	
FORMAT	DESCRIPTION
Bold	main contact
Plain	other contacts (to CC in emails)
<i>Italics</i>	Uncertain/temporary

CONTRACTING PARTY	NAME	EMAIL
Belgium	<i>Jan Haelters</i>	j.haelters@mumm.ac.be
	<i>Michael Kyramarios (HOD)</i>	Michael.kyramarios@environnement.belgique.be
Denmark	<i>Ane-Marie Løvendahl Raun</i>	anlra@nst.dk
	<i>Christina Fevejle Nielsen</i>	cfnie@nst.dk
	<i>Marie-Louise Krawack</i>	makra@nst.dk
France	Marie La Rivière	mlariviere@mnhn.fr
	Annabelle Aish	aaish@mnhn.fr
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Iceland	Karl Gunnarsson	karl@hafro.is
	Steinunn Hilma Ólafsdóttir	steinho@hafro.is
Ireland	Eimear O'Keefe	Eimear.okeefe@marine.ie
	Donal Cronin	donal.cronin@environ.ie
Netherlands	Anne-Marie Svoboda	a.m.svoboda@minez.nl
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	Isabel López	MILOpez@magrama.es
Sweden	Anna Karlsson	anna.karlsson@havochvatten.se
	Anders G Olsson	Anders.G.Olsson@lansstyrelsen.se
UK (task manager)	Jordan Pinder	Jordan.Pinder@jncc.gov.uk
	Amy Ridgeway	Amy.Ridgeway@jncc.gov.uk
Oceana (observer)	Jorge Blanco	jblanco@oceana.org
	Nicolas Fournier	nfournier@oceana.org

Appendix 2: EMODnet Seabed Habitats partners with responsibility for data collation within OSPAR CPs

The people listed below may be able to provide some additional resource to help seek out and format OSPAR T&D habitat data for submission to the database. CP representatives are encouraged to get in touch with them to find out how they can help.

CONTRACTING PARTY	NAME	EMAIL
Belgium	Roland Pesch, Bioconsult, Germany	pesch@bioconsult.de
Denmark	Zyad Al-Hamdani, GEUS, Denmark	azk@geus.dk
France	Mickaël Vasquez, Ifremer, France	mickael.vasquez@ifremer.fr
Germany	Roland Pesch, Bioconsult, Germany	pesch@bioconsult.de
Iceland	<i>Iceland is not within the remit of EMODnet; however, JNCC may be able to help, if needed</i>	
Ireland	<i>Same as CP contact</i>	
Netherlands	Roland Pesch, Bioconsult, Germany	pesch@bioconsult.de
Norway	Trine Bekkby, NIVA, Norway	trine.bekkby@niva.no
Portugal	Jorge Gonçalves, CCMAR, Portugal	jgoncal@ualg.pt
Spain	Jorge Gonçalves, CCMAR, Portugal	jgoncal@ualg.pt
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UK	<i>Same as CP contact</i>	