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 13 - Development sheet

Action	Evaluate the extent to which critical habitats for the following species are already included within the OSPAR network of marine protected areas, and whether this coverage can be improved as a complementary measure to other conservation and management measures.
Participants	Germany, with support of France, the Netherlands, Sweden and United Kingdom and in collaboration with ICG-MPA
Plan:	This action is relevant for all OSPAR regions and refers to the following species: - Spurdog - Gulper shark - Leafscale gulper shark - Portuguese dogfish - Porbeagle shark - Spotted ray - Thornback ray - Harbour porpoise - Atlantic salmon To accomplish Action 13, the following steps are envisaged: Step 1: Literature survey to compile knowledge and data on biological and ecological parameters of the species, such as distribution, occurrence, life history, behavioural and physiological traits, and on methods of analysis, e.g. modelling approaches, statistics. Step 2: Check of data availability (e.g. distribution data, catch data) to select pilot species (i.e. species with the best available data) to start developing a

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	methodological approach to model the pilot species' critical habitat.

Step 3: Testing of different approaches to model the critical habitat of the pilot species. Depending on data availability and data needs of modelling approach, call for additional data sets on (all or specific) Action 13 species. Potentially establishment of a "network" of experts of the different species and modelling experts to discuss e.g. modelling approaches, data availability, knowledge gaps.

Step 4: In close cooperation with supporting CPs and experts decide conclusively on the most suitable modelling approach to identify critical habitats of each Action 13 species in the OSPAR maritime area (NB: Depending on data availability, methods might differ between species).

Step 5: Modelling of the critical habitat of all Action 13 species in the OSPAR maritime area (if possible, depending on data availability) and overlay with the OSPAR MPA network; regular updates (e.g. interim reports, presentations) of relevant fora, e.g. ICG-MPA, ICG-POSH, BDC, as appropriate.

Step 6: Production of final report including description of methods, evaluation of results, conclusions and recommendations to OSPAR.

Continuous process: Check of recently published relevant scientific papers/data sets. |
| Timeline | 2017: Literature review, check of data availability, selection of pilot species and start of method/model testing, presentation of proposed method to ICG-MPA 2017 and ICG-POSH 2017 – *Accomplished*

2018: Discussions with shark and modelling experts from Germany and Canada to discuss problems of data deficiency, knowledge gaps and the most appropriate modelling methods. - *ongoing*

2019-2021: Call(s) for (additional) data sets for species, as appropriate; further development of modelling approach and subsequent data analyses; regular updates of relevant fora, e.g. ICG-MPA, ICG-POSH, BDC, as appropriate.

2021: Preparation of final report. |
| Events | Yearly meetings of ICG-MPA and ICG-POSH, potentially also BDC; WebEx meetings as required; potentially also workshop(s) depending on the complexity of modelling approach and available funding. |
| Links to other actions | Link to Action 12 (similar methodological approach but different species)

Possible links to Action 33 and 34:

33: "Improve coordination of research to improve understanding of life history, distribution, track trends in populations and address specific issues identified in the recommendations (Atlantic Salmon, spurdog, gulper shark, leafscale gulper shark, Portuguese dogfish, porbeagle, spotted ray and thornback ray)." |

	34: "Coordinate with fisheries research and funding agencies to consider the establishment of a collaborative fisheries-independent research programme to evaluate the status of the species, monitor stock recovery and track movements, and identify any networks of critical habitats (Atlantic Salmon, spurdog, gulper shark, leafscale gulper shark, Portuguese dogfish, porbeagle, spotted ray and thornback ray)."
Added value of action by OSPAR	OSPAR will be informed about the potential of the current network of MPAs to contribute to the protection of specific OSPAR T & D species.
Resources	In addition to resources provided by DE and supporting CPs, the development of a sound scientific modelling approach will require input from modelling experts as well as from experts on Action 13 species.
Barriers to Progress	Possible barriers to progress include: - Data deficiencies for Action 13 species; - Time constraints of experts may lead to delayed method development and data analyses; - Constraints in availability of financial and human resources See 2018 update in action sheet 12
Stakeholders to engage	OSPAR CPs, experts on elasmobranches and habitat modelling, and depending on the species: NEAFC, NASCO, ICES, ASCOBANS, WDC, etc.
Other Competent Authorities:	Depending on the species: NEAFC, NASCO, ICES, ASCOBANS as well as experts from research institutions.
Product(s):	Report with quantitative analyses of the overlap of critical habitats of specific T & D species with the OSPAR MPA network; maps for visualisation; potentially recommendations for marine areas worth being selected as additional MPAs to improve OSPAR MPA coverage of critical habitats as a complementary measure to other conservation and management actions.