

# Unlocking the Data we need for the Ocean we want!

United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development action No.513 is the OSPAR Quality Status Report 2023

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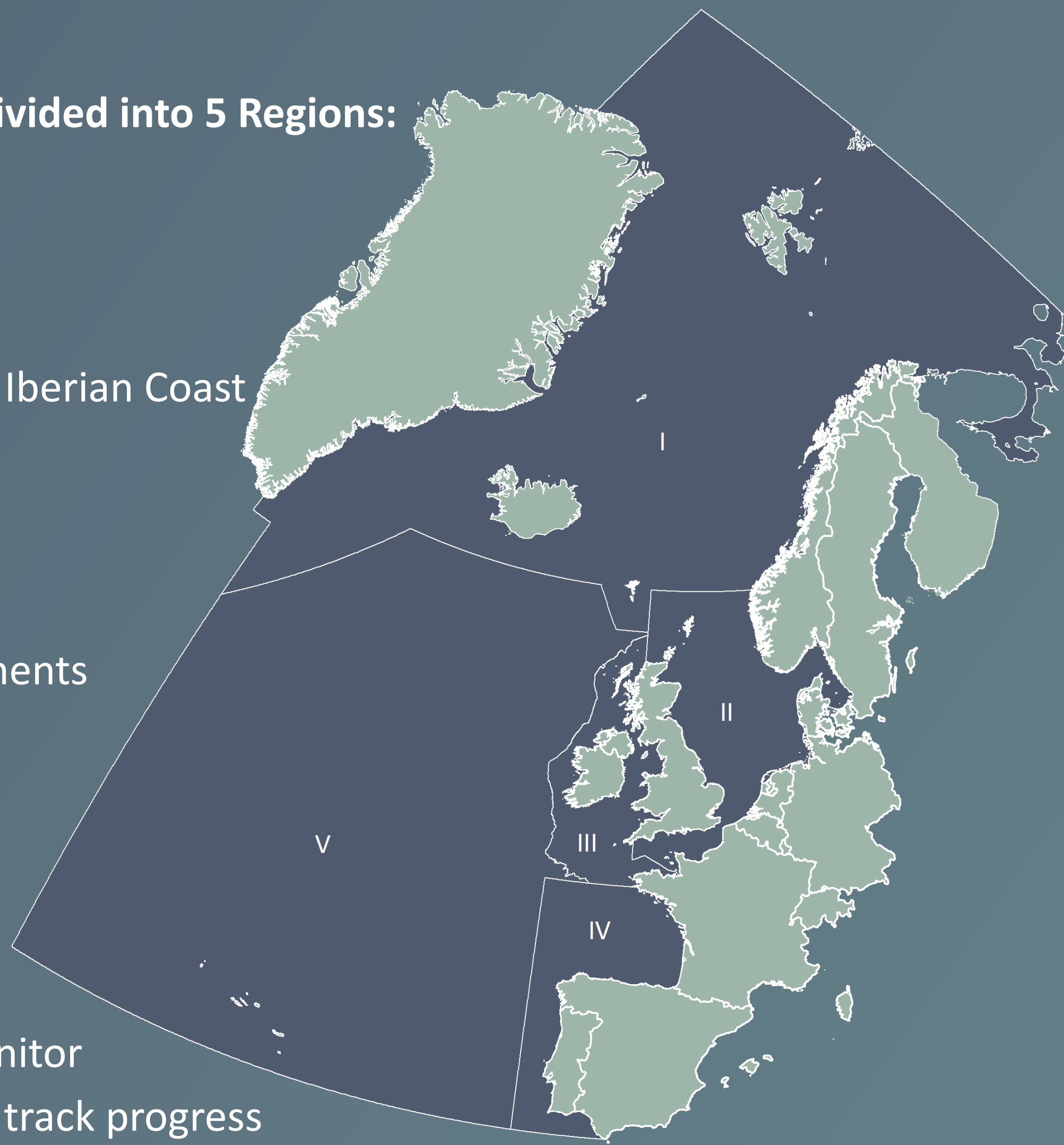
## What is OSPAR?

OSPAR is a mechanism by which fifteen governments and the EU cooperate to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic.

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

### The North-East Atlantic is divided into 5 Regions:

- 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



### The role of OSPAR

OSPAR develops and implements policies, strategies, and agreements to protect and restore the marine ecosystem. It also conducts assessments such as the Quality Status Report to monitor the health of the ocean and track progress in achieving environmental goals.

### Areas of work

Eutrophication, Hazardous Substances, Radioactive Substances, Offshore (oil and gas) Industries, Environmental Impacts of Human Activities, Marine biodiversity and ecosystems, Climate change and Ocean Acidification.

## What is the Quality Status Report 2023?

OSPAR's Quality Status Report 2023 is a comprehensive assessment of the environmental health and status of the North-East Atlantic and of human activities interacting with it.

It is formed of 120 assessments covering biodiversity, habitats, impacts of human activities, presence of contaminants and pollutants in water (such as chemicals and microplastics), and assessment of their potential effects on marine life and ecosystems.

To deliver the kind of coordinated and robust outputs needed to support evidence based decisions has taken years of collective work from: 16 Contracting Parties, 400+ experts, 64 Observer Organisations, and the 14 staff of the OSPAR Secretariat

Given this collective effort it is important that the data and information that underpins critical decision-making processes are collected, managed and processed effectively and made available to all.



**16 Contracting Parties** to the OSPAR Convention



more than **400 experts**



**64 OSPAR Observer organisations**



**OSPAR Secretariat**



Scan here to view the Quality Status Report 2023!

## The key role OSPAR Data plays

The analyses carried out in the Quality Status Report 2023 are made possible because of the data collected.

The underpinning data and information guide scientists and policymakers in understanding the overall health and resilience of the oceanic ecosystem and help inform decisions about its ongoing health and sustainable use.

Assessment products that have this strong lineage with underpinning data allow for the creation of a transparent, robust and reliable monitoring and assessment process. This structural backbone enables assessments of extended geographic areas and time-scales, such as those shown in the Quality Status Report 2023, to be completed.

Because the underlying collection methodologies and structure are made available, the resulting data and associated products can be widely and reliably reused.

