



Roadmap to support the achievement of OSPAR objectives in the Arctic

Agreement 2022-01

(Source: OSPAR 22/12/1, Annex 9)¹

Objective of the roadmap:

This 2022-2025 Arctic Outcomes roadmap sets out the steps considered necessary to support OSPAR's commitment to deliver the statement in the 2021 Cascais Ministerial declaration:

*"We **recognise** the unique biodiversity of the Arctic, part of the OSPAR maritime area and **commit** to protect the Arctic marine environment, including through collaboration with other relevant organisations, such as the Arctic Council and the International Maritime Organisation."*

and to support relevant objectives under the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy including those concerning area-based conservation measures such as marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

| Time: | Responsible OSPAR body: | Tasks: |
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| June 2022 | OSPAR Commission | Agreement on the Roadmap and establishment of an Arctic Outcomes Working Group (AOWG) to deliver the roadmap. |
| October 2022 | AOWG | <p>Identification of sources of scientific information and knowledge on the marine environment in the Arctic in Region I. A key component of this work would be the draft OSPAR nomination proforma for the designation of an Arctic Ice High Seas MPA² discussed in 2016 together with Arctic Council work, existing conservation measures and any other relevant information on the marine environment in the Arctic in Region I as well as on prevailing and predicted pressures.</p> <p>Consider how to approach and contact, conditions allowing, Arctic Council [SAO] or Arctic states, the Chairs of AMAP, PAME, CAFF, and relevant indigenous peoples organisations to inform them of the envisaged OSPAR process on the protection of the Arctic in Region I and invite them to a meeting to set the scene for potential future engagement.</p> |

¹ Editorial amendment made in 2023 to update the date of the Arctic Outcomes Workshop

² BDC 16/5/4 rev1

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| December 2022 | Contracting Parties/Secretariat | Meet with Arctic Council or Arctic states/relevant indigenous peoples organisations, as appropriate. |
| | AOWG | Conclude on outcomes of the initial engagement and agree on next steps. |
| Spring 2023 | OSPAR Committees | Relevant OSPAR Committees identify relevant additional scientific information and knowledge and reflect on AOWG progress and make suggestions for further work. Based on available evidence identify possible OSPAR measures to enhance protection and conservation of the marine environment in the Arctic in Region I. |
| Spring 2023 | AOWG/Secretariat | Before the workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection of available scientific evidence and compilation of document(s) Invite consideration of the evidence collected so far Drafting of background documents for any proposed measures |
| May 2023 | HoD | Discusses AOWG progress report, including suggestions for next steps to be submitted to OSPAR 2023. |
| June 2023 | OSPAR Commission | Agrees on next steps and initial ideas for OSPAR measures/actions to be consulted on and any changes to the roadmap |
| 16-18 October 2023 | AOWG/Secretariat organises and holds a workshop/s to consult/share proposals with stakeholders | At the workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the evidence and case for any proposed OSPAR measures; and Discuss the proposed OSPAR measures/actions and how to take them forward. |
| 18 October 2023 | AOWG | Considers outcome of the workshop and the need for further work and engagement with stakeholders as appropriate. |
| /Spring 2024 | | Considers outcome of the workshop. Take onboard comments and finalise proposals for OSPAR measures/actions. |
| | Relevant OSPAR subsidiary bodies | Relevant OSPAR subsidiary bodies discuss AOWG proposals |
| Spring 2024 | OSPAR Committees | Relevant OSPAR Committee discusses AOWG proposals |
| May 2024 | HoD | Agree final proposals for OSPAR measures/actions for submission to OSPAR 2024 |
| June 2024 | OSPAR Commission | Agrees on the OSPAR measures/actions and draft documentation and any changes to the roadmap. |
| Autumn 2024/Spring 2025 | AOWG/subsidiary bodies/Committees | Consideration and agreement of relevant documentation (Decision/Recommendation/Agreement) and initiate consultation procedure as appropriate. |
| May 2025 | HoD | Consider final proposals from AOWG/Committee Agree final texts of draft [Decision/Recommendation] |

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| June 2025 | OSPAR Commission | <p>Consideration of the following actions:</p> <p>Agreement on specific OSPAR measures to support relevant objectives under the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy to protect and conserve the marine environment in the Arctic in Region I.</p> <p>Adoption of relevant Decision and Recommendation</p> |
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