OSPAR COMMISSION

2012 Status Report on the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas

Biodiversity Series

2013

OSPAR Convention

The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the “OSPAR Convention”) was opened for signature at the Ministerial Meeting of the former Oslo and Paris Commissions in Paris on 22 September 1992. The Convention entered into force on 25 March 1998. The Contracting Parties are Belgium, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Convention OSPAR

La Convention pour la protection du milieu marin de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est, dite Convention OSPAR, a été ouverte à la signature à la réunion ministérielle des anciennes Commissions d'Oslo et de Paris, à Paris le 22 septembre 1992. La Convention est entrée en vigueur le 25 mars 1998. Les Parties contractantes sont l'Allemagne, la Belgique, le Danemark, l’Espagne, la Finlande, la France, l’Irlande, l’Islande, le Luxembourg, la Norvège, les Pays-Bas, le Portugal, le Royaume-Uni de Grande Bretagne et d’Irlande du Nord, la Suède, la Suisse et l’Union européenne.

Acknowledgement

This report has been prepared by Dr Kerstin Kröger (Secretariat of OSPAR’s Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Protected Areas (ICG-MPA) c/o German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation/BfN) and Mirko Hauswirth (BfN), with guidance of Dr Henning von Nordheim (BfN; Convenor of the OSPAR ICG-MPA), and Tim Packeiser (WWF) ICG-MPA and on the basis of information and data provided by Contracting Parties on their respective Marine Protected Areas nominated for inclusion in the OSPAR Network of MPAs.

Cover illustration

The illustration on the front page has been created by Mirko Hauswirth (German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation/BfN).

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Executive Summary

OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3[1] on a Network of Marine Protected Areas sets out the goal of OSPAR Contracting Parties to continue the establishment of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas in the North-East Atlantic and to ensure that:

a. *by 2012 it is ecologically coherent, includes sites representative of all biogeographic regions in the OSPAR maritime area, and is consistent with the CBD target for effectively conserved marine and coastal ecological regions;*

b. *by 2016 it is well managed (i.e. coherent management measures have been set up and are being implemented for such MPAs that have been designated up to 2010).*

This report aims to summarise the information made available by OSPAR Contracting Parties (CPs) on their respective Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) nominated to the OSPAR Commission (OSPAR) and on this basis assess the progress towards these objectives.

In the period 2005-2012 all twelve CPs bordering the North-East Atlantic have selected and nominated sites as components of the OSPAR Network of MPAs. The contributions by CPs differ substantially regarding distribution of sites across coastal and offshore waters as well regarding overall coverage of their national waters by OSPAR MPAs.

By 31 December 2012, the OSPAR Network of MPAs comprised a total of 333 MPAs. Reflecting the fact that the OSPAR maritime area is composed of areas within and beyond national jurisdiction, as well as areas subject to submissions by Contracting Parties to the UN CLCS[2] for an extended continental shelf, the OSPAR MPAs can be grouped into the following categories:

- 324 MPAs situated within national waters of Contracting Parties;
- Two MPAs situated entirely in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ);
- One MPA protecting only the water column above an area subject to a submission to the UN CLCS;
- Four MPAs, encompassed by an area subject to a submission to the UN CLCS, where the seabed and subsoil are protected by the concerned Contracting Party while the water column is protected collectively by all CPs;
- Two MPAs, encompassed by an area subject to a submission to the UN CLCS, where the seabed and subsoil are protected by the Contracting Party while the water column remains unprotected.
- Collectively, these sites cover *ca*. 700,600[3] km² or 5.17% of the OSPAR maritime area in the North-East Atlantic. As the vast majority of sites have been designated in CPs' territorial waters, overall coverage of coastal waters by OSPAR MPAs is consequently higher at 21.74%. Overall coverage of offshore areas, i.e. the Exclusive Economic Zones of Contracting Parties, by OSPAR MPAs remains low at 1.53%. The distribution of MPAs

[1] OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3 adopted by OSPAR 2003 (OSPAR 03/17/1, Annex 9), amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2010/2 (OSPAR 10/23/1, Annex 7)

[2] United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

[3] Due to rounding errors inherent in the calculations the total area being protected by OSPAR MPAs is given in this report as ca. 700,600 km^2. Note that the total values given in Tables 1 and 2 differ slightly because of such rounding errors.

across the five OSPAR Regions is likewise imbalanced, resulting in major gaps of the MPA Network. The Greater North Sea, the Celtic Seas and the Wider Atlantic are the best represented OSPAR Regions, with 10.39%, 7.90% and 4.66% coverage by OSPAR MPAs respectively. While coverage of the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast is at 3.12%, the Arctic Waters have 1.55% protected by OSPAR MPAs.

- In the course of 2012 the OSPAR MPA Network grew considerably. Belgium (2 MPAs), France (30[4] MPAs), Iceland (2 MPAs), Norway (4 MPAs), Sweden (2 MPAs) and the United Kingdom (13 MPAs) have made a contribution to the MPA Network with the reporting of 53 MPAs in total, mainly designated under the EC Habitats Directive and EC Birds Directive, to the OSPAR Commission. In addition, the OSPAR Commission in 2012 agreed upon the establishment of the Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas MPA. Thus the overall area being protected by OSPAR MPAs has increased from 2011 to 2012 by 1.70% (i.e. by nearly 225,000 km^2) from 3.5% to 5.17% of the OSPAR maritime area. The highest increase in coverage occurred in the Wider Atlantic where the area being protected by OSPAR MPAs increased by more than 3.1%. This was followed by an increase of coverage of 2.7% in the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast. The OSPAR region of the Greater North Sea has reached the target agreed within CBD to have by 2020 at least 10% of coastal and marine areas effectively protected by MPAs, with the Wider Atlantic moving closer towards this target.

Comprehensive conclusions on the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs are still not possible due to the unavailability of sufficient relevant ecological data on the distribution of species and habitats in the OSPAR maritime area. Considering the spatial arrangement of its components, as summarised above, the OSPAR Network of MPAs cannot be judged to be *ecologically coherent* yet. However, certain regions of the OSPAR MPA Network, i.e. the Greater North Sea, the Celtic Seas, around the Azores and the ABNJ/High Seas of the Wider Atlantic, show first signs of ecological coherence.

As no sufficiently detailed information on the management of sites has been made available by Contracting Parties, it remains similarly impossible at this time to comprehensively conclude on the extent to which OSPAR MPAs are *well-managed*. While in general a number of sites are subject to management regimes, including conservation objectives, management plans and specific regulatory measures, no evidence on their effectiveness in achieving the goals for which these were established has been provided. Management plans and measures for many sites are still being prepared.

[4] Note that 3 of the French MPAs nominations are re-nominations of already existing OSPAR MPAs.

Récapitulatif

La recommandation OSPAR 2003/3[1] concernant le réseau d'Aires marines protégées (AMP) fixe l'objectif des Parties contractantes OSPAR pour poursuivre la mise en place du réseau d'Aires marines protégées OSPAR en Atlantique nord-est afin que :

a. *en 2012, le réseau soit écologiquement cohérent, inclue des sites représentatifs de toutes les régions biogéographiques de la zone maritime OSPAR et soit cohérent avec l'objectif de la CDB pour une préservation efficace des régions côtières et marines ;*
b. *en 2016, le réseau soit bien géré (c'est-à-dire des mesures de gestion cohérentes ont été définies et mises en place pour les AMP désignées jusqu'à 2010).*

Ce rapport vise à résumer les informations mises à disposition par les Parties contractantes (PC) OSPAR concernant leurs Aires marines protégées (AMP) respectives, rapportées à la Commission OSPAR (OSPAR), et sur cette base à évaluer la progression en vue des objectifs énoncés ci-dessus.

Entre 2005 et 2012, les douze PC bordant les côtes de l'Atlantique nord-est ont défini et désigné des sites composant le réseau d'AMP OSPAR. Les contributions des PC diffèrent sensiblement en termes de distribution spatiale, d'une part entre les eaux côtières et du large, mais également en ce qui concerne la couverture totale des eaux sous leurs juridictions par les AMP OSPAR.

Au 31 décembre 2012, le réseau d'AMP OSPAR comprenait un total de 333 AMP. Du fait que la zone maritime OSPAR comprend à la fois des zones sous juridictions nationales et au-delà, ainsi que des zones sujettes à des demandes auprès de la Commission des limites du plateau continental (CLPC) des Nations unies pour la définition d'un plateau continental étendu, les AMP OSPAR peuvent être réparties dans les catégories suivantes :

- 324 AMP situées dans les eaux sous juridiction des Parties contractantes ;
- deux AMP situées intégralement dans des zones au-delà des juridictions nationales ;
- une AMP protégeant seulement la colonne d'eau surplombant une zone sujette à une demande auprès de la CLPC ;
- quatre AMP chevauchant une demande auprès de la CLPC, où le fond marin et le sous-sol sont protégés par la Partie contractante concernée tandis que la colonne d'eau est protégée collectivement par toutes les PC ;
- deux AMP chevauchant une demande auprès de la CLPC, où le fond marin et le sous-sol sont protégés par la Partie contractante tandis que la colonne d'eau n'est pas protégée.

Dans leur ensemble, ces sites couvrent ca. 700.600 km² ou 5,17% de la zone maritime OSPAR en Atlantique nord-est. Comme la grande majorité des sites a été désignée dans les eaux territoriales des PC, la couverture totale des eaux côtières par les AMP OSPAR est de fait plus importante et atteint 21,74%. La couverture totale des eaux du large, c'est-à-dire les Zones économiques exclusives des Parties contractantes, par les AMP OSPAR reste faible et atteint 1,53%. La distribution des AMP sur l'ensemble des cinq régions OSPAR est également déséquilibrée, entrainant des manques importants dans le réseau d'AMP. La Mer du Nord au sens large, l'Atlantique au large et les Mers celtiques sont les régions OSPAR les plus représentées avec une couverture respective par les AMP OSPAR de 10,39%, 7,90% et 4,66%; tandis que la couverture du Golfe de Gascogne et des côtes ibériques est de 3,12% et 1,55% des eaux arctiques sont protégés par des AMP OSPAR.

Au cours de l'année 2012, le réseau d'AMP OSPAR s'est considérablement agrandi. La Belgique (2 AMP), la France (30 AMP), l'Islande (2 AMP), la Norvège (4 AMP), le Royaume-Uni (13 AMP) et la Suède (2 AMP) ont contribué au réseau d'AMP en rapportant au total 53 AMP à la Commission OSPAR, pour la plupart désignées au titre des Directives habitats et oiseaux de la Commission européenne. En outre, la Commission OSPAR s'est accordée en 2012 sur la création de l'AMP de haute mer sur la colonne d'eau Charlie-Gibbs nord. De fait, la proportion de la surface totale protégée par les AMP OSPAR a augmenté de 1,70% (i.e. soit d'environ 225 000 km²), pour passer de 3,5% à 5,17% de la zone maritime OSPAR. L'augmentation la plus importante en termes de couverture a eu lieu dans l'Atlantique au large où le pourcentage de surface protégée par les AMP OSPAR a cru de 3,1%. Vient ensuite une augmentation de 2,7% de la couverture du réseau dans le Golfe de Gascogne et les côtes ibériques. Alors que la Mer du Nord au sens large a atteint l'objectif convenu au sein de la CDB qu'au moins 10% des eaux côtières et du large soient protégées efficacement par des AMP en 2020, l'Atlantique au large se rapproche de cet objectif.

Une conclusion définitive sur la cohérence écologique du réseau d'AMP OSPAR n'est toujours pas possible du fait de l'insuffisance des données écologiques disponibles sur la distribution des espèces et des habitats dans la zone maritime OSPAR. Du fait des disparités spatiales de ses différentes composantes, qui ont été résumées plus haut, le réseau d'AMP OSPAR ne peut pas encore être jugé comme étant écologiquement cohérent. Cependant, certaines régions ou parties du réseau d'AMP OSPAR, à savoir la Mer du Nord au sens large, les Mers celtiques, la zone des Açores et la zone de haute mer de l'Atlantique au large, montrent des premiers signes de cohérence écologique.

Comme les Parties contractantes n'ont pas rendu disponible des informations suffisantes concernant la gestion des sites, il demeure également impossible aujourd'hui de conclure définitivement sur une bonne gestion des AMP OSPAR. Alors que d'une manière générale de nombreux sites sont soumis à un régime de gestion, comprenant des objectifs de conservation, des plans de gestion et des mesures de régulation spécifiques, aucune information n'a été fournie sur leur efficacité quant à l'atteinte des objectifs pour lesquels ils ont été créés. Par ailleurs, pour beaucoup de sites, les plans de gestion et les mesures sont encore en cours d'élaboration.

Background

The Sintra Ministerial Statement, adopted at the meeting of the OSPAR Commission at Sintra, Portugal (22-23 July 1998), included the commitment that the OSPAR Commission will promote the establishment of a network of marine protected areas to ensure the sustainable use, protection and conservation of marine biological diversity and its ecosystems.

This process has been enhanced by the Bremen Ministerial Statement, adopted at the first Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Helsinki and OSPAR Commissions in Bremen, Germany (25-26 June 2003), as it established the commitment to complete by 2010 a joint network of well-managed marine protected areas that, together with the Natura 2000 network, is ecologically coherent,

The aims of the OSPAR MPA Network have been set out as

- *to protect, conserve and restore species, habitats and ecological processes which have been adversely affected by human activities;*
- *to prevent degradation of, and damage to, species, habitats and ecological processes, following the precautionary principle; and*
- *to protect and conserve areas that best represent the range of species, habitats and ecological processes in the maritime area.*

OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3 sets out that in the years subsequent to 2005, OSPAR Contracting Parties should report by 31 December to the OSPAR Commission on any OSPAR Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that they have selected (or deselected) and on any corresponding management plans that they have adopted or substantially amended in that year. In 2006, the OSPAR Biodiversity Committee (BDC) agreed that annual reports on the status of the OSPAR Network of MPAs should be prepared in the period up to 2010.

As the target has not been achieved in 2010, the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in Bergen, Norway (20-24 September 2010) adopted a consolidated version of Recommendation 2003/3 (amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2010/2) including renewed targets, *i.e. to continue the establishment of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas in the North-East Atlantic and to ensure that:*

a. *by 2012 it is ecologically coherent, includes sites representative of all biogeographic regions in the OSPAR maritime area, and is consistent with the CBD target for effectively conserved marine and coastal ecological regions;*

b. *by 2016 it is well managed (i.e. coherent management measures have been set up and are being implemented for such MPAs that have been designated up to 2010).*

OSPAR Contracting Parties therefore agreed to continue with the preparation of annual reports with a view to track progress as well as any shortcomings with regards to the targets that have been set by the OSPAR Commission for the OSPAR Network of MPAs.

This document presents the 2012 DRAFT Status Report on the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas taking into account all MPAs that have either been nominated by Contracting Parties within their respective national waters or established collectively by the OSPAR Commission in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) or in the High Seas until 31 December 2012.

Sources of data and information on the OSPAR Marine Protected Areas

The analysis of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas is based upon the data and information that has been provided by Contracting Parties in the process of nominating their MPAs to the OSPAR Commission and subsequently to the OSPAR database of Marine Protected Areas held at the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). All calculations are made with reference only to the OSPAR maritime area as defined in the OSPAR Convention, excluding overseas territories and territories of Contracting Parties in the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas. It should be noted that the maps presented in this report do not include all submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

Analysis of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas 2012[5]

The OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as of 31 December 2012 comprised a total of 333 MPAs. Reflecting the fact that the OSPAR maritime area is composed of areas within and beyond national jurisdiction, as well as areas subject to submissions by Contracting Parties to the UN CLCS[6] for an extended continental shelf, the OSPAR MPAs can be grouped into the following categories:

- 324 MPAs situated within national waters of Contracting Parties;
- Two MPAs situated entirely in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ);
- One MPA protecting only the water column above an area subject to a submission to the UN CLCS;
- Four MPAs, encompassed by an area subject to a submission to the UN CLCS, where the seabed and subsoil are protected by the concerned Contracting Party while the water column is protected collectively by all CPs;
- Two MPAs, encompassed by an area subject to a submission to the UN CLCS, where the seabed and subsoil are protected by the Contracting Party while the water column remains unprotected.

Collectively, these sites cover ca. 700,600[7] km² or 5.17% of the OSPAR maritime area in the North-East Atlantic.

[5] All figures, tables and maps in this report provide information on the OSPAR Network of MPAs as of 31 December 2012.

[6] United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

[7] Due to rounding errors inherent in the calculations the total area being protected by OSPAR MPAs is given in this report as ca. 700,600 km^2. Note that the total values given in Tables 1 and 2 differ slightly because of such rounding errors.

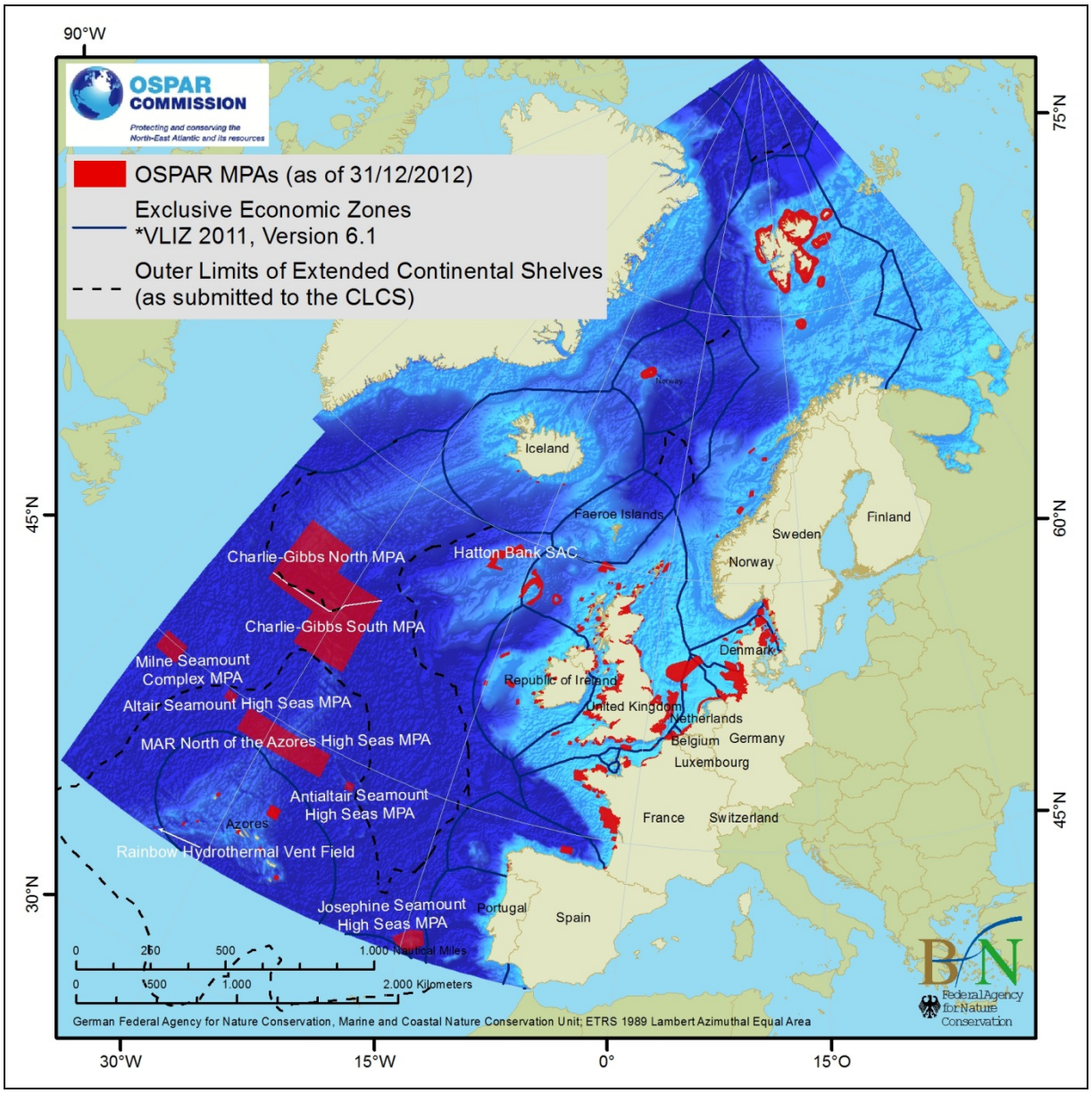


Figure 1. *OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas (as of 31 December 2012)*[8].

OSPAR Marine Protected Areas under National Jurisdiction

Distribution of OSPAR MPAs in Contracting Parties' national waters

OSPAR Contracting Parties (CPs) have in the period 2005–2012 nominated a total of 324 MPAs within their respective national waters. The contributions by CPs regarding number of MPAs nominated, MPA coverage and distribution in their national waters differ substantially. Table 1 indicates the number of sites per CP and associated area subject to MPAs. As can be inferred from

[8] For the purpose of visibility, OSPAR Marine Protected Areas within the boundaries of Exclusive Economic Zones have in this map been slightly increased. A number of the smaller sites otherwise would not be visible in this illustration showing the entire OSPAR maritime area.

Table 1, there is no direct relationship between the number of MPAs nominated and the total area protected as the sizes of MPAs varies substantially.

Table 1. *OSPAR Marine Protected Areas (as of 31 December 2012).*

OSPAR Contracting Party	OSPAR MPAs	MPA coverage in Territorial Waters (km²)	MPA coverage in Exclusive Economic Zones (km²)	MPA coverage in High Seas[9] (km²)	MPA coverage - Total (km²)
Belgium	2	806	433		1,239
Denmark	34	6,960	5,510		12,472
France	36	15,759	6,280		22,121
Germany	6	9,963	7,921		16,884
Iceland	9	90	69		156
Ireland	19	1,593	2,542		4,136
Netherlands	5	2,434	5,938		8,320
Norway	12	83,047	2,402		85,416
Portugal	8[10]	1,022	4,656	22	5,678
Spain	2	85	2,395		2,483
Sweden	10	1,114	1,371		2,484
United Kingdom	183[11]	23,080	35,036	15,901	47,676
High Seas/ABNJ/ECS*	7[12]			465,165	496,935
Total	**333**	**144,952**	**74,553**	**481,088**	**700,593****

*ABNJ = Areas beyond National Jurisdiction; ECS = Extended Continental Shelf subject to a submission by a Contracting Party to the UN CLCS

** Note that due to rounding errors inherent in the calculations the total area being protected by OSPAR MPAs in Table 2 differs slightly. Hence in the text of this report the total area being proteced is given as ca. 700,600 km².

[9] The area of the High Seas includes all areas beyond national jurisdiction plus those extended continental shelf areas established by States in accordance with Article 76 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

[10] Portugal has altogether nominated 12 MPAs to OSPAR. Four of the areas however are encompassed by a Portuguese submission to the UN CLCS on the outer limits of its extended continental shelf, and have therefore been assigned to the category "High Seas/ABNJ". These areas, collectively covering 119,900 km², have not yet been correlated to Portugal in the statistical analysis of the OSPAR Network of MPAs. One area (Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field, 22 km²), although subject to a submission of Portugal to the UN CLCS, has been nominated by Portugal as an OSPAR MPA and thus is assigned to Portugal in Table 1.

[11] United Kingdom has altogether nominated 183 MPAs to OSPAR. One of the areas, however, Hatton Bank SAC, occurs on the extended continental shelf area of the United Kingdom. Thus it has been assigned to the United Kingdom in Table 1. The area of the North West Rockall Bank SAC which extends beyond the EEZ of the UK into the area subject to the submission mentioned above, has been included in the category "High Seas/ABNJ". As the major part of this MPA is situated within the EEZ of the UK the site has been assigned to the UK. The areas that are beyond the EEZ of the UK cover 15,901 km² together.

[12] Note that Hatton Bank SAC (United Kingdom) and Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field (Portugal) are not included in the total number of OSPAR MPAs assigned to this category in Table 1.

Figure 2 shows the OSPAR Network of MPAs and the boundaries of the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of Contracting Parties[13].

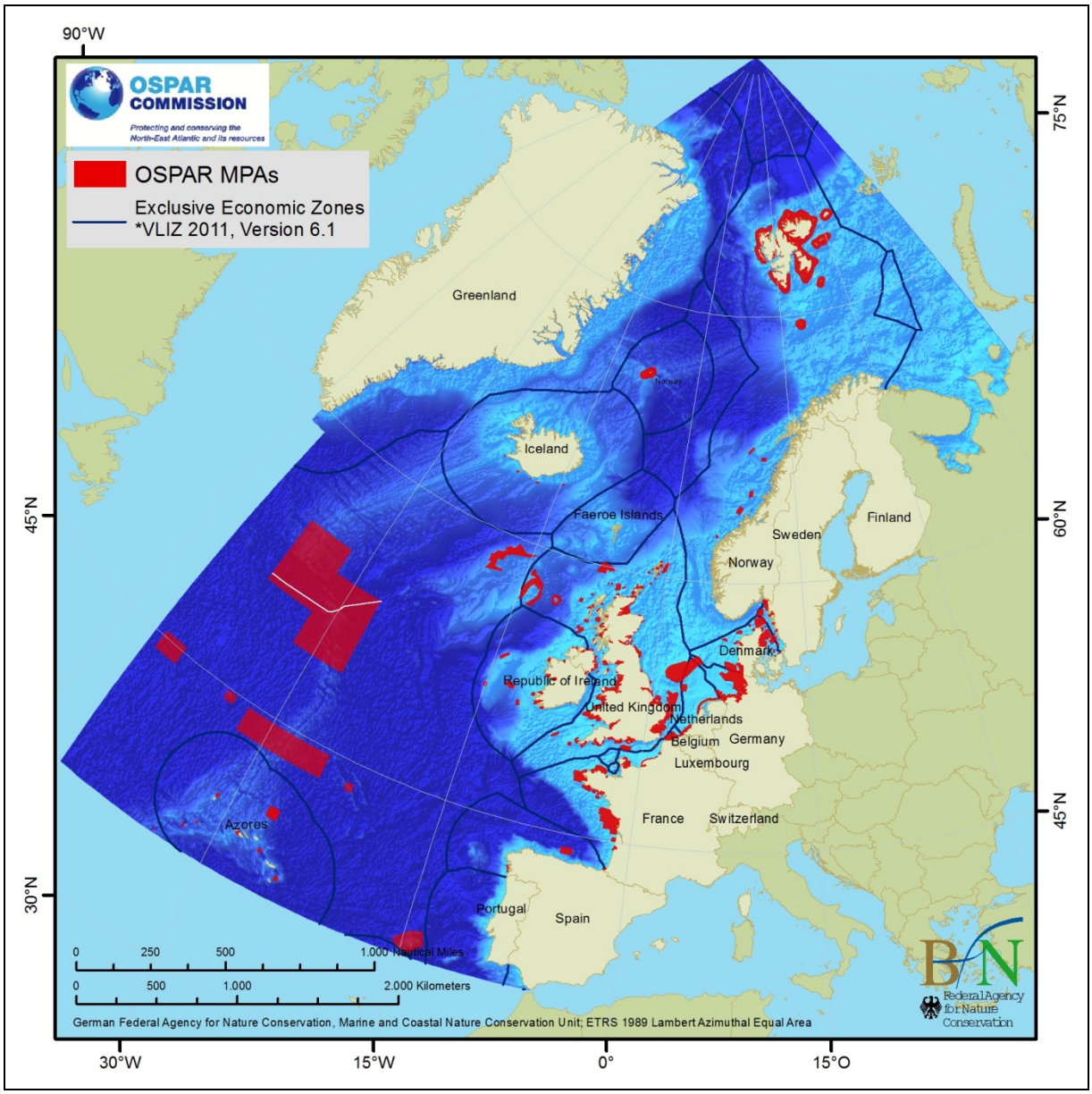
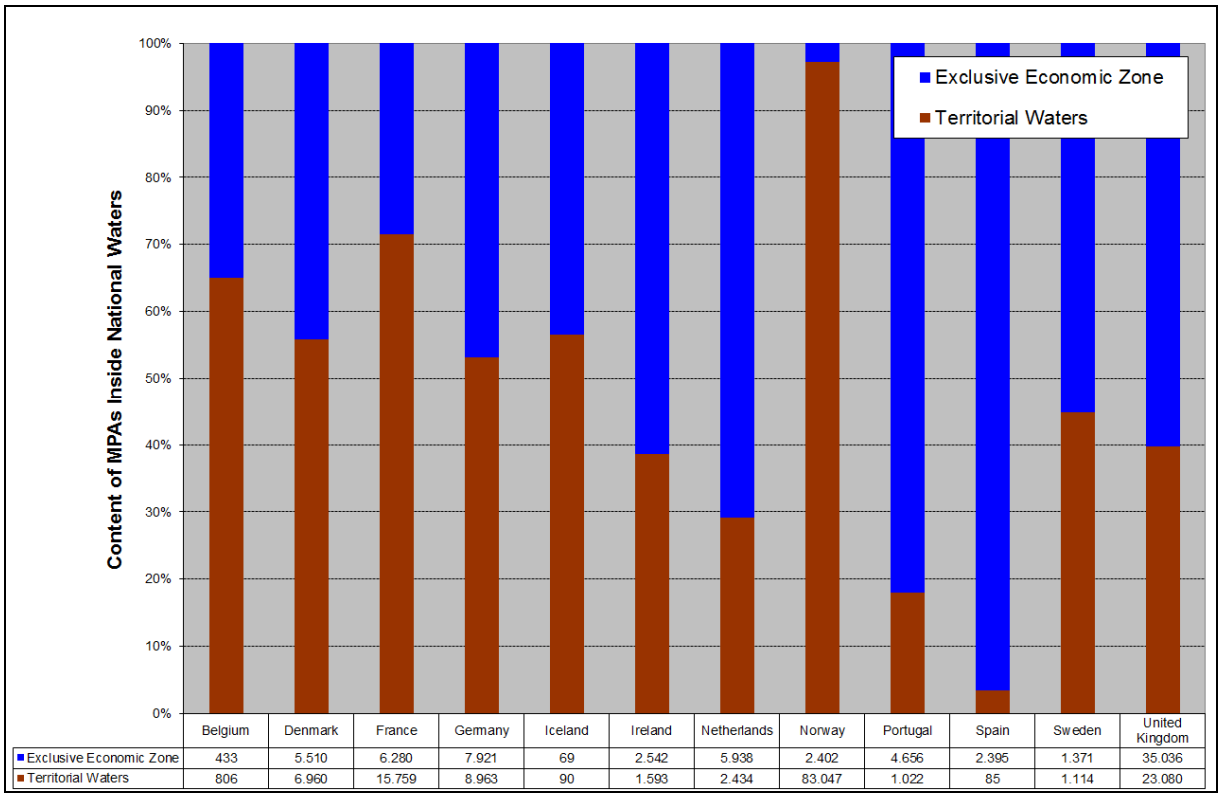


Figure 2. *OSPAR Marine Protected Areas and Exclusive Economic Zones of OSPAR Contracting Parties (as of 31 December 2012)[14].*

[13]The boundaries of Contracting Parties' Exclusive Economic Zones have been obtained from the open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase (http://www.vliz.be/vmdcdata/marbound/). It is noted, that not all of these boundaries as shown in the map have been officially declared by Contracting Parties. All analyses of the OSPAR Network of MPAs in this report are conducted according to these boundaries. Areas being subject to submissions of respective CPs to the UN CLCS for an extended continental shelf are thus assigned for the purpose of all analyses in this report to the category 'High Seas/ABNJ/ECS' (including Hatton Bank SAC and Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field, i.e. a total area of 481,088 km²).

[14] For the purpose of visibility, OSPAR Marine Protected Areas within the boundaries of EEZ have in this map been slightly increased. A number of the smaller sites otherwise would not be visible in this illustration showing the entire OSPAR maritime area.

Figure 3 provides an illustration of the distribution of OSPAR MPAs (in percent and in total area) across territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zones of Contracting Parties. Norway (>95%), France (>70%) and Belgium (>60%) have most of their protected areas situated up to 12 nautical miles from the shoreline (territorial waters). In contrast, Spain (>90%), Portugal (>80%), The Netherlands (>70%) and Ireland (>60%) all have MPAs predominantly established in their EEZ. The United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Iceland show a relatively balanced distribution of their respective MPAs across territorial waters and EEZ.



	Belgium	Denmark	France	Germany	Iceland	Ireland	Netherlands	Norway	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	United Kingdom
Exclusive Economic Zone	433	5.510	6.280	7.921	69	2.542	5.938	2.402	4.656	2.395	1.371	35.036
Territorial Waters	806	6.960	15.759	8.963	90	1.593	2.434	83.047	1.022	85	1.114	23.080

Figure 3. *Distribution of OSPAR MPAs across Contracting Parties' territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zones (as of 31 December 2012). Note that results are based on the boundaries of Contracting Parties' Exclusive Economic Zones according to the open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase (http://www.vliz.be/vmdcdata/marbound/).*

Figure 4 highlights further aspects regarding the distribution and coverage of OSPAR MPAs in Contracting Parties' national waters[15]. For each CP[16], the distribution and total area coverage of MPAs nominated to OSPAR in its territorial waters and EEZ, respectively, is shown (brown/blue colour of vertical bars). Furthermore, horizontal bars indicate the relative coverage (in %) of OSPAR MPAs in its territorial waters, the EEZ and overall in its national waters (light brown/light blue/red, respectively).
Figure 4 illustrates the differences between CPs regarding the extent to which their national waters are subject to OSPAR MPAs. It needs to be taken into account that the total areas of CPs' national waters differ substantially (see Figure 2 above for an illustration of CPs' marine areas under national jurisdiction.)

[15] The area calculations have been made with regards to the OSPAR maritime area only, *i.e.* without consideration of the overseas territories of Contracting Parties and marine territories of Contracting Parties in the Baltic (Denmark, Germany and Sweden) or the Mediterranean(France and Spain).

[16] The area calculations for Denmark have been made for the mainland only, *i.e.* without consideration of the territories of Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

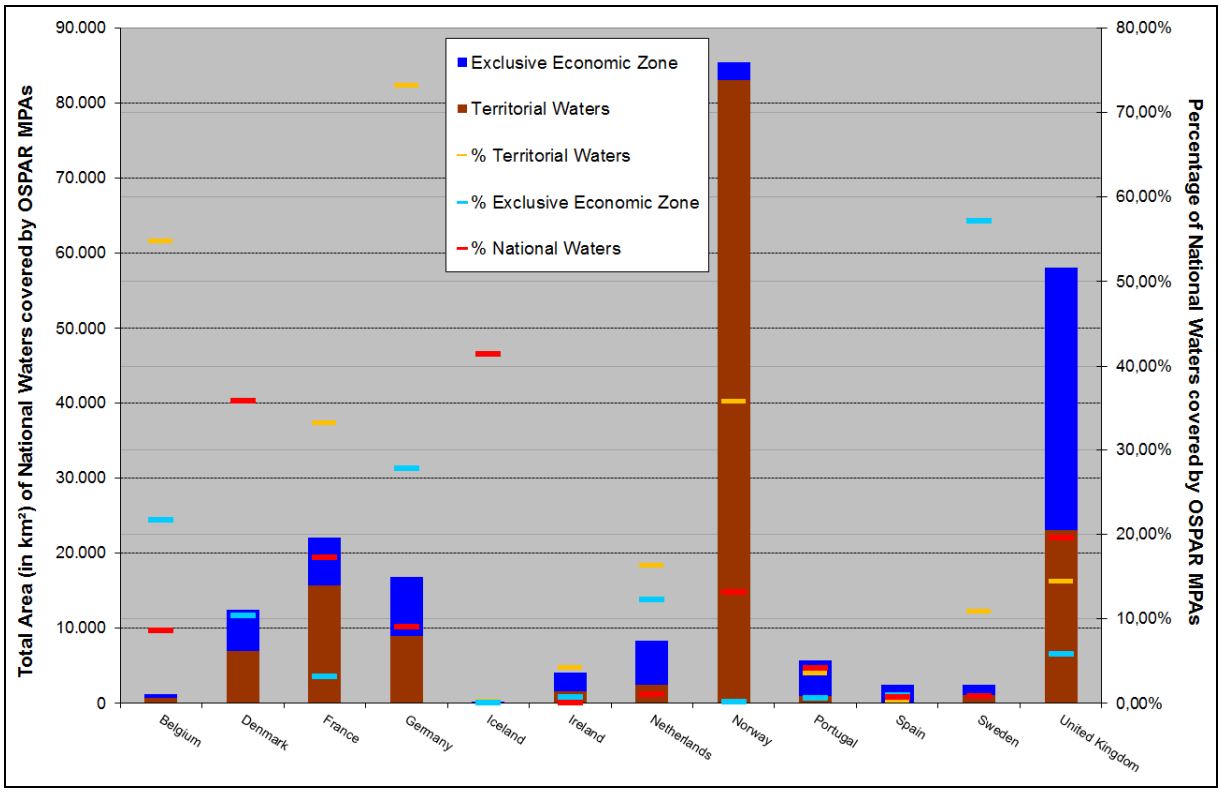


Figure 4. *MPA coverage in Contracting Parties' national waters, i.e. territorial waters and EEZ (as of 31 December 2012). Note results are based on the boundaries of Contracting Parties' Exclusive Economic Zones according to the open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase.*

Amongst OSPAR Contracting Parties, Norway hosts the largest area subject to MPAs (>80,000 km²) with a high absolute and relative coverage of its territorial waters by OSPAR MPAs. However, due to the extensive area of its national waters, the overall relative coverage of OSPAR MPAs is about 4%. While the United Kingdom (UK) has nominated by far the most OSPAR MPAs, the overall proportion of their national waters protected is about 10%[17]. In Germany, due to the comparatively smaller marine area under its jurisdiction, OSPAR MPAs represent about 41% of its national waters. Denmark and The Netherlands show a relative MPA coverage of approximately 17%[18] and 13%[19], respectively, in their national waters. Sweden has about 19% of its national waters covered by MPAs. Coverage of national waters by OSPAR MPAs in France has increased to nearly 9% whereas it remains in Ireland, Spain and Portugal at 1%, 0.9% and 0.7%[20], respectively. The proportion of Icelandic national waters covered by OSPAR MPAs remains minimal, due to the extensive marine areas and the comparatively

[17] Area calculations are based on national waters, i.e. Hatton Bank SCA and the area of North West Rockall Bank SCA extending beyond the EEZ of the United Kingdom are not included.

[18] Area calculations only consider national waters adjacent to mainland Denmark, excluding the marine areas of Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

[19] The Netherlands determines a coverage of 15% by OSPAR Marine Protected Areas in their national waters, excluding the estuaries.

[20] Area calculations only consider the marine areas adjacent to mainland Portugal and around the Azores archipelago in the OSPAR maritime area.

small sizes of their MPAs. The newly submitted Belgian MPAs represent more than a third of Belgium's national waters (ca. 36%).

Overall good coverage of coastal waters

As illustrated above, there continues to be an imbalance regarding the overall distribution of OSPAR MPAs across the OSPAR maritime area, with a tendency towards nearshore sites.

At the same time it should be noted that thereby more than a Fifth, nearly 22% (144,952 km²), of the territorial waters of OSPAR Contracting Parties are subject to Marine Protected Areas.

This good overall coverage of coastal waters is a result mainly of extensive MPAs designated in OSPAR Regions II (Greater North Sea) and III (Celtic Seas) and around the Svalbard archipelago in Region I (Arctic Waters).

Consequently, however, MPA coverage of coastal waters in the remaining OSPAR (Sub-) Regions is substantially lower.

The lower overall MPA coverage in the North-East Atlantic (5. 17%) is explained by the comparatively smaller proportion of the Exclusive Economic Zones protected (74,553km², corresponding to 1.53% of all EEZs in the OSPAR maritime area) and, in general, the extensive areas in OSPAR Regions I (Arctic Waters), IV (Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast) and V (Wider Atlantic), including ABNJ, that are not subject to OSPAR MPAs.

Distribution of OSPAR MPAs across OSPAR Regions

Figure 5 shows the OSPAR Network of MPAs and the boundaries of the five OSPAR Regions.

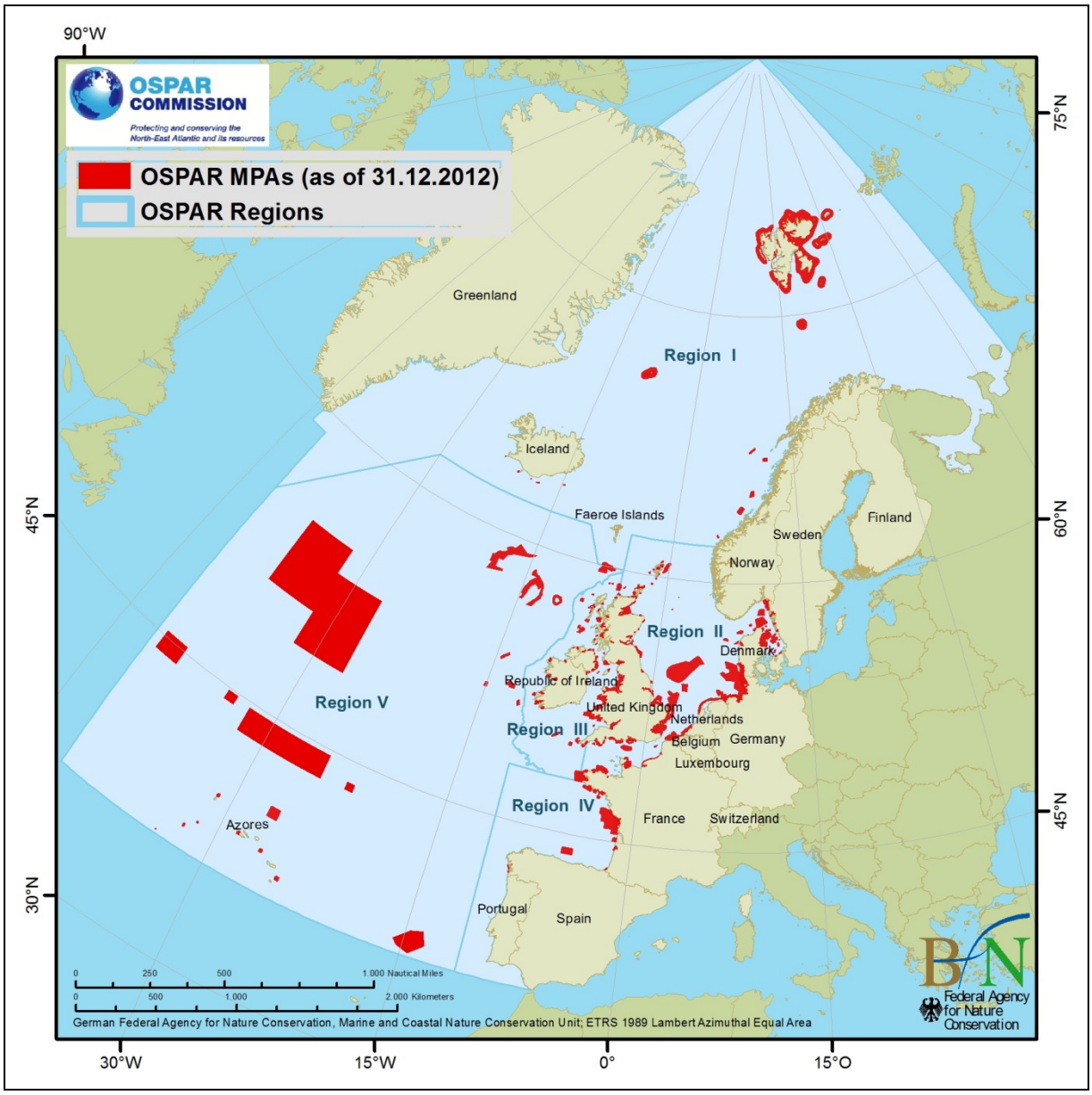


Figure 5. *Distribution of OSPAR MPAs across OSPAR Regions (as of 31 December 2012)*[21].

As in Contracting Parties' national waters, the distribution of OSPAR Marine Protected Areas across the OSPAR Regions is likewise imbalanced.

[21] For the purpose of visibility, OSPAR Marine Protected Areas within national jurisdiction have been slightly increased in this map. A number of the smaller sites otherwise would not be visible in this illustration showing the entire OSPAR maritime area.

The Wider Atlantic (OSPAR Region V) is the best represented region in the OSPAR Network of MPAs. The region hosts all MPAs nominated by Portugal and a number of sites designated by Ireland and the UK. No MPAs have yet been established in this Region by Iceland, the Faroe Islands/Denmark, Spain or mainland Portugal whose Exclusive Economic Zones extend into the Wider Atlantic. While the coverage of this Region by MPAs within national jurisdiction remains low, the collective establishment by all OSPAR CPs of the seven MPAs in the High Seas/in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction in 2010 and 2012 as well as the MPA nominations by Portugal and the United Kingdom in areas that are subject to their respective submission to the UN CLCS for an extended continental shelf have substantially increased the area coverage of the MPA Network in this Region. Total MPA coverage in OSPAR Region V has now increased to 501,043 km², representing 7.90 % of the Wider Atlantic.

The Greater North Sea (OSPAR Region II) hosts the most sites of the Network of MPAs. The region has the most riparian states of all OSPAR Regions and all have contributed sites to the Network. As a result of the sites nominated by Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, altogether 10.39% of the Greater North Sea are covered by the Network of MPAs. Thus the Greater North Sea is the first of the OSPAR Regions to reach the target agreed within CBD to have by 2020 at least 10% of the coastal and marine areas effectively protected by MPAs.

In the Celtic Seas (OSPAR Region III), 4.66% are subject to OSPAR MPAs as a result of sites nominated by the two riparian states Ireland and the United Kingdom.

The Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast (OSPAR Region IV), with France, Portugal and Spain being the only riparian states, in the past had the fewest MPAs and the smallest total area covered by the Network. However, with the nomination of several MPAs by France in 2012, 3.12% of the area is now protected.

Table 2. *Coverage of OSPAR Regions by OSPAR MPAs (as of 31 December 2012).*

	OSPAR Region	**Area (km²)**	**Total area covered by OSPAR MPAs (km²)**	**Proportion covered by OSPAR MPAs (%)**
I	Arctic Waters	5,529,716	85,969	**1.55%**
II	Greater North Sea	766,624	79,686	**10.39%**
III	Celtic Seas	366,459	17,076	**4.66%**
IV	Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast	539,153	16,798	**3.12%**
V	Wider Atlantic	6,346,159	501,043	**7.90%**
	OSPAR maritime area	13,548,111	700,571	**5.17%**

* Note that due to rounding errors inherent in the calculations the total area being protected by OSPAR MPAs in Table 1 differs slightly. Hence in the text of this report the total area being protected is given as ca. 700,600 km^2.

The percentage coverage of the Arctic Waters (OSPAR Region I) by OSPAR MPAs is the lowest of all OSPAR regions and is almost entirely due to the nomination of three extensive sites around the Svalbard archipelago and the nomination of the Jan Mayen site by Norway. Despite their dimensions, together with the other sites nominated by Norway and Iceland, MPAs collectively only represent about 1.55% of Region I, as is explained by its extensive area.

Figure 6 presents an illustration of both the absolute (km²) and the relative (%) coverage of the five OSPAR Regions by OSPAR MPAs.

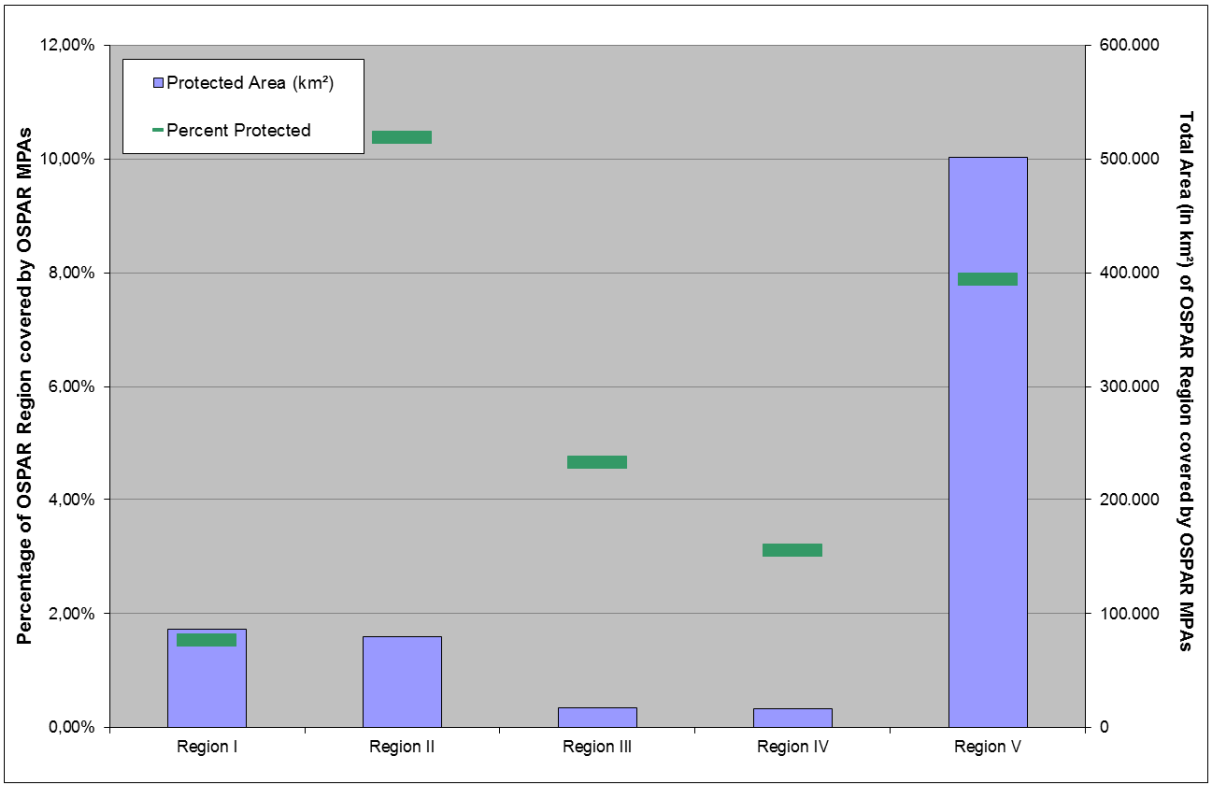


Figure 6. *Relative (%) and absolute (km²) coverage of OSPAR Regions by OSPAR MPAs (as of 31 December 2012).*

Overall good coverage of the Wider Atlantic and the Greater North Sea

Coverage of the Greater North Sea (Region II) and the Wider Atlantic (Region V) by OSPAR MPAs has increased substantially in 2012. For the first time one of the OSPAR regions, the Greater North Sea, has reached the target of having at least 10% of coastal and marine areas effectively protected by 2020 as agreed within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)[22] with an OSPAR MPA coverage of 10.39%. The Wider Atlantic moves towards this target with 7.90% of this region being subject to OSPAR MPAs.

The area of Region IV being protected by the OSPAR Network of MPAs likewise increased substantially in 2012. The total protected area was extended by more than 14,250 km², increasing the relative coverage of Region IV from 0.47% to 3.12%.

Coverage of Arctic Waters (Region I) by the MPA Network remains comparatively low with 1.55%.

[22] Aichi Target 11 of the CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020 (CBD Decision X/2)

OSPAR Marine Protected Areas in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)/in the High Seas

Background

The OSPAR maritime area encompasses extensive areas in the Wider Atlantic (OSPAR Region V) and the Arctic Waters (OSPAR Region I) that are beyond the jurisdiction of coastal states. These areas, covering approximately 40% of the OSPAR maritime area, host extensive open-ocean and deep sea areas between the Svalbard archipelago and Iceland, and along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR) between Iceland and Portugal Azores with abyssal plains to the east and west of the Ridge (see Figure 10).

The 2003 Ministerial Commitment to establish an ecologically coherent network of well-managed MPAs by 2010 included a clear remit to identify and designate MPAs in these areas, usually referred to as Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

The protection of the marine environment and biodiversity in ABNJ has in recent years also attracted great attention at the global level, in particular in the context of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the legal framework established by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). OSPAR has in this context assumed a pioneering role as a regional organisation to protect marine ecosystems and biodiversity in ABNJ.

Being aware of the shared responsibilities and the need for a collaborative approach in ABNJ, OSPAR has at the same time aimed at strengthening mutual exchange and cooperation with the various relevant international Competent Authorities responsible for the management of specific human activities in ABNJ, including the North East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NEAFC), the International Seabed Authority (ISA), and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Elaboration of proposals for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ until 2010

Designation of a Marine Protected Area in an Area beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) in the North-East Atlantic requires collective agreement and action by the OSPAR Commission. Any proposal for an OSPAR MPA in ABNJ prepared by either a Contracting Party or a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) needs to be considered by all Contracting Parties.

In 2003, a map of the OSPAR maritime area has been prepared as a spatial planning tool indicating those areas that do not fall under any Contracting Party's jurisdiction and that therefore would be considered ABNJ (Figure 7). At that time[23], ABNJ have been determined by the boundaries of the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of Contracting Parties at 200 nautical miles from the shoreline. Other possible delimitations of CPs' EEZ were not taken into account.

[23] It has to be noted that since 2003 a number of OSPAR Contracting Parties have made submissions to the UN CLCS for an extension of the limits of their continental shelves. These submissions have substantially changed the jurisdiction in these areas; see Figure 9, below.

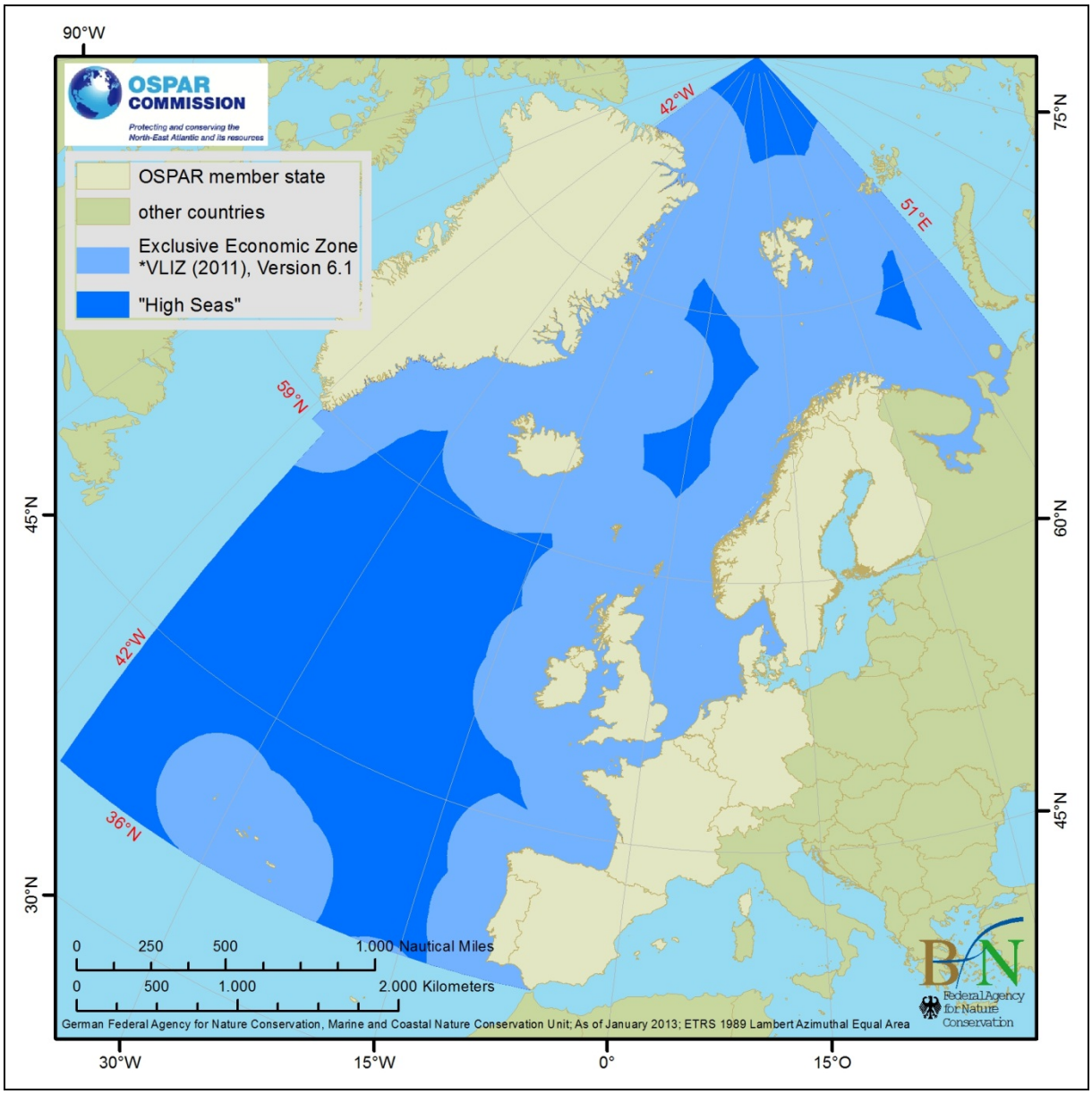


Figure 7. *Areas beyond National Jurisdiction in the OSPAR maritime area (as defined in 2003).*

Over the years, a number of proposals to designate OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ have been elaborated taking into account data and information collated within the frame of international research programmes in the North-East Atlantic (*e.g.* Mar-Eco, Eco-Mar). These proposals have originally been prepared by WWF (for the *Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone/Mid-Atlantic Ridge*) and the University of York[24], subsequently reviewed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in 2008 (ICES Advice 2008 Book 1), and gradually finalized by the relevant OSPAR bodies, namely the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Protected Areas (ICG-MPA), the Working Group on Marine Protected Areas, Species and Habitats (MASH) and the Biodiversity Committee (BDC).

As a result, the following marine areas have been identified as potential OSPAR Marine Protected Areas in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction of the OSPAR maritime area with a view that, collectively

[24] The University of York has elaborated these proposals under a contract (2008-2010) provided by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN).

they form a network of sites covering representative areas of the different biogeographic regions and provinces of the Wider Atlantic (see Figure 8):

- *Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone/Mid-Atlantic Ridge*
- *Reykjanes Ridge*
- *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores*
- *Milne Seamount Complex*
- *Altair Seamount*
- *Antialtair Seamount*
- *Josephine Seamount Complex*

All these proposals have been supported by ‘nomination proformas’ setting out general information on the area concerned, detailed information on ecological and practical considerations in the selection of these sites, as well as suggestions for conservation objectives.

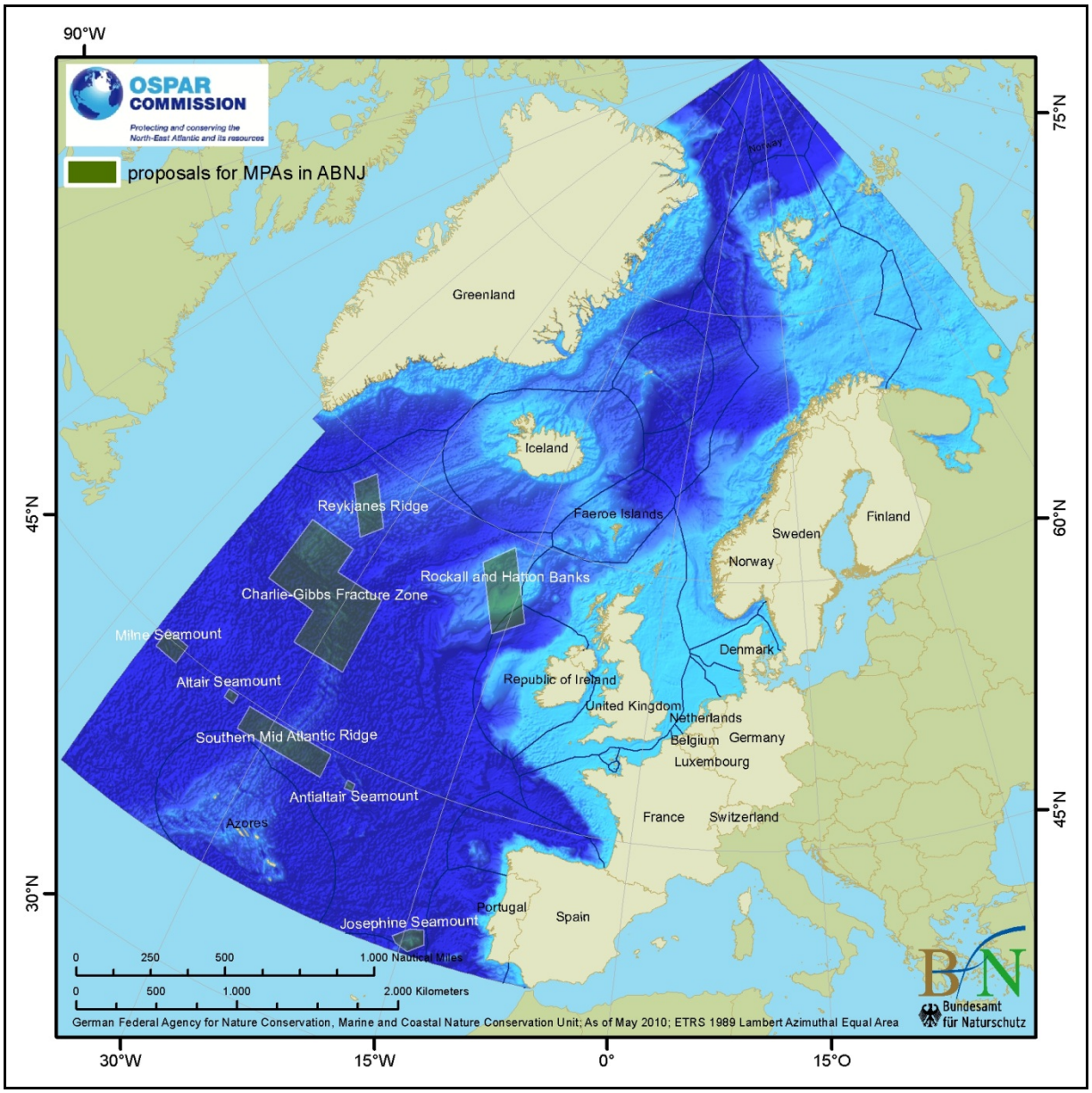


Figure 8. *Marine areas proposed as OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ in 2008.*

Table 3. *Milestones in the elaboration of proposals for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ until 2010.*

2006	
MASH Working Group March 2007	1st presentation of the nomination proforma for the *Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone* (CGFZ) as a potential MPA in ABNJ
2008	
OSPAR Commission June 2008	*Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone (CGFZ)* approved *in principle* as a potential MPA in ABNJ
MASH Working Group October 2008	1st presentation of nomination proformas for *Reykjanes Ridge*, *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores*, *Milne Seamount Complex*, *Altair Seamount*, *Antialtair Seamount*, and *Josephine Seamount Complex* as potential OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ
	The *Rockall and Hatton Banks* proposal was set aside following concerns brought forward by the UK and Ireland, that the seabed within the proposed area was expected to be subject to submissions for an extended continental shelf by a number of States, namely the UK, Ireland, Iceland and Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands) and that it was not possible to say at this stage which of these four states (if any) may eventually assume sovereign rights over the continental shelf in the proposed area. Furthermore, the proposed sites for Rockall & Hatton Banks intruded into Irelands' national EEZ.
2009	
NEAFC Annual Meeting April 2009	The North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) decided to close five areas on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge to bottom fisheries with a view to protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in ABNJ of the North-East Atlantic (see Figure 9). Pursuant to the competence of NEAFC, this implies that fishing activities by vessels flying the flags of NEAFC Contracting Parties or Co-Operating Non-Contracting Parties, with fishing gear which is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations, are prohibited within these areas. The combined size of the closed areas is estimated at 333,000 km². As shown in Figure 9, these areas largely overlapped with four of the proposed OSPAR MPAs (*i.e. CGFZ*, *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores*, *Altair Seamount*, *Antialtair Seamount*), while the area closure by NEAFC on the *Reykjanes Ridge* was situated next to the proposed MPA by OSPAR. No area has been closed to bottom fisheries by NEAFC in the proposed OSPAR MPAs *Milne Seamount Complex* and *Josephine Seamount Complex*.

OSPAR Commission June 2009	General and specific conservation objectives for the *CGFZ* agreed upon
	Reykjanes Ridge, *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores*, *Milne Seamount Complex*, *Altair Seamount*, *Antialtair Seamount*, and *Josephine Seamount Complex* approved *in principle*[25] as potential MPAs in ABNJ; general and specific conservation objectives for all these areas agreed upon
OSPAR Contracting Parties Year-round	A number of OSPAR Contracting Parties made submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 10 December 1982, regarding the establishment of the outer limits of their continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles[26]. As a consequence, apart from the *Milne Seamount Complex* all other the areas proposed as OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ have been (partly) encompassed by the outer limits of the extended continental shelves as submitted by these Contracting Parties (see Figure 9).

[25] Until the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in September 2010 the approval of these MPAs was subject to study reservations from some Contracting Parties.

[26] Visit UN CLCS for details of the submissions made in 2009 by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ireland, Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, and Spain.

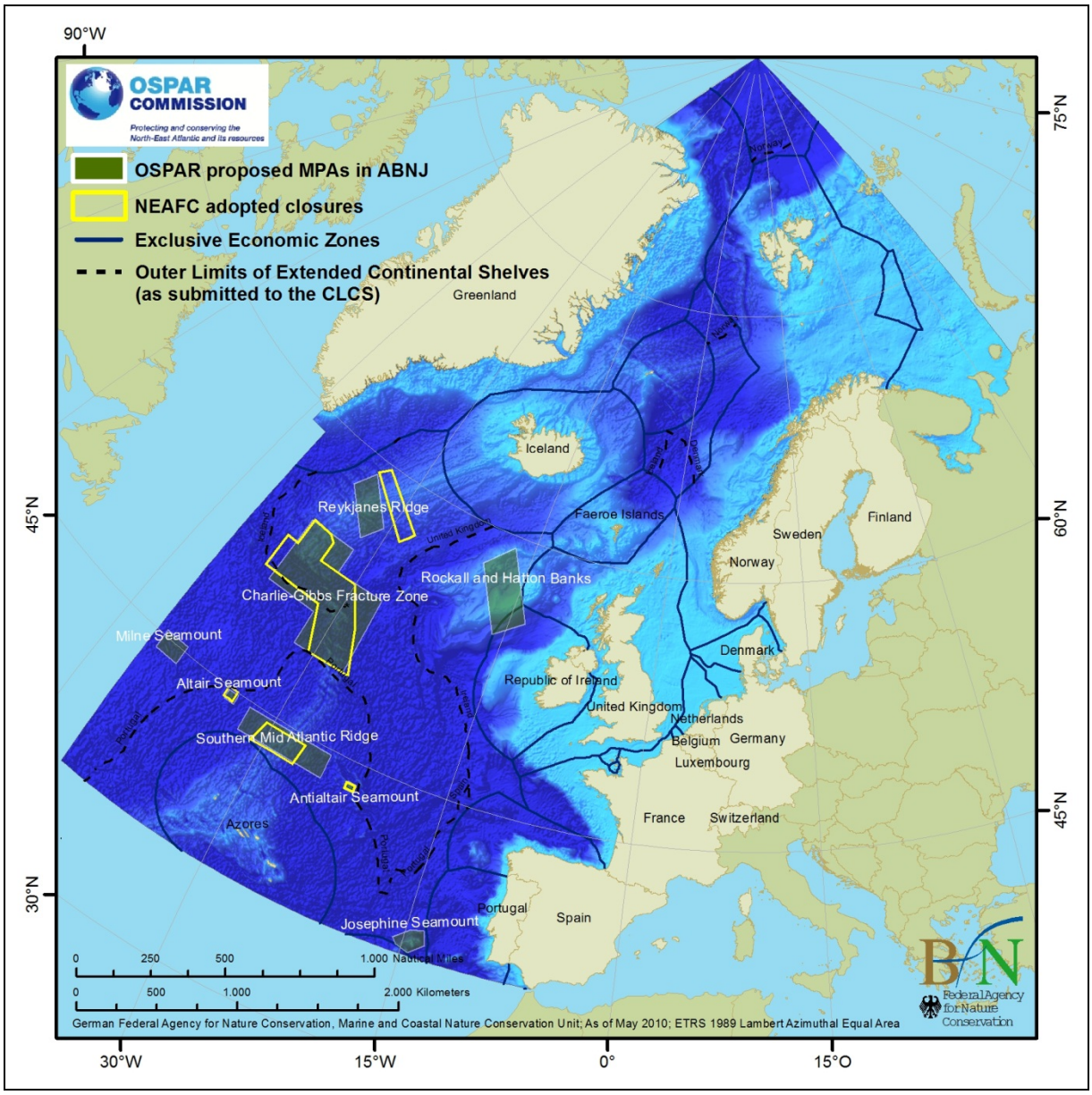


Figure 9. *Submissions of OSPAR Contracting Parties to the UN CLCS affecting the jurisdiction within the proposed MPAs.*

Establishment of OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ/in the High Seas at the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in 2010

Following years of collating and reviewing scientific information and data for the compilation of proposals for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ, preparation of legal feasibility studies and consultations amongst Contracting Parties, six proposals have been presented to the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting 2010 (20-24 September, Bergen/Norway) for adoption.

Taking into account the complex situation regarding the jurisdiction over these areas that has arisen from the submission by some Contracting Parties regarding the establishment of the outer limits of their continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, the OSPAR Commission finally decided to collectively establish the following Marine Protected Areas in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction and in the High Seas of the North-East Atlantic (see Figure 10):

- *Charlie-Gibbs South MPA* [146,032 km²]
- *Milne Seamount Complex MPA* [20,914 km²]
- *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores High Seas MPA* [93,570 km²]
- *Altair Seamount High Seas MPA* [4,384 km²]
- *Antialtair High Seas MPA* [2,807 km²]
- *Josephine Seamount Complex High Seas MPA* [19,363 km²]

Establishment of an OSPAR MPA in the High Seas by the OSPAR Commission in 2012

At the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in 2010 a commitment was made to work together within the framework of the OSPAR Commission to resolve by 2012 any outstanding issues with regard to the waters of the High Seas of the northern part of the originally proposed Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone MPA. Following the meeting of the OSPAR Commission in 2011, a process was initiated to advance the consideration of this matter in a manner that would not undermine the sovereign rights of any coastal State. The scientific justification for the designation of a High Seas MPA was agreed by the Biodiversity Committee (BDC) in February 2012, and on this basis measures for the establishment and management of Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas MPA were forwarded by BDC 2012 for consideration by the OSPAR Commission in 2012.

At the annual meeting of the OSPAR Commission in 2012 (25-29 June 2012; Bonn/Germany) Contracting Parties collectively agreed upon OSPAR Decision 2012/1 for the designation of the

- *Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas MPA*[27] [178,094 km²]

The decision will come into force as of the 14 January 2013.

Nominations of OSPAR MPAs in areas subject to submissions by Contracting Parties to the UN CLCS for an extended continental shelf

Already in 2006 and in response to a proposal previously prepared by WWF, Portugal formally nominated the *Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field* as a Marine Protected Area to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. While this area has originally been considered to be an ABNJ, Portugal considered the site to be situated on its extended continental shelf, *i.e.* the natural submerged prolongation of the landmasses of the Azores Archipelago. Although a submission by Portugal for an extended continental shelf to be presented to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UN CLCS) was still in process, Portugal recognised its obligations under UNCLOS Article 192 to protect and preserve the marine environment, as well as the precautionary principle, and assumed responsibility for protecting the seabed and the sub-soil even prior to the final conclusion of the CLCS. It has to be noted that this MPA encompasses only the seabed with no scientific case to extend the MPA to the water column.

In 2011, the United Kingdom nominated North West Rockall SAC as an OSPAR MPA, of which parts (181 km²) are extending beyond their EEZ into an area subject to their submission for an extended continental shelf. Note that only the seabed and subsoil are under the protection of the United Kingdom whereas the water column remains unprotected. In 2012, Hatton Bank SAC was nominated

[27] OSPAR Decision 2/2012

by the United Kingdom as an OSPAR MPA. This MPA is also in an area being subject to a submission by the United Kingdom to the UN CLCS for an extension of their continental shelf[28].

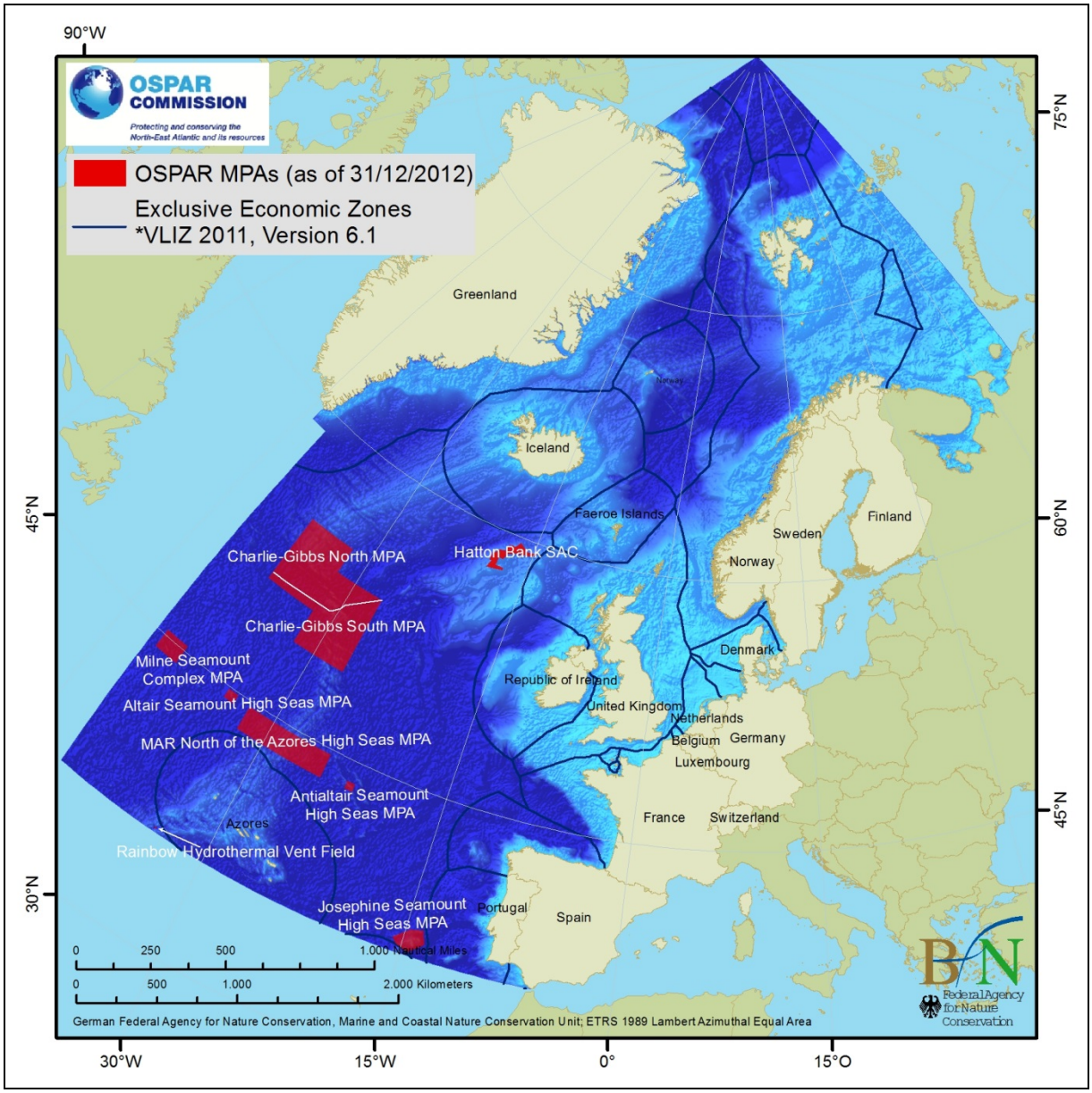


Figure 10. *OSPAR Marine Protected Areas in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction/in the High Seas (as of 31 December 2012).*

Jurisdiction

The MPAs nominated in areas outside the Exclusive Economic Zones of Contracting Parties can be grouped into four different categories with regards to their jurisdictional setting.

[28] Reservation of the Kingdom of Denmark: The area to which the UK nominations is sought to apply falls within the proposed outer limits of the Kingdom of Denmark in relation to the Faroe-Rockall Plateau, which consistent with paragraph 8 of Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and Article 4 of the Annex II thereto, have been submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, and whose consideration is currently pending.

(1) The *Charlie-Gibbs South MPA* and the *Milne Seamount Complex MPA* are both situated entirely in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) with the seabed, subsoil and the water column being protected collectively by all OSPAR CPs.

(2) The *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores High Seas MPA*, *Altair Seamount High Seas MPA*, *Antialtair High Seas MPA* and the *Josephine Seamount Complex High Seas MPA* are all encompassed by the Portuguese submission to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) for the establishment of the outer limits of its extended continental shelf. Portugal has expressed the intention to assume the responsibility to take measures for the protection of the sea floor and sub-sea floor within these areas. Upon invitation by Portugal, the OSPAR Commission agreed to collectively assume the responsibility to take measures accordingly for the protection of the superjacent water column (the '*High Seas*') in these areas.

(3) The *Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas MPA* has been established by OSPAR Contracting Parties with the goal of collectively protecting and conserving the biodiversity and ecosystems of the water column in the area. It has been acknowledged that in 2009 Iceland made a submission to UN CLCS regarding the outer limits of the continental shelf of Iceland beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, in accordance with Article 76 of, and Annex II to, UNCLOS, and that this submission by Iceland encompasses parts of the seabed subjacent to the Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas Marine Protected Area.

(4) The Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field, Hatton Bank SAC and parts of the North West Rockall SAC are all situated in areas subject to a submission by a Contracting Party to the UN CLCS. In these areas, only the seabed and subsoil are under the protection of the respective Contracting Party, while the water column above remains without any protective status.

Management by OSPAR Contracting Parties

In conjunction with the establishment of these MPAs, the OSPAR Commission also agreed upon OSPAR Recommendations on the management for each of these areas. The purpose of these Recommendations is to guide OSPAR Contracting Parties in their actions and in the adoption of measures to protect and conserve the ecosystems and the biological diversity within the areas with a view to achieving the general and specific conservation objectives that have been endorsed for the MPAs.

In 2010, the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting agreed upon:

- *OSPAR Recommendation on the Management of the Charlie-Gibbs South MPA*
- *OSPAR Recommendation on the Management of the Milne Seamount Complex MPA*
- *OSPAR Recommendation on the Management of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores High Seas MPA*
- *OSPAR Recommendation on the Management of the Altair Seamount High Seas MPA*
- *OSPAR Recommendation on the Management of the Antialtair High Seas MPA*
- *OSPAR Recommendation on the Management of the Josephine Seamount Complex High Seas MPA*

In 2012, the OSPAR Commission agreed upon

- *OSPAR Recommendation on the Management of the Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas MPA*[29]

OSPAR Contracting Parties are requested to report annually by 31 December to the OSPAR Commission with regards to any action that they have undertaken to implement these Recommendations.

Cooperation on Management with other Competent Authorities

It has been recognized that a range of human activities occurring, or potentially occurring, in these areas are regulated in the respective frameworks of other Competent Authorities, including, in particular, fishing (North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission/NEAFC, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas/ICCAT, North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization/NASCO, North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission/NAMMCO, International Whaling Commission/IWC), shipping (International Maritime Organization/IMO), and extraction of mineral resources (International Seabed Authority/ISA). The OSPAR Commission therefore cooperates with these Competent Authorities, including through Memoranda of Understanding and informal meetings at the level of Secretariats, to facilitate a collaborative management of OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ.

Regulation of Fisheries by NEAFC

Five of the OSPAR MPAs outside the EEZ of OSPAR Contracting Parties, *i.e. CG South*, *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores*, and *Altair Seamount*, *Antialtair Seamount, and Hatton Bank* are - at least partially – subject to specific fisheries management regulations as a result of decisions taken by the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) in 2009 and 2012 to close specific areas in the Wider Atlantic Region to bottom fisheries with a view to protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the North-East Atlantic. Pursuant to the competence of NEAFC, this implies that fishing activities by vessels flying the flags of NEAFC Contracting Parties or Co-Operating Non-Contracting Parties, with fishing gear which is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations, are (until 2015) prohibited within these areas (see Figure 11).

[29] OSPAR Recommendation 12/22/1.

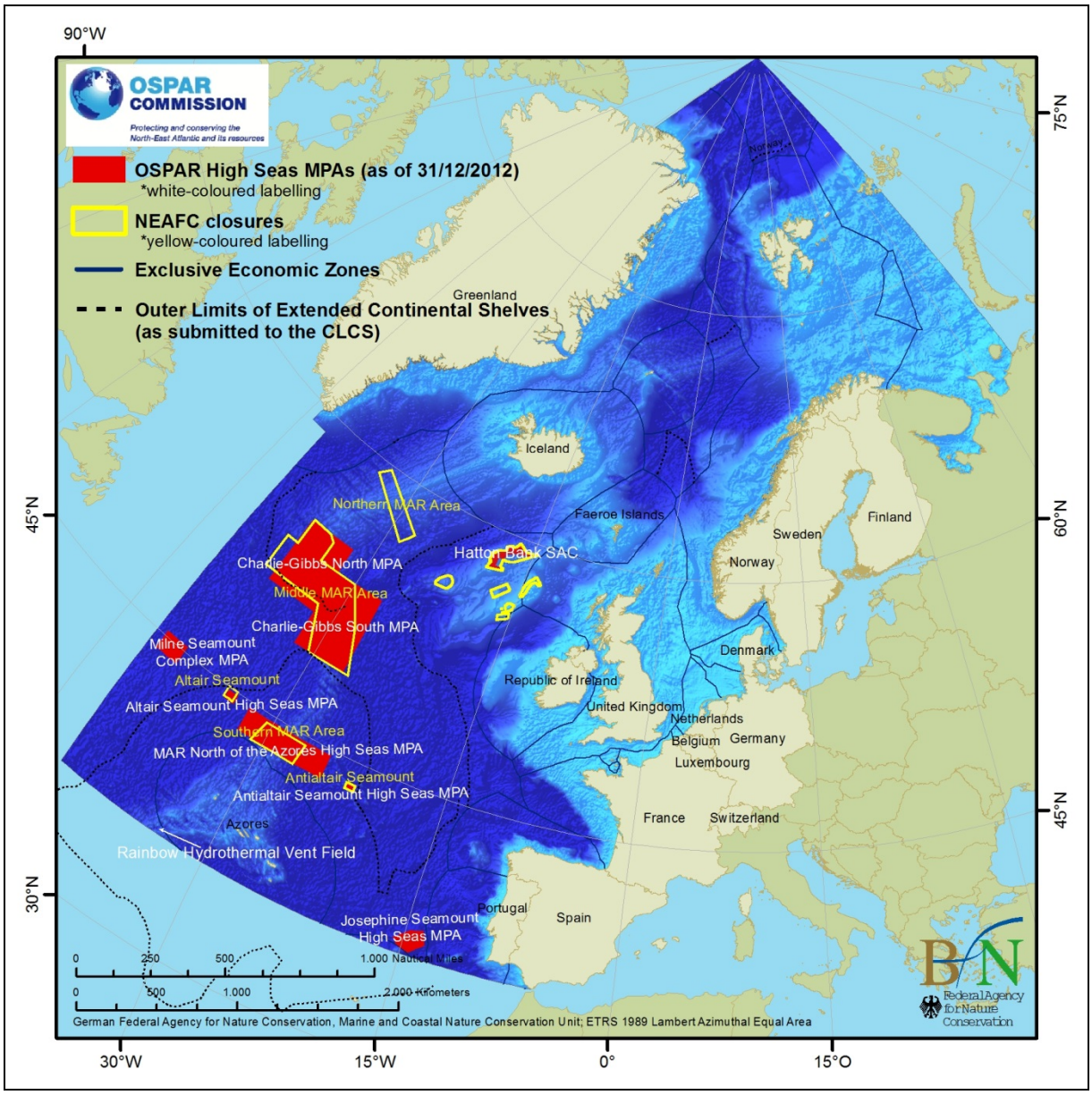


Figure 11. *OSPAR Marine Protected Areas outside the EEZ of Contracting Parties and areas temporarily closed by NEAFC to bottom-fisheries (as of 31 December 2012).*

Progress towards the CBD target on Marine Protected Areas

A graphic representation of progress of protection of the OSPAR Maritime Area towards the CBD 10% target can be seen in Figure 12. The size of the circle is relative to the % of the area covered and the graphic presents information from 5 perspectives:

a. For the whole OSPAR maritime area (in the centre)
b. the five OSPAR regions (top left)
c. different jurisdictions (top right)
d. Dinter biogeographic provinces (benthic) (bottom left)
e. Dinter biogeographic provinces (pelagic) (bottom right)

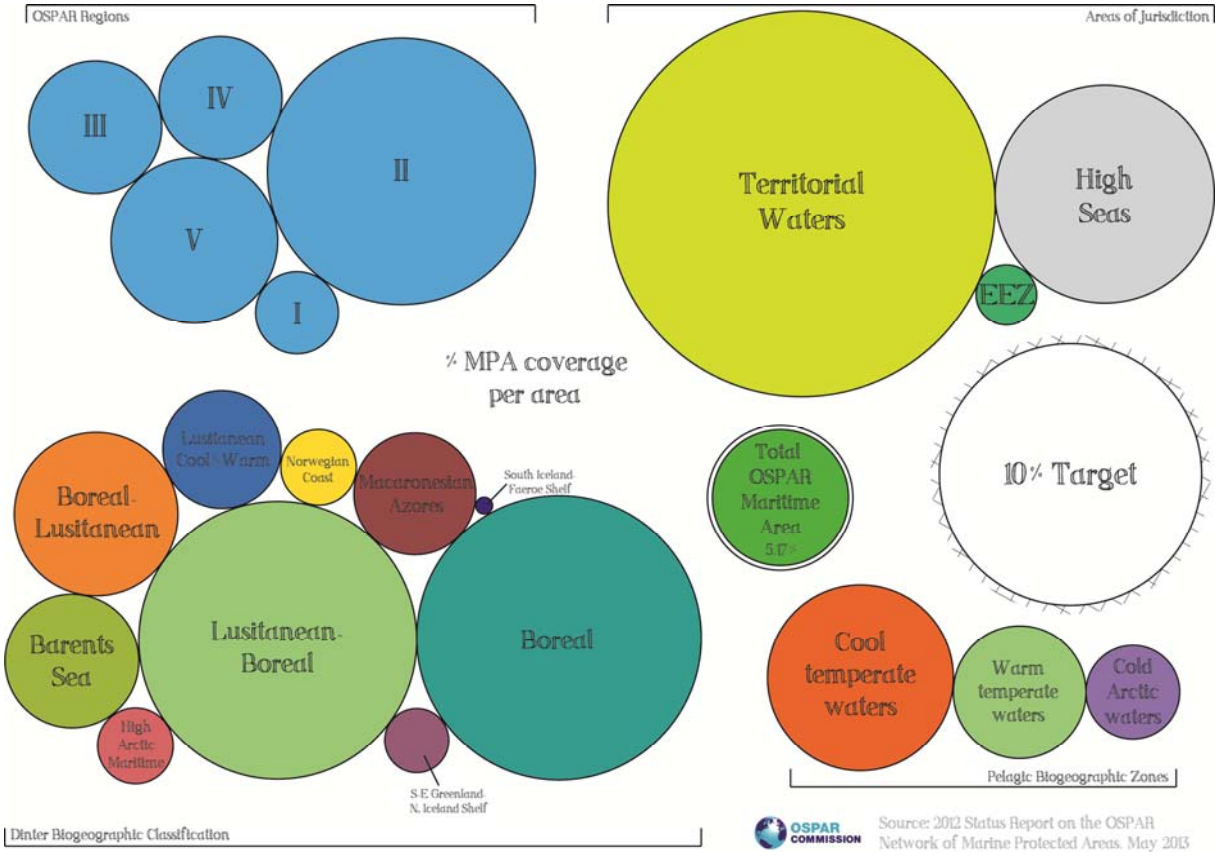


Figure 12. *Representation of protection of the OSPAR Maritime Area towards the target agreed within the CBD to have at least 10% of coastal and marine areas effectively protected by 2020. Data as of 31 December 2012.*

Ecological Coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs

Background

OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3[30] on a Network of Marine Protected Areas sets outs the goal of OSPAR Contracting Parties to continue the establishment of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas in the North-East Atlantic and to ensure that:

a. *by 2012 it is ecologically coherent, includes sites representative of all biogeographic regions in the OSPAR maritime area, and is consistent with the CBD target for effectively conserved marine and coastal ecological regions;*

b. *by 2016 it is well managed (i.e. coherent management measures have been set up and are being implemented for such MPAs that have been designated up to 2010).*

The concept of *ecological coherence* nowadays is commonly used in the context of establishing protected area networks. While it has already been referred to in the EC Habitats Directive (1992) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) amongst others, it has been adopted by HELCOM and OSPAR in 2003 as an overarching concept for their respective efforts in establishing networks of MPAs. However, no specific definition for the term 'ecological coherence' has yet been formally agreed upon internationally and only a few theoretical concepts and practical approaches have been developed for an assessment of the ecological coherence of a network of MPAs.

In adopting the Joint OSPAR/HELCOM Work Programme on MPAs, in 2003 OSPAR and HELCOM agreed to develop common theoretical and practical aspects of what would constitute an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas.

OSPAR and HELCOM have generally agreed that an ecological coherent network of MPAs

- interacts with and supports the wider environment;
- maintains the processes, functions, and structures of the intended protected features across their natural range; and
- functions synergistically as a whole, such that the individual protected sites benefit from each other to achieve the two objectives above.

Additionally, the network may also be designed to be resilient to changing conditions (*e.g.* climate change).

A number of propositions have been brought forward and discussed, both within OSPAR and HELCOM, on how to ensure and analyse the ecological coherence of MPA networks. It has been acknowledged that this is work in progress and that theoretical concepts as well as practical approaches and methods will need to be developed further and refined over time as the general knowledge of marine ecosystems and the availability of data on ecosystem components increase.

Within OSPAR the following theoretical and practical framework to address the ecological coherence of the MPA Network has so far been adopted:

[30] OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3 adopted by OSPAR 2003 (OSPAR 03/17/1, Annex 9), amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2010/2 (OSPAR 10/23/1, Annex 7)

- **Guidance on developing an ecologically coherent Network of OSPAR Marine Protected Areas** (Reference Number: 2006-3)
  This document sets out 13 key principles to assist in interpreting the concept of an ecologically coherent network of MPAs in the context of the OSPAR maritime area.

- **Guidance for the design of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas: a self-assessment checklist** (Reference Number: 2007-6)
  This document provides a checklist to assess the ecological coherence of a network of MPAs at different scales; *e.g.* local, regional, national, or international areas.

- **Background Document to support the assessment of whether the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas is ecologically coherent** (Publication Number: 320/2007)
  The Background Document summarises existing literature on ecological coherence of MPA networks, and describes possible criteria and guidelines for assessing whether the OSPAR Network is ecologically coherent. It builds upon the Guidance document on developing an ecologically coherent network of OSPAR MPAs (Reference Number: 2006-3) and groups the 13 principles set out in the Guidance under four assessment criteria, which when taken together, are considered both necessary and sufficient to assess the ecological coherence of a MPA network. These main assessment criteria are

    - Adequacy/Viability;
    - Representativity;
    - Replication; and
    - Connectivity.

  In practice, these criteria should take into account the size of MPAs, the coverage of species and habitats by MPAs, the distribution of MPAs across biogeographic regions, the number of replicate sites for specific features of interest, as well as between-site connections at different scales.

Several eco-coherence principles, indicators and questions have been put forward in the above mentioned OSPAR documents. The Guidance document outlines thirteen principles; the Background Document outlines four criteria and 30 assessment guidelines; and the Self-Assessment lists five questions directly related to the eco-coherence criteria, three other questions regarding factors that influence eco-coherence, and three more questions regarding factors that influence the assessment of eco-coherence.

Over time though, the OSPAR Commission had to accept that a comprehensive analysis of the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs, as originally envisaged in the OSPAR Guidance, would for the time being not be possible due to the limited availability of ecological data, in particular on the distribution of species populations and habitats in the North-East Atlantic and their actual proportion being effectively covered by OSPAR MPAs.

From the overall set of responses to a data questionnaire sent out to Contracting Parties in 2007, and repeated annual requests (2008-2009) to provide relevant data, it has to be inferred that for many Contracting Parties bio-physical spatial data are not readily available and/or assembling them for use by OSPAR is not a priority.

Recognising this current lack of detailed ecological data, the need became apparent for practical approaches which can be applied in the absence of such data.

The Background Document (Publication Number: 320/2007) already noted that ecological coherence is a holistic concept reliant on many constituent parts, and that tests might rather indicate when it has

not been perfectly achieved, *i.e.* some of the parts are missing or not functioning as they should. Thus, the degree to which an MPA network is – or is not – ecologically coherent must be stated as likelihood, based on a continuum of progressively more detailed tests, until a test is not met. It should therefore involve a process of staged assessments, beginning with an initial assessment that is straightforward and achievable.

In consequence and on the basis of previous work three initial spatial tests have been identified as a means of making an initial evaluation of whether the OSPAR Network of MPAs may be ecologically coherent or not. These tests, considered as a starting point to complement the guidelines and principles, are described in the:

- **Background Document on three initial spatial tests used for assessing the ecological coherence of the OSPAR MPA Network** (Publication Number: 360/2008)

This document describes three initial spatial tests which evaluate whether the network is:

i) spatially well distributed, without more than a few gaps;

ii) covers at least 3% of most (seven of the ten) relevant Dinter biogeographic provinces; and

iii) represents most (70%) of the OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitats and species (with limited home ranges), such that at least 5% [or at least three sites] of all areas in which they occur within each OSPAR Region is [are] protected.

These tests aim to identify whether an MPA network shows the first signs of ecological coherence. They should be seen as the first step in a multiple step assessment. However, until the MPA network has passed these three initial tests there is no need to scale up the assessment process.

These initial tests have already been applied in the 2007, 2008, and 2009/2010 OSPAR Reports on the progress made in developing the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas (Publication Numbers: 359/2008, 389/2009, and 493/2010 respectively). For an updated application of these tests on the MPA Network as of 31 December 2010, see ‘Three initial spatial tests looking at the ecological coherence of the OSPAR MPA Network’, below.

A secondary and wholly complementary approach to assessing ecological coherence has been developed that focuses on the way in which representative features (*i.e.* species and habitats) are incorporated within the OSPAR Network of MPAs. This approach is described in:

- **A matrix approach to assessing the ecological coherence of the OSPAR MPA Network** (MASH 08/5/6-E)

This matrix addresses six elements of network ecological coherence that have been recognised as important constituent parts:

i) Features;

ii) Representativity;

iii) Replication;

iv) Connectivity;

v) Resilience; and

vi) Adequacy/Viability.

It proposes clear success criteria that are required to assess the likelihood that these elements are adequately represented within the network, drawn from both agreed OSPAR guidance on

developing an ecologically coherent network of OSPAR MPAs (Reference Number: 2006-3), international scientific literature and expert judgement. This approach is envisaged to be applied at the OSPAR maritime area level as well as at a biogeographical level.

Effectively applying this matrix methodology requires, at least for some aspects of the assessment, comprehensive ecological data, e. g. regarding the distribution of populations of species and of habitats in the North-East Atlantic as well as information on the extent to which species and habitats are covered by OSPAR MPAs. The limited availability of such data within OSPAR Contracting Parties remains to be the main constraint regarding the application of this approach.

In order to obtain evidence regarding the practicability of this methodology, the Working Group on Marine Protected Areas, Species and Habitats (MASH) has in 2008 invited the United Kingdom and France to apply this matrix approach for an assessment of the ecological coherence of OSPAR MPAs in the English Channel as a test case. However, as agreed at BDC 2012[31], a simplified version of the matrix was used for the trial in the Channel.

Summary of the Channel Matrix Approach

For the features of the OSPAR threatened and declining species and habitats list and broadscale habitats (EUNIS level 3), the matrix approach initially aims at assessing the network of OSPAR MPAs against the following criteria: features, representativity, replication, resilience, connectivity and adequacy/viability. In this simplified version, the exercise focused on assessing the representativity and replication criteria within the network of OSPAR MPAs in the Channel, based on information available about presence and protection of OSPAR species and OSPAR and EUNIS level 3 habitats. Additional information on the size of MPAs, distance between them and occurrence of key lifecycle stages within MPAs were provided as a scoping exercise for evaluating the other criteria.

Various issues were highlighted in the assessment. As expected the lack of data limited the assessment of the criteria. For example, no database exists for OSPAR listed species. Regarding habitats, the OSPAR database contains only points for a number of habitats which limits spatial evaluation of the network. The EU SeaMap data used for assessing the EUNIS level 3 habitats does not include intertidal habitats. Some technical issues were faced as well, such as the definition of the coastline and the projected coordinate system, which can differ between countries. Heterogeneity (data availability, data structure, definitions) in general is also a compounding factor. Furthermore, the assessment could be made more straightforward if the current OSPAR MPA database has additional fields added and is kept up to date by Contracting Parties.

Regarding the methodology, further work would be required to investigate appropriate success criteria for connectivity and adequacy. In addition, a key aspect was to look at whether a particular feature was protected by an MPA and not only present. For the purpose of conducting future assessments, there will need to be discussions between Contracting Parties to determine which features are considered appropriate for protection in MPAs.

In conclusion this trial indicated that the matrix approach provides a robust methodology but further assessment using this approach should bear in mind the limitations and the recommendations outlined at the end of the study[32], especially in view of scaling up the approach for application at the wider OSPAR level.

[31] OSPAR BDC 2012 (12/3/12-E) Progress report on trial application of the matrix approach to assessing whether the OSPAR MPA network in the Channel is ecologically coherent

[32] ICG-MPA 13/3/3 : A matrix approach to assessing the ecological coherence of the OSPAR MPA network: trial of methodology in the Channel

Three initial spatial tests looking at the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network

The following three tests are considered as a first basic step in a multi-staged assessment procedure to assess the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs. They have been identified recognising the current lack of detailed ecological data and the need to apply approaches which can be applied in the absence of such data. Additional more sophisticated tests have to be developed and subsequently applied.

The tests are ordered according to ease of assessment, as well as descriptive power, and therefore should be applied in the order given. The numerical *threshold limits* suggested in these tests should not be confused with *targets*; they should rather be seen as cut-off points beneath which ecological coherence has clearly not been achieved. Further background on these tests is provided in OSPAR Publication 360/2008.

Test 1: Is the OSPAR MPA Network spatially well-distributed, without more than a few major gaps?

Illustrations provided in the previous section of this report (see Figures 1, 2 and 5) on the spatial arrangement of the OSPAR Network of MPAs indicate that overall the sites are not yet spatially well-distributed across the entire OSPAR maritime area and its regions. The majority of sites is still situated in coastal waters and clustered around the central latitudes. Offshore sites are generally still limited in number and sizes.

It should be noted however, that OSPAR MPAs in the Greater North Sea, including the Kattegat and Skagerrak (OSPAR Region II) and the Celtic Seas (OSPAR Region III) are distributed fairly even along the coastlines throughout these regions. Furthermore, the MPAs in the Azores archipelago can also generally be considered to be well-distributed. The Svalbard Archipelago in this context is unique as the entire territorial waters are covered by MPAs.

Applying the approximate *rules of thumb* guidance provided in the Background Document (360/2008) on what constitutes 'not more than a few major gaps'[33], it might be inferred from the spatial arrangement of MPAs in Regions II, III and around the Azores archipelago, as well as of the MPAs in ABNJ/in the High Seas in Region V, that the Network in these areas shows first signs of ecological coherence.

However, considering the vast areas in Regions I, IV and, more generally, in offshore areas throughout all the Regions that are not covered by MPAs, overall the Network of MPAs cannot yet be judged to be well-distributed across the OSPAR maritime area. If the MPA Network is generally not well-distributed in space, then it is very likely not connected and/or representative, and probably it is not replicated and/or adequate. Thus, it is very likely not ecologically coherent.

[33] "Major gaps between MPAs": in coastline/near shore spaces wider than 250 km, offshore/EEZ spaces larger than 500 km diameter circle (~200 000 km²); in far offshore and High Seas waters, spaces larger than approximately one million square kilometres (1 000 000 km²).

Test 2: Does the OSPAR MPA Network cover at least 3% of most (seven of the ten) relevant Dinter biogeographic provinces?[34]

The ten biogeographic provinces of the OSPAR maritime area relevant for this test have been marked in bold in Table 4 and are shown in Figure 12. Due to their ice cover and extreme remoteness, the remaining Dinter (sub-) provinces are not treated in this test. This test does not require usage of Dinter sub-provinces. Thus, the three Norwegian coastal sub-provinces are treated together as one province, as are the two Lusitanean sub-provinces. In addition, for the purpose of this initial test, the two temperate pelagic provinces (*Cool-temperate* and *Warm-temperate waters*) are also interpreted to include deeper waters and the seafloor. Hence, the Dinter pelagic and benthic classes are being assessed together.

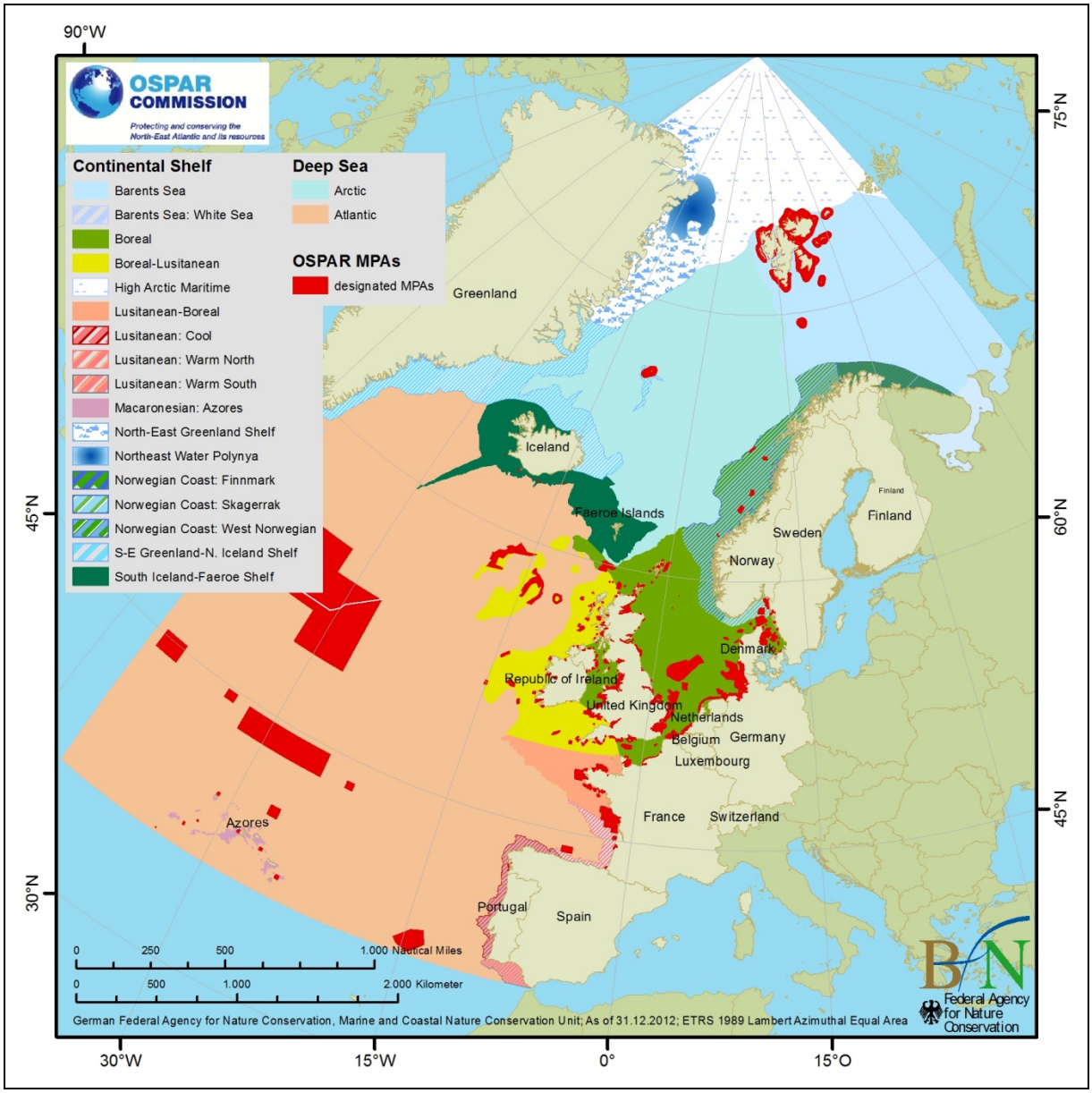


Figure 13. *Biogeographic provinces of the North-East Atlantic (according to the classification by Dinter, 2001) and OSPAR MPAs as of 31 December 2012*[35]*.*

[34] Dinter 2001. Biogeography of the OSPAR Maritime Area. German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Bonn. 167 pp.

Table 4. *OSPAR MPA coverage in Biogeographic Provinces (according to the classification by Dinter 2001). In bold: ten biogeographic provinces of the OSPAR maritime area relevant for test 2. Highlighted: biogeographic provinces with >3% MPA coverage.*

REGION	SUBREGION	PROVINCE	Total Area (km²)	Area protected (km²)	MPA coverage (%)
(Holo) Pelagic					
Arctic	---	**---**	3,334,941	72,623	**2.18%**
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	**Cool-temperate Waters**	6,690,666	480,985	**7.19%**
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	**Warm-temperate Waters**	3,522,504	146,962	**4.17%**
Shelf & Continental Slope					
Arctic	---	North-East Greenland Shelf	277,879	0	**0,00%**
Arctic	---	Northeast Water Polynya	71,845	0	**0,00%**
Arctic	---	High Arctic Maritime	809,874	11,107	**1.37%**
Arctic	---	Barents Sea	1,158,371	67,221	**5.80%**
Arctic	---	**South-East Greenland - North Iceland Shelf**	425,600	2,986	**0.70%**
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	**Norwegian Coast (Finnmark & Skagerrak & West Norwegian)**	413,698	4,716	**1.14%**
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	**South Iceland-Faeroe Shelf**	306,382	159	**0.05%**
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	**Boreal**	710,185	82,656	**11.64%**
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	**Boreal-Lusitanean**	455,947	29,541	**6.48%**
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	**Lusitanean-Boreal**	151,202	16,991	**11.24%**
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	**Lusitanean (Cool & Warm)**	118,277	3,823	**3.23%**
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	**Macaronesian Azores**	22,545	812	**3.60%**
Deep Sea					
Arctic	---	**---**	2,235,011	1,332	**0.06%**
Atlantic	---	**---**	6,995,818	479,189	**6.85%**

In 2012, the majority of the ten biogeographic provinces considered in this test surpass the 3% threshold coverage by OSPAR Marine Protected Areas (marked in green): the five continental shelf provinces *Boreal* (11.64%), Lusitanean-Boreal (11.24%), *Boreal-Lusitanean* (6.48%), *Macaronesian Azores* (3.60%), and *Lusitanean* (Cool & Warm) 3.23%), and the two pelagic provinces *Cool-temperate Waters* (7.19%) and *Warm-temperate Waters* (4.17%).

[35] For the purpose of visibility, OSPAR Marine Protected Areas (in red) have in this map been slightly increased. A number of the smaller sites otherwise would not be visible in this illustration showing the entire OSPAR maritime area.

Hence, for the first time the results of this initial spatial test indicate a degree of ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs with regards to coverage of the various biogeographic provinces within the North-East Atlantic. Although not part of the test, it should be noted that the *Barents Sea* sub-province also surpasses the threshold coverage level with 5.8% coverage by OSPAR MPAs.

Test 3: Are most (70%) of the threatened and/or declining species and habitats[36] (with limited home ranges) represented in the OSPAR Network of MPAs, such that at least 5% [or at least three sites] of all areas in which they occur within each OSPAR Region is [are] protected?

This test, including its square-bracketed text, could not be conducted as neither is comprehensive spatial data available regarding the distribution of species populations and habitats across the OSPAR maritime area, nor is the reporting by Contracting Parties complete with regards to the extent to which these features are subject to their respective MPAs.

Under these circumstances, no reliable conclusions can be drawn on the '*adequacy*' or '*representativity*' of the OSPAR Network of MPAs regarding the protection it provides for specific species or habitats identified by OSPAR to be under threat and/or in decline.

Preliminary conclusions on the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs

A comprehensive analysis of the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas is currently not possible due to the persistent lack of ecological data, particularly on the distribution of species populations and habitats in the North-East Atlantic. In the absence of such data, only basic approaches can be conducted that allow for an assessment to what extent the elements of ecological coherence have *not* been addressed in the Network of MPAs rather than to determine if they have appropriately been addressed.

For the time being, only coarse assessments of the spatial arrangement of the MPA Network can be applied. Results of initial spatial tests suggest that the OSPAR Network of MPAs currently is unlikely to be ecologically coherent as the distribution of OSPAR MPAs across OSPAR Regions and biogeographic regions and provinces in the North-East Atlantic remains uneven with the majority of sites situated generally in coastal waters, particularly in the Greater North Sea and the Celtic Seas. If the MPA Network is generally not well-distributed in space, then it is very likely not *connected* and/or *representative*, and probably not *replicated* and/or *adequate*.

However, it might be inferred from the spatial arrangement of OSPAR MPAs particularly in the Greater North Sea, but to some extent also in the Celtic Seas and around the Azores archipelago, as well as in ABNJ/in the High Seas of the Wider Atlantic, that the Network in these areas shows first signs of ecological coherence.

This coarse evaluation, including the initial tests outlined above, has to be seen as a first basic step in a multi-staged assessment procedure to evaluate the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs. Along with additional ecological information and data, more sophisticated tests need be developed and subsequently applied.

It has to be noted that there is an ongoing process of assessment of the ecological coherence of the OSPAR network of Marine Protected Areas, the results of which will be presented elsewhere.

[36] According to the OSPAR List of threatened and/or declining species and habitats (OSPAR Reference Number 2008-6)

Overlap between the networks of OSPAR MPAs and Natura 2000 sites

Almost all of the MPAs so far reported to OSPAR by EU Member States largely overlap existing Natura 2000 sites. The nominations by Portugal are an important exception, as four Portuguese sites are not included in the Natura 2000 network, and for the others, smaller Natura 2000 sites are nested within a larger OSPAR MPA. Furthermore, France and Spain in 2008 each have reported one MPA to OSPAR.

It is also worth noting that only a limited number of marine Natura 2000 sites have not yet been included in the OSPAR Network of MPAs. It can therefore be concluded, that these networks from the perspective of EU Member States overlap to a very large extent and that consequently there is limited scope for enhancing the OSPAR Network by including the remaining Natura 2000 sites.

Management of OSPAR MPAs

Background

Within OSPAR, MPAs are understood as areas for which protective, conservation, restorative or precautionary measures have been instituted for the purpose of protecting and conserving species, habitats, ecosystems or ecological processes of the marine environment.

OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3[37] on a Network of Marine Protected Areas sets outs the goal of OSPAR Contracting Parties to continue the establishment of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas in the North-East Atlantic and to ensure that:

a. *by 2012 it is ecologically coherent, includes sites representative of all biogeographic regions in the OSPAR maritime area, and is consistent with the CBD target for effectively conserved marine and coastal ecological regions;*

b. *by 2016 it is well managed (i.e. coherent management measures have been set up and are being implemented for such MPAs that have been designated up to 2010).*

Regarding the management of OSPAR MPAs, the Recommendation specified, amongst others, the following programmes and measures:

"*3.3 The relevant Contracting Party should*

a. *"develop for each area selected [as an OSPAR MPA] a management plan, in accordance with the management guidelines*38*, to achieve the aims for which the area has been selected;*

b. *determine what management measures would be appropriate in the light of those guidelines, and either:*

(i) *where it has the competence to adopt such measures, initiate the processes under its domestic legislation to establish such measures; or*

[37] OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3 adopted by OSPAR 2003 (OSPAR 03/17/1, Annex 9), amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2010/2 (OSPAR 10/23/1, Annex 7)

[38] OSPAR Guidelines for the Management of Marine Protected Areas in the OSPAR maritime area (Reference Number 2003-18); Amended by BDC 2006 (BDC 2006 Summary Record (BDC 0610/1) § 3.46) through the inclusion of Appendix 1.

(ii) *where the competence to adopt such measures lies with another authority or international organisation, or where the consent of an international organisation is needed for the adoption of such measures, take steps to seek the adoption by the international organisation of those measures or, as the case may be, the consent of the international organisation to those measures. Any cases covered by this sub-paragraph should be reported to the OSPAR Commission*."

Furthermore, it sets out the following:

"*3.5 Where a Contracting Party is required, under the EC Birds Directive[39] or the EC Habitats Directive[40], to designate any area in the maritime area (whether wholly or partly) as a Special Protection Area or a Special Area of Conservation;*

a. the Contracting Party may report that area to the OSPAR Commission as a component of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas, as if the Contracting Party had selected it as such; but

b. the Contracting Party should be under no obligations under this Recommendation to take any action in respect of that area, subject to sub-paragraph (c) below; and

c. where the Contracting Party has reported that area to the OSPAR Commission as a component of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas, it should send to the OSPAR Commission copies of any reports which it makes to the European Commission about that area."

With a view to support and harmonise efforts by Contracting Parties in establishing adequate management regimes for OSPAR MPAs, OSPAR has developed and agreed upon 'Guidelines for the Management of Marine Protected Areas in the OSPAR maritime area' (Reference Number 2003-18), as well as 'Guidance to assess the effectiveness of management of OSPAR MPAs: a self-assessment scorecard' (Reference Number 2007-5).

Although a conceptual framework for managing MPAs has been developed by OSPAR, until now it is not possible to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the extent to which the OSPAR Marine Protected Areas are actually 'well managed' by the concerned authorities. Generally, Contracting Parties have not submitted to OSPAR sufficiently detailed information on the management of their respective OSPAR MPAs that would allow for such an analysis.

On one hand, it has to be considered that a number of MPAs have only been established recently and therefore management plans for these sites are not yet available and/or management measures are not yet implemented. When nominating new sites to OSPAR most Contracting Parties have made references to on-going or envisaged national processes to develop management measures/plans for the respective MPAs. This is particularly the case for those OSPAR MPAs that are at the same time Natura 2000 sites.

Then again, for those OSPAR MPAs where management regimes are already in place but still no detailed reports have been submitted on the effectiveness of regulatory measures, it can be assumed that the provision of more detailed information has been hampered by limited resources (personnel/time) to process the information for submission to OSPAR or low degree of priority to attend to this subject.

[39] Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds.

[40] Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of habitats and wild fauna and flora.

Summary Information on the Management of OSPAR MPAs as provided by Contracting Parties

Denmark

The Danish OSPAR MPAs, all being Natura 2000 sites, will be subject to Natura 2000 management plans. Draft plans for the Natura 2000 sites existing in 2009 were supposed to be sent for public consultation until April 2011. After the public consultation and subsequent processing of the comments received, the Natura 2000 management plans are to be finalized. Management plans for the newly designated Natura 2000 sites will be drafted in the 2nd Plan period in 2015.

France

Eight Nature Reserves in the French waters have been designated in 2007 as OSPAR MPAs. Each of them is covered by a management plan and body.

The management plan for the Marine Nature Park of *Iroise*, designated as an OSPAR MPA in 2008, had been approved in 2010. The French Agency for MPAs is in charge of the management of the Marine Park on behalf of the local management council. A detailed management plan, setting out objectives and activities, together with relevant information on species and habitats listed by OSPAR as threatened and/or declining, has been provided (in French) to the OSPAR MPA database.

For six of the 30 Natura 2000 sites (8 SPAs and 22 SCAs) France submitted to the OSPAR Network of MPAs in 2012 (3 of which are re-nominations of already existing OSPAR MPAs), management plans have already been agreed upon. Management plans for the remaining 24 Natura 2000 sites are under an on-going process of validation. For all Natura 2000 sites, France will transmit any relevant information on actions and measures that are being undertaken within the context of the Birds and Habitats Directives to the OSPAR Commission.

Germany

Two of the OSPAR MPAs in German territorial waters, the *Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park* and the *Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park* are managed according to the national park act. Several management plans that cover different sectoral aspects exist, *e.g.* salt-marsh management, mussel fisheries management. An overall management plan, the Trilateral Wadden Sea Plan (WSP)[41], is being implemented by the three States bordering the Wadden Sea, *i.e.* Denmark, The Netherlands and Germany. The WSP entails the common policies, measures, projects and actions of the countries for their joint efforts to fulfil the ecological targets set for Wadden Sea. For the OSPAR MPA *Helgoland mit Helgoländer Felssockel* and the SPA within the OSPAR MPA *Östliche Deutsche Bucht/Sylter Aussenriff* ordinances according to national law are implemented. Management plans for the remaining MPAs are currently being developed.

Iceland

In the seven Icelandic OSPAR MPAs, human activities that might damage the area are prohibited. Regulation 1140/2005 on conservation of coral areas along the south coast prohibits all fishing activities with bottom-contacting gears in those five Icelandic OSPAR MPAs that have been established specifically for the protection of coral reefs. Of the two MPAs submitted in 2012, the area of Eldey is protected under regulation 119/1974 and law 44/1999 while the area of Surtsey is protected since 1965 by regulation and by 1994 under law and has a management plan in place.

[41] http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/management/Plan.html

Ireland

All OSPAR MPAs are subject to management requirements of the EC Habitats or Birds Directive.

The Netherlands

A management plan for the *Voordelta* MPA is being implemented. Management plans for the other OSPAR MPAs are being prepared and will be finalised three years after their final designation at the latest.

Norway

Selligrunnen is temporarily protected by the national Nature Conservation Act as a nature reserve (Norwegian regulation number 605, 08.06.2000 – "Forskrift om midlertidig vern av Selligrunnen naturreservat, Leksvik kommune, Nord-Trøndelag"). The purpose of the regulation is to protect corals and associated organisms in the area against all damage and destruction. All potentially damaging human activities are illegal.

The OSPAR MPAs *Rostrevet*, *Sularevet Iverryggen*, *Tisler*, and *Fjellknausen* are all fisheries protected areas. Norwegian regulation number 1878, 22.12.2004 "Forskrift om utøvelse av fisket i sjøen" § 66 - states that the use of bottom trawling is illegal in this area.

In 2012 Norway submitted three coral reef OSPAR MPAs in OSPAR Region I (Arctic), *Breisunddjupet*, *Korallen* and *Trænarevet*, for which the same regulation is also in place, as well as the Jan Mayen MPA, an area around the island of Jan Mayen in the Arctic. For Jan Mayen a management plan is in preparation. There is also a process to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in order to gain information about the marine environment and possible effects of hydrocarbon-industry related activities.

The three OSPAR MPAs around the *Svalbard* archipelago consist of four nature reserves and seven national parks, all of which have been established by separate national regulations. The degree of protection and restrictions varies between these areas. Svalbard and the sea territory out to 12 nm are protected through the Svalbard Environmental Act. Svalbard falls within the perimeter of the Barents Sea management plan. In addition, separate management plans for each of the national parks and nature reserves are, or will be, elaborated.

The management of the *Ytre Hvaler* national park is described in national regulations. A management plan is currently being elaborated and a draft was expected to be finished by April 2010. The management plan process includes extensive consultations with stakeholders, and is based on methods developed by The Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP; www.conservationmeasures.org). *Ytre Hvaler National Park* and the *Kosterhavet* Marine National Park in Sweden were developed in close collaboration between the Norwegian and Swedish regional governmental offices. The management of the sites will also be co-ordinated between Norway and Sweden. The management of the national park is governed by the County Governor of Østfold as a temporary solution. A more permanent management scheme will be determined based on a model for management of protected areas currently under development by the Norwegian government.

Portugal

The OSPAR MPA *Formigas Bank* is subject to legislation that prohibits almost all extractive activities in the area. Tuna fishing is still allowed under minor obligations. For the *Corvo Island and Faial-Pico Channel* a management plan is proposed. The area includes a no-take area declared under the regulation of limpet collection. Under the BIOMARE project, this area was declared a Long Term Biodiversity Research Site and an All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory Site. The Portuguese law "DL no. 140/99" protects a fraction of the area in the *D. João de Castro Seamount* MPA as SCI. Under the

BIOMARE project, this area was declared a Long Term Biodiversity Research Site. For the other sites, management proposals have been prepared, but no statutory management plans have yet been established.

Spain

A Royal Decree for which *El Cachucho* is designated as Spanish MPA and SAC entered into force 9th of December 2011. This legal document includes the corresponding conservation and fisheries regulation measures. The document is available (only in Spanish) at the following link: http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2011/12/08/pdfs/BOE-A-2011-19246.pdf
Management plans (Natural Resources Management Plans, Fisheries Management Plans) for *Islas Atlanticas* are being developed in line with the EC Habitats and Birds Directive.

Sweden

All the OSPAR MPAs in Sweden are partly or fully subject to management requirements of the EC Habitats or Birds Directive and covered by the Swedish Environmental Code (Chapter 7 §§ 27-29).

Kungsbackafjorden is protected as a nature reserve according to the Swedish Environmental Code and management measures, including a monitoring programme, has been introduced and implemented in the area according to the proposed management plan. The fishery is regulated according to the Fishery Act. *Lilla Middelgrund* and *Fladen* should be managed as marine nature reserves with regulation against certain uses, such as windmill establishments, sand and gravel excavation and certain fishing practices. The areas have not yet been protected as marine nature reserves according to the Swedish Environmental code. However, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected these MPAs as areas where no kind of exploitation should take place. *Nordre älv estuarium* is a marine nature reserve according to the Swedish Environmental Code and the fishery is regulated according to the Fishery Act. There are temporal closures for net fishing in the inner part of the estuary with the aim of protecting salmon and trout. There is a bird protection area in the north western part of the estuary. A management plan for the whole area is being developed. The main part of the *Koster-Väderö* archipelago is protected as the Kosterhavet Marine National Park which, along with the *Ytre Hvaler Park* in Norway, was developed in close collaboration between the Norwegian and Swedish regional administrative boards. The management of the sites will be coordinated between Norway and Sweden. A management plan for the National Park has been developed and the monitoring program has been started. A contingency plan for maritime transport incidents is under development.

Management plans still need to be developed for *Stora middelgrund och Röde Bank* and *Morups bank*. There is an established management plan for *Gullmarsfjorden* but it has recently been reduced due to financial reasons. Fisheries of shrimp in the *Gullmarsfjord* is limited to 100 days effort and shared among a small group of local fishermen in a co-management fashion. Even when there are local regulations for the fishery a management plan need to be developed.

In 2010 and 2011, two new marine protected areas have been established, *Havstensfjorden* and *Bratten*. There is a management plan adopted for *Havstensfjorden* but not yet for *Bratten*. These areas have been nominated to the OSPAR Network of MPAs in 2012.

United Kingdom

OSPAR MPAs which are SACs or SPAs are subject to management requirements of the EC Habitats or Birds Directive. The UK will send to the OSPAR Commission any reports which it submits to the European Commission about these areas.

Preliminary conclusions on the Management of OSPAR MPAs

A Marine Protected Area can be considered to be 'well-managed', if the respective management regime ensures that, ultimately, the objectives for which the site has been established are achieved. In the case of OSPAR MPAs, these objectives generally refer to protecting, maintaining and, where in the past impacts have occurred, restoring populations of species, habitats, ecosystems or ecological processes of the marine environment.

The situation and progress on ensuring effective management of OSPAR MPAs varies substantially among the different sites nominated by Contracting Parties. According to references made by CPs (general note during reporting and/or personal communication), quite a number of MPAs are subject to general or specific management regulations, including conservation objectives and management plans, but detailed information on the effectiveness of these measures has not been made available to OSPAR. For many sites though, management regimes, including management plans, are still in preparation and far from being effectively implemented. This can be explained to some extent by the fact that a number of OSPAR MPAs/Natura 2000 sites have only recently been established.

Considering that no reports have yet been made available to OSPAR providing evidence that the management of a specific OSPAR MPA has actually been successful in achieving the objectives of the site, it is not possible to state that OSPAR MPAs, generally, are 'well-managed'. This shall not mean that there are no well-managed MPAs included in the OSPAR Network, rather that documented evidence has not been available for this Report.

Conclusions on the status of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas in 2012

- In the period 2005–2012 all twelve OSPAR Contracting Parties bordering the North-East Atlantic have selected and nominated MPAs for inclusion in the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas. The contributions by Contracting Parties differ substantially regarding distribution of sites across coastal and offshore waters as well as regarding overall coverage of their national waters by OSPAR MPAs.
- As of 31 December 2012, the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) comprised a total of 333 sites, including 324 MPAs situated within national waters of Contracting Parties and nine MPAs outside of CPs national waters with different jurisdictional protective regimes. Collectively, these sites cover ca. 700,600[42] km² or 5.17% of the OSPAR maritime area in the North-East Atlantic.
- Distribution of MPAs across OSPAR Regions is still imbalanced, as is the spreading of sites across coastal and offshore waters, still resulting in gaps of the Network of MPAs.
- For the first time one of the OSPAR regions, the Greater North Sea, has reached the target of having at least 10% of coastal and marine areas effectively protected by 2020 as agreed within the CBD with an OSPAR MPA coverage of 10.39%. The Wider Atlantic moves towards this target with 7.90% of this region being subject to OSPAR MPAs.
- While the Celtic Seas and the Bay of Biscay show a coverage by OSPAR MPAs of 4.66% and 3.12% respectively, the Arctic Waters remain with only 1.55% protected by OSPAR MPAs.
- As the vast majority of sites have been designated in CPs' territorial waters, overall coverage of coastal waters by OSPAR MPAs is consequently higher at 21.74%. Overall coverage of offshore areas, i.e. the Exclusive Economic Zones of Contracting Parties, by OSPAR MPAs remains very low at 1.53%. Coverage of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction/High Seas by OSPAR MPAs is at 6.0%.
- Comprehensive conclusions on the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs are still not possible due to the unavailability of relevant ecological data on the distribution of species populations and habitats in the OSPAR maritime area. On the basis of initial tests assessing the spatial arrangement of the MPA Network and its components, as summarised above, overall the OSPAR Network of MPAs cannot yet judged to be *ecologically coherent*. However, the spatial arrangement of OSPAR MPAs in the Greater North Sea, the Celtic Seas, around the Azores and in ABNJ/High Seas of the Wider Atlantic shows first signs of ecological coherence.
- As no sufficiently detailed information on the effectiveness of the management in their respective MPAs has been made available by Contracting Parties, it remains impossible at this time to comprehensively conclude on the extent to which OSPAR MPAs are *well-managed*. While in general a number of sites are subject to management regimes, including conservation objectives, management plans and specific regulatory measures, no evidence on their effectiveness in achieving the goals for which these were established has been provided. Management plans and measures for the other sites are still being prepared.

[42] Due to rounding errors inherent in the calculations the total area being protected by OSPAR MPAs is given in this report as ca. 700,600 km^2. Note that the total values given in Tables 1 and 2 differ slightly because of such rounding errors.

Annex I – List of OSPAR Marine Protected Areas

(as of 31 December 2012)

ABNJ – Areas beyond National Jurisdiction

CP – Contracting Party

ECS – Extended Continental Shelf subject to a submission by a Contracting Party to the CLCS

EEZ – Exclusive Economic Zone

HS – High Seas

TW – Territorial Waters

CP	OSPAR ID / Natura 2000	OSPAR MPA	Year of Report	Jur.	Area (km²)
ABNJ / High Seas	tbd	Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas MPA	2012	HS	178,094
	O-ABNJ-001	Antialtair Seamount High Seas MPA	2010	HS	2,807
	O-ABNJ-002	Altair Seamount High Seas MPA	2010	HS	4,384
	O-ABNJ-003	Josephine Seamount High Seas MPA	2010	HS	19,363
	O-ABNJ-004	Milne Seamount Complex MPA	2010	ABNJ	20,914
	O-ABNJ-005	MAR north of the Azores High Seas MPA	2010	HS	93,572
	O-ABNJ-006	Charlie-Gibbs South MPA	2010	ABNJ	146,032
Belgium	O-BEMNZ-0004	SBZ3	2012	TW	57
	O-BE-MNZ001-2-3	Vlaamse Banken, SBZ 1 and SBZ 2	2012	TW	749
				EEZ	433
Denmark	O-DK-003X202	Hesselø med omliggende stenrev	2007	TW	20
				EEZ	21
	O-DK-00DX032	Farvandet nord for Anholt	2007	TW	348
				EEZ	2
	O-DK-00DX146	Anholt og havet nord for	2007	TW	112
	O-DK-00FX010	Strandenge på Læsø og havet syd herfor	2007	TW	627
	O-DK-00FX257	Havet omkring Nordre Rønner	2007	TW	186
	O-DK-00FX345	Læsø, sydlige del	2007	TW	261
				EEZ	104
	O-DK-00VA247	Kims Top og den Kinesiske Mur	2009	EEZ	262
	O-DK-00VA248	Herthas Flak	2007	TW	14
	O-DK-00VA249	Læsø Trindel og Tønneberg Banke	2009	TW	79
				EEZ	8
	O-DK-00VA299	Lysegrund	2009	TW	32
	O-DK-00VA301	Lønstrup Rødgrund	2007	TW	93
	O-DK-00VA302	Knudegrund	2007	TW	8

	O-DK-00VA303	Schultz og Hastens Grund samt Briseis Flak	2009	TW	50
				EEZ	159
	O-DK-00VA340	Sandbanker ud for Thyborøn	2007	TW	64
	O-DK-00VA341	Sandbanker ud for Thorsminde	2007	TW	64
	O-DK-00VA347	Sydlige Nordsø	2007	TW	36
				EEZ	2,438
	O-DK-00EY133	Agger Tange, Nissum Bredning, Skibsted Fjord og Agerø	2009	TW	166
	O-DK-00VA344	Ålborg Bugt, østlige del	2009	TW	1,543
				EEZ	239
	O-DK-00FX122	Ålborg Bugt, Randers Fjord og Mariager Fjord	2009	TW	616
	O-DK-00VA330	Ebbeløkkerev	2009	TW	1
	O-DK-00VA171	Gilleleje Flak og Tragten	2009	TW	26
				EEZ	22
	O-DK-005Y220	Havet og kysten mellem Hundested og Rørvig	2009	TW	14
	O-DK-00FX113	Hirsholmene, havet vest herfor og Ellinge Å's udløb	2009	TW	91
	O-DK-00DX322	Kobberhage kystarealer	2009	TW	6
	O-DK-00EY124	Løgstør Bredning, Vejlerne og Bulbjerg	2009	TW	0
	O-DK-00CX160	Nissum Fjord	2009	TW	0
	O-DK-00CY163	Ringkøbing Fjord og Nymindestrømmen	2009	TW	0
	O-DK-00FX112	Skagens Gren og Skagerrak	2009	TW	1,285
				EEZ	1,412
	O-DK-00VA250	Store Middelgrund	2009	EEZ	21
	O-DK-00AY176	Vadehavet med Ribe Å, Tved Å og Varde Å vest for Varde	2009	TW	1,137
	O-DK-00VA259	Gule Rev	2009	TW	44
				EEZ	429
	O-DK-00VA258	Store Rev	2009	EEZ	109
	O-DK-00VA257	Jyske Rev, Lillefiskerbanke	2009	EEZ	242
	O-DK-00VA348	Thyborøn Stenvolde	2009	TW	37
				EEZ	42
DK FO				TW	0
				EEZ	0
DK GL				TW	0
				EEZ	0

France	O-FR-0009	Iroise	2008	TW	3,432
	O-FR-2210068	Baie de Somme	2005	TW	34
	O-FR-2510046	Domaine de Beauguillot	2005	TW	5
	O-FR-5300066	Baie de Saint-Brieuc	2005	TW	11
	O-FR-5310011	Les Sept Iles	2005	TW	3
	O-FR-5410028	Marais de Moeze	2005	TW	2
	O-FR-7200679	Banc d'Arguin	2005	TW	1
	O-FR-5200659	Baie de l'Aiguillon	2005	TW	25
	O-FR-5300017	Abers - Côtes des légendes (SAC)	2012	TW	227
	O-FR-5300023	Archipel des Glénan (SAC)	2012	TW	587
	O-FR-7212017	Au droit de l'étang d'Hourtin-Carcans (SPA)	2012	TW	501
	O-FR-7200812	Portion du littoral sableux de la côte aquitaine (SAC)	2012	EEZ	5
				TW	501
	O-FR-5300015	Baie de Morlaix (SAC)	2012	EEZ	5
				TW	266
	O-FR-2502020	Baie de Seine occidentale (SAC)	2012	TW	455
	O-FR-2510099	Falaise du Bessin Occidental (SPA)	2012	TW	13
	O-FR-3102002	Bancs des Flandres (SAC)	2012	TW	906
	O-FR-7200679	Bassin d'Arcachon et Cap Ferret (SAC) 2012	2012	TW	227
	O-FR-5300032	Belle Ile en mer (SAC)	2012	TW	174
	O-FR-7200813	Côte basque rocheuse et extension au large (SAC)	2012	TW	78
	O-FR-5300009	Côte de Granit rose-Sept-Iles (SAC)	2012	TW	721
	O-FR-5310011	Côte de Granit rose-Sept-Iles (SPA)	2012	TW	695
	O-FR-2300121	Estuaire de la Seine (SAC) 2012	2012	TW	120
	O-FR-5300029	Golfe du Morbihan, côte ouest de Rhuys (SAC)	2012	TW	206
	O-FR-5300031	Ile de Groix (SAC)	2012	TW	284
	O-FR-2300139	Littoral Cauchois (SAC)	2012	TW	46
	O-FR-2500088	Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin - Baie des Veys (SAC)	2012	TW	287
	O-FR-5300027	Massif dunaire Gâvres-Quiberon et zones humides associées (SAC)	2012	TW	68
	O-FR-7212016	Panache de la Gironde (SPA)	2012	TW	565
	O-FR-7200811	Panache de la Gironde et plateau rocheux de Cordouan (Système Pertuis Gironde) (SAC)	2012	EEZ	387
				TW	565
	O-FR-5412026	Pertuis Charentais - Rochebonne (SPA)	2012	EEZ	387
				TW	3,231
	O-FR-5400469	Pertuis Charentais (SAC)	2012	EEZ	4,966
				TW	3,183
	O-FR-2500085	Récifs et marais arrière-littoraux du Cap Lévi à la Pointe de Saire (SAC)	2012	EEZ	1,383
				TW	154
	O-FR-5312009	Roches de Penmarc'h (SPA)	2012	TW	457

	O-FR-5212015	Secteur marin de l'île d'Yeu jusqu'au continent (SPA)	2012	TW	1,752
	O-FR-5202013	Plateau rocheux de l'île d'Yeu (SAC)	2012	EEZ	702
				TW	120
	O-FR-2500086	Tatihou - Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue (SAC)	2012	TW	8
	O-FR-5310070	Tregor Goëlo (SPA)	2012	TW	913
	O-FR-5300010	Tregor Goëlo (SAC)	2012	TW	913
Germany	O-DE-0916491	S-H Wadden sea National Park	2005	TW	4,602
	O-DE-1003301	Doggerbank	2008	EEZ	1,696
	O-DE-1209301	Sylt.Aussenr.-Oestl.Dt.Bucht	2008	EEZ	5,595
	O-DE-1813491	S-H Seabird Protection Area	2005	TW	1,618
	O-DE-2104301	Borkum-Riffgrund	2008	EEZ	625
	O-DE-2306301	Nationalpark Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer	2005	TW	2,747
Iceland	O-IS-0001	Hornarfjardardjup, coral reef 1	2008	EEZ	8
	O-IS-0002	Hornarfjardardjup, coral reef 2	2008	EEZ	31
	O-IS-0003	Skaftardjup, coral reef 1	2008	EEZ	7
	O-IS-0004	Skaftardjup, coral reef 2	2008	EEZ	22
	O-IS-0005	Reynisdjup, coral reef	2008	TW	9
	O-IS-0006	Hverastrytur i Eyjafirdi	2008	TW	0.1
	O-IS-0007	Hverastrytur i Eyjafirdi, north of Arnanesnöfum	2008	TW	1
	O-IS-0008	Eldey jaðarsvæði	2012	TW	14
	O-IS-0009	Surtsey	2012	TW	63

Ireland	O-IE-002965	Roaringwater Bay and Islands MPA	2009	TW	143
	O-IE-002967	Malahide Estuary MPA	2009	TW	8
	O-IE-002968	North Dublin Bay MPA	2009	TW	15
	O-IE-002969	Galway Bay Complex MPA	2009	TW	144
	O-IE-002971	Dundalk Bay MPA	2009	TW	52
	O-IE-002972	Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex MPA	2009	TW	141
	O-IE-002973	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) MPA	2009	TW	49
	O-IE-002974	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand MPA	2009	TW	8
	O-IE-002978	Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West To Cloghane MPA	2009	TW	116
	O-IE-002979	Kilkieran Bay and Islands MPA	2009	TW	213
	O-IE-002980	Kenmare River MPA	2009	TW	433
	O-IE-002981	Mulroy Bay MPA	2009	TW	32
	O-IE-002984	Blasket Islands MPA	2009	TW	227
	O-IE-002985	Kingstown Bay MPA	2009	TW	1
	O-IE-002987	Belgica Mound Province MPA	2009	EEZ	411
	O-IE-002988	Hovland Mound Province MPA	2009	EEZ	1,087
	O-IE-002989	South-West Porcupine Bank MPA	2009	EEZ	329
	O-IE-002990	North-West Porcupine Bank MPA	2009	EEZ	716
	O-IE-002997	Ballyness Bay MPA	2009	TW	12
Netherlands	O-NL-2003062	Noordzeekustzone	2009	TW	1,416
	O-NL-2008001	Doggerbank	2009	EEZ	4,646
	O-NL-2008002	Klaverbank	2009	EEZ	1,240
	O-NL-2008003	Vlakte van de Raan	2009	TW	199
	O-NL-4000017	Voordelta	2009	TW	819

Norway	O-N-001	Selligrunnen	2005	TW	1
	O-N-002	Rostrevet	2005	EEZ	316
	O-N-003	Sularevet	2005	TW	12
				EEZ	973
	O-N-004	Iverryggen	2005	EEZ	621
	O-N-010	Ytre Hvaler	2009	TW	340
	O-N-007[43]	Svalbard West	2009	TW	20,064
	O-N-008	Svalbard East	2009	TW	55,451
	O-N-009	Bjørnøya	2009	TW	2,806
	O-N-011	Jan Mayen	2012	TW	4,319
	O-N-012	Korallen	2012	TW	4
	O-N-013	Trænarevet	2012	EEZ	445
	O-N-014	Breisunddjupet	2012	TW	44
				EEZ	21
Portugal	O-PT-020001	Formigas Bank	2005	TW	524
	O-PT-020005	Lucky Strike hydrothermal vent	2006	EEZ	191
	O-PT-020006	Menez Gwen hydrothermal vent field	2006	EEZ	95
	O-PT-020007	Rainbow hydrothermal vent field	2006	ECS	22
	O-PT-020008	Sedlo Seamount	2007	EEZ	4,016
	O-PT-COR0001	Corvo Island	2006	TW	257
	O-PT-FAI0005	Faial-Pico Channel	2006	TW	240
	O-PT-MIG0022	D. JoÆo de Castro seamount	2006	EEZ	354
Spain	O-ES-0000001	Islas Atlanticas	2007	TW	85
	O-ES-0002	El Cachucho	2008	EEZ	2,398

[43] For O-N-007; O-N-008; O-N-009: The outer boundary for this MPA is the 12 nm border of the Norwegian territorial waters. Accordingly, the area of this MPA should be completely within territorial waters. The deviation in the area calculation presented in this report arises from differences between datasets used by the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management and the standard datasets (official shape file for the OSPAR maritime area & open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase) used by BfN. Further harmonization of datasets in future reports is anticipated for future calculations.

Sweden[44]	O-SE-0510058	Kungsbackafjorden	2005	TW	79
	O-SE-0510126	Lilla Middelgrund	2005	TW	89
				EEZ	89
	O-SE-0510127	Fladen	2005	TW	96
				EEZ	8
	O-SE-0520043	Nordre älvs estuarium	2005	TW	71
	O-SE-0520170	Kosterfjorden-Väderöfjorden	2005	TW	592
	O-SE-0520171	Gullmarsfjorden	2005	TW	114
	O-SE-0510186	Stora Middelgrund och Röde bank	2009	EEZ	114
	O-SE-0510187	Morups bank	2009	TW	6
	O-SE-0520189	Bratten	2012	TW	48
				EEZ	1,159
	O-SE-0520173	Havstensfjorden	2012	TW	19
United Kingdom	OUK0030076	Alde-Ore & Butley Estuaries SAC	2005	TW	11
	OUK0017072	Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC	2005	TW	651
	OUK0016612	Murlough SAC	2005	TW	112
	OUK0030055	Rathlin Island SAC	2005	TW	31
	OUK0016618	Strangford Lough SAC	2005	TW	149
	OUK0030230	Ascrib, Isay and Dunvegan SAC	2007	TW	26
	OUK0012712	Cardigan Bay / Bae Ceredigion SAC	2007	TW	954
	OUK0020020	Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries / Bae Caerfyrddin ac Aberoedd SAC	2007	TW	632
	OUK0017076	Chesil & The Fleet SAC	2007	TW	12
	OUK0019806	Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC	2007	TW	69
	OUK0013031	Drigg Coast SAC	2007	TW	7
	OUK0030182	Eileanan agus Sgeirean Lios mor SAC	2007	TW	11
	OUK0013690	Essex Estuaries SAC	2007	TW	382
	OUK0013112	Fal & Helford SAC	2007	TW	62
	OUK0017096	Faray and Holm of Faray SAC	2007	TW	7
	OUK0030041	Firth of Lorn, Marine SAC	2007	TW	210
	OUK0030311	Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC	2007	TW	151
	OUK0013036	Flamborough Head SAC	2007	TW	62
	OUK0020025	Glannau Mon: Cors heli / Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC	2007	TW	9
	OUK0030172	Isle of May SAC	2007	TW	3
	OUK0013694	Isles of Scilly Complex SAC	2007	TW	267
	OUK0012566	Kenfig / Cynffig SAC	2007	TW	3

[44] The deviation in the area calculation presented in this report arises from differences between datasets used by "Metria" on behalf of the Swedish authorities and the standard datasets (official shape file for the OSPAR maritime area & open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase) used by BfN. Further harmonization of datasets in future reports is projected.

	OUK0014787	Limestone Coast of South West Wales / Arfordir Calchfaen De Orllewin Cymru SAC	2007	TW	2
	OUK0030190	Loch Creran SAC	2007	TW	12
	OUK0030192	Loch Laxford SAC	2007	TW	12
	OUK0030209	Loch Moidart and Loch Shiel Woods SAC	2007	TW	3
	OUK0017070	Loch nam Madadh SAC	2007	TW	18
	OUK0017077	Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs SAC	2007	TW	24
	OUK0013039	Luce Bay and Sands SAC	2007	TW	479
	OUK0013114	Lundy SAC	2007	TW	31
	OUK0019839	Moine Mhor SAC	2007	TW	3
	OUK0012694	Monach Islands SAC	2007	TW	33
	OUK0019808	Moray Firth SAC	2007	TW	1,515
	OUK0013027	Morecambe Bay SAC	2007	TW	552
	OUK0012711	Mousa SAC	2007	TW	5
	OUK0012696	North Rona SAC	2007	TW	5
	OUK0017069	Papa Stour SAC	2007	TW	21
	OUK0013116	Pembrokeshire Marine / Sir Benfro Forol SAC	2007	TW	1,252
				EEZ	119
	OUK0013117	Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau / Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC	2007	TW	1,442
	OUK0013111	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries SAC	2007	TW	57
	OUK0030069	Sanday SAC	2007	TW	110
	OUK0030059	Solent Maritime SAC	2007	TW	93
	OUK0013025	Solway Firth SAC	2007	TW	424
	OUK0019802	Sound of Arisaig (Loch Ailort to Loch Ceann Traigh) SAC	2007	TW	46
	OUK0030067	South East Islay Skerries SAC	2007	TW	15
	OUK0030061	South Wight Maritime SAC	2007	TW	196
	OUK0013695	St. Kilda SAC	2007	TW	245
	OUK0030273	Sullom Voe SAC	2007	TW	27
	OUK0019803	Sunart SAC	2007	TW	55
	OUK0013107	Thanet Coast SAC	2007	TW	28
	OUK0017075	The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC	2007	TW	1,044
	OUK0030289	Treshnish Isles SAC	2007	TW	19
	OUK0030292	Tweed Estuary SAC	2007	TW	2
	OUK0030202	Y Fenai a Bae Conwy / Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC	2007	TW	265
	OUK0012687	Yell Sound Coast SAC	2007	TW	8
	OUK0030357	Braemar Pockmarks SAC	2008	EEZ	5
	OUK0030317	Darwin Mounds SAC	2008	EEZ	1,378
	OUK0030131	Dee Estuary/ Aber Dyfrdwy SPA	2008	TW	135
	OUK0030353	Haig Fras SAC	2008	EEZ	481

	OUK0030170	Humber Estuary SAC	2008	TW	337
	OUK0030354	Scanner Pockmark SAC	2008	EEZ	3
	OUK0013030	Severn Estuary/ Môr Hafren SAC	2008	TW	723
	OUK0030359	Stanton Banks SAC	2008	EEZ	818
	OUK9003091	Ailsa Craig SPA	2011	TW	27
	OUK9009112	Alde–Ore Estuary SPA	2011	TW	11
	OUK9014091	Bae Caerfyrddin/ Carmarthen Bay SPA	2011	TW	334
	OUK0030368	Bassurelle Sandbank SAC	2011	EEZ	67
	OUK9020290	Belfast Lough Open Water SPA	2011	TW	56
	OUK9020101	Belfast Lough SPA	2011	TW	3
	OUK9009171	Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA	2011	TW	20
	OUK9009245	Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4) SPA	2011	TW	26
	OUK9009181	Breydon Water SPA	2011	TW	5
	OUK9002491	Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA	2011	TW	53
	OUK9015011	Burry Inlet SPA	2011	TW	48
	OUK9002431	Calf of Eday SPA	2011	TW	25
	OUK9001431	Canna and Sanday SPA	2011	TW	54
	OUK9001231	Cape Wrath SPA	2011	TW	58
	OUK9020161	Carlingford Lough SPA	2011	TW	8
	OUK9010091	Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA	2011	TW	5
	OUK9011011	Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA	2011	TW	51
	OUK9009243	Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2) SPA	2011	TW	12
	OUK9002151	Copinsay SPA	2011	TW	35
	OUK9001623	Cromarty Firth SPA	2011	TW	36
	OUK9009244	Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3) SPA	2011	TW	6
	OUK9009261	Deben Estuary SPA	2011	TW	8
	OUK9009242	Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1) SPA	2011	TW	25
	OUK0030352	Dogger Bank SAC	2011	EEZ	12,340
	OUK9001622	Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA	2011	TW	54
	OUK9005031	Duddon Estuary SPA	2011	TW	52
	OUK9001182	East Caithness Cliffs SPA	2011	TW	114
	OUK9002331	East Sanday Coast SPA	2011	TW	13
	OUK9010081	Exe Estuary SPA	2011	TW	19
	OUK9002091	Fair Isle SPA	2011	TW	63
	OUK9002031	Fetlar SPA	2011	TW	144
	OUK9004411	Firth of Forth SPA	2011	TW	61
	OUK9004121	Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary SPA	2011	TW	66

	OUK9001021	Flannan Isles SPA	2011	TW	58
	OUK9004171	Forth Islands SPA	2011	TW	97
	OUK9002061	Foula SPA	2011	TW	67
	OUK9009246	Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5) SPA	2011	TW	97
	OUK9002271	Fowlsheugh SPA	2011	TW	13
	OUK9002271	Handa SPA	2011	TW	29
	OUK9008022	Gibraltar Point SPA	2011	TW	2
	OUK9003051	Gruinart Flats, Islay SPA	2011	TW	10
	OUK0030369	Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC	2011	TW	598
				EEZ	871
	OUK9009131	Hamford Water SPA	2011	TW	12
	OUK9002011	Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field SPA	2011	TW	52
	OUK9002141	Hoy SPA	2011	TW	87
	OUK9006111	Humber Estuary SPA	2011	TW	337
	OUK9003061	Inner Clyde Estuary SPA	2011	TW	17
	OUK0030370	Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC	2011	TW	345
				EEZ	501
	OUK9001624	Inner Moray Firth SPA	2011	TW	22
	OUK9020221	Killough Bay SPA	2011	TW	1
	OUK0030375	Lands End and Cape Bank SAC	2011	TW	302
				EEZ	0
	OUK9020042	Larne Lough SPA	2011	TW	3
	OUK9006011	Lindisfarne SPA	2011	TW	31
	OUK9020294	Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl SPA	2011	TW	1,703
				EEZ	1
	OUK0030374	Lizard Point SAC	2011	TW	140
	OUK9020031	Lough Foyle SPA	2011	TW	21
	OUK0030372	Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	2011	TW	313
	OUK0030371	Margate and Long Sands SAC	2011	TW	509
				EEZ	140
	OUK9002121	Marwick Head SPA	2011	TW	5
	OUK9012031	Medway Estuary and Marshes SPA	2011	TW	33
	OUK9005131	Mersey Estuary SPA	2011	TW	40
	OUK9001121	Mingulay and Berneray SPA	2011	TW	69
	OUK9004031	Montrose Basin SPA	2011	TW	8
	OUK9001625	Moray and Nairn Coast SPA	2011	TW	16
	OUK9005081	Morecambe Bay SPA	2011	TW	323
	OUK9001181	North Caithness Cliffs SPA	2011	TW	141

	OUK9003171	North Colonsay and Western Cliffs SPA	2011	TW	24
	OUK9009031	North Norfolk Coast SPA	2011	TW	37
	OUK0030358	North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef SAC	2011	EEZ	3,606
	OUK9001011	North Rona and Sula Sgeir SPA	2011	TW	67
	OUK9001051	North Uist Machair and Islands SPA	2011	TW	10
	OUK0030363	North West Rockall Bank SAC	2011	EEZ ECS	4,368
	OUK9002081	Noss SPA	2011	TW	30
	OUK9020271	Outer Ards SPA	2011	TW	12
	OUK9020309	Outer Thames Estuary SPA	2011	TW	2,949
				EEZ	846
	OUK9012041	Pagham Harbour SPA	2011	TW	3
	OUK9010111	Poole Harbour SPA	2011	TW	13
	OUK9011051	Portsmouth Harbour SPA	2011	TW	12
	OUK9020011	Rathlin Island SPA	2011	TW	31
	OUK0030365	Red Bay SAC	2011	TW	10
	OUK9005103	Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA	2011	TW	97
	OUK9002371	Rousay SPA	2011	TW	49
	OUK9001341	Rum SPA	2011	TW	360
	OUK9015022	Severn Estuary SPA	2011	TW	223
	OUK0030376	Shell Flat and Lune Deep SAC	2011	TW	106
	OUK9011061	Solent and Southampton Water SPA	2011	TW	33
	OUK9001082	South Uist Machair and Lochs SPA	2011	TW	3
	OUK9004271	St Abb`s Head to Fast Castle SPA	2011	TW	16
	OUK9001031	St Kilda SPA	2011	TW	281
	OUK0030373	Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone SAC	2011	TW	341
	OUK9009121	Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA	2011	TW	31
	OUK9020111	Strangford Lough SPA	2011	TW	147
	OUK9002181	Sule Skerry and Sule Stack SPA	2011	TW	39
	OUK9002511	Sumburgh Head SPA	2011	TW	24
	OUK9010141	Tamar Estuaries Complex SPA	2011	TW	16
	OUK9006061	Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA	2011	TW	7
	OUK9012021	Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA	2011	TW	27
	OUK9012071	Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA	2011	TW	13
	OUK9013011	The Dee Estuary SPA	2011	TW	111
	OUK9001041	The Shiant Isles SPA	2011	TW	68
	OUK9012011	The Swale SPA	2011	TW	29
	OUK9008021	The Wash SPA	2011	TW	590
	OUK9013031	Traeth Lafan/ Lavan Sands, Conway Bay SPA	2011	TW	27

	OUK9002471	Troup, Pennan and Lion`s Heads SPA	2011	TW	33
	OUK9005012	Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SPA	2011	TW	381
	OUK9002101	West Westray SPA	2011	TW	34
	OUK0030355	Wyville Thomson Ridge SAC	2011	EEZ	1,741
	O-UK0030387	Anton Dohrn Seamount SAC	2012	EEZ	1,429
	O-UK0030381	Croker Carbonate Slabs SAC	2012	EEZ	66
	O-UK0030364	East Mingulay SAC	2012	TW	115
	O-UK0030389	East Rockall Bank SAC	2012	EEZ	3,696
	O-UK0030388	Hatton Bank SAC[45]	2012	ECS	15,698
	O-UK0030379	Pisces Reef Complex SAC	2012	EEZ	9
	O-UK0030385	Pobie Bank Reef SAC	2012	TW	337
				EEZ	629
	O-UKIOM01	Ramsey MNR	2012	TW	94
	O-UK0030383	Skerries & Causeway SAC	2012	TW	109
	O-UK0030386	Solan Bank Reef SAC	2012	TW	11
				EEZ	845
	O-UK0030382	Studland to Portland SAC	2012	TW	332
	O-UK0030384	The Maidens SAC	2012	TW	75
	O-UK0030380	Wight-Barfleur Reef SAC	2012	EEZ	1,374
TOTAL					**700,594[46]**

[45] Reservation of the Kingdom of Denmark: The area to which the UK nominations is sought to apply falls within the proposed outer limits of the Kingdom of Denmark in relation to the Faroe-Rockall Plateau, which consistent with paragraph 8 of Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and Article 4 of the Annex II thereto, have been submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, and whose consideration is currently pending.

[46] Note that the total area covered by the OSPAR Network of MPAs (ca. 700,600 km^2) does not equal the sum of the individual MPAs nominated by OSPAR CPs (712,774 km^2) due to several overlapping sites in France and the United Kingdom.

Annex II – Evolution of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas

Annex II summarizes the gradual development of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas as a result of the selection and nomination of sites by Contracting Parties in the time period 2005– 31 July 2012.

Draft 9th Report of new MPAs (1 January 2012 – 31 December 2012)

At the meeting of the OSPAR Commission in 2012 (25-29 June 2012, Bonn/Germany), Contracting Parties agreed to establish the *Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas Marine Protected Area* with the goal of protecting and conserving the biodiversity and ecosystems of the waters superjacent to the seabed in the northern part of the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone. The seabed in the area is subject to a submission by Iceland to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Extended Continental Shelf (UN CLCS). With the nomination of two MPAs by **Belgium**, all twelve OSPAR CPs have contributed to the OSPAR network of MPAs. **France** submitted 30 MPAs (8 SPAs and 22 SACs) and the **United Kingdom** submitted its fourth tranche of sites (1 Nature Reserve and 12 SACs) to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. **Norway** nominated four MPAs and **Iceland** two.

Interim 8th Report of new MPAs (1 January 2012 – 31 July 2012)

At the meeting of the OSPAR Commission in 2012 (25-29 June 2012, Bonn/Germany), Contracting Parties agreed to establish the *Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas Marine Protected Area* with the goal of protecting and conserving the biodiversity and ecosystems of the waters superjacent to the seabed in the northern part of the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone. The seabed in the area is subject to a submission by Iceland to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Extended Continental Shelf (UN CLCS). Norway submitted one MPA.

7th Reporting Period of new MPAs (1 January 2011 – 31 December 2011)

The **United Kingdom** has submitted its third tranche of sites to the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), supplementing UK's previous submissions in 2005 and 2008. A total of 117 sites, 14 SACs and 93 SPAs designated by the United Kingdom under the EC Habitats Directive and EC Birds Directive that are relevant to the OSPAR Convention have been reported to the OSPAR Commission. The sites have been identified by reference to the OSPAR MPA identification guidelines (OSPAR 2003 Annex 10 Ref A-4.44b(i)). Information on marine habitats and species of interest for each site as well as information on management within these OSPAR MPAs has been provided for inclusion in the OSPAR MPA database.

6th Reporting Period of new MPAs (1 June 2010 – 31 December 2010)

MPA nominations in 2010 – Part II

In the context of the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting 2010 (20-24 September, Bergen/Norway) OSPAR Contracting Parties have agreed to collectively establish six Marine Protected Areas in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) of the North-East Atlantic. These areas, *i.e. Charlie-Gibbs South MPA*, *Milne Seamount Complex MPA*, *Josephine Seamount High Seas MPA*, *Altair Seamount High Seas MPA*, *Antialtair High Seas MPA*, and the *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores High Seas MPA*, collectively cover about 285.000 km² within OSPAR Region V.

Portugal has at the same time announced the intention to designate and protect the sea floor and sub-sea floor within the areas of the *Josephine Seamount High Seas MPA*, *Altair Seamount High Seas MPA*, *Antialtair High Seas MPA*, and the *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores High Seas MPA*, as components of the OSPAR Network of MPAs. These areas are subject to the submission of Portugal to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the Portuguese continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, in accordance with Article 76 and Annex II of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In accordance with Articles 76 and 77(3) of UNCLOS, the sovereign rights and the jurisdiction of Portugal are referred to the seabed and subsoil of the areas indicated in the Portuguese submission to the CLCS. With its submission Portugal also committed itself to the conservation of living resources and biodiversity in the continental shelf. This duty is concurrent with the protection and conservation of a set of OSPAR priority habitats: seamounts, cold water coral reefs, cold water coral gardens and sponge aggregations.

Denmark has rectified the information presented in the previous Status Report (Publication Number 493/2010) with regards to the MPAs nominated to OSPAR in 2009. The information has been revised accordingly in the relevant section below and taken into account in the analysis of the OSPAR MPA Network in the main sections of this report.

5th Annual Reporting of new MPAs (1 January 2009 – 31 May 2010)

MPA nominations in 2010 – Part I

Sweden has contributed Natura 2000 sites to be included in the OSPAR Network of MPAs, collectively covering 726 km².

On the west coast bordering Norway, Sweden has established the *Koster-Väderö Archipelago* MPA, covering 606 km² of territorial waters. The area is encompassing the Koster archipelago and the Väderö Islands and the 65 km long and up to 250 m deep Koster-Väderö Trough. Due to the influence by the Atlantic the area hosts a high diversity of biotopes and species. Of the 6000 marine species that have been identified in Kosterhavet, about 200 are found nowhere else in Sweden. In particular there are very rich deep hard bottom habitats with the only known live *Lophelia* reef in Sweden at a depth of 80 m. Also kelp forests, maërl beds and soft corals are found within the MPA. Together with the OSPAR MPA *Ytre Hvaler* nominated by Norway, the area covers an entire ecosystem (see also information below on the MPA nominations by Norway in 2010).

With a view to protect and conserve a coastal bank area representative for the Swedish East coast in the Kattegat, the *Morups bank* MPA (5.67 km²) has been established. This relatively small bank is characterised by rock and stones with rich algae vegetation and rich fauna of polychaete worms, particularly at depths of 20 – 30 meters.

With a view to protect representative offshore banks in the eastern Kattegat, Sweden has nominated *Stora Middelgrund and Röde Bank* (114 km²). These banks still seem to have a rather intact ecological structure, providing potentially important seed areas for a variety of invertebrates associated with hard bottoms and kelp beds, as well as for fishes.

Norway has nominated the *Ytre Hvaler National Park* as an OSPAR MPA, covering 340 km² of the Hvaler-Fredrikstad archipelago, situated in the coastal areas of south eastern Norway. It hosts a rich diversity of species both on land and in the sea while being a popular recreational area. The national park includes terrestrial areas, but for the purpose of designating this area as an OSPAR MPA only the marine part of the national park has been included. The national park borders up to the

Kosterhavet Marine National Park in Sweden. These national parks were established in close collaboration between the Norwegian and Swedish regional governments. The management of the sites will also be coordinated between Norway and Sweden. Due to the close relationship between the two areas they are now nominated to the OSPAR Network of MPAs as a jointly managed transboundary MPA. For practical reasons separate nomination proformas have been elaborated for the areas from each of the two Contracting Parties (see information above on the MPA nominations by Sweden in 2010). Two MPAs previously nominated by Norway, *i.e. Tisler* and *Fjellknausene* are now encompassed in the *Ytre Hvaler National Park*. These two areas therefore have been withdrawn from the OSPAR Network of MPAs as independent components, as they are now covered by the new Ytre Hvaler MPA.

MPA nominations in 2009

Ireland has selected 19 Natura 2000 sites as a contribution to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. For a list of these sites, please see Annex I. The sites have been designated to protect particularly the following species and habitats that OSPAR has identified as being threatened or in decline: intertidal mudflats, *Lophelia pertus*a reefs, maërl beds, *Zostera* beds and Harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*). The total area covered by these sites is 4,136 km², of which 1,593 km² are in Irish territorial waters and 2,543 km² in the Exclusive Economic Zone. The sites are located to the north, south, east and west of Ireland and offshore on the edge of Ireland's inner Continental Shelf and contribute to the Network coverage in the Celtic Seas (OSPAR Region III). While no formal management plans have yet been prepared or implemented, management measures are already taken in these sites.

Denmark has decided to nominate all their marine Natura 2000 sites, which so far have not been reported to the OSPAR Commission, as components to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. Altogether 30 new sites have been nominated, while another four sites nominated in 2007 have been expanded. It should be noted that in the course of expanding previously nominated MPAs, names have been changed for two sites, with one of these now encompassing three individual sites nominated in 2007.

The **Netherlands** has nominated five Natura 2000 sites as components of the OSPAR Network of MPAs, together covering approximately 8,400 km² in the Greater North Sea (OSPAR Region II). Three of these sites are situated in the Dutch territorial waters, namely the *Noordzeekustzone* (*ca*. 1400 km²), the *Voordelta* (ca. 900 km²), and the *Vlakte van de Raan* (226 km²). Two sites have been nominated in the Dutch Exclusive Economic Zone, namely the *Doggerbank* (4718 km²), and the *Klaverbank* (1,238 km²). All these areas will be designated according to Dutch legislation of the Nature Conservation Act and the Flora and Fauna Act in 2010. The management plan for the *Voordelta* has been finalised and is currently being implemented. Management plans for the other MPAs will be set at the latest three years after their designation in 2010.

Norway has nominated three sites covering a total area of 78,411 km² in the territorial waters around the Svalbard archipelago. The three areas, namely *Svalbard West* (20,033 km²), *Svalbard East* (55,573 km²) and *Bjørnøya* (2,805 km²) consist of the marine parts of four existing nature reserves and seven national parks within the archipelago. They are grouped into three OSPAR MPAs based on an evaluation of geography, biology and legal status of existing environmental protection measures. The major part of these sites is situated within the Barents Sea. The northern parts extend into the High Arctic maritime province. Each of the four nature reserves and seven national parks, from which the three OSPAR MPAs originate, is established by separate national regulations. The degree of protection and restrictions varies between the ten areas. Svalbard and the sea territory out to 12 nm are protected through the Svalbard Environmental Act. Svalbard falls within the perimeter of the Barents Sea management plan. In addition, separate management plans for each of the national

parks and nature reserves are, or will be, elaborated. The nomination of these three MPAs by Norway has not only substantially increased the coverage of the OSPAR Network of MPAs in the Arctic Waters (OSPAR Region I) but also more than doubled the total coverage of the Network.

4th Annual Reporting of MPAs (1 January 2008 – 31 December 2008)

France has nominated *La Mer d'Iroise*, off the coast of western Brittany, as a component to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. This site is situated in the coastal waters with a total area of 3,431.75 km² extending across the boundaries of OSPAR Region II, the Greater North Sea (1758.43 km²) and OSPAR Region III, the Celtic Seas (1673.32 km²). It has not yet been reported as a Natura 2000 area. No information on management has been reported.

Germany has nominated an additional set of six MPAs[47] to the OSPAR Network of which three sites are located in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), namely the *Dogger Bank* (1,700 km²), the *Borkum Reef Ground* (625 km²) and the *Sylt Outer Reef – Eastern German Bight* (5,600 km²); while the other three sites are situated in territorial waters, namely the *Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park and adjacent Coastal Areas* (4,524,55 km²), the *Steingrund* (174,50 km²), and *Helgoland mit Helgoländer Felssockel* (55,09 km²). All of these sites have previously been established as Natura 2000 areas (SCI, SPA) and are located within OSPAR Region II, the Greater North Sea. The total area protected has in 2008 increased by 4,723 km². For the *Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park and adjacent Coastal Areas* for which (sectoral) national and an overall trilateral management plan(s) exist; for the OSPAR MPA *Helgoland mit Helgoländer Felssockel* and the SPA within the OSPAR MPA *Sylt Outer Reef – Eastern German Bight* ordinances according to national law are implemented. Management plans for the remaining sites are being prepared.

Iceland has nominated its first set of seven MPAs as components to the OSPAR Network, of which four sites are located in the Exclusive Economic Zone: namely *Hornafjarðardjúp Coral Reef 1* (7.89 km²), *Hornafjarðardjúp Coral Reef 2* (31.27 km²), *Skaftárdjúp Coral Reef 1* (7.36 km²), and *Skaftárdjúp Coral Reef 2* (22.31 km²), while the other three sites are situated in the coastal waters, namely *Eyjafjörður Hydrothermal Vents 1* (0.12 km²), *Eyjafjörður Hydrothermal Vents 2* (0.56 km²), and *Reynisdjúp Coral Reef* (9.45 km²). All of these MPAs are within OSPAR Region I, the Arctic, and together cover an area of about 78.96 km². No information on management has been reported.

Spain has nominated *El Cachucho* (2,349.66 km²), also known as the *Le Danois Bank*, to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. This site is situated in Spain's Exclusive Economic Zone about 65 km off the northern coast of the Iberian Peninsula in the Cantabrian Sea. It is located within OSPAR Region IV, the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast. This MPA has also been proposed as a site of Special Community Importance (SCI) for the European Network Natura 2000. The relevant authorities are in the process of establishing natural resources and fishing management plans for the area.

The **United Kingdom** has nominated a set of eight additional SACs as components to the OSPAR Network of MPAs, all of which have become Natura 2000 sites since 2005. This includes five offshore/EEZ SACs, namely *Braemar Pockmarks* (5.18 km²; OSPAR Region II), *Scanner Pockmarks* (3.35 km²; OSPAR Region II), *Haig Fras* (481.34 km²; OSPAR Region III), *Stanton Banks* (817.87 km²; III) and *Darwin Mounds* (1377.26 km²; OSPAR Region V) and three inshore/coastal waters SACs, namely *Severn Estuary* (721.96 km²; OSPAR Region III), *Dee Estuary* (134.47 km²; OSPAR Region

[47] It has to be noted that the MPA *Sylt Outer Reef – Eastern German Bight* incorporates and thus supersedes the *SPA Eastern German Bight*, which was nominated to OSPAR during 2005. This (old) smaller site now lies inside the newly designated larger OSPAR MPA, and therefore OSPAR was invited to remove the former from the OSPAR MPA list and database. A similar situation applies with regard to the MPAs nominated in coastal waters. They are either within (*Steingrund*) or extend (*Helgoland mit Helgoländer Felssockel)* the previously nominated *Seabird Protection Area Helgoland* or extend the *Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park* (*Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park and adjacent Coastal Areas*).

III) and *Humber Estuary* (336.40 km²; OSPAR Region II). For all of these MPAs, management measures, arising from requirements of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, are being developed and taken forward.

3rd Annual Reporting of MPAs (1 January 2007 – 31 December 2007)

In the 2007 reporting period, new MPAs nominated by Denmark, Spain and Portugal increased the number of sites from 87 to 106 with an area increase from 26,619 km² to 38,178 km². At the same time, the United Kingdom withdrew one site previously nominated and recalculated its total area coverage by MPAs.

Denmark reported its first OSPAR MPAs, 18 sites totalling 5,398.66 km². Seven of the 18 sites are within their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). All of these MPAs are Natura 2000 sites with the same boundaries. Please refer to Annex I with regards to their names and further details.

Spain likewise reported its first OSPAR MPA, a conglomerate of four sites under the name *Islas Atlanticas de Galicia*, totalling 85.42 km² in territorial waters. This MPA is a Natura 2000 site, with similar boundaries, but somewhat larger (85.24 km² vs. 71.38 km²).

Portugal reported its eighth and at the same time largest site, the *Sedlo Seamount* with an area of 4,012.53 km², increasing the total area being protected to 5,698.25 km². This MPA is situated within the Portuguese EEZ, but it is not a Natura 2000 site at all. As noted in the 2006 Status Report, of the EU Member States, only Portugal Azores has nominated sites that are not wholly Natura 2000 sites, which was an important development. Of the eight Portuguese sites, four are not Natura 2000 at all, and the remaining four are larger and more extensive than the smaller Natura 2000 sites contained within them.

The **United Kingdom** submitted updated GIS files and provided area calculations for all of its sites, except for its three Northern Ireland MPAs. One site was withdrawn, due to its negligible marine area, reducing the total number of UK sites to 55.

2nd Annual Reporting of MPAs (10 April 2006 – 31 December 2006)

In the 2006 reporting period, new MPAs nominated by Portugal increased the number of sites from 81 to 87, and the total Network area increased from 25,426 km^2 to 26,619 km^2.

Portugal reported six additional areas as components of the OSPAR Network of MPAs. These MPAs are situated in the waters surrounding the Azores, of which two sites (*Faial-Pico channel*, *Corvo Island*) are in territorial waters, three in the EEZ (*D. João de Castro Seamount*, *Lucky Strike Hydrothermal Vent Field*, *Menez Gwen Hydrothermal Vent Field*), and one on the extended continental shelf (*Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field*). This amounts to 497.42 km² in territorial waters, 640.88 km² in Portugal's EEZ, and 22.15 km² on the extended continental shelf, totalling 1,160.45 km². Only Portugal has nominated an MPA on the continental shelf beyond the EEZ.

It should be noted that due to the extension of the first year's reporting deadline, most of the MPAs in the initial report were actually put forward in the period between January and April 2006. This meant that the second reporting period was less than a calendar year.

Initial Reporting of MPAs (2005 - 9 April 2006)

The 2005 MPA nominations are summarized below in the order they were received.

Portugal

One site, *Formigas/Dollabarat Bank*, within the waters of the Azores, was reported to MASH 2005. It was the first OSPAR MPA nomination. It is a nature reserve with a delimited area of 525.27 km², extending to below 1500 m in depth. Of that, 36.28 km² is also a Natura 2000 site, down to the 200 m isobath.

Norway
Six sites were reported in December 2005. The six sites are: *Selligrunnen* (Nature Reserve), *Røstrevet*, *Sularevet*, *Iverryggen*, *Tisler*, and *Fjellknausene*, the latter five of which have fisheries closures to bottom-tending gear. The six in total cover an area of about 1,905.39 km².

Germany
Two extensive sites were reported in January 2006, and two more in April 2006. The sites are: *Helgoland Seabird Protected Area* (a Natura 2000 SPA), *Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea* (National Park and Natura 2000 SCI), *SPA-Eastern German Bight* (Natura 2000 SPA), and *Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park* (Natura 2000 SPA and SAC). The sites comprise a total of 11,922.78 km². In all, more than 90% of German coastal waters are also OSPAR MPAs, with large sections of the EEZ waters included as well.

Sweden
Six sites were reported in January 2006: *Koster-Väderö Archipelago* (some enhanced protections including fisheries restrictions), *Gullmarn Fjord* (also with enhanced protections), *Nordre Älv Estuary* (fisheries closures), *Kungsbacka Fjord* (nature reserve), *Fladen*, and *Lilla Middelgrund*. The six sites overlap Natura 2000 sites, and cover a total of 971.77 km². *Fladen* and *Lilla Middelgrund* both have portions extending into the EEZ (37.62 km² and 159.21 km², respectively).

UK
Fifty-six sites were reported as OSPAR MPAs in January 2006. All sites are also Natura SACs. Please refer to Annex I with regards to their names and details.

France
Eight sites were reported in March 2006: *Réserve Naturelle Nationale de la Baie de Somme*, *Réserve Naturelle de l'Estuaire de la Seine*, *Réserve Naturelle Nationale du Domaine de Beauguillot*, *Réserve Naturelle de la Baie de l'Aiguillon*, *Réserve Naturelle de la baie de Saint Brieuc*, *Archipel des Sept îles*, *Réserve Naturelle de Moëze-Oléron*, and *Réserve Naturelle du Banc d'Arguin*. They together cover an area of about 274.53 km².

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