

OSPAR Regional Implementation Framework  
for the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive  
*MSFD Road Map*



## Executive summary

This road map of the OSPAR Commission outlines what and how OSPAR countries should do on coordination and cooperation of the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive within the OSPAR Convention in the period 2010–2020, taking account of their national obligations under the Directive. The road map is a snap shot at the time of its publication and serves as a living document. Certain aspects may develop over time and change.

The important elements of the road map on coordination issues are included in the OSPAR *North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy* adopted by OSPAR ministers at their meeting in Bergen, Norway, on 23–24 September 2010. As in the Directive, the OSPAR Strategy includes an overarching concept of delivering the ecosystem approach to management of human activities for the protection of the marine environment. It takes into account environmental and socio-economic considerations and is implemented through adaptive management. Next to the thematic Strategies, the OSPAR Strategy contains the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme 2010–2014.

The OSPAR Commission is in the process of revising its working structure to enable better coordination between its main Strategy Committees carrying out their annual work programmes. High level coordination should aim at supervising, amongst others, the delivery of the ecosystem approach, the coordination of the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive at regional level, the coordination and keeping under review of the JAMP including supervision of holistic assessments needed in future to assess the status of the North-East Atlantic.

If regularly updated, the road map will serve as an effective tool within OSPAR and help countries to meet their EU requirements for cooperation and coordination in the marine region of the North-East Atlantic. The publication of the OSPAR Quality Status Report 2010 is an important landmark for the start of the implementation of the Directive for countries drawing up the initial assessments of the status of their marine waters.

## Récapitulatif

Cette feuille de route de la Commission OSPAR décrit ce que et comment les pays OSPAR devraient faire pour coordonner et coopérer pour la mise en œuvre de la directive-cadre « Stratégie pour le milieu marin » de l'Union Européenne, dans le cadre de la Convention OSPAR pour la période 2010–2020, tout en tenant compte de leurs engagements nationaux aux termes de la directive. La feuille de route est un arrêt sur image au moment de sa publication et sert de document vivant. Certains aspects peuvent se développer avec le temps et changer.

Les éléments importants de la feuille de route sur les questions de coordination sont inclus dans la *Stratégie pour l'environnement de l'Atlantique du Nord-est d'OSPAR* adoptée par les ministres d'OSPAR lors de leur réunion à Bergen en Norvège, les 23 et 24 septembre 2010. Comme dans la directive, la Stratégie OSPAR inclut un concept transversal de mise en œuvre de l'approche écosystémique pour la gestion des activités humaines en vue de la protection de l'environnement marin. Elle prend en considération les aspects environnementaux et socio-économiques et est mise en application à travers une gestion adaptative. En plus des stratégies thématiques, la Stratégie OSPAR contient le Programme commun d'évaluation et de surveillance continue 2010–2014 (JAMP).

La Commission OSPAR est en cours de mise à jour de sa structure de travail pour permettre une meilleure coordination entre ses comités stratégiques principaux qui conduisent leurs programmes de travail annuels. La coordination à haut niveau devrait viser à inspecter, entre autres, la mise en œuvre de l'approche écosystémique, la coordination de l'exécution de la directive-cadre « Stratégie pour le milieu marin » au niveau régional, la coordination et la révision du JAMP, y compris l'examen des évaluations holistiques requises à l'avenir pour évaluer le statut de l'Atlantique Nord-est.

Si régulièrement mise à jour, la feuille de route servira d'outil efficace au sein d'OSPAR et aidera les pays à atteindre les exigences de l'Union Européenne pour la coopération et la coordination dans la région marine de l'Atlantique du Nord-est. La publication du Bilan de santé 2010 d'OSPAR est un jalon important pour le début de l'exécution de la directive pour les pays élaborant les évaluations initiales du statut de leurs eaux marines.

# 1. Introduction

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)<sup>1</sup> requires Member States sharing a marine region or sub-region to cooperate to ensure that the Directive's objectives are achieved and to coordinate their actions on each step of the marine strategies using the mechanisms and structures of the regional sea conventions. They are also obliged to make every effort to coordinate their actions with third countries in the same region or sub-region, taking account of their national obligations under the Directive.

In May 2008, OSPAR countries have therefore started preparations on a collective approach on the regional aspects of the implementation of the Directive and have identified the issues for cooperation and coordination by analysing the requirements in the Directive and to what extent this cooperation and coordination on all steps of the marine strategies should take place. To this end, OSPAR has developed and is regularly updating a road map identifying these issues and this forms the basis for further collective work within OSPAR. It also focuses Member States' attention to issues to be addressed in their procedures of the transposition of the Directive into national law.<sup>2</sup>

The OSPAR road map firstly sets out a timetable until mid 2012 when Member States will deliver initial assessments of their marine waters, their descriptions of good environmental status of those waters and they will establish environmental targets and associated indicators so as to guide progress towards achieving good environmental status in the marine environment. OSPAR countries are aware that public consultation of all parties interested in the implementation of the Directive is essential and that they should be given early and effective opportunities to participate. Sufficient time for this is reflected in the timetable, and parallel national and regional approaches, also involving OSPAR observer organisations, cater for this. The road map

also looks beyond 2012 on activities for establishing coordinated monitoring programmes in 2014, for coordinating in 2015 countries' programmes of measures that enter into operation in 2016, and from 2018 onwards: coordinated reviews of all the aforementioned steps in the first marine strategy cycle every six years thereafter.<sup>3</sup>

The OSPAR Quality Status Report 2010 presents an overall assessment of the quality of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic and will help countries preparing for their initial assessments under the Directive and to analyse collectively what might be coordinated within OSPAR, at what geographical scale and to what extent. In producing the QSR 2010, OSPAR countries have to a great extent already carried out the coordination of their 2012 initial assessments under the Directive.

The work on the road map has identified the need for revising OSPAR's working structures. Together with the review of the OSPAR Strategies, OSPAR 2010, meeting at ministerial level in Bergen, Norway, will therefore establish an efficient new working structure for the next 10 years that is fit for the purpose of facilitating the coordinated implementation of the Directive in the marine region of the North-East Atlantic and that is also ready to keep leading innovative approaches for tackling emerging issues in the marine environment.

The road map is a snap shot at the time of its publication and serves as a living document. Certain aspects may develop over time and change. A coordination mechanism within OSPAR should keep the road map up-to-date.

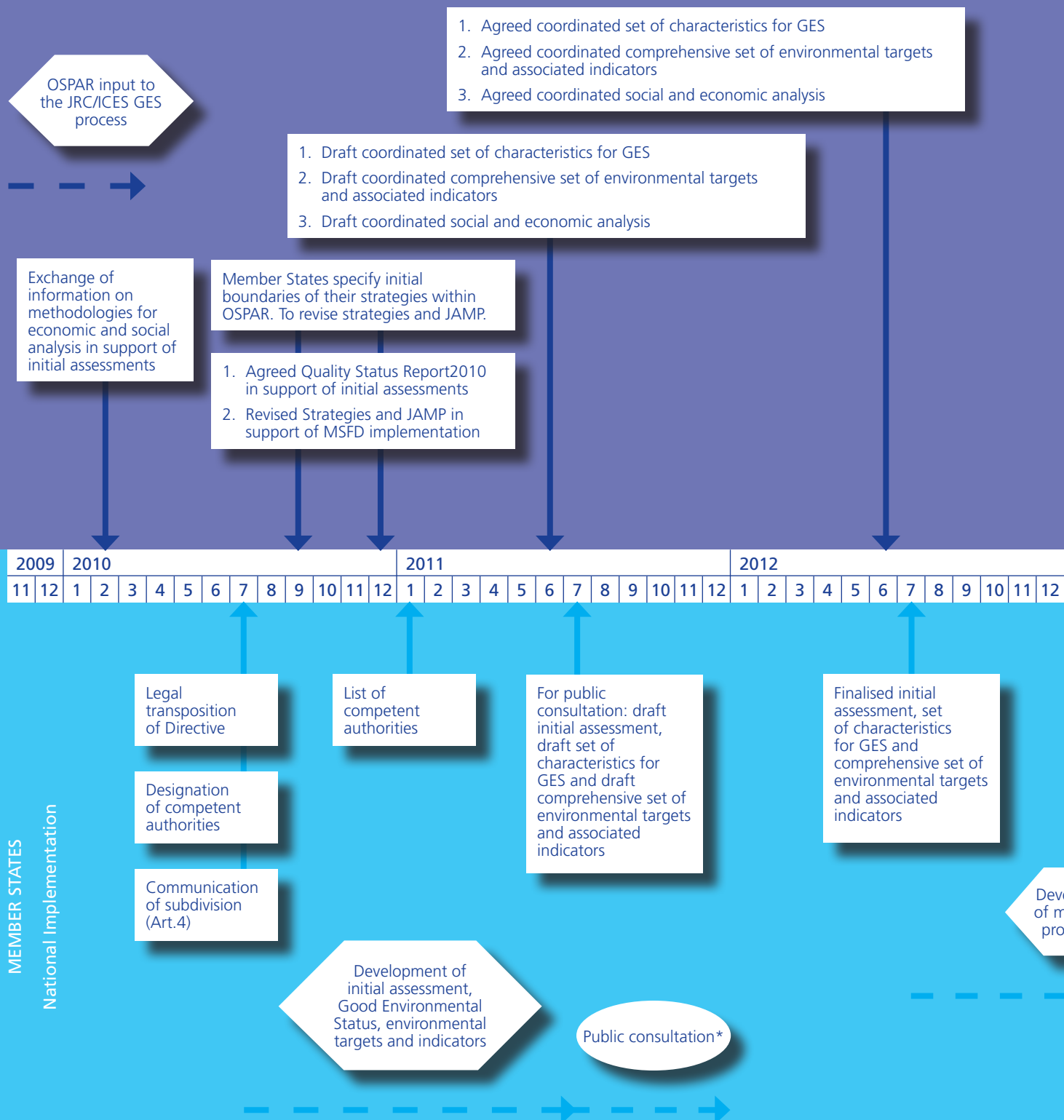
<sup>1</sup> Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, p. 19).

<sup>2</sup> The road map has been developed during the preparations for the 2010 Ministerial Meeting in the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Strategic Planning of the OSPAR Commission (ICG-Bergen).

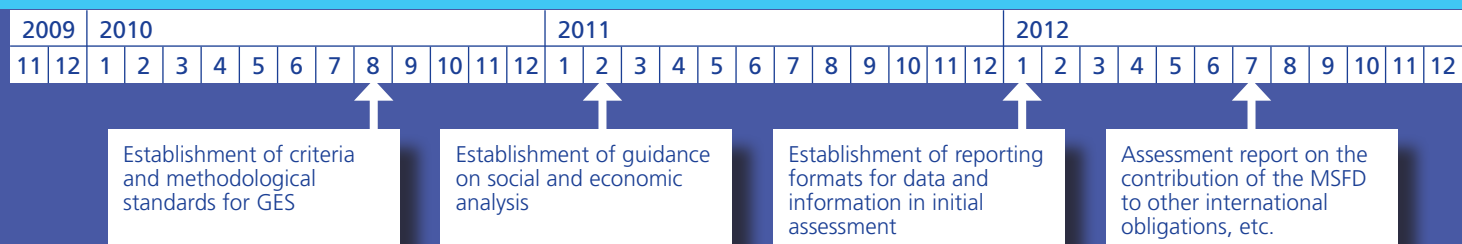
<sup>3</sup> See for the timetable chapter 2 and for more detailed information Annex 1.

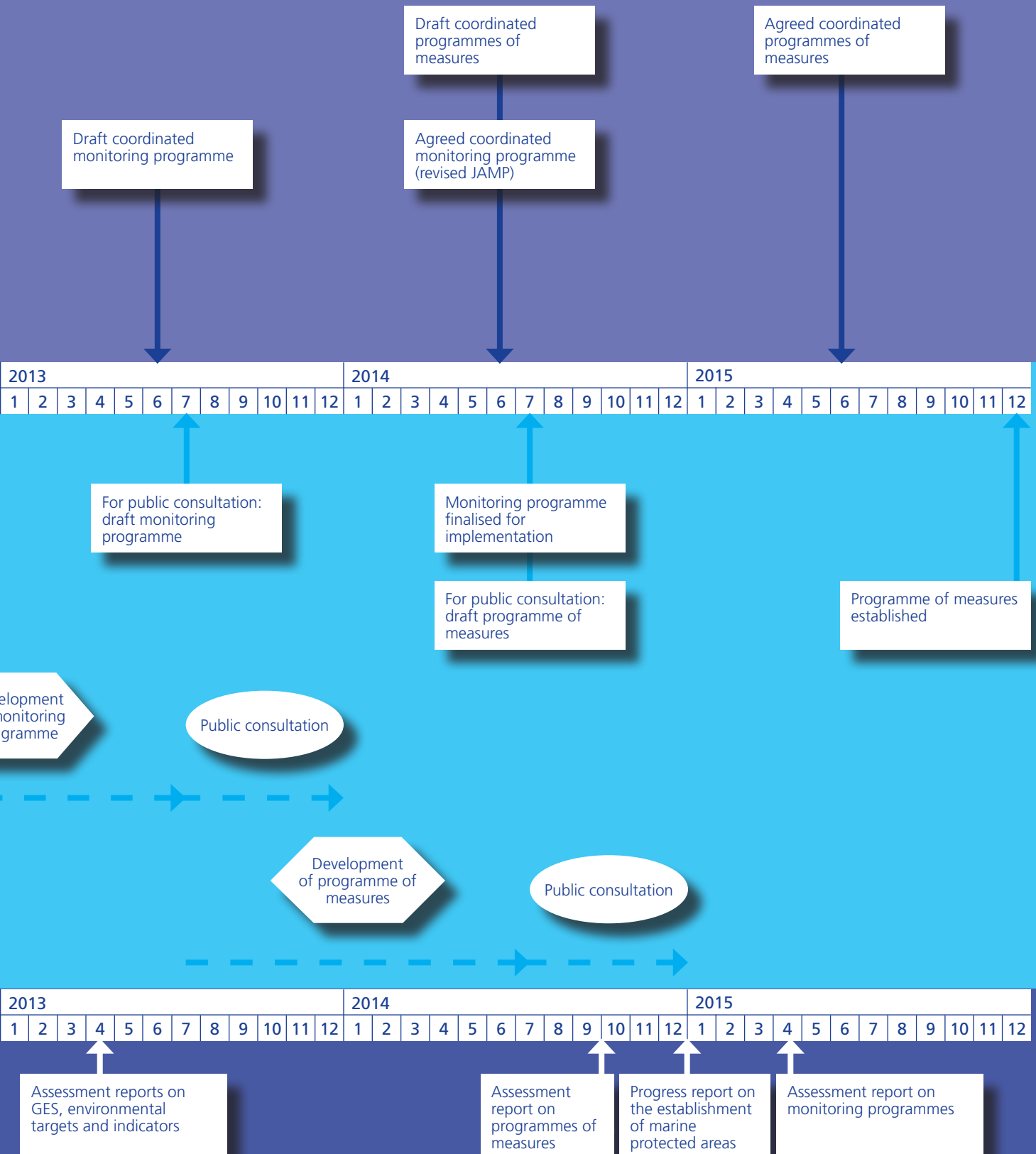


## 2. OSPAR coordination activities 2010–2020 Regional Implementation Framework

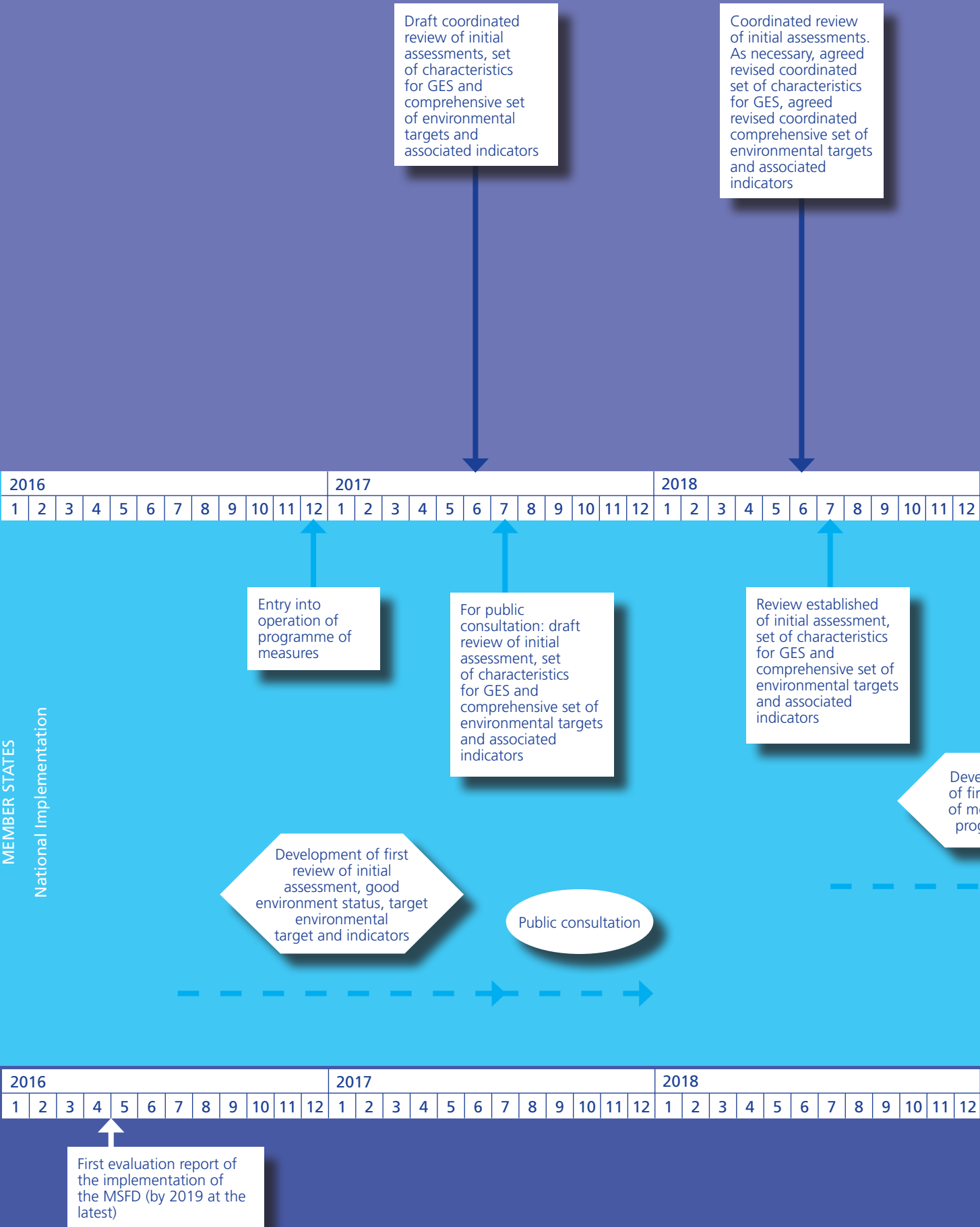


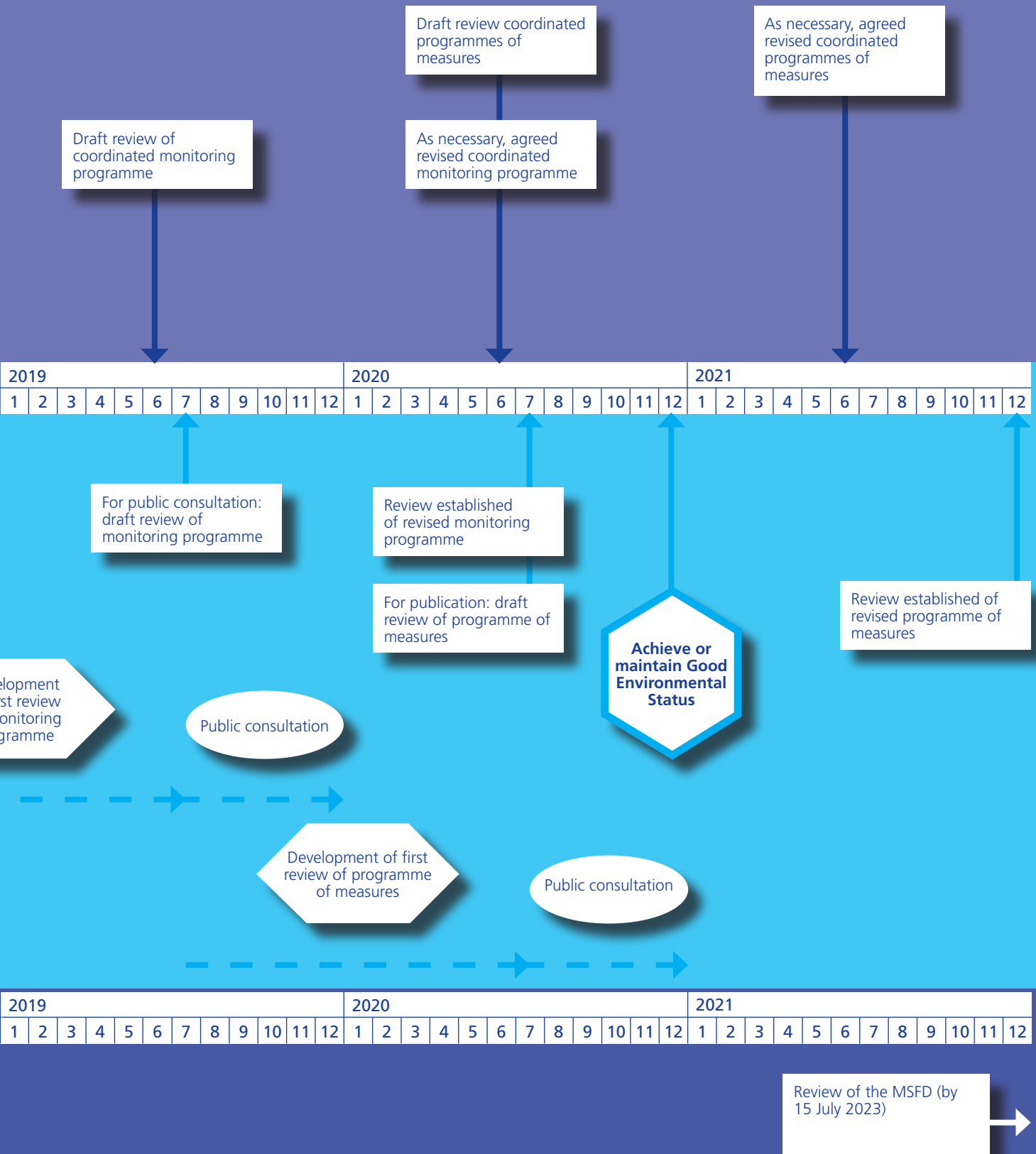
\* National consultation procedures vary from country to country (e.g. 6–12 weeks). The timeline only indicates the period within which consultation should take place in order to enable finalisation of national procedures for the establishment of a product required in the MSFD and international coordination activities on such products.











### 3. The Directive and the OSPAR Strategy

Over the years OSPAR has carried out groundbreaking work for the protection of the marine environment in the North-East Atlantic on the basis of mutual understanding and cooperation. It has always addressed new and emerging issues which have been taken up in Contracting Parties' policies on the management of human activities that affect the marine environment. In several cases this has resulted in addressing important issues by other international organisations and new legislation at EU level. The focus of attention in OSPAR has shifted from pollution control to issues related to protection of the marine environment and in particular biodiversity. Marine spatial planning is of increasing importance as from assessments of human activities at sea it is evident that these activities are not only resulting in adverse pressures and impacts on the marine environment but that they are also in competition with each other.

At the Joint Ministerial Meeting in 2003, the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission, HELCOM) and the OSPAR Commission had already adopted jointly a statement of their common vision of an ecosystem approach to managing human activities impacting on the marine environment "Towards an Ecosystem Approach to the Management of Human Activities".<sup>4</sup> In this statement the Ecosystem Approach is defined as a 'comprehensive integrated management of human activities based on the best available scientific knowledge about the ecosystem and its dynamics, in order to identify and take action on influences which are critical to the health of the marine ecosystems, thereby achieving sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services and maintenance of ecosystem integrity'.

In line with this approach, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive establishes a framework within which Member States shall take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status in their marine waters. Good environmental status is to be determined at the level of the marine region or sub-region (maritime area respectively OSPAR regions). To this effect, marine strategies shall apply an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities. Adaptive management on the basis of the ecosystem approach shall be applied with the aim of attaining good environmental status.



It is therefore that the OSPAR Commission has reviewed its 2003 OSPAR thematic strategies and OSPAR ministers at their meeting on 23–24 September 2010 in Bergen, Norway, have adopted *The North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy*.<sup>5</sup> The OSPAR Strategy now contains an overarching Part I: *Implementing the Ecosystem Approach* and in Part II: *The Thematic Strategies*. In the overarching part of the Strategy, OSPAR Contracting Parties that are EU Member States have agreed, inter alia, that OSPAR should be the platform through which they coordinate their work to implement the MSFD. The Directive contains an obligation for EU Member States to cooperate to ensure the coordinated development of marine strategies for each marine region or sub-region and, where practical and appropriate, make use of existing institutional structures established in marine regions or sub-regions, in particular Regional Sea Conventions. The OSPAR Commission will by implementing its Strategy facilitate the implementation of the MSFD.

<sup>4</sup> Annex 5 of the 2003 Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Helsinki Commission and the OSPAR Commission "Towards an Ecosystem Approach to the Management of Human Activities", OSPAR Publication Number 196/2003.

<sup>5</sup> Strategy of the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic 2010–2020.



In particular, OSPAR will use its efficient cooperation structures in order to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the MSFD, thereby ensuring, where practical and appropriate, *inter alia* (i) that assessment methodologies are consistent across the North-East Atlantic and its five regions, of which four are identical with sub-regions of the MSFD; (ii) that environmental targets are mutually compatible; (iii) that monitoring methods are consistent so as to facilitate comparability of monitoring results, and by doing so (iv) that relevant transboundary impacts and transboundary features are taken into account. To this effect, the North-East Atlantic Strategy will be implemented to facilitate delivering and evaluation of progress towards good environmental status as laid down in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, taking account of the national obligations under the Directive. Within the context of OSPAR, Contracting Parties will have coordinated under the thematic strategies and the joint assessment and monitoring programme:

- by 15 July 2012, their determination of a set of characteristics for good environmental status for the marine waters and their environmental targets and associated indicators, using Ecological Quality Objectives and other existing tools where applicable;
- by 15 July 2014, their monitoring programmes for the ongoing assessment of the environmental status of their marine waters feeding into the review by OSPAR of the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme by 2014;
- by 2015, the identification of their programmes of measures in order to maintain or achieve good environmental status in their marine waters throughout the OSPAR maritime area;
- by 15 July 2018, the first review by Contracting Parties of the initial assessment of their marine waters, their descriptions of good environmental status, and their environmental targets and associated indicators.

Using the ecosystem approach to manage human activities affecting the maritime area, OSPAR's *overall goal* is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health and, when practicable, restore marine areas which have been adversely affected in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution and by protecting

the maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities. To deliver the overall goal for the conservation of the Marine ecosystems of the North-East Atlantic, the *strategic objectives* of the OSPAR Commission focus on the protection and conservation of biodiversity, the combating of eutrophication, the prevention of pollution by hazardous substances, the prevention and elimination of pollution and taking measures against other adverse effects from offshore activities, the prevention of pollution from ionising radiation, and to ensure integrated management of human activities in order to preserve ecological integrity and safeguard ecological goods and services.

For each of the strategic objectives, specific *operational objectives* are described in the thematic strategies in Part II of the OSPAR Strategy. Measurable indicators and targets will be developed and implemented either by OSPAR Contracting Parties or, where more appropriate, within OSPAR to assess status and progress towards objectives for both OSPAR and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, based where appropriate on the European Commission Decision on criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status under Article 9(3) of the MSFD and the Ecological Quality Objectives for the North Sea.







## 4. Coordination in the OSPAR working structure

In the working structure of OSPAR the Strategy Committees are responsible for the full management cycle: identification of problems, setting of targets, measures for improvement, monitoring and assessment of effectiveness of measures in relation to improvement of environmental quality and achievement of targets, review of measures. OSPAR will apply the ecosystem approach through overall and integrated management and therefore the working structure and methods require a stronger focus on coordination and integration.

The Strategy Committees will deliver their specific contribution to OSPAR's North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy, engage with prescribed descriptors for good environmental status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, deliver appropriate assessments (as summarised under the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme 2010–2014), consider emerging issues, inform other Committees as relevant and constitute working Groups and / or Intersectoral Correspondence Groups as appropriate to deliver annual work programmes by the OSPAR Commission.

In order to ensure integration of OSPAR work and the implementation of the ecosystem approach in line with the OSPAR Strategy, coordination is required at a high level. In accordance with this Strategy, coordination should supervise:

- implementation of the ecosystem approach, making sure that all elements for its implementation are taken into account including integrated management of human activities;
- coordination of the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive within the OSPAR Maritime Area;
- coordination and keeping under review of the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP) including supervision of holistic assessments of the status of the North-East Atlantic;
- key cross-cutting issues (projects) as identified by OSPAR.
- whether there is sufficient flow of information between main committees.

In carrying out coordination, particular attention should be paid to the conclusions and recommendations of the Quality Status Report (QSR 2010), this OSPAR MSFD Road Map, the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP 2010–2014) and cooperation with other European Regional Sea Conventions where appropriate.



Coordination of the implementation of the MSFD in accordance with the road map (including keeping it up-to-date)<sup>1</sup> should focus on the following aspects:

#### *general*

- initiate closer coordination at sub-regional level and consider establishing regional task teams if appropriate;
- facilitate making best use of the benefits of working jointly with other European Regional Sea Conventions to allow comparisons and coherence across borders of respective maritime areas;

#### *with regard to initial assessments*

- identify whether any collective OSPAR actions are necessary to address data gaps identified in the QSR 2010 to be taken forward by the Strategy Committees;
- identify further work on socio-economic aspects to be taken forward by the Strategy Committees;

#### *with regard to determination of good environmental status and the development of associated targets and indicators*

- consider how far OSPAR should develop regional targets and indicators for MSFD, taking into account developments of criteria and methodological standards in the EC;
- coordinate the work of the Strategy Committees in the development of regional targets and indicators where relevant (as an expanded set of EcoQOs or their equivalent);

#### *with regard to monitoring and assessment*

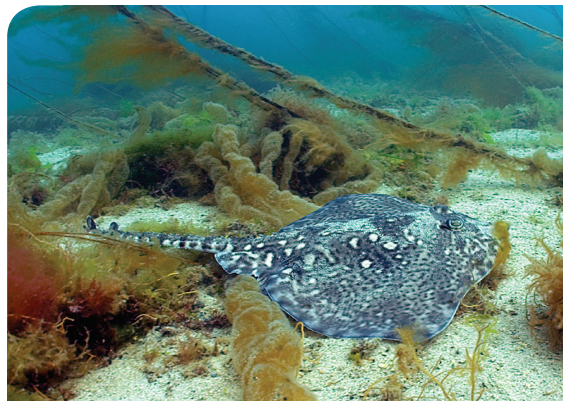
- consider where collective OSPAR action on monitoring activities (linked to GES) could most coherently and cost effectively be carried out;
- take account of new and emerging issues in the period 2010–2020 and develop a further revision of the JAMP to meet the regional monitoring requirements of the MSFD by 2014;

#### *with regard to programmes of measures*

- consider whether the measures required to achieve the objectives of the MSFD are coherent and coordinated across the OSPAR Convention Area.

With regard to key cross-cutting issues and integration of OSPAR work, high level coordination should also address marine spatial planning, socio-economics, cumulative impacts and climate change.

An indication of proposed OSPAR products for meeting the MSFD requirements of coordination and cooperation is at Annex 2.



<sup>6</sup> A check on coordination of a MSFD product should take place as far as possible the year before planned delivery of a product.

## Annex 1 Detailed road map on regional cooperation within OSPAR for the establishment and implementation of the steps of the Marine Strategies (update June 2010)

Deadline for EU Member States	MSFD action for EU Member States	Suggested OSPAR response <sup>7</sup>	Extent to which further OSPAR work is needed including commitment from Contracting Parties	Steps (to be) taken collectively by OSPAR
1) 15 July 2010	Designate authority or authorities competent for the implementation of the MSFD, for each marine region or sub-region concerned (Article 7(1))	National authorities are competent but ensure Contracting Parties' agreement on what, and to what extent, they should coordinate their actions within OSPAR for the implementation of the MSFD and, in order to facilitate this, amend as appropriate the OSPAR working structure and methods at MMC 2010	<p>1) Carry out preparatory work in ICG-Bergen and advise HOD/OSPAR in 2009 and 2010, also on the review and revision of (i) the OSPAR Strategies and (ii) OSPAR's working structure and methods, both relevant to the implementation of the MSFD</p> <p>2) As soon as the EU and the EEA countries Norway and Iceland have clarified the applicability of the MSFD to the latter two Contracting Parties, OSPAR will be ready to act as a platform for implementation of the Directive with these countries in their marine waters situated inside the OSPAR maritime area (art. 5 and 6, cooperation and coordination between EU Member States and with third countries)</p>	<p>1) On the basis of the work of ICG-Bergen, OSPAR 2010 agreed that a collective approach on the regional aspects of the implementation of the MSFD through cooperation and coordination should be taken as far as possible and identified the issues (see art. 8–11 and art. 13 of MSFD) for this collective approach. CoG 2010 should identify to what extent cooperation and coordination should take place on these issues. This applies in particular also with regard to the harmonisation of criteria, methods and procedures within and across sub-regions</p> <p>2) To invite OSPAR HODs to continue to actively coordinating their input to the informal EU-level meetings of Marine Directors to guide the implementation of the MSFD and in particular, for the relevant aspects, build on similar work carried out under the informal meetings of the Water Directors for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The first opportunity was the Marine Directors' meeting back-to-back with the Water Directors meeting on 29 May 2009 where OSPAR has presented its work on the implementation of the MSFD</p>

<sup>7</sup> Any OSPAR response must be articulated well in advance of the MSFD projected date (i.e. 3–4 year planning period)

Deadline for EU Member States	MSFD action for EU Member States	Suggested OSPAR response <sup>7</sup>	Extent to which further OSPAR work is needed including commitment from Contracting Parties	Steps (to be) taken collectively by OSPAR
2) 15 July 2010	Inform the European Commission of any subdivisions of marine regions at the appropriate level of the marine waters covered by their sovereignty or jurisdiction (Article 4(2))	Ensure Contracting Parties' agreement on the need, if any, to revise delimitation of regions I–V of the OSPAR maritime area; consider if and how to address the Macaronesian bio-geographic region outside the OSPAR maritime area	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Discuss existing boundaries between OSPAR regions I–V and MSFD sub-regions of the North-East Atlantic</li> <li>2) Identify matches/differences between them and take into account hydrological, oceanographic and biogeographic features (see ASMO 09/2/4)</li> <li>3) Discuss the need to implement a (sub)regional approach in OSPAR and, as appropriate, revise its working structure</li> <li>4) Invite Spain and Portugal to indicate how they will address their waters outside the OSPAR maritime area (Madeira, Canary Islands, part of the Azorean water south of 36° N), and whether certain OSPAR processes could be of benefit to their marine strategies in these waters</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) On the basis of the work of ICG-Bergen as identified under 1) above, OSPAR 2009 agreed that if there is a need for a stronger focus on sub-regions in OSPAR's work to contribute to the implementation of the MSFD, any regional approach should be integrated in the structure where appropriate, and not form the basis for the structure</li> <li>2) On the basis of work under BDC 2009 and ASMO 2009, HOD May 2009 invited CPs/MS to specify initial boundaries of their marine strategies within OSPAR</li> </ol>
3) 15 July 2010	Development of criteria and methodological standards for the determination of GES in the Regulatory Committee so as to ensure consistency and to allow for comparison between marine regions or sub-regions of the extent to which GES is being achieved. Before proposing such criteria and standards the EC shall consult all interested parties, including Regional Sea Conventions (Article 9(3))	<p>Contribute MSFD Common Implementation Strategy and related EC working groups by making available experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on the development and application of EcoQOs, EACs and BCs within this process</li> <li>• on the development and application of monitoring guidelines and reporting within this process (chemical monitoring and assessment, biodiversity monitoring and assessment)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In the light of the evaluation of existing EcoQOs, Contracting Parties to discuss and agree on the extent to which: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the approach can be used for the whole OSPAR maritime area (e.g. in areas of 200 m depth and beyond)</li> <li>(ii) the indicators could be used in OSPAR regions other than the Greater North Sea, and (iii) whether there is a need for other indicators in those regions</li> <li>(iii) any adaptations or adjustments necessary whilst acknowledging differences in certain regions between coastal waters and external waters (open sea) (see document MASH 08/3/10: Setting biodiversity monitoring and indicators systems beyond the North Sea)</li> </ol> </li> <li>2) Further develop the outline work plan for delivery of biodiversity assessment and monitoring requirements for MSFD and OSPAR (see Summary Record BDC 09/11/1: Programme of work for OSPAR biodiversity monitoring and assessment 2009/2010)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The OSPAR Secretariat has provided the EC and the JRC/CES GES task groups with information on existing and ongoing OSPAR work relevant to the development of common criteria, methodological standards and monitoring guidelines (see Annex 1 to document ICG-Bergen 08/2/Info.2). Information has also been disseminated during the Brest conference on 9–11 December 2008</li> <li>2) Following consultation of HODs, the Secretariat has informed the EC on the nomination of OSPAR observers available for the JRC/CES task groups working in 2009–2010 on the development of criteria and methodological standards for the GES descriptors so as to contribute OSPAR expertise to this work</li> </ol> <p>HOD May 2009 has provided guidance to OSPAR observers attending these groups. OSPAR 2009 has endorsed these arrangements</p>



Deadline for EU Member States	MSFD action for EU Member States	Suggested OSPAR response <sup>7</sup>	Extent to which further OSPAR work is needed including commitment from Contracting Parties	Steps (to be) taken collectively by OSPAR
4) 15 July 2012	Complete an initial assessments of the current status of their marine waters and the environmental impact of human activities thereon, in respect of each marine region or sub-region, taking account of existing data where available and other relevant assessments such as those carried out jointly in the context of Regional Seas Conventions (Article 8(1))	Ensure that QSR 2010 delivers information compatible with Annex III, MSFD that is nationally attributable and therefore providing a basis for Member States' reports	<p>1) Discuss how the QSR 2010 will fulfil the requirements for regional cooperation and how it relates to Member State obligations to carry out initial assessments</p> <p>2) Discuss what and how OSPAR can contribute to establishing guidance on a suitably coordinated approach to social and economic analysis and the estimation of the cost of degradation of the marine environment (EIHA 2009 has prepared an overview of existing projects and available methodologies for economic and social analysis of the use of marine waters and the cost of degradation and options on how to progress work on socio-economic assessments of the North-East Atlantic. This will constitute a first stocktaking before MMC 2010. ICG-Bergen should consider how to incorporate socio-economic aspects in OSPAR work in the future, including harmonisation of approaches and involvement of appropriate experts, as part of the revision of the strategies as well as how to give the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity adequate profile during MMC 2010)</p> <p>Other OSPAR bodies should be encouraged to contribute to such stocktaking in the 2009/2010 intersessional period</p>	<p>3) Following consultation of HODs, the Secretariat has informed the EC that the Executive Secretary or his nominee will represent OSPAR as a regional sea convention participating in the EU Marine Strategy Coordination Group (MSG), the Working Group on good environmental status (GES), the Working Group on data, information and knowledge exchange (DIKE) and the Working Group on Economic and Social Assessment (ESA)</p> <p>1) Based on earlier agreements, OSPAR 2010 published the QSR 2010 as an overarching collective assessment of the status of the OSPAR maritime area with a view to prioritising collective OSPAR actions whilst also focussing on certain specific issues relevant to certain regions (I–V); the JAMP assessments and their underlying data should provide robust information for the national level assessments which Contracting Parties have to prepare</p> <p>2) Contracting Parties to establish closer coordination at sub-regional level to cooperate on the establishment of their initial assessments and, therefore, CoG 2010 to consider to establish regional task teams, if necessary (see row 2, indent 1 in column 5)</p> <p>3) Based on proposals from EIHA 2009/BDC 2010, OSPAR 2010 agreed on further work on a regional socio-economic analysis for the maritime area</p>

Deadline for EU Member States	MSFD action for EU Member States	Suggested OSPAR response <sup>7</sup>	Extent to which further OSPAR work is needed including commitment from Contracting Parties	Steps (to be) taken collectively by OSPAR
5) 15 July 2012	Determine for the marine waters a set of characteristics for GES, in respect of each marine region or sub-region concerned, on the basis of the qualitative descriptors in Annex I and taking into account the indicative lists of Annex III (Article 9(1))	Member States dialogue on Regional Implementation Framework (RIF) within OSPAR and in collaboration with other Regional Sea Conventions; work efficiently by offering an alternative to laborious and costly implementation under the WFD CIS arrangements	<p>1) Depending on the results of step 3, discuss and agree to establish a set of characteristics for GES at (sub)regional level coordinated with other regional sea conventions on the boundaries of the relevant conventions (See document OSPAR 08/7/2: Evaluation of the OSPAR system of Ecological Quality Objectives for the North Sea, in particular Annex 1: Thematic cross-comparison of goals/strategies and objectives, including possible indicators and targets or descriptors reflecting good environmental/ecological status in different international frameworks. However, this requires more than only focussing on EcoQOs. Criteria and methodological standards for GES will be leading and may embrace the concept of EcoQOs)</p> <p>2) Following the discussion on establishing the QSR 2010 and the initial assessments of Member States, to discuss coordination issues on further steps of the marine strategies; compare with experience on the establishment of internationally coordinated river basin management plans - part A - for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (transboundary and aspects of common interest) versus national river basin management plans - part B – of EU Member States</p>	<p>1) To invite the Secretariat to further discuss with other Regional Sea Convention Secretariats how the four European Regional Sea Conventions could benefit from each other approaches and work towards a RIF to allow comparisons across the borders of their maritime areas; also to collectively address data issues; OSPAR 2010 to be informed about progress on these discussions. Any discussions should be well coordinated with discussions taking place at EU level to avoid duplication of effort</p> <p>2) CoG 2010 to identify on how and what to address collectively at the level of the maritime area and what should be done by Contracting Parties at sub-regional level through their own coordination (also address monitoring aspects of GES) and what needs coordination/cooperation with other Regional Sea Conventions</p>
6) 15 July 2012	Establish a comprehensive set of environmental targets and associated indicators for their marine waters, in respect of each marine region or sub-region, so as to guide progress towards achieving GES, taking into account the indicative lists of Annex III, table 2 and of Annex IV (Article 10(1))	Taking account of criteria and methodological standards for GES established in the EC (Art. 25 Committee, mid 2010), review the set of OSPAR EcoQOs for the North Sea and together with the work of ICG-COBAM feed the results into the process of the revision of the JAMP	<p>Coordinate environmental targets developed by Contracting Parties ensuring that these targets are mutually compatible allowing for coherence and consistency and, as appropriate, work towards a common set of targets and associated indicators for the marine region or its subregions taking into account relevant transboundary impacts depending on pressures (guided by the conclusions of the QSR 2010) and taking account of experience with OSPAR EcoQOs</p>	<p>OSPAR 2010 agreed on a process for proposing and considering any environmental targets and associated indicators to be adopted at the regional level</p> <p>OSPAR 2012 to agree, if deemed necessary, on a common set of environmental targets and associated indicators at the level of the marine region or subregion, taking account of Contracting Parties' national obligations under the Directive</p>

Deadline for EU Member States	MSFD action for EU Member States	Suggested OSPAR response <sup>7</sup>	Extent to which further OSPAR work is needed including commitment from Contracting Parties	Steps (to be) taken collectively by OSPAR
7) By 2013 at the latest	Make publicly available, in respect of each marine region or sub-region, relevant information on marine protected areas (Article 13(6))	Agree by 2010 on a coherent and representative network of marine protected areas in the OSPAR maritime area	<i>To be completed at a later stage</i>	<i>To be completed at a later stage</i>
8) 15 July 2014	Establish and implement a coordinated monitoring programme for ongoing assessment of the environmental status of their marine waters on the basis of the indicative lists of elements set out in Annex III and the list set out in Annex V, and by reference to the environmental targets (Article 11(1))	Review and revise the JAMP (incl. CEMP, CAMP, RID) by 2010 in order to match the need to establish a coordinated monitoring programme drawing on cooperation with EMMA or its successor (i.e. working group under MSFD CIS) to ensure compatibility of JAMP with Annexes II and IV and established environmental targets	Discuss and agree on developing, expanding and optimising the monitoring programme to deliver what is required and focus on methodologies and quality assurance. Seek to share responsibilities between Contracting Parties. Fill any gaps of monitoring data drawing on financial support of the 7th Framework Research Programme <i>To be further completed at a later stage, depending on steps 3–6</i>	1) On the basis of proposals from ASMO and other Committees concerned, OSPAR 2010 agreed on a revised JAMP 2010–2014 (first phase) that is suitable to serve as a first common approach for Contracting Parties to prepare for the implementation of the MSFD coordinated monitoring programme and is sufficiently flexible to take account of new and emerging issues in the period 2010–2020 2) Carry out the second phase of the revision of the JAMP by 2014 for the period up to 2020
9) By 2015 at the latest	Identify the measures which need to be taken in order to achieve or maintain GES (Article 13(1))	Ensure that Member States' Programmes of Measures are well coordinated under the auspices of OSPAR and are compatible with the goal of achieving or maintaining GES and collectively identify further measures if necessary	<i>To be completed at a later stage</i>	<i>To be completed at a later stage</i>
10) By 2016 at the latest	Entry into operation of a programme of measures (Article 13(10))			

Deadline for EU Member States	MSFD action for EU Member States	Suggested OSPAR response <sup>7</sup>	Extent to which further OSPAR work is needed including commitment from Contracting Parties	Steps (to be) taken collectively by OSPAR
11) By 15 July 2018 at the latest	Review the initial assessment and the determination of good environmental status, as provided for in Articles 8(1) and 9(1) respectively (art. 17(2)(a)) Review of the environmental targets established pursuant to Article 10(1) (art. 17(2)(b))	Ensure (sub)regional cooperation and coordination on these reviews	To be completed at a later stage, depending on steps 3–6	To be completed at a later stage
12) By 15 July 2020 at the latest	Review the monitoring programmes established pursuant to Article 11(1) (art. 17(2)(c))	Ensure (sub)regional cooperation and coordination on this review	To be completed at a later stage, depending on steps 8 and 11	To be completed at a later stage
13) 2020 at the latest	Achieve good environmental status	Work towards establishing a QSR 2020 on the basis of a revised JAMP	To be completed at a later stage	To be completed at a later stage
14) 2021 at the latest	Review the programmes of measures established pursuant to Article 13(2) (art. 17(2)(d))	Ensure (sub)regional cooperation and coordination on this review drawing on the outcome of the QSR 2020	To be completed at a later stage, depending on steps 9, 11 and 13	To be completed at a later stage

**Annex 2 OSPAR coordination products.** General remark: The initiation of work, and a check where we are one year ahead for all these activities, should be included in the OSPAR Work Programmes and the JAMP Implementation Plan.

MSFD product	Timing	Proposed OSPAR product	Based on	Regional coverage
1) Initial assessment by 15 July 2012	OSPAR 2012	Report from OSPAR on the results of coordination in the period 2010 –mid 2012 of initial assessments by Contracting Parties, adding to the QSR 2010 for e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any additional indicators for assessment, resulting from the EC process</li> <li>socio-economic analysis</li> </ul> Indication of priorities at the level of the marine region, guided by predominant pressures and impacts	Existing information from Contracting Parties, QSR 2010 as a basis Developments in EC work on indicators for assessment relating to characteristics, pressures and impacts (criteria and methodological standards) Developments in OSPAR/EC work on socio-economic analysis	Maritime Area
2) Description of GES by 15 July 2012	OSPAR 2012	Report from OSPAR on the results of coordination in the period 2010 – mid 2012 of the determination by Contracting Parties of a set of characteristics for GES (nature: qualitative descriptive) Indication of priorities at the level of the marine region, guided by predominant pressures and impacts	Existing information from Contracting Parties, QSR 2010 as a basis Existing OSPAR objectives Developments in EC work on descriptors (criteria and methodological standards)	Maritime Area and OSPAR Regions where necessary
3) Comprehensive set of environmental targets and associated indicators by 15 July 2012	OSPAR 2012	OSPAR Agreement on a coordinated set of targets and indicators (nature: quantitative descriptive) as a result of work by Contracting Parties carried out in parallel with 1) and 2) above Indication of priorities at the level of the marine region and the sub-regions where necessary, guided by predominant pressures and impacts	Existing information from Contracting Parties, QSR 2010 as a basis Existing OSPAR objectives and targets Developments in EC work on descriptors (criteria and methodological standards) JAMP 2010–2014: include additional work required, also on pressures	Maritime Area and OSPAR Regions where necessary
4) Information on Marine Protected Areas by 2013	OSPAR 2013	Report from OSPAR on the results of coordination of the work in establishing an ecologically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas	Reports from Contracting Parties on the implementation of OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3	Maritime Area



MSFD product	Timing	Proposed OSPAR product	Based on	Regional coverage
5) Monitoring programme by 15 July 2014	OSPAR 2014	Adoption of a revised Coordinated OSPAR Monitoring Programme (CEMP) including biological monitoring and information collection on pressures (RID, CAMP, human activities, monitoring strategies priority substances))	Work so far carried out under rows 1–3 Any EC developments concerning monitoring and data collection JAMP 2010–2014: include the necessary work required for the purpose of establishing this coordinated monitoring programme JAMP post 2014: include the implementation of this programme	Maritime Area
6) Programme of measures by 2015	OSPAR 2015	Report from OSPAR on the results of the coordination of programmes of measures of Contracting Parties Indication of priorities at the level of the marine region, guided by predominant pressures and impacts Identification of measures by other competent international organisations	Existing OSPAR programmes and measures Development of measures in other international organisations Re-emphasise cooperation with other international organisations, not only on necessary measures but also on the collective identification of problems (CFP, IMO, REACH, etc.)	Maritime Area
7) Review of initial assessment, description of GES and environmental targets and indicators by 15 July 2018	OSPAR 2018	Report from OSPAR on coordination activities and revised Agreement for targets and indicators as necessary (see rows 1–3 above)	According to developments in the period 2012–2018	Maritime Area (OSPAR Regions where necessary for targets and indicators)
8) Review of monitoring programme by 15 July 2020 and indication of achievement of GES by 2020	OSPAR 2020	Review of coordinated monitoring programme	According to developments in the period 2014–2020	Maritime Area
9) Review of programme of measures by 2021	OSPAR 2021	Report from OSPAR on the review of programmes of measures (see row 6 above)	According to developments in the period 2015–2021	Maritime Area



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