



Procedure for Publication of OSPAR Reports

(OSPAR Agreement: 2001-13)¹

1. The Guidance for the preparation of draft OSPAR Decisions, Recommendations and other Arrangements, draft OSPAR Background Documents and Other Reports (Agreement 2019-01) should be applied in the framework of all Committees. These guidelines should however be applied flexibly to take into account the different nature of the work of each thematic Committee.
2. All publications by OSPAR should be published by making them available on the OSPAR web site. For all documents approved for publication, a short summary (max. one paragraph) of the contents of the publication should be prepared to be released to the press or to describe the publication on the OSPAR web site.
3. On a case-by-case basis, the Secretariat should decide in consultation with French-speaking Contracting Parties, which report(s) should be translated and published in French.
4. In principle, reports should be published after Contracting Parties have had the possibility to comment upon them, provided that the comments made by Contracting Parties are not of a substantive nature. If any of these comments are of a substantive nature, then the reports concerned will be referred to the relevant subsidiary body(ies) for further elaboration.
5. The procedure for approving the publication of reports should furthermore entail that:
 - a. each year, a Committee should prepare a list of reports which it recommends to OSPAR for publication;
 - b. this list should only include publications which, apart from editorial changes, have been seen and approved in their finalised form by the Committee;
 - c. the Secretariat should present an overview document to OSPAR listing all reports recommended for publication where changes, other than editorial changes, have been made, including the details of these changes.
6. The requirement for a three-quarters majority should be applied when deciding whether an OSPAR report should be published. Contracting Parties which are unable to provide information or which have reservations about the report should submit an explanation or comment on this matter to be included in the publication of the report.

¹ Editorial revisions made in 2015 and 2021

7. With respect to the publication of overview assessments of implementation reports, it should be noted that:
- a. in cases where all Contracting Parties have submitted their implementation report on a specific Decision or Recommendation, the procedure for approving its publication will be the one set out in § 5;
 - b. Contracting Parties which are unable to provide their implementation reports should submit an explanation to the relevant OSPAR subsidiary body;
 - c. the explanations submitted by Contracting Parties should be forwarded to OSPAR for examination and subsequently published together with the relevant implementation reports.
8. In the light of its examination of draft reports recommended by Committees for publication, OSPAR will limit its discussions to proposals to adopt or publish reports containing policy matters or assessments which raised matters of a principal character.
9. The Committees have the mandate to make decisions on issues of a technical or scientific nature that have no budgetary consequences for OSPAR, i.e. on the content of technical or scientific reports to be published, following the procedure as set out in §§ 5-6.