

## OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats

(OSPAR Agreement 2008-06)<sup>1 2</sup>

### Introduction

1. The OSPAR Biological Diversity and Ecosystems Strategy sets out that the OSPAR Commission will assess which species and habitats need to be protected. This work is to guide the setting of priorities by the OSPAR Commission for its activities in implementing Annex V to the Convention ("On the Protection and Conservation of the Ecosystems and Biological Diversity of the Maritime Area").
2. This OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats has been developed to fulfil this commitment. It is based upon nominations by Contracting Parties and observers to the Commission of species and habitats that they consider to be priorities for protection. The evidence in support of those nominations has been collectively examined by the OSPAR Commission and its subordinate bodies on the basis of the relevant Texel/Faial criteria for the identification of species in need of protection (*Reference number 2019-03*). The data used has been reviewed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), in order to give assurance that its quality is suitable for the purpose for which it has been used<sup>3</sup>. The information used has been compiled into a justification report, which is being published separately (Case reports for the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats (OSPAR publication 2008/358)).
3. The purpose of the list is to guide the OSPAR Commission in setting priorities for its further work on the conservation and protection of marine biodiversity. The inclusion of a species or of a type of habitat on this list has no other significance.
4. Fish species affected by fishing in this list are marked with an asterisk (\*). These species are subject to management by an international or national fisheries authority or body. The OSPAR Commission has no competence to adopt programmes or measures on questions relating to the management of fisheries. Where the OSPAR Commission considers that action is desirable in relation to such a question, it is to draw that question to the attention of the authority or international body competent for that question. The inclusion of species affected by fishing in this list must be read in this context.
5. In order to avoid duplication of work, other international agreements (in particular, EC Directives (including the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna and the Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of birds) and measures under the Berne Convention, the Bonn Convention (including its regional agreements) and the Ramsar Convention, amongst

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<sup>1</sup> Replaces agreement 2004-6. See OSPAR 08/24/1, §7.12. Amended in 2021 to include *Haploopsis* habitat and Kelp forest habitat as new features; to update Black-legged kittiwake, *Ostrea edulis*, Ocean quahog and Sturgeon as considered threatened in Region III; to change the name of Lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus fuscus*) to Lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus fuscus*) Fuscus sub-species and Little shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis baroli*) to Macaronesian shearwater (*Puffinus baroli*)

<sup>2</sup> Corrections made by OSPAR 2014 to the naming of *Gadus morhua* stocks to align with the standard naming of the ICES cod divisions.

<sup>3</sup> The assessments of that data by the OSPAR Commission and by ICES differ in respect of *Polysticta stelleri*, *Puffinus assimilis baroli*, *Thunnus thynnus* and Oceanic ridges with hydrothermal vents/fields. The justification for the OSPAR assessment of these species and habitats is set out in the justification report.

other relevant instruments) should also be taken into account by Contracting Parties to the extent that they are bound by them or committed to them.

6. The OSPAR Biodiversity and Ecosystems Strategy makes clear that it may be necessary to consider separate populations of species for the purposes of the strategy on the same basis as whole species. This list therefore specifies certain populations of species where separate treatment is justified, because the different populations are subject to differing pressures. Where this is done, there is no implication that other populations of the same species may be threatened and/or declining.

7. The OSPAR Commission wishes to consider any information that could improve the basis for the judgements that have been made in drawing up this list.

8. This OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats will be subject to further development. Species and habitats will be added to or removed from the list, in the light of changes to their conservation status and to the threats they face and in the light of the latest scientific assessments, according to the Texel/Faial criteria.

9. The footnotes form an integral part of the list.

**PART I : SPECIES**

SCIENTIFIC NAME	Common name		OSPAR Regions <sup>4</sup> where the species occurs	OSPAR Regions where the species is under threat and/or in decline
	English	French		
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>				
<i>Arctica islandica</i>	Ocean quahog	<i>Cyprine d'Islande (Praire d'Islande) (Clam d'Islande)</i>	I, II, III, IV	II, III <sup>5</sup>
<i>Megabalanus azoricus</i>	Azorean barnacle	<i>Balane des Azores</i>	V	All where it occurs
<i>Nucella lapillus</i>	Dog whelk	<i>Pourpre petite pierre</i>	All	II, III, IV
<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Flat oyster	<i>Huître plate</i>	I, II, III, IV	II, III <sup>5</sup>
<i>Patella ulyssiponensis aspera</i>	Azorean limpet	<i>Patelle des Azores</i>	V	All where it occurs
<b>BIRDS</b>				
<i>Larus fuscus fuscus, Fuscus sub-species</i>	Lesser black-backed gull Fuscus sub-species	<i>Goéland brun</i>	I	All where it occurs
<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Ivory gull	<i>Mouette blanche</i>	I	All where it occurs
<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	Steller's eider	<i>Eider de Steller</i>	I	All where it occurs
<i>Puffinus baroli</i>	Macaronesian shearwater	<i>Puffin de Macaronésie</i>	V	All where it occurs
<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Balearic shearwater	<i>Puffin des Baléares</i>	II, III, IV, V	All where it occurs
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Black-legged kittiwake	<i>Mouette tridactyle</i>	I, II, III, IV, V	I, II, III <sup>5</sup>
<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Roseate tern	<i>Sterne de dougall</i>	II, III, IV, V	All where it occurs
<i>Uria aalge</i> – Iberian population (synonyms: <i>Uria aalge albionis, Uria aalge ibericus</i> )	Iberian guillemot	<i>Guillemot de Troil</i>	IV	All where it occurs
<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Thick-billed murre	<i>Guillemot de Brünich</i>	I	All where it occurs
<b>FISH</b>				
* <i>Acipenser sturio</i>	Sturgeon	<i>Esturgeon d'Europe</i>	II, III <sup>5</sup> , IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Alosa alosa</i>	Allis shad	<i>Alose vraie ou Grande Alose</i>	II, III, IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	European eel	<i>Anguille européenne</i>	I, II, III, IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>	Portuguese dogfish	<i>Pailona commun</i>	All	All where it occurs
* <i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>	Gulper shark	<i>Squale-chagrin commun</i>	IV, V	All where it occurs
* <i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>	Leafscale gulper shark	<i>Petit squale</i>	All	All where it occurs
* <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking shark	<i>Requin pèlerin</i>	All	All where it occurs

<sup>4</sup> The OSPAR Regions as defined in OSPAR Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP) Agreement 2014-02 Annex 2 are:

- I - Arctic Waters;
- II - Greater North Sea;
- III - Celtic Seas;
- IV - Bay of Biscay and Iberian coasts;
- V - Wider Atlantic.

<sup>5</sup> The part of Region III eastwards of 5° West of the OSPAR maritime area

<i>Coregonus lavaretus oxyrinchus</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Houting	<i>Corégone oxyringue</i>	II	All where it occurs
* <i>Dipturus batis</i> (synonym: <i>Raja batis</i> )	Common Skate	<i>Pocheteau gris</i>	All	All where it occurs
* <i>Raja montagui</i> (synonym: <i>Dipturus montagui</i> )	Spotted Ray	<i>Raie douce</i>	II, III, IV, V	All where it occurs
* <i>Gadus morhua</i> – populations in the OSPAR regions II and III <sup>6</sup>	Cod	<i>Cabillaud (morue)</i>	All	II, III
<i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i> (synonym: <i>Hippocampus ramulosus</i> )	Long-snouted seahorse	<i>Cheval de mer(hippocampe) à long bec</i>	II, III, IV, V	All where it occurs
<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i>	Short-snouted seahorse	<i>Cheval de mer (hippocampe) à museau court</i>	II, III, IV, V	All where it occurs
* <i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	Orange roughy	<i>Hoplostète orange</i>	I, V	All where it occurs
* <i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	<i>Requin taupe</i>	All	All where it occurs
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	Sea lamprey	<i>Lamproie marine</i>	I, II, III, IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Raja clavata</i>	Thornback skate / ray	<i>Raie bouclée</i>	I, II, III, IV, V	II
* <i>Rostroraja alba</i>	White skate	<i>Raie à bec pointu</i>	II, III, IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Salmo salar</i>	Salmon	<i>Saumon de l'Atlantique</i>	I, II, III, IV	All where it occurs <sup>7</sup>
* <i>Squalus acanthias</i>	[Northeast Atlantic] spurdog	<i>Aiguillat commun</i>	All	All where it occurs
* <i>Squatina squatina</i>	Angel shark	<i>Ange de mer</i>	II, III, IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	Bluefin tuna	<i>Thon rouge</i>	V	All where it occurs <sup>8</sup>
<b>REPTILES</b>				
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead turtle	<i>Tortue caouanne</i>	IV, V	All where it occurs
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback turtle	<i>Tortue luth</i>	All	All where it occurs
<b>MAMMALS</b>				
<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	Bowhead whale	<i>Baleine franche boréale</i>	I	All where it occurs
<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue whale	<i>Baleine bleue</i>	All	All where it occurs
<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	Northern right whale	<i>Baleine franche noire</i>	All	All where it occurs
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Harbour porpoise	<i>Marsouin commun</i>	All	II, III

<sup>6</sup> That is, the populations/stocks referred to in ICES advice as the North Sea, Eastern Channel and Skagerrak cod stock; Kattegat cod stock; Cod west of Scotland; Cod in the Irish Sea; Cod in the Celtic Sea. (The naming of the stocks was corrected by OSPAR 2014 to align with ICES cod divisions).

<sup>7</sup> In accordance with the comments of ICES in its review, the varying states of the numerous different stocks have to be taken into account.

<sup>8</sup> The main threat is the high rate of catch of juvenile fish of the species (SCRS Report, page 59).

## PART II - HABITATS

DESCRIPTION	OSPAR Regions where the habitat occurs	OSPAR Regions where such habitats are under threat and/or in decline
<b>HABITATS</b>		
Carbonate mounds	I, V	V <sup>9</sup>
Coral Gardens	I, II, III, IV, V	All where they occur
<i>Cymodocea</i> meadows	IV	All where they occur
Deep-sea sponge aggregations	I, III, IV, V	All where they occur
Haploops habitat	II, IV	II
Intertidal <i>Mytilus edulis</i> beds on mixed and sandy sediments	II, III	All where they occur
Intertidal mudflats	I, II, III, IV	All where they occur
Kelp forests <sup>10</sup>	All	II, III, IV
Littoral chalk communities	II	All where they occur
<i>Lophelia pertusa</i> reefs	All	All where they occur
Maerl beds	All	III
<i>Modiolus modiolus</i> beds	All	All where they occur
Oceanic ridges with hydrothermal vents/fields	I, V	V
<i>Ostrea edulis</i> beds	II, III, IV	All where they occur
<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reefs	All	II, III
Seamounts	I, IV, V	All where they occur
Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	I, II, III, IV	II, III
<i>Zostera</i> beds	I, II, III, IV	All where they occur

<sup>9</sup> To be confirmed in the light of further survey work being undertaken by Ireland

<sup>10</sup> Defined by specific species of kelp in decline in specific Regions as identified in the case report