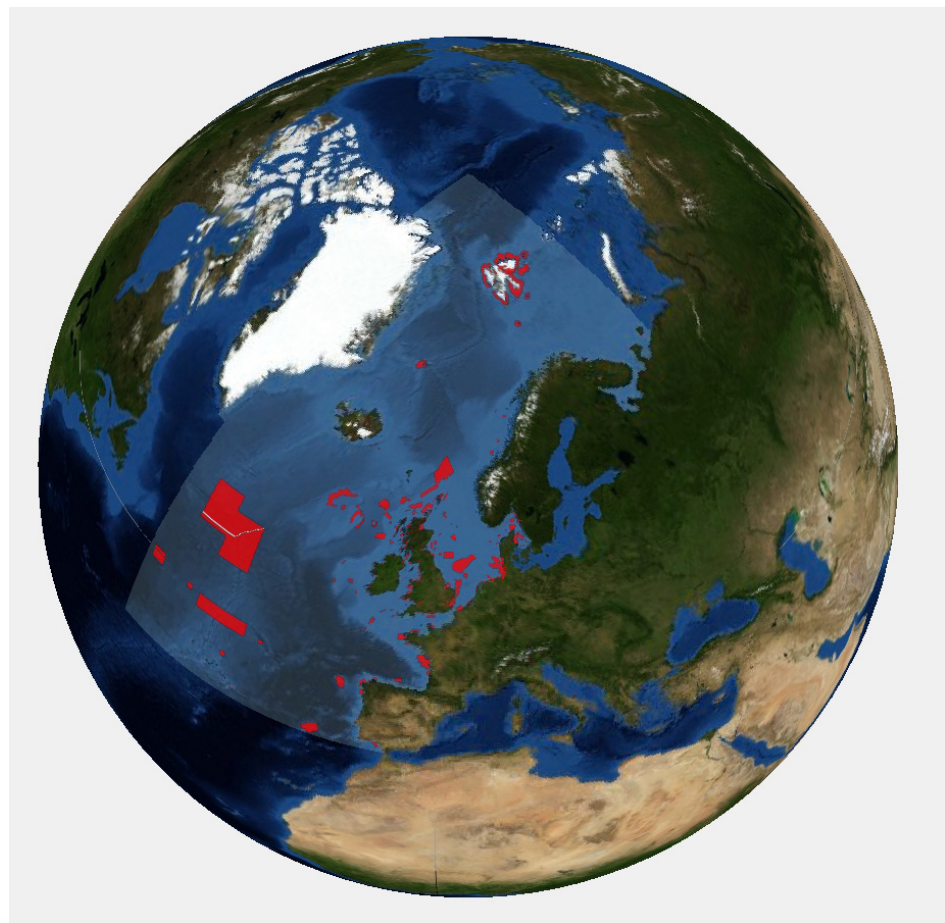




OSPAR
COMMISSION

2014 Status Report on the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas



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 compiled by Germany for OSPAR. It was prepared by Kerstin Hübner (Secretariat of OSPAR's Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Protected Areas (ICG-MPA); Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) c/o German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)) and Mirko Hauswirth (BfN), with guidance of Prof. Dr. Henning von Nordheim (Convenor of the OSPAR ICG-MPA; BfN), in collaboration with colleagues from ICG-MPA and on the basis of information and data provided by Contracting Parties on their respective MPAs nominated for inclusion in the OSPAR Network of MPAs.

Cover illustration

The illustration on the front page has been created by Mirko Hauswirth (BfN).

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Executive Summary

OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3¹, amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2010/2, on a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) sets out the goal of OSPAR Contracting Parties (CPs) to continue the establishment of the OSPAR Network of MPAs 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 CPs on their respective MPAs nominated to the OSPAR Commission and on this basis assess the progress towards these objectives.

Since 2005, all 12 CPs bordering the North-East Atlantic have nominated sites to the OSPAR Network of MPAs both in their national waters as well as collectively in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ)/in the High Seas. 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 1 October 2014, the OSPAR Network of MPAs comprises 413 MPAs², including 403 MPAs situated within national waters of CPs and 10 MPAs³ situated in areas beyond the limits of national Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) with different jurisdictional regimes. Collectively, these sites have a total surface area of 788 377 km² covering 5.82% of the OSPAR maritime area.

The distribution of MPAs across coastal and offshore waters as well as across the five OSPAR Regions is imbalanced, resulting in major gaps of the network. The vast majority of sites have been designated in territorial waters (23.59% covered by OSPAR MPAs) and far fewer in the EEZs (3.06% covered by OSPAR MPAs). Currently, 6.02% of the area beyond the limits of national EEZs, i.e. the High Seas, the Area and the ECS (extended continental shelf) areas, are covered by OSPAR MPAs.

The Greater North Sea has, compared to the other four OSPAR Regions, reached the target set by the CBD to protect by 2020 at least 10% of coastal and marine areas. The Wider Atlantic and the Celtic Seas, however, are well represented with 8.27% and 6.65% coverage by OSPAR MPAs respectively. While coverage of the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast is at 4.81%, the Arctic Waters show the lowest coverage with only 1.94% of the area being protected by OSPAR MPAs.

In 2014, 77 MPAs covering more than 89 397 km² were added to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. Contributions were made by the United Kingdom (61 MPAs covering 71 153 km²), Spain (11 MPAs covering 17 843 km²) and Iceland (5 MPAs covering 401 km²). The overall area being protected by OSPAR MPAs has thus increased by 0.65% (from 5.17% to 5.82%).

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

² Refer to Annex I for a list of all OSPAR MPAs nominated until 1 October 2014.

³ For further information on the 10 OSPAR MPAs situated in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs of CPs please see section 'Jurisdiction of OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs'.

The ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs was assessed at the end of 2012⁴. The assessment concluded that whilst the OSPAR Network of MPAs as a whole is not ecologically coherent there are positive signs. The network has a good representation of the different biogeographic regions within the North-East Atlantic, which is one of the requirements for ecological coherence (Table 3). The report highlighted a paucity of data and understanding around some of the principles underpinning ecological coherence as barriers to undertaking more sophisticated assessments in the future. The work on assessing the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs is ongoing.

As no sufficiently detailed information on the management of sites has been made available by many CPs, 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 many sites are still being prepared. The development of a methodology to assess the management effectiveness of the OSPAR Network of MPAs is ongoing.

Récapitulatif

La recommandation OSPAR 2003/3¹ concernant le réseau d'Aires marines protégées (AMP) fixe l'objectif des Parties contractantes OSPAR pour poursuivre la mise en place du réseau OSPAR d'Aires marines protégées 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.

Chacune des douze PC riveraines de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est désigne, depuis 2005, des sites à ajouter au réseau OSPAR d'AMP se trouvant aussi bien dans ses eaux nationales que collectivement dans des zones situées au-delà de la juridiction nationale (ABNJ)/en haute mer. Les contributions des PC varient grandement selon la répartition des sites dans les eaux côtières et offshore et la couverture d'ensemble de leurs eaux nationales par les AMP OSPAR.

Le réseau OSPAR d'AMP comprend, au 1^{er} octobre 2014, 413 AMP⁵, dont 403 se situent dans les eaux nationales des PC et 10⁶ dans des zones au-delà des limites des zones économiques exclusives (ZEE) dont les régimes juridiques sont différents. Ces sites couvrent collectivement une superficie de 788 377 km² soit 5,82% de la zone maritime OSPAR.

⁴ [An assessment of the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas in 2012](#) (OSPAR Publication Number 619/2013)

⁵ La liste de toutes les AMP OSPAR désignées au 1^{er} octobre 2014 se trouve dans l'annexe I.

⁶ Pour toute information supplémentaire sur les 10 AMP OSPAR situées dans des zones au delà des limites des EEZ nationales des PC, se reporter à la section "juridiction des AMP OSPAR dans des zones au delà des limites des EEZ nationales".

La répartition des sites dans les eaux côtières et offshore ainsi que dans les cinq régions OSPAR est irrégulière, le réseau présentant donc des lacunes importantes. La plupart des sites ont été désignés dans les eaux territoriales (23,59% couvertes par les AMP OSPAR) et beaucoup moins dans des ZEE (3,06% couvertes par les AMP OSPAR). Actuellement, 6,02% de la zone située au delà des limites des ZEE nationales, c'est-à-dire la haute mer, la Zone et les zones du PCE (plateau continental étendu), sont couverts par des AMP OSPAR.

La mer du Nord au sens large a atteint, par rapport aux quatre autres régions OSPAR, l'objectif déterminé par la CDB, à savoir de protéger d'ici 2020 au moins 10% des zones côtières et marines. L'Atlantique au large et les mers celtiques sont cependant bien représentés, 8,27% et 6,65% respectivement étant couverts par des AMP OSPAR. Le Golfe de Gascogne et la côte ibérique sont couverts à 4,81% alors que les eaux arctiques ont la couverture la plus faible, 1,94% de la zone étant protégée dans le cadre d'AMP OSPAR.

En 2014, 77 AMP, couvrant plus de 89 397 km², ont été ajoutées au réseau OSPAR d'AMP. Y ont contribué : le Royaume-Uni (61 AMP couvrant 71 153 km²), l'Espagne (11 AMP couvrant 17 843 km²) et l'Islande (5 AMP couvrant 401 km²). La superficie totale protégée par les AMP OSPAR a donc augmenté de 0,65% (passant de 5,17% à 5,82%).

La cohérence écologique du réseau OSPAR d'AMP a été évaluée fin 2012⁷. Cette évaluation conclut que des signaux positifs ont été relevés bien que le réseau OSPAR d'AMP ne soit pas écologiquement cohérent dans l'ensemble. Le réseau représente bien les diverses régions biogéographiques de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est, ce qui correspond à l'une des exigences de la cohérence écologique (Tableau 4). Le rapport souligne le manque de données et de la perception de certains principes sous-jacents à la cohérence écologique constituant des obstacles à la réalisation d'évaluations plus approfondies à l'avenir. Les travaux portant sur l'évaluation de la cohérence écologique du réseau OSPAR d'AMP se poursuivent.

Il est impossible, à l'heure actuelle, de conclure de manière exhaustive sur la mesure dans laquelle les AMP OSPAR sont *bien gérées* car de nombreuses PC n'ont pas communiqué des informations assez détaillées sur la gestion des sites. Dans l'ensemble, un certain nombre de sites sont assujettis à des régimes de gestion, notamment des objectifs de conservation, des plans de gestion et des mesures réglementaires spécifiques, mais aucune preuve de leur efficacité s'agissant de parvenir aux objectifs pour lesquels ces régimes ont été mis en place n'est fournie. Des plans et mesures de gestion pour de nombreux sites sont encore en cours de préparation. Le développement d'une méthodologie permettant d'évaluer l'efficacité de la gestion du réseau OSPAR d'AMP se poursuit.

⁷ "An assessment of the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas in 2012" (Publication OSPAR Numéro 619/2013)

Background

The Ministerial Statement, adopted at the meeting of the OSPAR Commission in Sintra, Portugal (22-23 July 1998), included the commitment that the OSPAR Commission will promote the establishment of a network of MPAs 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 MPAs that, together with the Natura 2000 network, is ecologically coherent.

The aims of the OSPAR Network of MPAs 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 CPs should report by 31 December to the OSPAR Commission on any OSPAR 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 CPs therefore agreed to continue with the preparation of annual reports with a view to tracking 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.

At the 2013 OSPAR Commission meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden (24-28 June 2013) OSPAR CPs agreed that the report will be done every two years with a new reporting deadline of 1 October 2014.

This document presents the 9th Status Report on the OSPAR Network of MPAs taking into account all MPAs that have either been nominated by CPs within their respective national waters or established collectively by the OSPAR Commission in ABNJ/in the High Seas up to 1 October 2014.

Sources of data and information on OSPAR MPAs

The analysis of the OSPAR Network of MPAs is based upon the data and information that have been provided by CPs in the process of nominating their MPAs to the OSPAR Commission and subsequently to the OSPAR database of MPAs co-administered by the French Agence des aires marines protégées and 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 CPs in the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas. All figures, tables and maps in this report provide information on the OSPAR Network of MPAs as of 1 October 2014.

Analysis of the OSPAR Network of MPAs in 2014

By 1 October 2014, the OSPAR Network of MPAs comprised 413 MPAs, including 403 MPAs situated within national waters of CPs and 10 MPAs situated in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs with different jurisdictional regimes⁸. Collectively, these sites have a total surface area of 788 377 km² covering 5.82% of the OSPAR maritime area.

⁸ For further information on the jurisdictional regime of OSPAR MPAs situated in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs of CPs please see section 'Jurisdiction of OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs'.

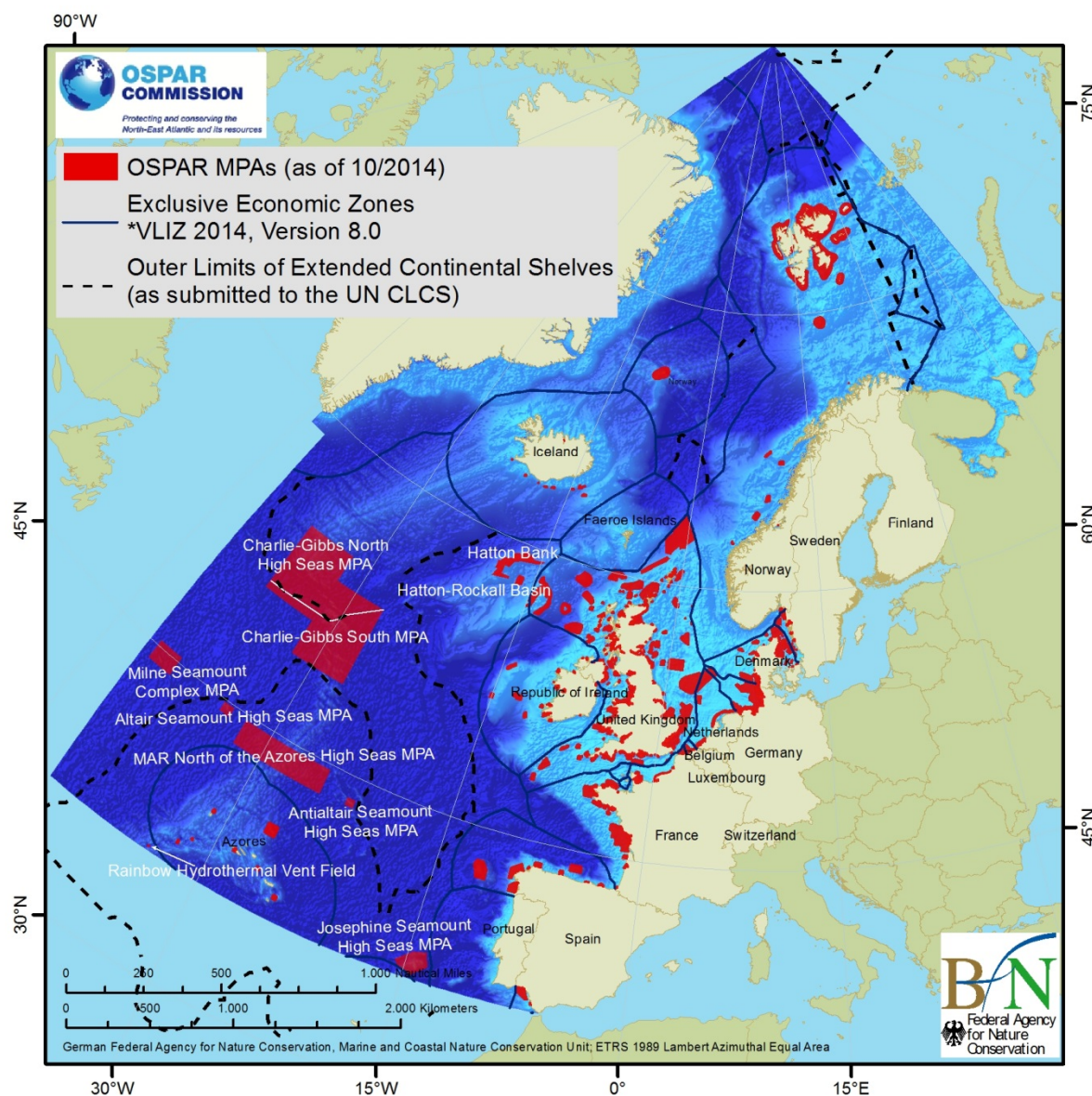


Figure 1. OSPAR Network of MPAs (as of 1 October 2014)^{9, 10}.

OSPAR MPAs under National Jurisdiction

Distribution of OSPAR MPAs in the national waters of CPs

OSPAR CPs have in the period of 2005–2014 nominated a total of 403 OSPAR MPAs within their respective national waters¹¹, *i.e.* territorial waters and EEZs. The contributions by CPs regarding the 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

⁹ For the purpose of visibility, OSPAR MPAs within the boundaries of EEZs 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.

¹⁰ The boundaries of CPs' EEZs have been obtained from the [open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase](#). It is noted, that not all of these boundaries as shown in the map have been officially declared by CPs.

¹¹ Refer to Annex I for a list of all OSPAR MPAs nominated until 1 October 2014 and Annex II presenting the evolution of the OSPAR Network of MPAs in the period of 2005-2014.

can be inferred from Table 1, there is no direct relationship between the number of MPAs nominated and the total area protected as the sizes of MPAs vary substantially.

Table 1. Number and coverage of OSPAR MPAs in Territorial Waters (TW), the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs (beyond EEZ), i.e. the High Seas, the Area, and ECS areas (as of 1 October 2014)¹².

OSPAR Contracting Party	No. of OSPAR MPAs	MPA coverage [km ²]			
		TW	EEZ	beyond EEZ	Total
Belgium	2	749	490	n.a.	1 239
Denmark	34	6 954	5 536	n.a.	12 490
France	39	15 821	6 283	n.a.	22 104
Germany	6	8 963	7 911	n.a.	16 875
Iceland	14	90	476	n.a.	566
Ireland	19	1 594	2 542	n.a.	4 135
Netherlands	5	2 434	5 922	n.a.	8 356
Norway	12	83 047	2 408	n.a.	85 455
Portugal	8 ¹³	1 022	4 656	22	5 700
Spain	13	7 277	12 985	n.a.	20 262
Sweden	10	1 114	1 364	n.a.	2 478
United Kingdom	244 ¹⁴	28 239	98 155	17 158	143 552
All Contracting Parties	7 ¹⁵	n.a.	n.a.	465 165	465 165
Total	413	157 303	148 728	482 345	788 377

Figure 2 shows the OSPAR Network of MPAs and the boundaries of the EEZs of CPs.

¹² n.a. = not applicable

¹³ Portugal (PT) has nominated a total of 12 MPAs to OSPAR. Four of these MPAs, namely *Altair Seamount HS MPA*, *Antialtair Seamount HS MPA*, *Josephine Seamount HS MPA* and *Mid Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores HS MPA*, occur on an area subject to a submission by PT to the UN CLCS for an ECS. These 4 MPAs have been assigned to all Contracting Parties in terms of number and area coverage (category “beyond EEZ”). One of the 12 MPAs, namely *Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field*, occurs on the ECS of PT. This MPA has been assigned to Portugal in terms of number and area coverage (category “beyond EEZ”). The MPA that occurs beyond the EEZ of PT covers 22 km².

¹⁴ The United Kingdom (UK) has nominated a total of 244 MPAs to OSPAR. Two of the 244 MPAs, namely *Hatton Bank SAC* and *Hatton-Rockall Basin*, occur on the ECS of the UK. These 2 MPAs have been assigned to the UK in terms of number and area coverage (category “beyond EEZ”). One of the 244 MPAs, namely *North West Rockall Bank SAC*, occurs partly within the EEZ and partly within the ECS of the UK. This MPA has been assigned to the UK in terms of number and area coverage (partly category “EEZ” and partly category “beyond EEZ”). MPAs that occur beyond the EEZ of the UK cover 17 158 km².

¹⁵ Three OSPAR MPAs, namely *Hatton Bank SAC* (UK), *Hatton-Rockall Basin* (UK) and *Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field* (PT), occur on the ECS of a CP. These 3 MPAs have been assigned to the respective CP in terms of number and area coverage.

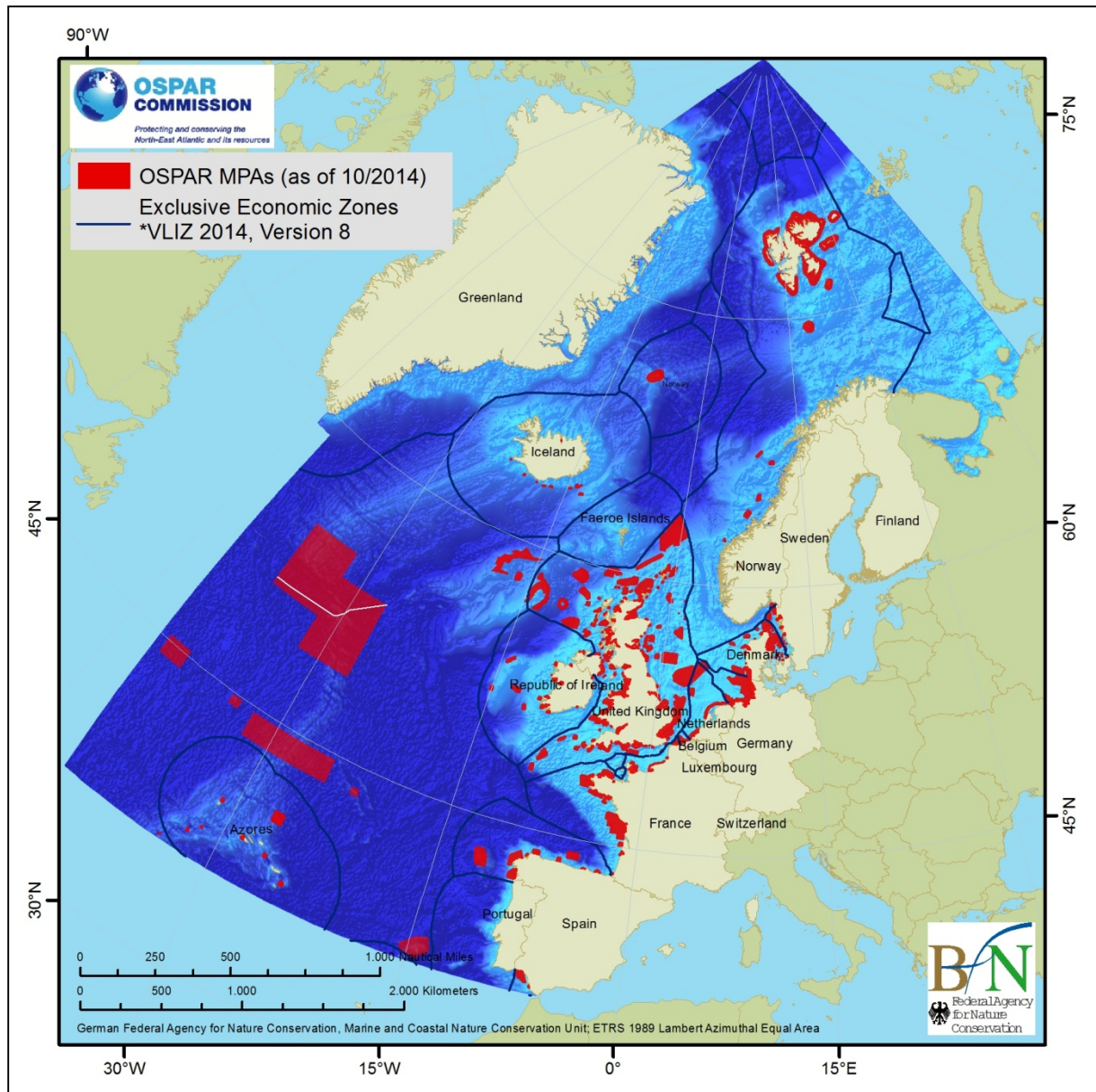


Figure 2. OSPAR MPAs and the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of OSPAR CPs (as of 1 October 2014)^{16, 17}.

¹⁶ For the purpose of visibility, OSPAR MPAs 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.

¹⁷ The boundaries of CPs' EEZs have been obtained from the [open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase](#). It is noted, that not all of these boundaries as shown in the map have been officially declared by CPs.

Figure 3 provides an illustration of the distribution of OSPAR MPAs (in % and km²) across territorial waters and the EEZ of CPs. Norway (>95%), France (>70%) and Belgium (>60%) designated most of their OSPAR MPAs in territorial waters, meaning up to 12 nautical miles from the shoreline. In contrast, Iceland (>80%), Portugal (>80%), The United Kingdom (>75%), The Netherlands (>70%), Spain (>60%) and Ireland (>60%) established OSPAR MPAs predominantly in their EEZ. Sweden, Germany and Denmark show a relatively balanced distribution of their respective OSPAR MPAs across territorial waters and EEZ.

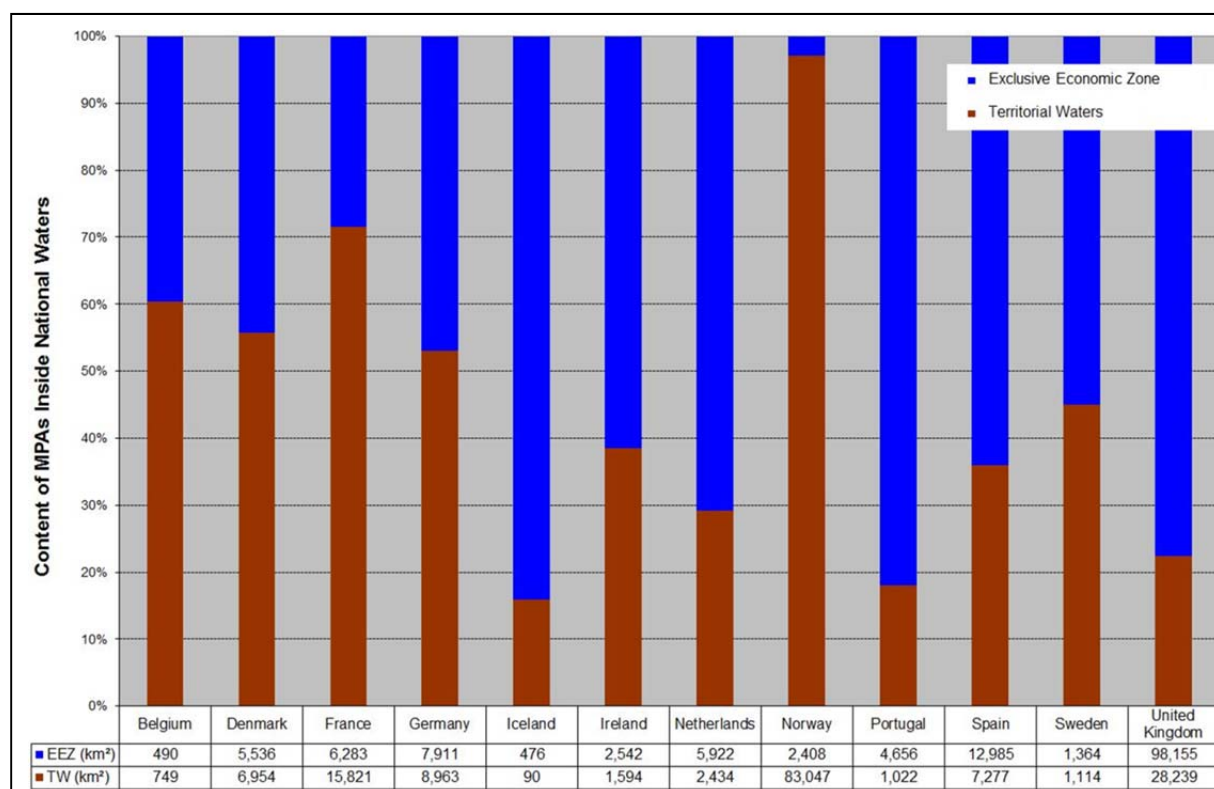


Figure 3. Distribution of OSPAR MPAs across the Territorial Waters (TW) and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)¹⁸ of CPs (as of 1 October 2014).

Further aspects regarding the distribution of OSPAR MPAs across the national waters of CPs are highlighted in Figure 4¹⁹. For each CP²⁰, the distribution and total area coverage (in km²) of MPAs nominated to OSPAR in its territorial waters and its 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 (yellow/light blue/red, respectively).

¹⁸ Note that results are based on the boundaries of the EEZ according to the [open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase](#).

¹⁹ The area calculations have been made with regards to the OSPAR maritime area only, *i.e.* without consideration of the overseas territories of CPs and marine territories of CPs in the Baltic (Denmark, Germany and Sweden) or the Mediterranean (France and Spain).

²⁰ The area calculations for Denmark have been made for the mainland only, *i.e.* without consideration of the territories of Greenland and the Faroes Islands.

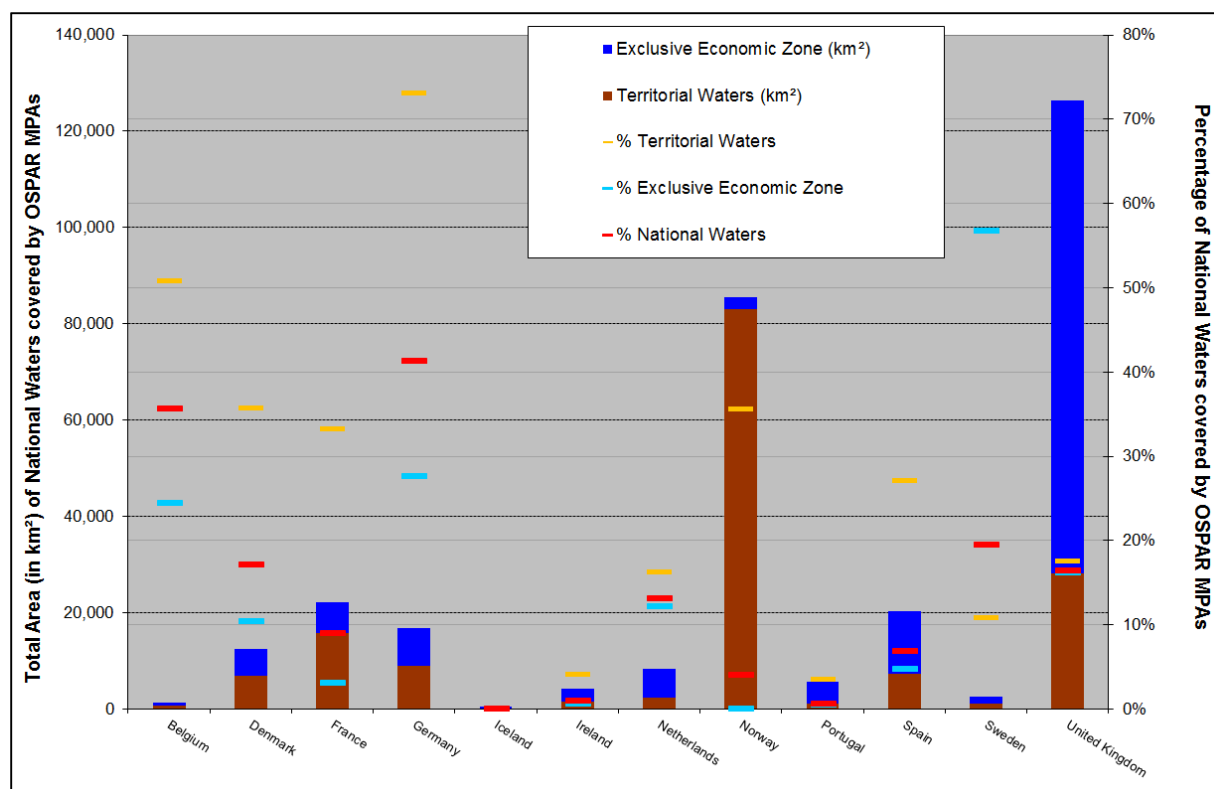


Figure 4. MPA coverage in the national waters of CPs, i.e. territorial waters and EEZ²¹ (as of 1 October 2014).

Figure 4 shows 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.)

The United Kingdom has nominated by far the most OSPAR MPAs and has the largest area of national waters protected as OSPAR MPAs (126 394 km²). However, due to the extensive size of its national waters, the overall relative coverage of OSPAR MPAs is at about 16.5%²². In Germany, due to the comparatively smaller marine area under its jurisdiction, OSPAR MPAs represent about 41.4% of its national waters. Belgium has about 35.7% of its national waters covered by OSPAR MPAs. Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands show a relative MPA coverage of approximately 19.6%, 17.3%²³ and 13.2%²⁴, respectively, in their national waters. Coverage of national waters by OSPAR MPAs remains under 10% in France (9.0%), Spain (6.9%), Norway (4.1%), Ireland (1.0%), Portugal (0.7%²⁵) and Iceland (0.07%).

²¹ Note that results are based on the boundaries of the EEZ according to the [open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase](#).

²² Area calculations are based on national waters, i.e. *Hatton Bank SCA*, *Hatton-Rockall Basin* and the area of *North West Rockall Bank SCA* extending beyond the EEZ of the United Kingdom are not included.

²³ Area calculations only consider national waters adjacent to mainland Denmark, excluding the marine areas of Greenland and the Faeroe Islands.

²⁴ The Netherlands determines a coverage of 15% by OSPAR MPAs in their national waters, excluding the estuaries.

²⁵ Area calculations only consider the marine areas adjacent to mainland Portugal and around the Azores archipelago in the OSPAR maritime area.

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.

About 23.59% (157 303 km²) of the territorial waters of OSPAR CPs are protected by OSPAR MPAs. 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).

In comparison, far fewer sites have been designated in the Exclusive Economic Zones, covering 148 728 km² or 3.06% of all EEZs in the OSPAR maritime area. Currently, 6.02% of the area beyond the limits of national EEZs, *i.e.* the High Seas, the Area and the ECS areas, are covered by OSPAR MPAs.

Distribution of OSPAR MPAs across OSPAR Regions

The distribution of OSPAR MPAs across the five OSPAR Regions, *i.e.* Arctic Waters (Region I), Greater North Sea (Region II), Celtic Seas (Region III), Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast (Region IV) and Wider Atlantic (Region V), is shown in Figure 5.

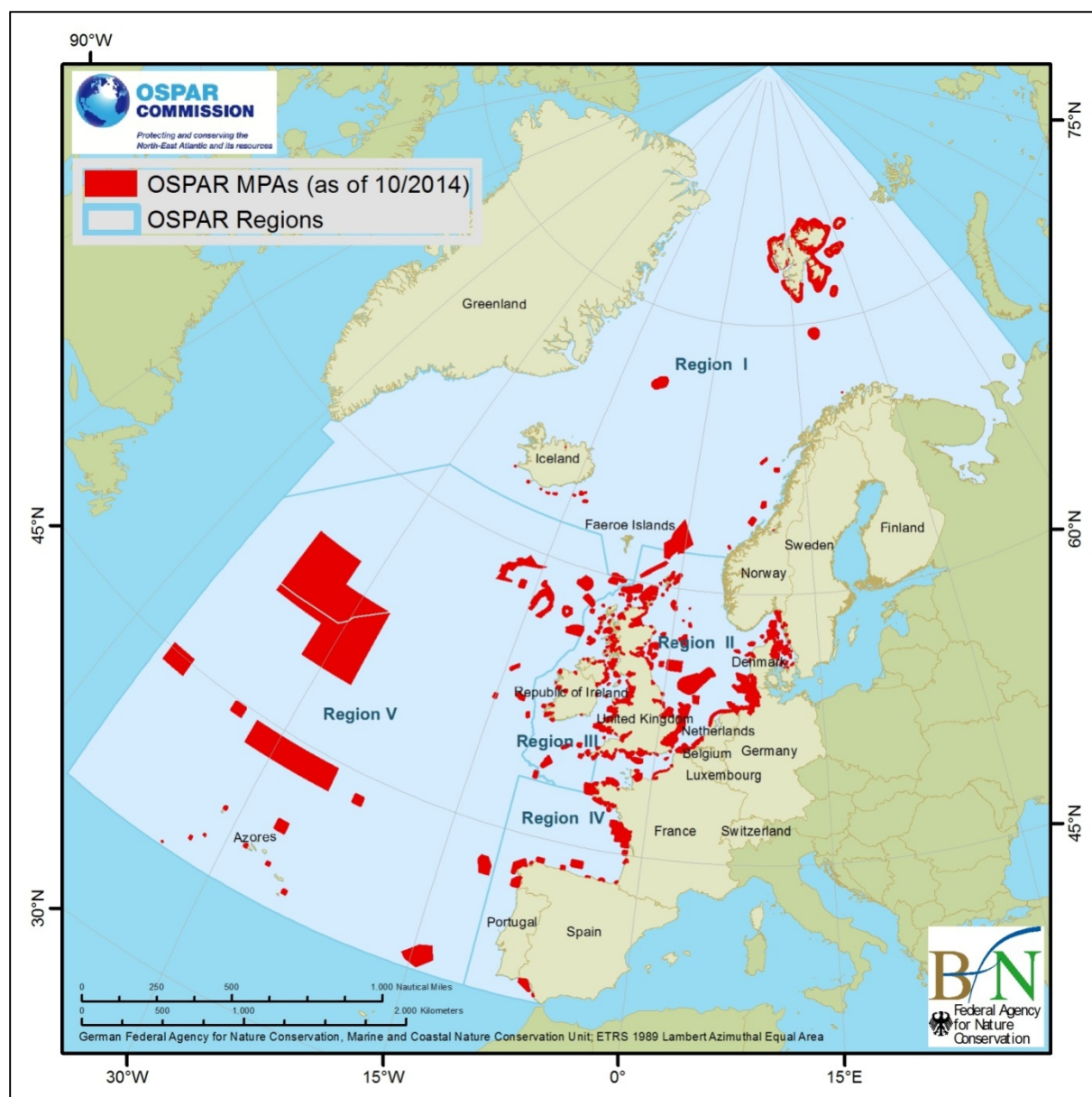


Figure 5. Distribution of OSPAR MPAs across OSPAR Regions (as of 1 October 2014)²⁶.

The distribution of OSPAR MPAs across the OSPAR Regions is imbalanced (see Table 2). The Greater North Sea (OSPAR Region II) hosts most OSPAR MPAs and is the best represented Region in the OSPAR Network of MPAs. This Region has the most riparian states of all OSPAR Regions and all have contributed MPAs to the network. As a result of the sites nominated by Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, altogether 13.83% (106 041 km²) of the Greater North Sea are covered by the network of MPAs. The Greater North Sea is the first and so far the only 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 Wider Atlantic (OSPAR Region V) 8.27%, covering 525 007 km², are protected by the OSPAR Network of MPAs. This Region hosts all MPAs nominated by Portugal and a number of sites

²⁶ For the purpose of visibility, OSPAR MPAs 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.

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 EEZs 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 ABNJ/in the High Seas in 2010 and 2012 as well as the three MPA nominations by Portugal and the United Kingdom in areas that are subject to their respective submission to the UN CLCS for an ECS have substantially increased the area coverage of the MPA network in this Region.

In the Celtic Seas (OSPAR Region III) 6.65% are subject to OSPAR MPAs as a result of MPAs nominated by Ireland, the United Kingdom and France.

The Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast (OSPAR Region IV) hosts a number of MPAs nominated by its three riparian states France, Portugal and Spain. Altogether, 4.81% (25 934 km²) of this Region are covered by the OSPAR Network of MPAs.

The Arctic Waters (Region I) show the lowest MPA coverage with only 1.94% of the area being protected by the OSPAR Network of MPAs. This MPA coverage of the Arctic Waters is almost entirely due to the designation of two extensive sites around the Svalbard archipelago, namely *Svalbard West*, *Svalbard East* (Norway), the MPA site *Jan Mayen* (Norway) and the extensive newly nominated site *North-east Faroe-Shetland Channel* (United Kingdom).

Table 2. Coverage of OSPAR Regions by OSPAR MPAs (as of 1 October 2014).

OSPAR Region		Total Area [km ²]	Protected Area by OSPAR MPAs	
			[km ²]	[%]
I	Arctic Waters	5 529 716	107 041	1.94%
II	Greater North Sea	766 624	106 041	13.83%
III	Celtic Seas	366 459	24 353	6.65%
IV	Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast	539 153	25 934	4.81%
V	Wider Atlantic	6 346 159	525 007	8.27%
OSPAR maritime area		13 548 111	700 571	5.82%

An illustration of the absolute (km²) and the relative (%) coverage of the five OSPAR Regions by OSPAR MPAs is shown in Figure 6.

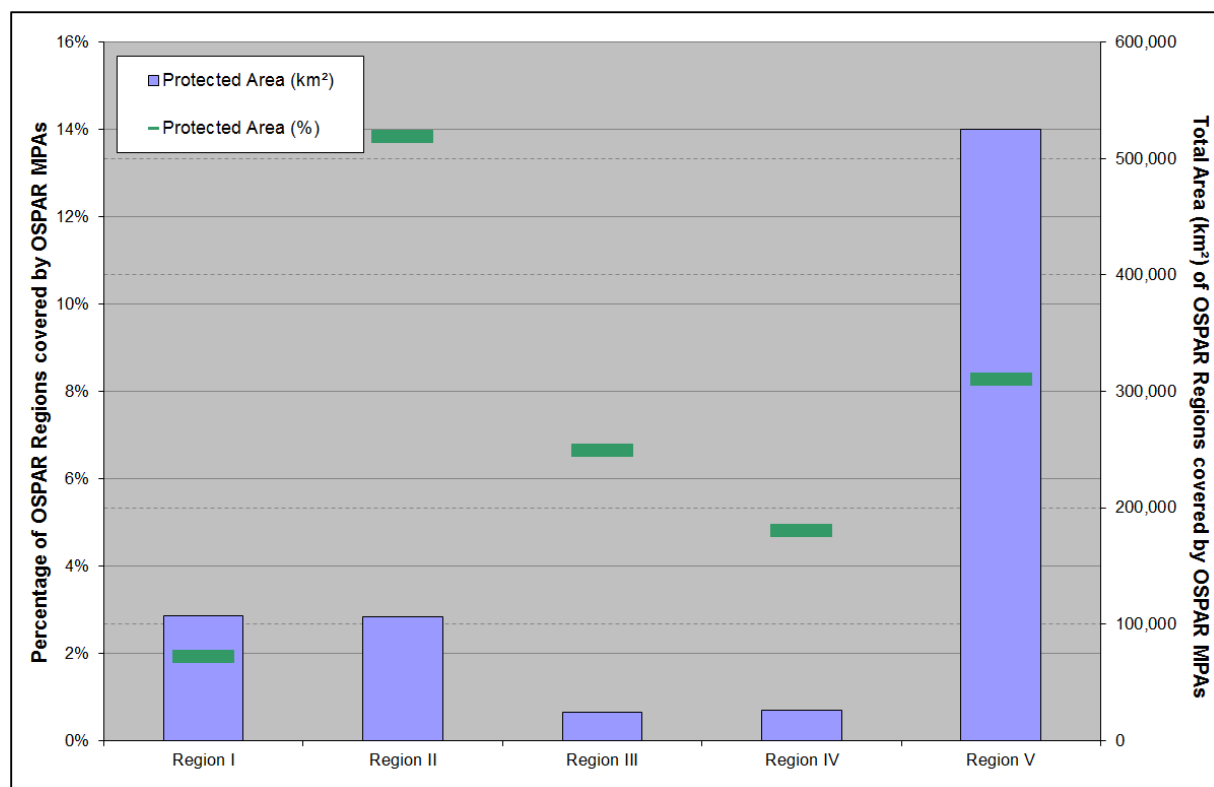


Figure 6. Absolute (km²) and relative (%) coverage of OSPAR Regions by OSPAR MPAs (as of 1 October 2014).

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

The Greater North Sea (Region II) has, compared to the other four OSPAR Regions, already reached the target set by the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)²⁷ to protect by 2020 at least 10% of coastal and marine areas. The Wider Atlantic (Region V), showing an MPA coverage of 8.27%, moves closer towards this target.

Relative MPA coverage of the Celtic Seas (Region III) and the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast (Region IV) increased by almost 2% in 2014. Consequently, 6.65% of Region III and 4.81% of Region IV are protected by the OSPAR Network of MPAs.

The Arctic Waters (Region I) show the lowest MPA coverage with only 1.94% of the area being protected by the OSPAR Network of MPAs.

²⁷ Aichi Target 11 of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Strategic Plan 2011-2020 (CBD Decision X/2)

OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs

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 limits of national EEZs, *i.e.* the High Seas, the Area, and ECS areas. These areas cover approximately 40% of the OSPAR maritime area (see Annex III Figure 1).

In recent years, the protection of the marine environment and biodiversity in ABNJ/in the High Seas has 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 United Nations 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/in the High Seas.

Being aware of the shared responsibilities and the need for a collaborative approach in ABNJ/in the High Seas, 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). This year's (2014) adoption of the collective arrangement between OSPAR and NEAFC on cooperation and coordination regarding selected areas in ABNJ in the North-East Atlantic represents a significant step forward in this process.

Establishment and nomination of OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs

A national OSPAR MPA nominated by Portugal in an area subject to a submission for an ECS

In 2006, and in response to a proposal previously prepared by WWF, Portugal formally nominated the *Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field* as an MPA to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. While this MPA has originally been considered to be situated in ABNJ, Portugal considered the site to be situated on its ECS, *i.e.* the natural submerged prolongation of the landmasses of the Azores Archipelago. Although a submission by Portugal for an ECS to be presented to the 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 UN 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.

OSPAR MPAs established collectively by all CPs in ABNJ/in the High Seas

At the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in 2010 (20-24 September, Bergen/Norway) six proposals for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ/in the High Seas were presented for adoption. The historical process of the elaboration of these proposals, including the collation and review of scientific information and data, the preparation of legal feasibility studies and consultations amongst CPs, is presented in Annex III. Taking into account the complex situation regarding the jurisdiction over these areas, the OSPAR

Commission decided to collectively establish the following MPAs in ABNJ/in the High Seas of the North-East Atlantic (see Figure 7)²⁸:

• <i>Charlie-Gibbs South MPA</i>	146 032 km ²
• <i>Milne Seamount Complex MPA</i>	20 914 km ²
• <i>Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores High Seas MPA</i>	93 570 km ²
• <i>Altair Seamount High Seas MPA</i>	4 384 km ²
• <i>Antialtair High Seas MPA</i>	2 807 km ²
• <i>Josephine Seamount Complex High Seas MPA</i>	19 363 km ²

At the OSPAR Commission Meeting in 2012 (25-29 June 2012; Bonn/Germany) CPs further agreed to collectively establish the following MPA in the High Seas of the OSPAR maritime area:

• <i>Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas MPA</i>	178 094 km ²
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National OSPAR MPAs nominated by the United Kingdom in areas subject to a submission for an ECS

In 2011, the United Kingdom nominated *North West Rockall SAC* as an OSPAR MPA, parts of which (covering 181 km²) extend beyond their EEZ into an area subject to a submission by the UK to the UN CLCS for an ECS. The seabed and subsoil of this site is protected by the UK, while the water column remains unprotected.

In 2012 and 2014, the United Kingdom nominated two more OSPAR MPAs (*Hatton Bank SAC* and *Hatton-Rockall Basin*, respectively) entirely located in an area subject to a submission by the UK to the UN CLCS for an ECS²⁹. The seabed and subsoil of these sites are protected by the UK, while the water column remains unprotected.

Current state of play

By the end of 2014 the OSPAR Network of MPAs comprises 10 MPAs situated in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs *i.e.* the High Seas, the Area and ECS areas (see Figure 7). The process of the establishment or nomination of these MPAs is further elaborated in the following sections.

²⁸ Recent updates to geographical calculation methods have resulted in minor differences in the reported area for these MPAs between years.

²⁹ 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 UNCLOS and Article 4 of the Annex II thereto, have been submitted to the UN CLCS, and whose consideration is currently pending.

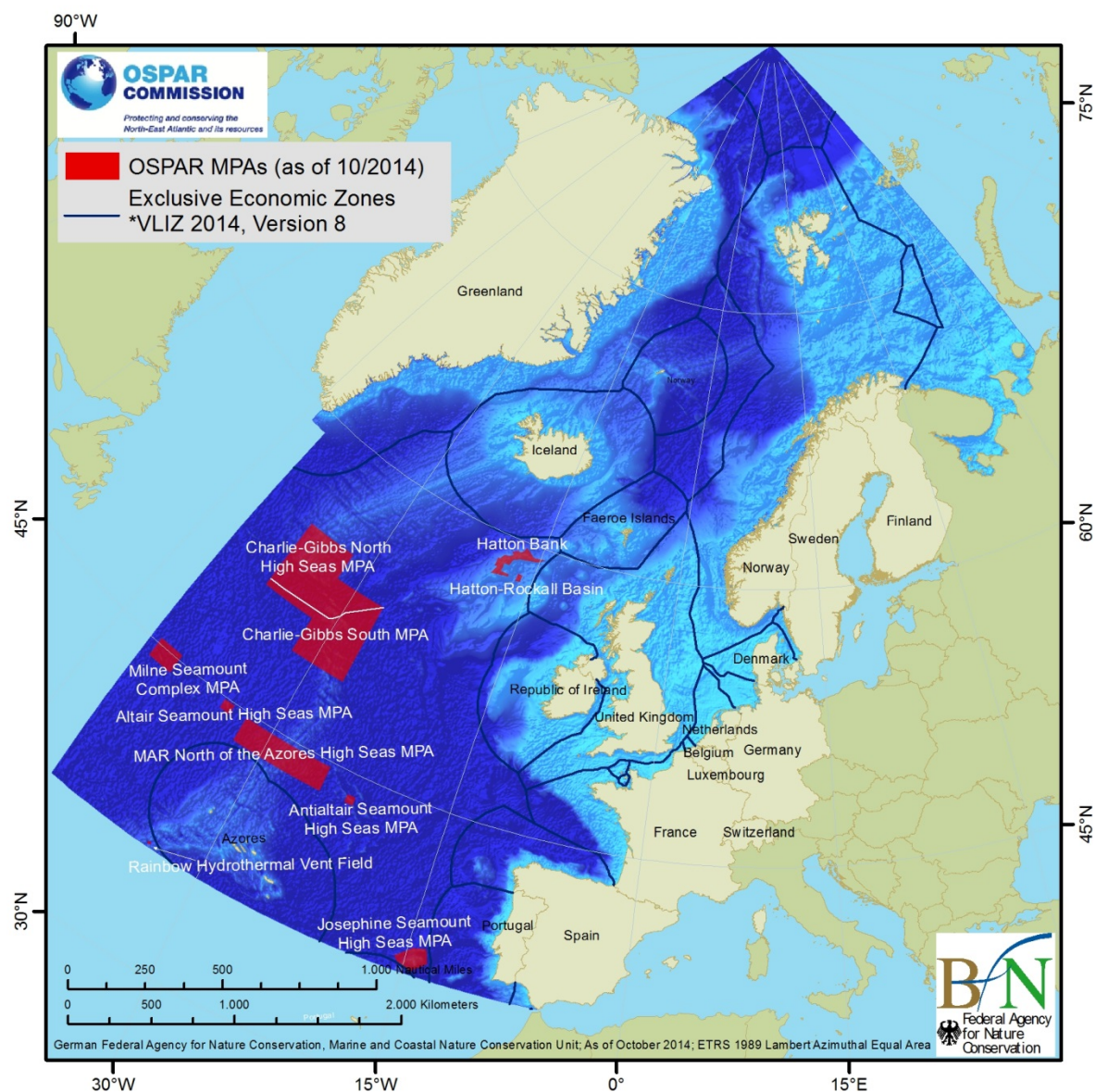


Figure 7. OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs (as of 1 October 2014)³⁰.

Jurisdiction of OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs

The ten OSPAR MPAs nominated up to 1 October 2014 in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs of CPs, *i.e.* the High Seas, the Area, and ECS areas, can be grouped into different categories with regards to their jurisdictional regime.

1) Charlie-Gibbs South MPA and 2) Milne Seamount Complex MPA

These two MPAs are situated entirely in ABNJ. The seabed, the subsoil and the water column are protected collectively by all OSPAR CPs.

³⁰ The boundaries of CPs' EEZs have been obtained from the [open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase](#). It is noted, that not all of these boundaries as shown in the map have been officially declared by CPs.

3) *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores High Seas MPA*, 4) *Altair Seamount High Seas MPA*, 5) *Antialtair High Seas MPA* and 6) *Josephine Seamount Complex High Seas MPA*

These four MPAs are situated within an area subject to a submission by Portugal to the UN CLCS for an ECS. Portugal has expressed the intention to assume the responsibility to take measures for the protection of the seabed and the subsoil within these areas. Upon invitation by Portugal, the OSPAR Commission agreed to collectively protect the water column of these MPAs.

7) *Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas MPA*

This MPA is partly situated within an area subject to a submission by Iceland to the UN CLCS for an ECS. The water column is protected collectively by all CPs. The seabed and the subsoil remain unprotected.

8) *Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field*, 9) *Hatton Bank SAC*, 10) *Hatton-Rockall Basin*

These MPAs are situated within areas subject to a submission by a CP to the UN CLCS for an ECS. The seabed and subsoil of these sites are protected by the respective CP, while the water column remains unprotected.

Progress towards the CBD target on MPAs

A graphic representation of the relative protection of the OSPAR maritime area with a view towards reaching the CBD 10% target can be seen in Figure 8. The size of the circle is relative to the % of the area covered and the graphic presents information from the following five perspectives:

- For the five OSPAR regions (top left);
- For the different jurisdictions (top right);
- For the whole OSPAR maritime area (centre);
- For the benthic Dinter³¹ biogeographic provinces (bottom left);
- For the pelagic Dinter biogeographic provinces (bottom right).

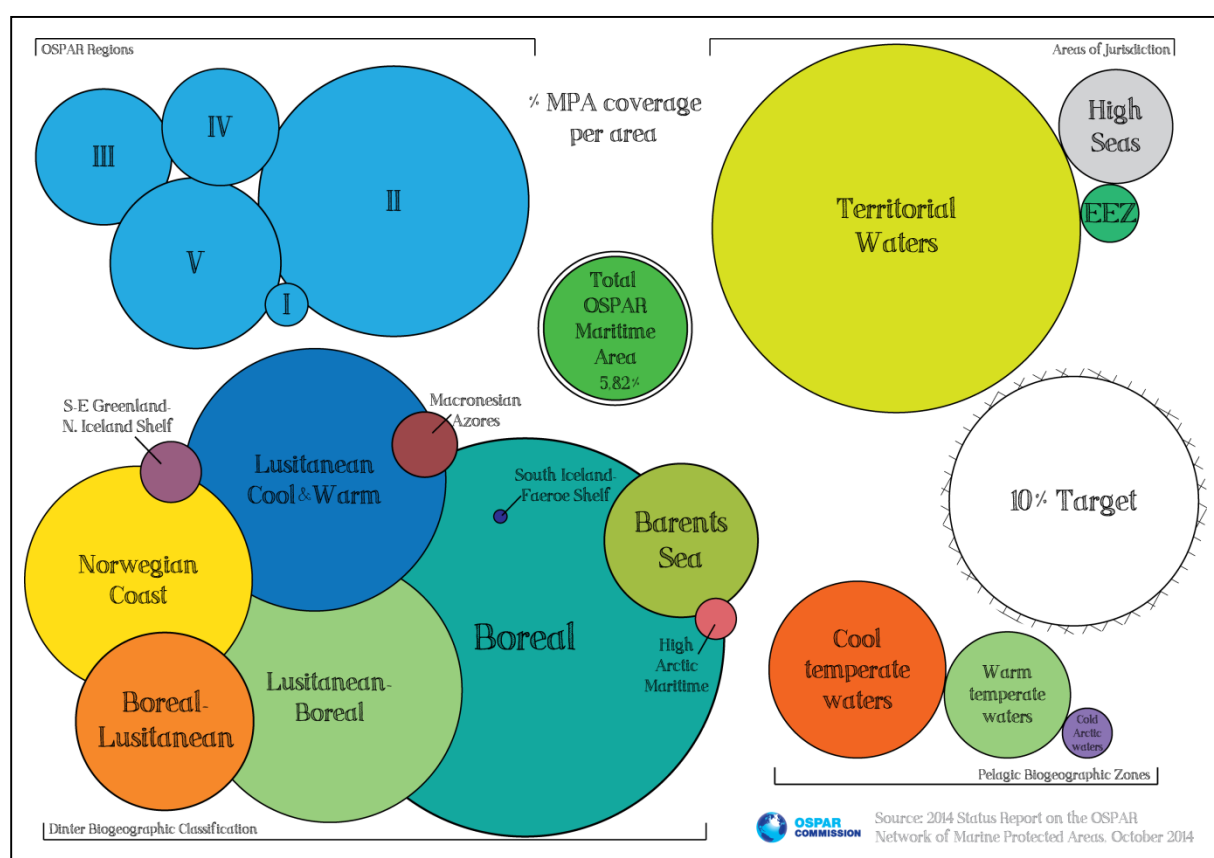


Figure 8. Representation of the relative protection of the OSPAR maritime area with a view towards reaching the target set by CBD to protect at least 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020 (as of 1 October 2014)³².

³¹ According to the classification by Dinter 2001 (Dinter, W. 2001. Biogeography of the OSPAR maritime area. German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Bonn. 167 pp).

³² The circle 'High Seas' includes all OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs, i.e. the High Seas, the Area, and ECS areas.

Ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs

Background

OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3³³ on a Network of MPAs sets out the goal of OSPAR CPs to continue the establishment of the OSPAR Network of MPAs 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 CBD (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 MPAs.

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.

³³ [OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3](#) (OSPAR 03/17/1, Annex 9), amended by [OSPAR Recommendation 2010/2](#) (OSPAR 10/23/1, Annex 7)

Existing OSPAR work on ecological coherence

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

- **Guidance on developing an ecologically coherent network of OSPAR Marine Protected Areas** (OSPAR 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** (OSPAR 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** (OSPAR 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 of MPAs 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:

- i) Adequacy/Viability;
- ii) Representativity;
- iii) Replication; and
- iv) 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.

- **Background Document on three initial spatial tests used for assessing the ecological coherence of the OSPAR MPA Network** (OSPAR 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. The initial tests have been applied in the 2007, 2008, and 2009/2010 OSPAR Reports on the progress made in developing the OSPAR Network of MPAs (Publication Number: 359/2008, 389/2009, and 493/2010 respectively) as well as in the 2011 and 2012 Status Reports on the OSPAR Network of MPAs (Publication Number: 577/2012 and

618/2013 respectively). For an updated application of these tests on the MPA network as of 1 October 2014, see 'Three initial spatial tests looking at the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs in 2014', below.

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

The matrix approach, a secondary and wholly complementary approach to assessing ecological coherence, focuses on the way in which representative features (*i.e.* species and habitats) are incorporated within the OSPAR Network of MPAs. The 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.

In order to obtain evidence regarding the practicability of this methodology, the matrix approach was trialled in the English Channel. 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 study³⁴, especially in view of scaling up the approach for application at the wider OSPAR level.

- **An assessment of the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas in 2012** (Publication Number: 619/2013)

This assessment aims to provide practical, stepwise tests that are proportionate to the available data, and appropriate to the level of progress in the designation of MPAs across the OSPAR maritime area as a whole, OSPAR Regions and sub regions. The following two broad levels of tests have been conducted:

- i) Level 1: broad-scale tests across the OSPAR maritime area, integrating the above described 'Three Initial Spatial Tests' identified by OSPAR;
- ii) Level 2: more detailed tests of ecological coherence at the regional and sub-regional scale, integrating the above described matrix approach, which was trialled in the Channel by the UK and France.

This report provides only a summary of the assessment because it has been recently and comprehensively described in the assessment report itself.

Summary of the assessment of the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs in 2012

The assessment evaluated the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs as at the end of 2012. It has been undertaken based upon Guidance developed by OSPAR and international best practice but accepting that there are a variety of views concerning how ecological coherence might

³⁴ A matrix approach to assessing the ecological coherence of the OSPAR MPA network: trial of methodology in the Channel (ICG-MPA 13/3/3-E)

be achieved and that the methods currently developed to evaluate ecological coherence are still being refined. Building on conclusions of the 2012 Status Report of the OSPAR Network of MPAs, GIS analysis was applied in a pragmatic way, recognising assumptions and limitations. In particular data needed to make a complete assessment are currently not comprehensive or spatially inclusive, and thus it is only partially fit for purpose. Therefore techniques have been applied to OSPAR Regions and sub-Regions as data availability allowed and to demonstrate what may be possible in future. The assessment comprises two levels of testing: a basic level applied to the whole OSPAR maritime area and a more sophisticated second level of spatial tests applied to certain sub-regions that had greater numbers of MPAs and more complete data. The tests form part of an iterative cycle establishing where the network is not ecologically coherent as a means to suggest where aspects of ecological coherence can be identified.

At Level 1, the three Initial OSPAR tests are expanded upon. Using basic thresholds to determine general distribution, the first spatial test identifies major gaps in the offshore and high seas areas of Regions I, IV and V. Using more stringent connectivity criteria the nearshore component of Regions II and III are showing signs of ecological coherence, with smaller gaps identified around the Channel Islands, southern Norway, southern Ireland and south east England. Test 2 considers biogeographic representation adding a replicate analysis to the results provided in the 2012 status report. As 7 of the 10 biogeographic provinces of particular relevance to OSPAR meet the 3% coverage threshold this test is passed, but for the provinces concerned there is a range between 4 and 305 replicates, roughly reflecting less to more common habitat types. Test 3, considering distribution across bathymetric classes, indicates a strong distribution bias of MPAs towards the coastal zone and shallow shelf, suggesting coherence has not been achieved at depths greater than 75 m.

At Level 2, in theory test 4 seeks to evaluate representation of threatened and/or declining species and habitats. Currently, however, in practice the lack of data precludes this test. Nevertheless an illustration of use of predicted habitat modelling and identification of areas that are significant for species suggests such models can serve as viable proxies. Similarly the matrix approach, test 5, which draws together the collation of detailed information on species and assessment as well as the principles of network design, has been trialled in the Channel but it is also currently limited by data quality and availability. The remaining tests, which for this assessment were only applied in OSPAR Regions II and III, considered broad-scale habitat representativity and replication (test 6), adequacy and viability (test 7) and connectivity (test 8). They demonstrate that in specific areas varying degrees of these elements of ecological coherence have been achieved but they also highlight uncertainties and limitations.

On the basis of applying these tests the assessment concluded that whilst the OSPAR Network of MPAs as a whole is not ecologically coherent there are positive signs. Furthermore, the identification of distributional gaps together with under-representation of biogeographic provinces and bathymetric zones can inform a strategic Region by Region approach to address deficiencies with a suggested initial focus on representativity and replication. In future proportionate assessments of ecological coherence are recommended, recognising data needs and deficiencies. Given that the conclusions of this assessment are broadly in line with those reached by HELCOM, opportunity exists for further joint work. The use of Ecologically and/or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs), once described and endorsed by the CBD, could provide a focus for data collection and further development of the MPA network, together with Region-specific planning scenarios. Further information on this assessment is provided in the OSPAR Publication 619/2013.

Three initial spatial tests looking at the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs in 2014

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 Network of MPAs 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 are 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. Taking into account the nomination of eleven new sites in Spanish waters, OSPAR MPAs are also distributed fairly well along the coastline in the northern part of OSPAR Region IV.

Applying the approximate *rules of thumb* guidance provided in the Background Document (360/2008) on what constitutes 'not more than a few major gaps'³⁵, it might be inferred from the spatial arrangement of MPAs Region II and III, along the coastline in the northern part of OSPAR Region IV, around the Azores archipelago, and 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 and, more generally, in offshore areas throughout all the Regions that are not covered by MPAs, overall the OSPAR 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.

³⁵ "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 Network of MPAs cover at least 3% of most (seven of the ten) relevant Dinter biogeographic provinces?³⁶

The ten biogeographic provinces of the OSPAR maritime area relevant for this test have been highlighted in yellow in Table 3 and are shown in Figure 9. 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 Lusitanian 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.

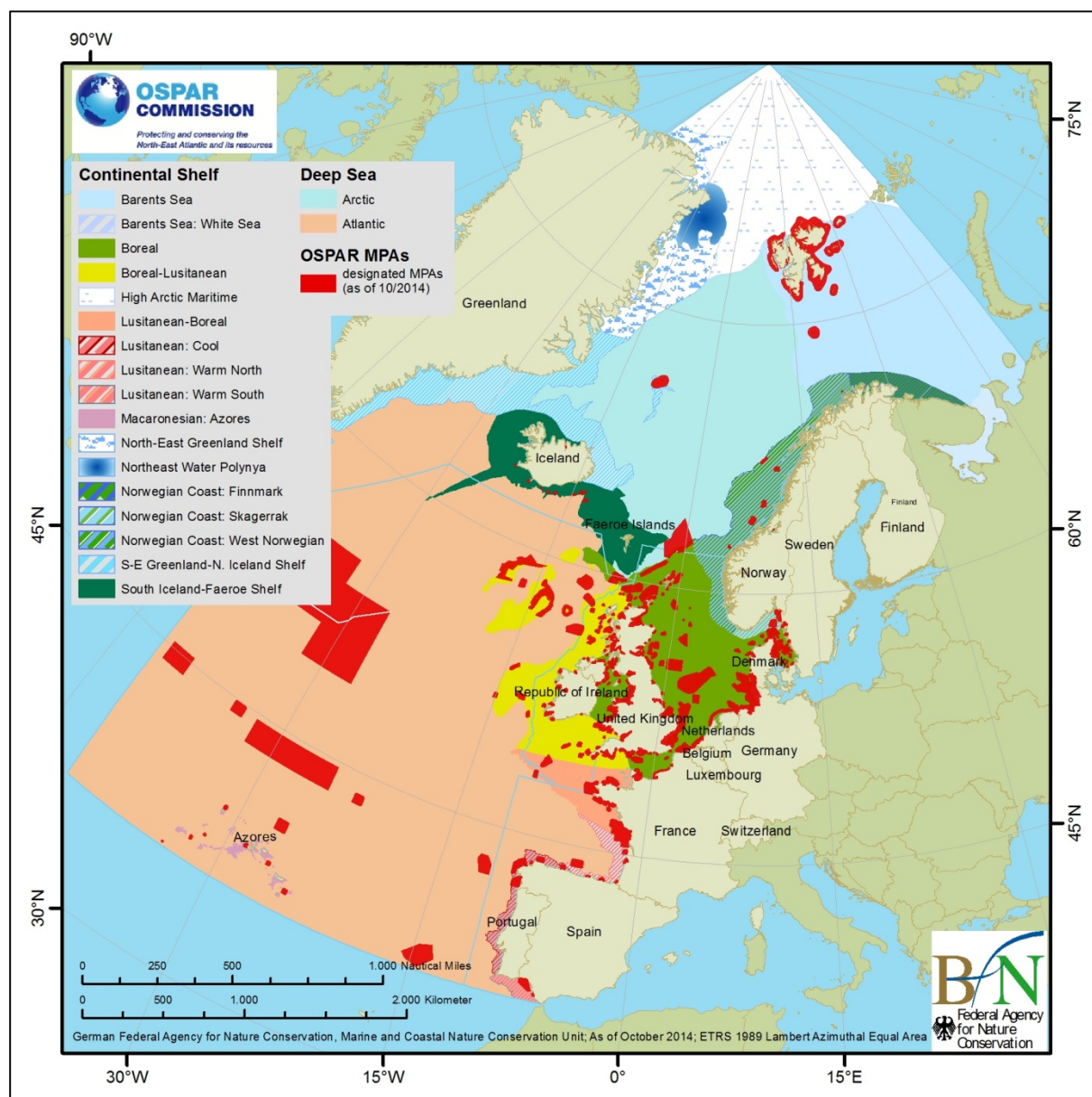


Figure 9. Biogeographic provinces of the North-East Atlantic (according to the classification by Dinter, 2001) and OSPAR MPAs as of 1 October 2014³⁷.

³⁶ Dinter 2001. Biogeography of the OSPAR maritime area. German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Bonn. 167 pp.

Table 3. Coverage of the biogeographic provinces³⁸ by OSPAR MPAs. The ten biogeographic provinces of the OSPAR maritime area relevant for test 2 are highlighted in yellow. The biogeographic provinces with >3% MPA coverage are highlighted in green.

Region	Subregion	Province	Total Area	Protected Area by OSPAR MPAs	
			[km ²]	[km ²]	[%]
(Holo) Pelagic					
Arctic	---	---	3 334 941	72 643	2.18%
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Cool-temperate Waters	6 690 666	548 547	8.20%
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Warm-temperate Waters	3 522 504	167 206	4.75%
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	11 099	1.37%
Arctic	---	Barents Sea	1 158 371	67 229	5.80%
Arctic	---	South-East Greenland - North Iceland Shelf	425 600	2 985	0.70%
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Norwegian Coast (Finnmark & Skagerrak & West Norwegian)	413 698	4 759	1.15%
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	South Iceland-Faeroe Shelf	306 382	566	0.18%
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Boreal	710 185	112 904	15.90%
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Boreal-Lusitanean	455 947	36 559	8.02%
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Lusitanean-Boreal	151 202	19 329	12.78%
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Lusitanean (Cool & Warm)	118 277	12 855	10.87%
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Macaronesian Azores	22 545	812	3.60%
Deep Sea					
Arctic	---	---	2 235,011	20 772	0.93%
Atlantic	---	---	6 995 818	498 506	7.13%

Since 2012, seven of the ten biogeographic provinces considered in this test surpass the 3% threshold coverage by OSPAR MPAs (marked in green): the five continental shelf provinces *Boreal* (15.90%), *Lusitanian-Boreal* (12.78%), *Lusitanian* (Cool & Warm) (10.87%), *Boreal-Lusitanian* (8.02%), and *Macaronesian Azores* (3.60%), and the two pelagic provinces *Cool-temperate Waters* (8.20%) and *Warm-temperate Waters* (4.75%).

³⁷ For the purpose of visibility, OSPAR MPAs (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.

³⁸ According to the classification by Dinter 2001 (Dinter, W. 2001. Biogeography of the OSPAR maritime area. German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Bonn. 167 pp).

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 5.80% coverage by OSPAR MPAs.

Test 3: Are most (70%) of the threatened and/or declining species and habitats³⁹ (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 CPs 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

Ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs has been assessed at the end of 2012⁴⁰, using two broad levels of tests (Level 1: broad-scale tests across the OSPAR maritime area; Level 2: detailed tests at the regional and sub-regional scale). The assessment concluded that whilst the OSPAR Network of MPAs as a whole is not ecologically coherent there are positive signs. The report highlighted a paucity of data and understanding around some of the principles underpinning ecological coherence as barriers to undertaking more sophisticated assessments in the future.

Additionally, ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs in 2014 has been assessed using the three initial spatial tests. Results suggest that the OSPAR Network of MPAs currently cannot be considered 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. 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, along the coastline in the northern part of OSPAR Region IV, around the Azores archipelago, and in ABNJ/in the High Seas of the Wider Atlantic, that the network in these areas shows first signs of sufficient ecological coherence. Furthermore, the network has a good representation of the different biogeographic regions within the North-East Atlantic, which is one of the requirements for ecological coherence (Table 3).

The work on assessing the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs is ongoing.

³⁹ OSPAR List of threatened and/or declining species and habitats (OSPAR Reference Number 2008-6)

⁴⁰ [An assessment of the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas in 2012](#) (OSPAR Publication Number 619/2013)

Management of OSPAR Network of MPAs

Background

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

OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3, amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2010/2⁴¹, on a network of MPAs sets out the goal of OSPAR CPs to continue the establishment of the OSPAR Network of MPAs 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 specifies, 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 guidelines⁴², 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*
 - (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 Directive⁴³ or the EC Habitats Directive⁴⁴, to designate any area in the maritime area (whether wholly or partly) as a Special Protection Area or a Special Area of Conservation;

⁴¹ [OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3](#) (OSPAR 03/17/1, Annex 9), amended by [OSPAR Recommendation 2010/2](#) (OSPAR 10/23/1, Annex 7)

⁴² OSPAR Guidelines for the Management of MPAs 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.

⁴³ Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds.

⁴⁴ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of habitats and wild fauna and flora.

- 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 CPs 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).

In order to enable assessment against the target of establishing a well-managed network of MPAs, OSPAR has developed ‘Guidance to assess the effectiveness of management of OSPAR MPAs: a self-assessment scorecard’ (Reference Number 2007-5). In 2014 OSPAR CPs further conducted a workshop on the procedure to assess whether the OSPAR Network of MPAs is well-managed (April 2014 in Gothenburg/Sweden)⁴⁵. The development of a methodology to assess management effectiveness of the OSPAR Network of MPAs is ongoing.

Management of OSPAR MPAs under National Jurisdiction

According to OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3 CPs should report annually to the OSPAR Commission on any management plans that they have adopted or substantially amended in that year. A summary of the outcome of the reporting until October 2014 is described in the following section.

Summary information on the management of OSPAR MPAs as provided by CPs

Belgium: For the two Belgian OSPAR MPAs, all Natura 2000 sites, a management plan has been adopted in 2009. As this was the first management plan, the plan focused on the major policy issues to address the development of more operational conservation objectives and conservation measures. Draft fishery measures, pending EU approval under the CFP, are proposed in part of the MPA “Vlaamse Banken”.

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 by 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: Out of all French OSPAR MPAs, fourteen already have a validated management plan. These include *Baie de l'Aiguillon* (2005), *Banc d'Arguin* (2005), *Iroise* (2008), *Moëze-Oléron* (2005), *Baie de Saint-Brieuc* (2005), *Baie de Somme* (2005), *Domaine de Beauguillot* (2005), *Estuaire de la Seine* (2007), *Estuaire de la Seine* (2012, SAC), *Falaise du Bessin Occidental* (2012, SPA), *Littoral Cauchois* (2012, SAC), *Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin - Baie des Veys* (2012, SAC), *Sept-Iles* (2005), and *Tatihou - Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue* (2012, SAC). A validated management plan thus exists for all French

⁴⁵ Report of the OSPAR Workshop on how to assess management effectiveness of MPAs (8-10 April 2014 in Gothenburg, Sweden)

OSPAR MPAs nominated before 2012 and for five MPAs nominated in 2012. France has uploaded all validated management plans into the OSPAR MPA database for easy accessibility.

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)⁴⁶, 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 the 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 fourteen 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 by regulation 119/1974 and law 44/1999 while the area of *Surtsey* is protected since 1965 both by regulation and by law since 1994. The five Icelandic OSPAR MPAs nominated in 2014, namely *Lónsdjúp*, *Skeiðarárdjúp*, *Rósagarður*, *Papagrunn*, and *Lónsdjúp-Papagrunn kantur/slope*, are protected by regulation 1095/2011 and law 79/1997. Bottom fishing is prohibited in these areas.

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 no. 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* and *Sularevet*, nominated in 2005, as well as *Breisunddjupet*, *Korallen*, *Trænarevet*, and *Jan Mayen*, nominated in 2012, are protected against bottom trawling under following Norwegian legislation (Norwegian regulation no. 1878, 22.12.2004 – “Forskrift om utøvelse av fisket i sjøen” § 66 – states that the use of bottom trawl is illegal in this area.)

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

⁴⁶ <http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/management/Plan.html>

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 that area. Tuna fishing is still allowed, with certain restrictions. 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 a Spanish MPA and SAC entered into force on 9th December 2011. This legal document includes the corresponding conservation and fisheries regulation measures⁴⁷.

Management plans (Natural Resources Management Plans, Fisheries Management Plans) for *Islas Atlánticas* are being developed in line with the EC Habitats and Birds Directives.

In 2014, Spain nominated eleven SPAs as OSPAR MPAs⁴⁸. From the moment of designation, Spain has two years for passing a management plan for each of these MPAs. Management plans will lay down the conservation measures required for the preservation of birds listed in Annex I of the 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, have 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

⁴⁷ <http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2011/12/08/pdfs/BOE-A-2011-19246.pdf>

⁴⁸ <http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2014/07/17/pdfs/BOE-A-2014-7576.pdf>

Park has been developed and the monitoring programme 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 for 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 needs to be developed.

Two Swedish OSPAR MPAs, *Havstensfjorden* and *Bratten*, have been nominated in 2012. For *Havstensfjorden* a management plan has already been adopted. For *Bratten* the development of fisheries measures is ongoing. Sweden has produced guidelines on how to take appropriate measures concerning fisheries in MPAs. There is also an ongoing project concerning the identification of MPAs in need of specific conservation measures, mainly directed to fisheries. Support has been given to a scientific study on connectivity building on a model on larval dispersion in Kattegatt and Skagerrak to understand which areas are important from this point of view.

The 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.

In 2014, the UK also nominated as OSPAR MPAs the marine area of 27 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) identified under the UK's Marine & Coastal Access Act (2009), and 30 Nature Conservation MPAs (NCMPAs) also identified under UK legislation (The UK Marine & Coastal Access Act and The Marine (Scotland) Act (2010)). Information on the management of human activities within these areas was provided to the OSPAR Commission.

In line with the OSPAR agreement on MPAs, the UK did not anticipate implementing any additional management actions over and above those considered necessary for the SACs and SPAs under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive respectively, nor for MCZs and NCMPAs under the UK Marine & Coastal Access Act and Marine (Scotland) Act.

Management of OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ/in the High Seas⁴⁹

In conjunction with the establishment of the OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ/in the High Seas as described in the section 'OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs', the OSPAR Commission agreed upon OSPAR Recommendations on the management for each of these areas. The purpose of these Recommendations is to guide OSPAR CPs 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 each of 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;*

⁴⁹ The management of national OSPAR MPAs, that are situated within an area subject to a submission for an ECS and have been nominated by a single CP, is up to the respective CP and thus has not been included in this section.

- *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.*

According to the above named OSPAR Recommendations (2010/12 - 2010/17 and 2012/1), CPs should report annually by 1 October to the OSPAR Commission with regards to any action that they have undertaken to implement the Recommendations on the management of OSPAR High Seas MPAs. A summary of the outcome of the reporting of 1 October 2014 is described in the following.

Summary information on the implementation of OSPAR Recommendations on the management of OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ/in the High Seas as provided by CPs in 2014

Belgium: Belgium stated that the Recommendations are not applicable to Belgium.

Finland: Finland stated that the Recommendations are not applicable to Finland.

France: France has taken specific measures to give effect to the Recommendations, as described in the following. Regarding awareness raising, the French Marine Protected Areas Agency has produced a brochure to present relevant information about OSPAR High Seas MPAs to the different administrations and stakeholders involved in activities in those areas. The next meeting of the national informal working group on high seas will further explore how to strengthen the implementation, of the recommendations for the management of the OSPAR High Seas MPAs at national level.

As regards information building, France has filled in information regarding OSPAR High Seas MPAs in the OSPAR MPA database. France has also collected and analysed new data regarding shipping in the *Josephine High Seas MPA*. This analysis was presented at the meeting of the Environmental Impact of Human Activities Committee (EIHA) in 2014 with a view to developing the pilot study on the impacts of shipping in High Seas MPAs.

Concerning engagement with third parties, France, together with Germany, the UK and Norway, took the lead to submit the Collective Arrangement to other international competent authorities. Following the endorsement by NEAFC in 2014, the arrangement has been presented (by the UK and Germany) at the Council of the ISA 2014 and has been submitted to the 67th IMO Marine Environment Permanent Committee meeting (13-17 October 2014), by France and Norway.

France has encountered difficulties in the implementation of the Recommendations. The Charlie Gibbs South case study was, when presented at the meeting of the OSPAR BDC in 2013, considered as premature by the representative of NEAFC, pointing out that it could be misunderstood and could create confusion with the Collective Arrangement that OSPAR has circulated to the relevant competent authorities. As a consequence, France decided to concentrate its efforts on the endorsement of the Collective Arrangement, by means of national coordination to facilitate the dialogue with third parties as described below.

At national level, the Ministry of the Environment that represents France at OSPAR - together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - has strengthened the coordination with other ministerial departments that represent France in other organizations in order for them to be well aware of the challenges of the submission of the Collective Arrangement within the IMO and the ISA as next steps of the process of adoption of this document, already agreed by OSPAR and NEAFC.

Germany: Germany has taken specific measures to give effect to the Recommendations, as described in the following. As regards awareness raising, the German Federal Government has in June 2012 supported WWF Germany with a financial grant to develop a communication concept for the seven MPAs in the High Seas of the North-East Atlantic, with particular emphasis on the *Charlie-Gibbs South MPA*. The main products of this initiative are an illustrative website (<http://www.charlie-gibbs.org/>) and a CD-ROM providing the public with general background information, scientific studies, photographic material as well as video interviews conducted with international experts regarding the establishment and the management of these MPAs. The website continues to be operable and is regularly updated.

Concerning information building, Germany continues to present information on the OSPAR High Seas MPAs in relevant national journals, as well as in national fora, universities and conferences.

Regarding marine science, the cooperation with the German scientific community has continued. All scientists conducting research on the German scientific research vessels capable of operating in the high sea areas covered by the OSPAR HS Recommendations, *i.e.*, “Meteor”, “Maria S. Merian”, “Polarstern” and “Sonne”, are required to observe the Declaration on Responsible Research⁵⁰ issued by the Senate Commission on Oceanography⁵¹ of the German Research Foundation⁵² as well as the OSPAR Code of Conduct for Responsible Marine Research in the Deep Seas and High Seas of the OSPAR maritime area (OSPAR Agreement 2008-01).

In terms of engagement with third parties, Germany is actively involved in further developing the Collective Arrangement between competent authorities on the management of selected areas in ABNJ in the North East Atlantic.

With respect to the effectiveness of the measures taken to give effect to the Recommendations, Germany reported that it is too early to judge the effectiveness of the implementation of these Recommendations. However, Germany has been actively involved in the development of a methodology for assessing management effectiveness of the OSPAR Network of MPAs.

Luxemburg: Luxemburg stated that the Recommendations are not applicable to Luxemburg.

The Netherlands: The Netherlands do not have any new information on the seven High Seas MPA Recommendations.

Norway: In this Reporting Period (2 October 2013 – 1 October 2014) Norway has not initiated any new measures concerning the MPAs in ABNJ.

Spain: So far, Spain has not applied any specific measures to give effect to the Recommendations. As soon as Spain has improved these measures, Spain will probably include a webpage dedicated to the High Seas on its website, and will make a study of the effectiveness of the measures taken. Up to now, Spain did not encounter any practical or legal problems in the implementation of the Recommendations.

Sweden: Sweden has taken specific measures to give effect to the Recommendation, as described in the following. Regarding potential effects of fisheries on the biological diversity of the High Seas MPAs, the Inspection and Enforcement Department has performed a specific check and it was found that no Swedish flagged fishing vessel has operated in the High Seas MPAs during the period from January 2014 until the date of reporting (1 October 2014). This is most probable because the quotas

⁵⁰ Erklärung zu einer verantwortungsvollen Meeresforschung

⁵¹ Senatskommission für Ozeanographie

⁵² Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

available to Sweden in these areas are rather small and due to the distances from land it does not pay to operate there.

Regarding the potential effects of maritime transport on the biological diversity of the High Seas MPAs, information about the OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ has been communicated to the cargo fleet through the Swedish Transport Agency website⁵³.

Concerning the effectiveness of the measures taken to give effect to the Recommendations, Sweden reported that the effectiveness of the measures taken can only be evaluated after some time.

A difficulty that Sweden has encountered in the implementation of the Recommendations is that data on maritime traffic in the areas has not been made available to the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM).

Concerning the reasons for not having fully implemented this Recommendation and plans for full implementation, Sweden stated that the issue of the “freedom of the High Seas” may be an obstacle in this context. To disseminate information and collect data the role of IMO should be discussed.

The United Kingdom: The UK has taken specific measures to give effect to the Recommendations, as described in the following. The UK’s Ministry Of Defence has incorporated all of the OSPAR High Seas MPAs into the Navy Command Environmental Protection Guidelines (Maritime); an interactive element of MOD vessels’ electronic navigational charting. EPG(M) alerts Naval operators and planners to the presence of these MPAs and outlines the additional precautions necessary to safeguard the MPA designated features when operating there.

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 (NEAFC, ICCAT, NASCO, NAMMCO, IWC), shipping (IMO), and extraction of mineral resources (ISA). The OSPAR Commission therefore started cooperating with these Competent Authorities, including through Memoranda of Understanding and informal consultative meetings (*i.e.* March 2010 in Madeira/Portugal and January 2012 in Paris/France), to facilitate a collaborative management of OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ/in the High Seas.

As result of this process the ‘Collective Arrangement’ was developed, which provides the basis of cooperation between competent international organisations, regarding selected sites in ABNJ/in the High Seas that are subject to specific management. Following initial consultations with a number of competent international organisations, it was agreed to develop a text and agree the Collective Arrangement between OSPAR and NEAFC in the first instance, as parts of the competent regional organisations in the OSPAR maritime area.

Following an intensive process of finalisation, NEAFC formally adopted the Collective Arrangement on 25 April 2014. At the annual meeting of the OSPAR Commission in 2014 (23-27 June 2014; Cascais/Portugal) OSPAR also adopted the collective Arrangement between competent international organisations on cooperation and coordination regarding selected areas in ABNJ in the North-East Atlantic⁵⁴. This represents a significant step forward in the coordination regarding selected areas in ABNJ/in the High Seas at least for the North-East Atlantic.

Regulation of fisheries by NEAFC

⁵³ <http://www.transportstyrelsen.se/sv/Sjofart/Miljo-och-halsa/Sarskilt-kansliga-havsomraden/>

⁵⁴ Collective Arrangement between competent international organisations on cooperation and coordination regarding selected areas in ABNJ in the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Agreement 2014-09)

Five of the OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs, *i.e.* *CG South*, *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores*, and *Altair Seamount*, *Antialtair Seamount*, and *Hatton Bank* are - at all or at least partially – subject to specific fisheries management regulations as a result of decisions taken by NEAFC in 2009 and 2012 to close specific areas in the Wider Atlantic Region to bottom fisheries with a view to protecting Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the North-East Atlantic. Pursuant to the competence of NEAFC, this implies that fishing activities by vessels flying the flags of NEAFC CPs or Co-Operating Non-CPs, with fishing gear which is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations, are prohibited within these areas (see Figure 10). The closures are guaranteed to be in place until 2017, with the possibility to extend beyond that time.

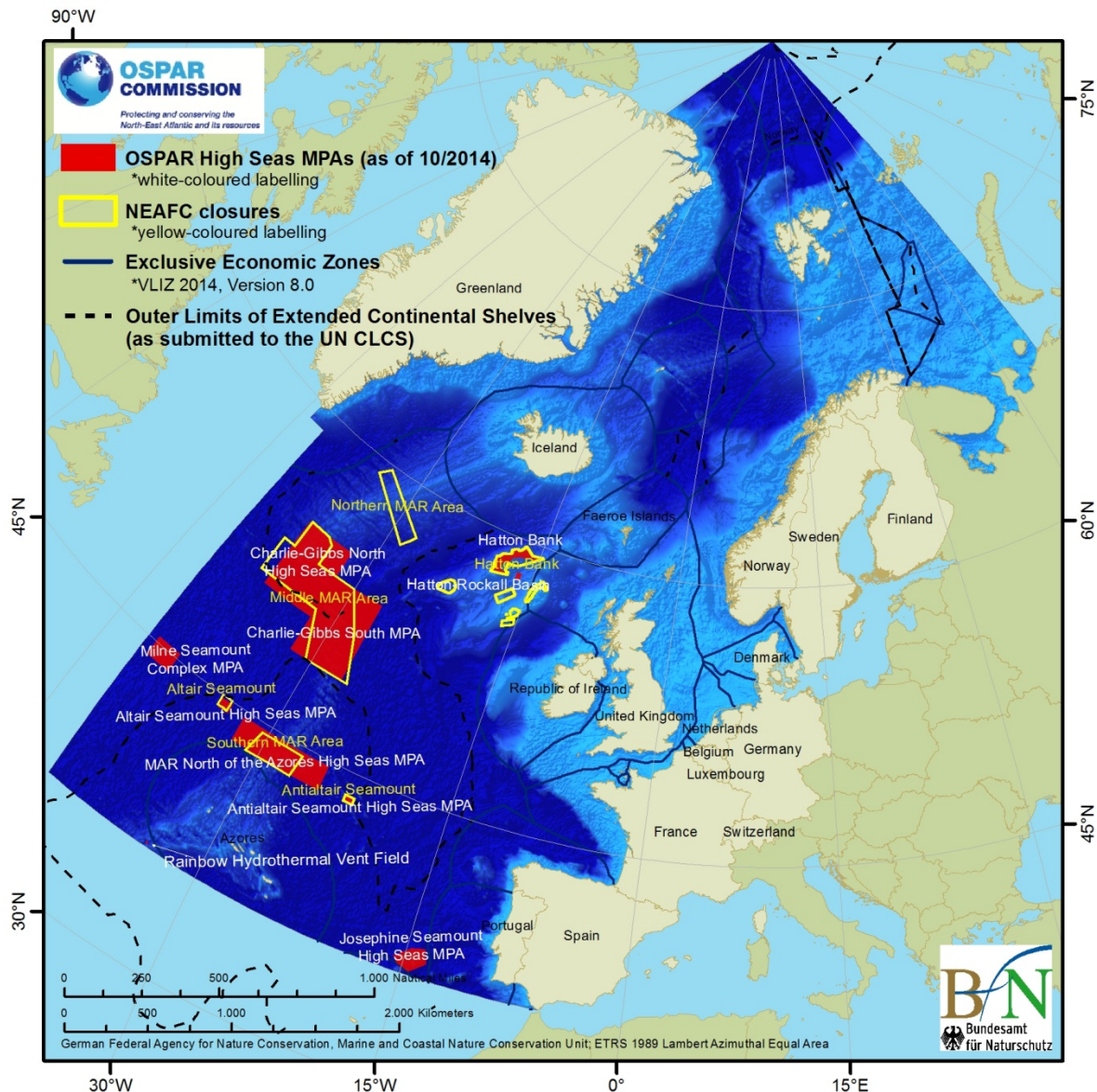


Figure 10. OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs of CPs⁵⁵ and areas temporarily closed by NEAFC to bottom-fisheries (as of 1 October 2014).

⁵⁵ The boundaries of CPs' EEZs have been obtained from the [open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase](#). It is noted, that not all of these boundaries as shown in the map have been officially declared by CPs.

Preliminary conclusions on the management of OSPAR MPAs

An MPA 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 vary substantially among the different sites. 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.

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 of MPAs, but rather that documented evidence has not been available for this report. The development of a methodology to assess management effectiveness of the OSPAR Network of MPAs is ongoing.

Conclusions on the status of the OSPAR Network of MPAs in 2014

- Since 2005, all 12 CPs bordering the North-East Atlantic have nominated sites to the OSPAR Network of MPAs both in their national waters as well as collectively in ABNJ/in the High Seas. The contributions by CPs differ substantially regarding distribution of sites across coastal and offshore waters as well as regarding overall coverage of their national waters by OSPAR MPAs.
- By 1 October 2014, the OSPAR Network of MPAs comprises 413 MPAs, including 403 MPAs situated within national waters of CPs and 10 MPAs situated in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs with different jurisdictional regimes⁵⁶. Collectively, these sites have a total surface area of 788 377 km² covering 5.82% of the OSPAR maritime area.
- The distribution of MPAs across coastal and offshore waters as well as across the five OSPAR Regions is imbalanced, resulting in major gaps of the network.
- The vast majority of sites have been designated in territorial waters (23.59% covered by OSPAR MPAs) and far fewer in the EEZs (3.06% covered by OSPAR MPAs). Currently, 6.02% of the area beyond the limits of national EEZs, *i.e.* the High Seas, the Area and the ECS areas, are covered by OSPAR MPAs.
- The Greater North Sea, compared to the other four OSPAR Regions, has reached the target set by the CBD to protect by 2020 at least 10% of coastal and marine areas. The Wider Atlantic and the Celtic Seas, however, are well represented with 8.27% and 6.65% coverage by OSPAR MPAs respectively. While coverage of the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast is at 4.81%, the Arctic Waters show the lowest coverage with only 1.94% of the area being protected by OSPAR MPAs.
- The ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs has been assessed at the end of 2012⁵⁷. The assessment concluded that whilst the OSPAR Network of MPAs as a whole is not ecologically coherent there are positive signs. The network has a good representation of the different biogeographic regions within the North-East Atlantic, which is one of the requirements for ecological coherence (Table 3). The report highlighted a paucity of data and understanding around some of the principles underpinning ecological coherence as barriers to undertaking more sophisticated assessments in the future. The work on assessing the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs is ongoing.
- As no sufficiently detailed information on the management of sites has been made available by many CPs, 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 many sites are still being prepared. The development of a methodology to assess the management effectiveness of the OSPAR Network of MPAs is ongoing.

⁵⁶ For further information on the jurisdictional regime of OSPAR MPAs situated in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs of CPs please see section 'OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ/in the High Seas – Jurisdiction'.

⁵⁷ [An assessment of the ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas in 2012](#) (OSPAR Publication Number 619/2013)

Annex I – List of OSPAR MPAs

(as of 1 October 2014)

ABNJ – Areas beyond National Jurisdiction

CP – Contracting Party

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

EEZ – Exclusive Economic Zone

HS – High Seas

TW – Territorial Waters

CP	WDPAID	OSPAR MPA	Year of Report	Jur.	Area (km ²)
ABNJ/High Seas	555512236	Antialtair Seamount High Seas MPA	2010	HS	2 807
	555512237	Altair Seamount High Seas MPA	2010	HS	4 384
	555512238	Josephine Seamount High Seas MPA	2010	HS	19 365
	555512239	Milne Seamount Complex MPA	2010	ABNJ	20 914
	555512240	MAR North of the Azores High Seas MPA	2010	HS	93 572
	555512241	Charlie-Gibbs South MPA	2010	ABNJ	146 029
	555557228	Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas MPA	2012	HS	178 094
Belgium	555557150	SBZ3	2012	TW	57
	555557219	Vlaamse Banken, SBZ 1 and SBZ2	2012	TW	749
				EEZ	433
Denmark	555556910	Agger Tange, Nissum Bredning, Skibsted Fjord og Agerø	2009	TW	166
	555556912	Ålborg Bugt, østlige del	2009	TW	1 542
				EEZ	239
	555556913	Ålborg Bugt, Randers Fjord og Mariager Fjord	2009	TW	617
	555556916	Anholt og havet nord for	2007	TW	112
	555556980	Ebbeløkkerev	2009	TW	1
	555556991	Farvandet nord for Anholt	2007	TW	348
				EEZ	2
	555557007	Gilleleje Flak og Tragten	2009	TW	26
				EEZ	22
	555557011	Gule Rev	2009	TW	44
				EEZ	429
	555557018	Havet og kysten mellem Hundested og Rørvig	2009	TW	14
	555557019	Havet omkring Nordre Rønner	2007	TW	186
	555557022	Herthas Flak	2007	TW	14
	555557023	Hesselø med omliggende stenrev	2007	TW	20
				EEZ	21
	555557024	Hirsholmene, havet vest herfor og Ellinge Å's udløb	2009	TW	91
	555557042	Jyske Rev, Lillefiskerbanke	2009	EEZ	242
	555557047	Kims Top og den Kinesiske Mur	2007	EEZ	262
	555557050	Knudegrund	2007	TW	8
	555557051	Kobberhage kystarealer	2009	TW	6
	555557055	Læsø Trindel og Tønneberg Banke	2007	TW	79
				EEZ	8

Denmark	555557056	Læsø, sydlige del	2007	TW	260
				EEZ	105
	555557070	Løgstør Bredning, Vejlerne og Bulbjerg	2009	TW	0
	555557071	Lønstrup Rødgrund	2007	TW	93
	555557077	Lysegrund	2007	TW	32
	555557100	Nissum Fjord	2009	TW	0
	555557139	Ringkøbing Fjord og Nymindestrømmen	2009	TW	0
	555557148	Sandbanker ud for Thorsminde	2007	TW	64
	555557149	Sandbanker ud for Thyborøn	2007	TW	64
	555557152	Schultz og Hastens Grund samt Briseis Flak	2007	TW	49
			2007	EEZ	160
	555557161	Skagens Gren og Skagerrak	2009	TW	1 285
				EEZ	1 412
	555557178	Store Middelgrund	2009	EEZ	21
	555557179	Store Rev	2009	EEZ	109
	555557181	Strandenge på Læsø og havet syd herfor	2007	TW	628
	555557193	Sydlige Nordsø	2007	TW	36
				EEZ	2 437
	555557207	Thyborøn Stenvolde	2009	TW	37
				EEZ	42
	555557218	Vadehavet med Ribe Å, Tved Å og Varde Å vest for Varde	2009	TW	1 137
DK FO				TW	0
				EEZ	0
DK GL				TW	0
				EEZ	0

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France	555544124	Iroise	2008	TW	3 431
	555544125	Baie de Somme	2006	TW	34
	555544126	Estuaire de la Seine	2007	TW	120
	555544127	Domaine de Beauguillot	2006	TW	5
	555544128	Baie de Saint-Brieuc	2006	TW	11
	555544129	Sept-Iles	2007	TW	4
	555544130	Moëze-Oléron	2007	TW	64
	555544131	Banc d'Arguin	2006	TW	25
	555544132	Baie de l'Aiguillon	2006	TW	25
	555556909	Abers - côtes des Légendes	2012	TW	227
	555556918	Archipel des Glénan	2012	TW	587
	555556920	Au droit de l'étang d'Hourtin-Carcans	2012	TW	501
				EEZ	5
	555556922	Baie de Morlaix	2012	TW	266
	555556923	Baie de Seine occidentale	2012	TW	454
	555556925	Bancs des Flandres	2012	TW	906
				EEZ	216
	555556926	Bassin d'Arcachon et Cap Ferret	2012	TW	227
	555556931	Belle Île en mer	2012	TW	174
	555556956	Côte Basque rocheuse et extension au Large	2012	TW	78
	555556957	Côte de Granit rose - Sept-Îles	2012	TW	721
	555556958	Côte de Granit rose – Sept-Îles	2012	TW	695
	555556989	Falaise du Bessin Occidental	2012	TW	13
	555557009	Golfe du Morbihan, côte Ouest de Rhuy	2012	TW	206
	555557033	Ile de Groix	2012	TW	284
	555557062	Littoral Cauchois	2012	TW	46
	555557079	Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin - Baie des Veys	2012	TW	287
	555557082	Massif dunaire Gavres-Quiberon et zones humides associées	2012	TW	68
	555557117	Panache de la Gironde	2012	TW	565
				EEZ	388
	555557118	Panache de la Gironde et plateau rocheux de Cordouan	2012	TW	565
				EEZ	388
	555557122	Pertuis charentais	2012	TW	3 177
				EEZ	1 385
	555557123	Pertuis charentais - Rochebonne	2012	TW	3 228
				EEZ	4 967
	555557125	Plateau rocheux de l'île d'Yeu	2012	TW	120
	555557129	Portion du littoral sableux de la côte Aquitaine	2012	TW	501
				EEZ	5
	555557135	Récifs et marais arrière-littoraux du Cap Lévi à la Pointe de Saire	2012	TW	154
	555557141	Roches de Penmarc'h	2012	TW	458
	555557153	Secteur de l'île d'Yeu	2012	TW	1 752
				EEZ	704
	555557196	Tatihou - Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue	2012	TW	8
	555557212	Trégor Goëlo	2012	TW	910
	555557229	Estuaire de la Seine	2012	TW	85
	555557232	Trégor Goëlo	2012	TW	912

Germany	555557146	S-H Wadden sea National Park	2005	TW	4 602
	555556969	Doggerbank	2008	EEZ	1 696
	555557194	Sylt.Aussenr.-Oestl.Dt.Bucht	2008	EEZ	5 595
	555557145	S-H Seabird Protection Area	2005	TW	1 618
	555556937	Borkum-Riffgrund	2008	EEZ	625
	555557099	Nationalpark Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer	2005	TW	2 747
Iceland	555556983	Eldey	2012	TW	14
	555557025	Hornarfjardardjup, coral reef 1	2008	EEZ	8
	555557026	Hornarfjardardjup, coral reef 2	2008	EEZ	37
	555557031	Hverastrytur i Eyjafirdi	2008	TW	0
	555557032	Hverastrytur i Eyjafirdi, north of Arnanesnöfum	2008	TW	1
	555557137	Reynisdjup, coral reef	2008	TW	9
	555557159	Skaftardjup, coral reef 1	2008	EEZ	7
	555557160	Skaftardjup, coral reef 2	2008	EEZ	22
	555557190	Surtsey	2012	TW	66
	555586883	Lónsdjúp	2014	EEZ	77
	555586884	Lónsdjúp-Papagrunn landgrunnskantur	2014	EEZ	78
	555586885	Papagrunn	2014	EEZ	17
	555586886	Rósagarður	2014	EEZ	164
	555586887	Skeiðarárdjúp	2014	EEZ	65
Ireland	555556924	Ballyness Bay	2009	TW	12
	555556930	Belgica Mound Province	2009	EEZ	411
	555556936	Blasket Islands	2009	TW	227
	555556962	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay)	2009	TW	49
	555556975	Dundalk Bay	2009	TW	52
	555557005	Galway Bay Complex	2009	TW	144
	555557027	Hovland Mound Province	2009	EEZ	1 086
	555557044	Kenmare River	2010	TW	433
	555557045	Kilkieran Bay and Islands	2010	TW	213
	555557048	Kingstown Bay	2009	TW	1
	555557078	Malahide Estuary	2009	TW	8
	555557096	Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex	2009	TW	141
	555557097	Mulroy Bay	2009	TW	32
	555557103	North-West Porcupine Bank	2009	EEZ	715
	555557106	North Dublin Bay	2010	TW	15
	555557140	Roaringwater Bay and Islands	2009	TW	143
	555557168	South-West Porcupine Bank	2009	EEZ	329
	555557210	Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West To Cloghane	2009	TW	116
	555557211	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand	2009	TW	8
Netherlands	555557049	Klaverbank	2009	EEZ	1 240
	555557101	Noordzeekustzone	2009	TW	1 416
	555557220	Vlakte van de Raan	2009	TW	199
	555557221	Voordelta	2009	TW	819
	555557231	Doggerbank	2009	EEZ	4 698

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Norway	555557155	Selligrunnen	2005	TW	1
	555557142	Røstrevet	2005	EEZ	316
	555557185	Sularevet	2005	TW	12
				EEZ	973
	555557040	Iverryggen	2005	EEZ	621
	555557227	Ytre Hvaler	2009	TW	340
	555557192 ⁵⁸	Svalbard West	2009	TW	20 064
	555557191	Svalbard East	2009	TW	55 451
	555556934	Bjørnøya	2009	TW	2 806
	555557041	Jan Mayen	2012	TW	4 319
	555557052	Korallen	2012	TW	4
	555557208	Trænarevet	2012	EEZ	445
Portugal	555556940	Breisunddjupet	2012	TW	44
				EEZ	21
	555557000	Formigas Bank	2005	TW	524
	555557074	Lucky Strike hydrothermal vent	2006	EEZ	191
	555557084	Menez Gwen hydrothermal vent field	2006	EEZ	95
	555557131	Rainbow hydrothermal vent field	2006	ECS	22
	555557154	Sedlo Seamount	2007	EEZ	4 016
	555556955	Corvo Island	2006	TW	257
Spain	555556986	Faial-Pico Channel	2006	TW	240
	555556963	D. João de Castro seamount	2006	EEZ	354
	555556982	El Cachucho	2008	EEZ	2 395
	555557037	Islas Atlánticas	2007	TW	85
	555583112	Espacio marino de la Ria de Mundaka-Cabo de Ogoño	2014	TW	175
	555583113	Espacio marino de los Islotes de Portios - Isla Conejera - Isla de Mouro	2014	TW	15
	555583114	Espacio marino de Cabo Peñas	2014	TW	320
	555583115	Espacio marino de Punta de Candela - Ria de Ortigueira - Estaca de Bares	2014	TW	771
	555583116	Espacio marino de la Costa de Ferrolterra - Valdoviño	2014	TW	68
	555583117	Espacio marino de la Costa da Morte	2014	TW	2 627
				EEZ	533
	555583118	Banco de Galicia	2014	EEZ	8 709
	555583119	Espacio marino de las Rias Baixas de Galicia	2014	TW	1 713
				EEZ	507
	555583120	Golfo de Cadiz	2014	TW	1 477
				EEZ	840
	555583121	Espacio marino del Tinto y del Odiel	2014	TW	49
	555583122	Espacio marino de la Bahia de Cadiz	2014	TW	36

⁵⁸ For 555557192; 555557191; 555556934: 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 ⁵⁹	555557054	Kungsbackafjorden	2005	TW	79
	555557059	Lilla Middelgrund	2005	TW	89
				EEZ	89
	555556997	Fladen	2005	TW	96
				EEZ	8
	555557102	Nordre älvs estuarium	2005	TW	71
	555557053	Kosterfjorden-Väderöfjorden	2005	TW	592
	555557012	Gullmarsfjorden	2005	TW	114
	555557177	Stora Middelgrund och Röde bank	2009	EEZ	114
	555557094	Morups bank	2009	TW	6
United Kingdom	555556939	Bratten	2012	TW	48
				EEZ	1 159
	555557020	Havstensfjorden	2012	TW	19
	555556911	Ailsa Craig	2011	TW	27
	555556914	Alde Ore and Butley Estuaries	2005	TW	11
	555556915	Alde--Ore Estuary	2011	TW	11
	555556917	Anton Dohrn Seamount	2012	EEZ	1 429
	555556919	Ascrib, Isay and Dunvegan	2005	TW	26
	555556921	Bae Caerfyrddin / Carmarthen Bay	2011	TW	334
	555556927	Bassurelle sandbank	2011	EEZ	67
	555556928	Belfast Lough Open Water	2011	TW	56
	555556929	Belfast Lough	2011	TW	3
	555556932	Benfleet and Southend Marshes	2011	TW	20
	555556933	Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast	2005	TW	650
	555556935	Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4)	2011	TW	26
	555556938	Braemar Pockmarks	2008	EEZ	5
	555556941	Breydon Water	2011	TW	5
	555556942	Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast	2011	TW	53
	555556943	Burry Inlet	2011	TW	48
	555556944	Calf of Eday	2011	TW	25
	555556945	Canna and Sanday	2011	TW	54
	555556946	Cape Wrath	2011	TW	58
	555556947	Cardigan Bay / Bae Ceredigion	2005	TW	952
	555556948	Carlingford Lough	2011	TW	5
	555556949	Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries / Bae Caerfyrddin ac Aberoedd	2005	TW	632
	555556950	Chesil and the Fleet	2005	TW	12
	555556951	Chesil Beach and The Fleet	2011	TW	5
	555556952	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	2011	TW	51
	555556953	Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2)	2011	TW	12
	555556954	Copinsay	2011	TW	35
	555556959	Croker Carbonate Slabs	2012	EEZ	66
	555556960	Cromarty Firth	2011	TW	36
	555556961	Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3)	2011	TW	6

⁵⁹ 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.

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United Kingdom	555556964	Darwin Mounds	2008	EEZ	1 380
	555556965	Deben Estuary	2011	TW	8
	555556966	Dee Estuary / Aber Dyfrdwy	2008	TW	135
	555556967	Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1)	2011	TW	25
	555556968	Dogger Bank	2011	EEZ	12 337
	555556971	Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet	2011	TW	54
	555556972	Dornoch Firth and Morrich More	2005	TW	69
	555556973	Drigg Coast	2005	TW	7
	555556974	Duddon Estuary	2011	TW	52
	555556976	East Caithness Cliffs	2011	TW	114
	555556977	East Mingulay	2012	TW	115
	555556978	East Rockall Bank	2012	EEZ	3 698
	555556979	East Sanday Coast	2011	TW	13
	555556981	Eileanan agus Sgeiran Lios mór	2005	TW	11
	555556984	Essex Estuaries	2005	TW	383
	555556985	Exe Estuary	2011	TW	19
	555556987	Fair Isle	2011	TW	63
	555556988	Fal and Helford	2005	TW	62
	555556990	Faray and Holm of Faray	2005	TW	7
	555556992	Fetlar	2011	TW	144
	555556993	Firth of Forth	2011	TW	61
	555556994	Firth of Lorn	2005	TW	210
	555556995	Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary	2011	TW	66
	555556996	Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary	2005	TW	151
	555556998	Flamborough Head	2005	TW	62
	555556999	Flannan Isles	2011	TW	58
	555557001	Forth Islands	2011	TW	97
	555557002	Foula	2011	TW	67
	555557003	Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5)	2011	TW	97
	555557004	Fowlsheugh	2011	TW	13
	555557006	Gibraltar Point	2011	TW	2
	555557008	Glannau Môn: Cors heli / Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh	2005	TW	9
	555557010	Gruinart Flats, Islay	2011	TW	10
	555557013	Haig Fras	2008	EEZ	481
	555557014	Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton	2011	TW	598
				EEZ	871
	555557015	Hamford Water	2011	TW	12
	555557016	Handa	2011	TW	29
	555557017	Hatton Bank	2012	ECS	15 722
	555557021	Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field	2011	TW	52
	555557028	Hoy	2011	TW	88
	555557029	Humber Estuary	2008	TW	336
	555557030	Humber Estuary	2011	TW	337
	555557034	Inner Clyde Estuary	2011	TW	17
	555557035	Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge	2011	TW	345
				EEZ	501
	555557036	Inner Moray Firth	2011	TW	21

United Kingdom	555557038	Isle of May	2005	TW	3
	555557039	Isles of Scilly Complex	2005	TW	267
	555557043	Kenfig / Cynffig	2005	TW	3
	555557046	Killough Bay	2011	TW	1
	555557057	Land's End and Cape Bank	2011	TW	302
				EEZ	0
	555557058	Larne Lough	2011	TW	3
	555557060	Limestone Coast of South West Wales / Arfordir Calchfaen de Orllewin Cymru	2005	TW	2
	555557061	Lindisfarne	2011	TW	31
	555557063	Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl	2011	TW	1 702
				EEZ	2
	555557064	Lizard Point	2011	TW	140
	555557065	Loch Creran	2005	TW	12
	555557066	Loch Laxford	2005	TW	12
	555557067	Loch Moidart and Loch Shiel Woods	2005	TW	3
	555557068	Loch nam Madadh	2005	TW	19
	555557069	Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs	2005	TW	24
	555557072	Lough Foyle	2011	TW	21
	555557073	Luce Bay and Sands	2005	TW	479
	555557075	Lundy	2005	TW	31
	555557076	Lyme Bay and Torbay	2011	TW	313
	555557080	Margate and Long Sands	2011	TW	511
	555557080	Margate and Long Sands	2011	EEZ	137
	555557081	Marwick Head	2011	TW	5
	555557083	Medway Estuary and Marshes	2011	TW	33
	555557085	Mersey Estuary	2011	TW	40
	555557086	Mingulay and Berneray	2011	TW	69
	555557087	Mòine Mhór	2005	TW	3
	555557088	Monach Islands	2005	TW	33
	555557089	Montrose Basin	2011	TW	8
	555557090	Moray and Nairn Coast	2011	TW	16
	555557091	Moray Firth	2005	TW	1 514
	555557092	Morecambe Bay	2005	TW	552
	555557093	Morecambe Bay	2011	TW	323
	555557095	Mousa	2005	TW	5
	555557098	Murlough	2005	TW	112
	555557104	North Caithness Cliffs	2011	TW	141
	555557105	North Colonsay and Western Cliffs	2011	TW	24
	555557107	North Norfolk Coast	2011	TW	37
	555557108	North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef	2011	EEZ	3 609
	555557109	North Rona and Sula Sgeir	2011	TW	67
	555557110	North Rona	2005	TW	5
	555557111	North Uist Machair and Islands	2011	TW	10
	555557112	North West Rockall Bank	2011	EEZ	4 190
				ECS	179
	555557113	Noss	2011	TW	30
	555557114	Outer Ards	2011	TW	11

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United Kingdom	555557115	Outer Thames Estuary	2011	TW	2 955
				EEZ	839
	555557116	Pagham Harbour	2011	TW	3
	555557119	Papa Stour	2005	TW	21
	555557120	Pembrokeshire Marine / Sir Benfro Forol	2005	TW	1,251
				EEZ	120
	555557121	Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau / Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau	2005	TW	1 442
	555557124	Pisces Reef Complex	2012	EEZ	9
	555557126	Plymouth Sound and Estuaries	2005	TW	57
	555557127	Pobie Bank Reef	2012	TW	333
				EEZ	633
	555557128	Poole Harbour	2011	TW	13
	555557130	Portsmouth Harbour	2011	TW	12
	555557132	Ramsey, Isle of Man	2012	TW	94
	555557133	Rathlin Island	2005	TW	31
	555557134	Rathlin Island	2011	TW	31
	555557136	Red Bay	2011	TW	10
	555557138	Ribble and Alt Estuaries	2011	TW	97
	555557143	Rousay	2011	TW	49
	555557144	Rum	2011	TW	360
	555557147	Sanday	2005	TW	110
	555557151	Scanner Pockmark	2008	EEZ	3
	555557156	Severn Estuary	2011	TW	223
	555557157	Severn Estuary / Môr Hafren	2008	TW	722
	555557158	Shell Flat and Lune Deep	2011	TW	106
	555557162	Skerries and Causeway	2012	TW	109
	555557163	Solan Bank Reef	2012	TW	11
				EEZ	846
	555557164	Solent and Southampton Water	2011	TW	33
	555557165	Solent Maritime	2005	TW	94
	555557166	Solway Firth	2005	TW	424
	555557167	Sound of Arisaig (Loch Ailort to Loch Ceann Traigh)	2005	TW	46
	555557169	South-East Islay Skerries	2005	TW	15
	555557170	South Uist Machair and Lochs	2011	TW	3
	555557171	South Wight Maritime	2005	TW	196
	555557172	St Abb's Head to Fast Castle	2011	TW	16
	555557173	St Kilda	2011	TW	281
	555557174	St Kilda	2005	TW	245
	555557175	Stanton Banks	2008	EEZ	818
	555557176	Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone	2011	TW	341
	555557180	Stour and Orwell Estuaries	2011	TW	31
	555557182	Strangford Lough	2005	TW	149
	555557183	Strangford Lough	2011	TW	147
	555557184	Studland to Portland	2012	TW	332
	555557186	Sule Skerry and Sule Stack	2011	TW	39
	555557187	Sullom Voe	2005	TW	27
	555557188	Sumburgh Head	2011	TW	24

United Kingdom	555557189	Sunart	2005	TW	55
	555557195	Tamar Estuaries Complex	2011	TW	16
	555557197	Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast	2011	TW	6
	555557198	Thames Estuary and Marshes	2011	TW	27
	555557199	Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay	2011	TW	13
	555557200	Thanet Coast	2005	TW	28
	555557201	The Dee Estuary	2011	TW	111
	555557202	The Maidens	2012	TW	75
	555557203	The Shiant Isles	2011	TW	68
	555557204	The Swale	2011	TW	29
	555557205	The Wash and North Norfolk Coast	2005	TW	1 043
	555557206	The Wash	2011	TW	589
	555557209	Traeth Lafan / Lavan Sands, Conway Bay	2011	TW	27
	555557214	Treshnish Isles	2005	TW	19
	555557215	Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads	2011	TW	33
	555557216	Tweed Estuary	2005	TW	2
	555557217	Upper Solway Flats and Marshes	2011	TW	382
	555557222	West Westray	2011	TW	34
	555557223	Wight-Barfleur Reef	2012	EEZ	1 374
	555557224	Wyville Thomson Ridge	2011	EEZ	1 740
	555557225	Y Fenai a Bae Conwy / Menai Strait and Conwy Bay	2005	TW	265
	555557226	Yell Sound Coast	2005	TW	8
	555583005	Aln Estuary	2014	TW	0
	555583006	Beachy Head West	2014	TW	24
	555583007	Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuaries	2014	TW	279
	555583008	Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges	2014	TW	38
	555583009	Cumbria Coast	2014	TW	18
	555583010	Folkestone Pomerania	2014	TW	34
	555583011	Fylde	2014	TW	261
	555583012	Isles of Scilly	2014	TW	58
	555583013	Kingmere	2014	TW	48
	555583014	Lundy	2014	TW	31
	555583015	Medway Estuary	2014	TW	58
	555583016	Padstow Bay and Surrounds	2014	TW	90
	555583017	Pagham Harbour	2014	TW	3
	555583018	Poole Rocks	2014	TW	4
	555583019	Skerries Bank and Surrounds	2014	TW	250
	555583020	Tamar Estuary	2014	TW	15
	555583021	Thanet Coast	2014	TW	64
	555583022	The Manacles	2014	TW	3
	555583023	Torbay	2014	TW	20
	555583024	Upper Fowey and Pont Pill	2014	TW	2
	555583025	Whitsand and Looe Bay	2014	TW	52
	555583026	South Dorset	2014	TW	134
				EEZ	59
	555583027	East of Haig Fras	2014	EEZ	400
	555583028	North East of Farnes Deep	2014	EEZ	492

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United Kingdom	555583029	South West Deepes (West)	2014	EEZ	1 827
	555583030	Swallow Sand	2014	EEZ	4 748
	555583031	The Canyons	2014	EEZ	661
	555583032	Clyde Sea Sill	2014	TW	712
	555583033	East Caithness Cliffs	2014	TW	114
	555583034	Fetlar to Haroldswick	2014	TW	215
	555583035	Loch Creran	2014	TW	12
	555583036	Loch Sunart	2014	TW	49
	555583037	Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura	2014	TW	741
	555583038	Loch Sween	2014	TW	41
	555583039	Lochs Duich, Long and Aish	2014	TW	37
	555583040	Monach Isles	2014	TW	62
	555583041	Mousa to Boddam	2014	TW	13
	555583042	Noss Head	2014	TW	8
	555583043	Papa Westray	2014	TW	33
	555583044	Small Isles	2014	TW	803
	555583045	South Arran	2014	TW	280
	555583046	Upper Loch Fyne and Loch Goil	2014	TW	88
	555583047	Wester Ross	2014	TW	599
	555583048	Wyre and Rousay Sounds	2014	TW	16
	555583049	Firth of Forth Banks Complex	2014	TW	6
				EEZ	2 125
	555583050	North-west Orkney	2014	TW	1 298
				EEZ	3 073
	555583051	Central Fladen	2014	EEZ	925
	555583052	East of Gannet & Montrose Fields	2014	EEZ	1 840
	555583053	Faroe-Shetland Sponge Belt	2014	EEZ	5 271
	555583054	Geikie Slide and Hebridean Slope	2014	EEZ	2 218
	555583055	Hatton-Rockall Basin	2014	ECS	1 257
	555583056	North-east Faroe-Shetland Channel	2014	EEZ	23 667
	555583057	Norwegian Boundary Sediment Plain	2014	EEZ	164
	555583058	Rosemary Bank Seamount	2014	EEZ	6 937
	555583059	The Barra Fan and Hebrides Terrace Seamount	2014	EEZ	4 388
	555583060	Turbot Bank	2014	EEZ	251
	555583061	West Shetland Shelf	2014	EEZ	4 095
	555583062	Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore	2014	TW	20
	555583063	Loch Roag Lagoons	2014	TW	0
	555583064	The Vadills	2014	TW	1
	555583065	Sound of Barra	2014	TW	125
TOTAL					802 350⁶⁰

⁶⁰ Note that the total area covered by the OSPAR Network of MPAs (ca. 788 377 km²) does not equal the sum of the individual MPAs nominated by OSPAR CPs (802 350 km²) due to several overlapping sites in France and the United Kingdom.

Annex II – Evolution of the OSPAR Network of MPAs

Summary of the gradual development of the OSPAR Network of MPAs as result of the selection and nomination of sites by CPs in the time period 2005– 1 October 2014.

10th Reporting Period of new MPAs (2 October 2013 – 1 October 2014)

The **United Kingdom** submitted its fifth tranche of sites to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. A total of 61 sites have been reported to the OSPAR Commission, comprising of three additional SACs and one SPA designated under the EC Habitats Directive and EC Birds Directive, as well as 27 MCZs and 30 NCMPAs designated under UK legislation. Altogether, these sites have a total area of 71 153 km². **Spain** has nominated a total of 11 SPAs designated under the EC Birds Directive to the OSPAR Commission. These sites protect 17 843 km² of Spanish waters. **Iceland** has nominated five MPAs as components to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. Collectively, these MPAs cover an area of about 401 km².

9th Reporting Period of new MPAs (1 January 2013 – 1 October 2013)

No new OSPAR MPAs were nominated in the 9th Reporting Period.

8th Reporting Period of new MPAs (1 January 2012 – 31 December 2012)

At the meeting of the OSPAR Commission in 2012 (25-29 June 2012, Bonn/Germany), CPs agreed to establish the *Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas MPA* 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 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.

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 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 CPs have agreed to collectively establish six MPAs in 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 UN 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 UNCLOS. 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 UN 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 Network of MPAs in the main sections of this report.

5th Reporting Period 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 CPs (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 pertusa* 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 EEZ. 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 EEZ, namely the *Doggerbank* (4 718 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 Reporting Period of new 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 (1 758.43 km²) and OSPAR Region III, the Celtic Seas (1 673.32 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 MPAs⁶¹ to the OSPAR Network of MPAs of which three sites are located in the 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 MPAs, of which four sites are located in the EEZ: 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 EEZ 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* (1 377.26 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 III) and

⁶¹ 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*).

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 Reporting Period of new 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 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 Atlánticas 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 Reporting Period of new 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 km² to 26 619 km².

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 ECS (*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 ECS, 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.

1st Reporting Period of new MPAs (2005 - 9 April 2006)

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

Portugal: One site, *Formigas/Dollabarot 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.

Annex III – Historical process of the elaboration of proposals for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ/in the High Seas

Designation of OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ/in the High Seas requires collective agreement and action by the OSPAR Commission. Any proposal for an OSPAR MPA in ABNJ/in the High Seas needs to be considered and eventually agreed by all OSPAR CPs.

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 the jurisdiction of any CP and thus would be considered ABNJ (Figure1). At that time, ABNJ have been determined by the boundaries of the EEZ of CPs at 200 nautical miles from the shoreline.

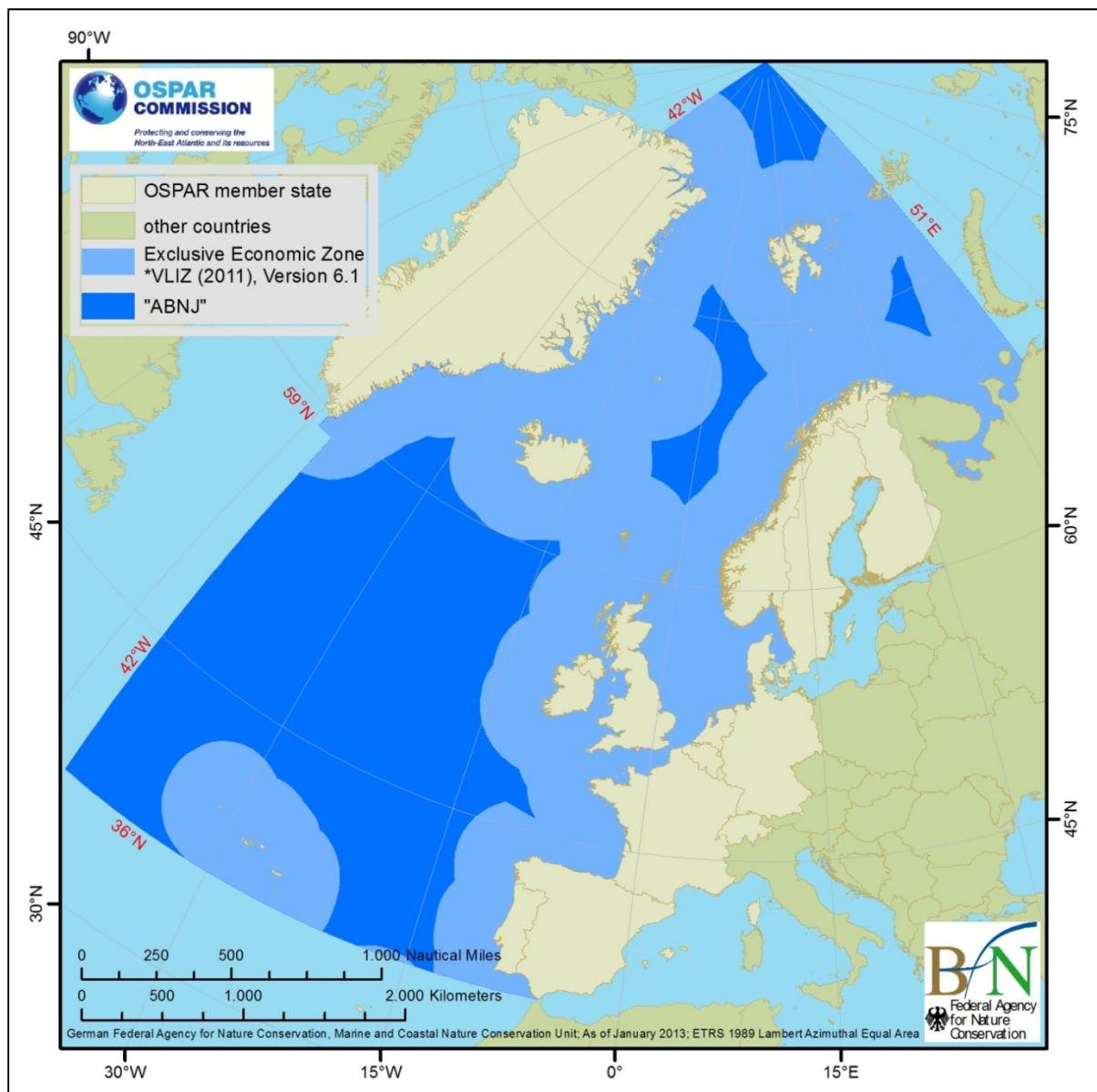


Figure 1. ABNJ in the OSPAR maritime area as defined in 2003⁶².

⁶² It has to be noted that since 2003 a number of OSPAR CPs have made submissions to the UN CLCS for an ECS. These submissions have substantially changed the legal situation in the OSPAR maritime area (see Figure 3).

Over the years, a number of proposals for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ have been elaborated. The proposals were originally prepared by the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) and the University of York⁶³, 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 ICG-MPA, BDC, and the Working Group on Marine Protected Areas, Species and Habitats (MASH). As a result, following marine areas have been identified as potential OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ (see Figure 2):

- *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*

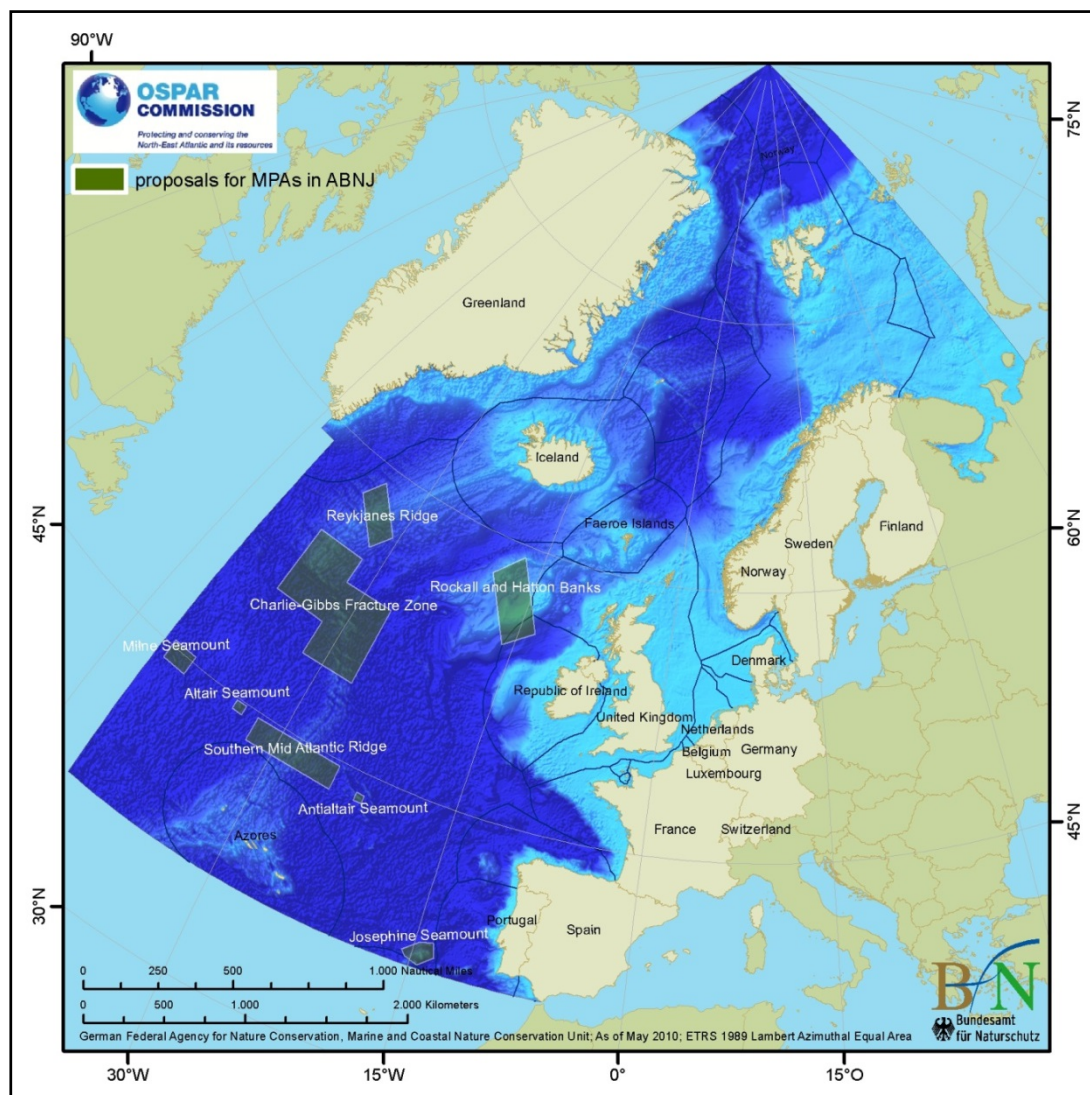


Figure 2. Marine areas proposed as OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ in 2008.

⁶³ The University of York has elaborated these proposals under a contract (2008-2010) provided by the BfN.

Table 4. Milestones in the elaboration of proposals for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ until 2010.

2006	
MASH Working Group March 2007	1 st presentation of the nomination proforma for the <i>Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone</i> as a potential MPA in ABNJ
2008	
OSPAR Commission June 2008	<i>Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone</i> approved <i>in principle</i> as a potential MPA in ABNJ.
MASH Working Group October 2008	<p>1st presentation of nomination proformas for <i>Reykjanes Ridge</i>, <i>Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores</i>, <i>Milne Seamount Complex</i>, <i>Altair Seamount</i>, <i>Antialtair Seamount</i>, and <i>Josephine Seamount Complex</i> as potential OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ.</p> <p>The <i>Rockall and Hatton Banks</i> 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 ECS by a number of States, namely the UK, Ireland, Iceland and Denmark (on behalf of the Faeroe 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 <i>Rockall & Hatton Banks</i> intruded into Ireland's national EEZ.</p>
2009	
NEAFC Annual Meeting April 2009	NEAFC decided to close five areas on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge to bottom fisheries with a view to protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in ABNJ of the North-East Atlantic (see Figure 3). Pursuant to the competence of NEAFC, this implies that fishing activities by vessels flying the flags of NEAFC CPs or Co-Operating Non-CPs, with fishing gear which is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations, are prohibited within these areas. As shown in Figure 3, these areas largely overlapped with four of the proposed OSPAR MPAs (<i>i.e.</i> <i>Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone</i> , <i>Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores</i> , <i>Altair Seamount</i> , <i>Antialtair Seamount</i>), while the area closure by NEAFC on the <i>Reykjanes Ridge</i> was situated next to the proposed MPA by OSPAR. No area has been closed to bottom fisheries by NEAFC in the proposed OSPAR MPAs <i>Milne Seamount Complex</i> and <i>Josephine Seamount Complex</i> .
OSPAR Commission June 2009	<p>General and specific conservation objectives for the <i>Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone</i> agreed upon.</p> <p><i>Reykjanes Ridge</i>, <i>Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores</i>, <i>Milne Seamount Complex</i>, <i>Altair Seamount</i>, <i>Antialtair Seamount</i>, and <i>Josephine Seamount Complex</i> approved <i>in principle</i>⁶⁴ as potential MPAs in ABNJ; general and specific conservation objectives for all these areas agreed upon.</p>

⁶⁴ Until the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in September 2010 the approval of these MPAs was subject to study reservations from some CPs.

OSPAR CPs Any time	A number of OSPAR CPs made submissions to the UN CLCS for an ECS, pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of UNCLOS of 10 December 1982 ⁶⁵ . As a consequence, apart from the <i>Milne Seamount Complex</i> all other areas proposed as OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ have entirely or partly been encompassed by areas subject to submissions for an ECS (see Figure 3).
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A number of OSPAR CPs have already made submissions to the UN CLCS for an ECS. These submissions have substantially changed the legal situation in the OSPAR maritime area (see Figure 3).

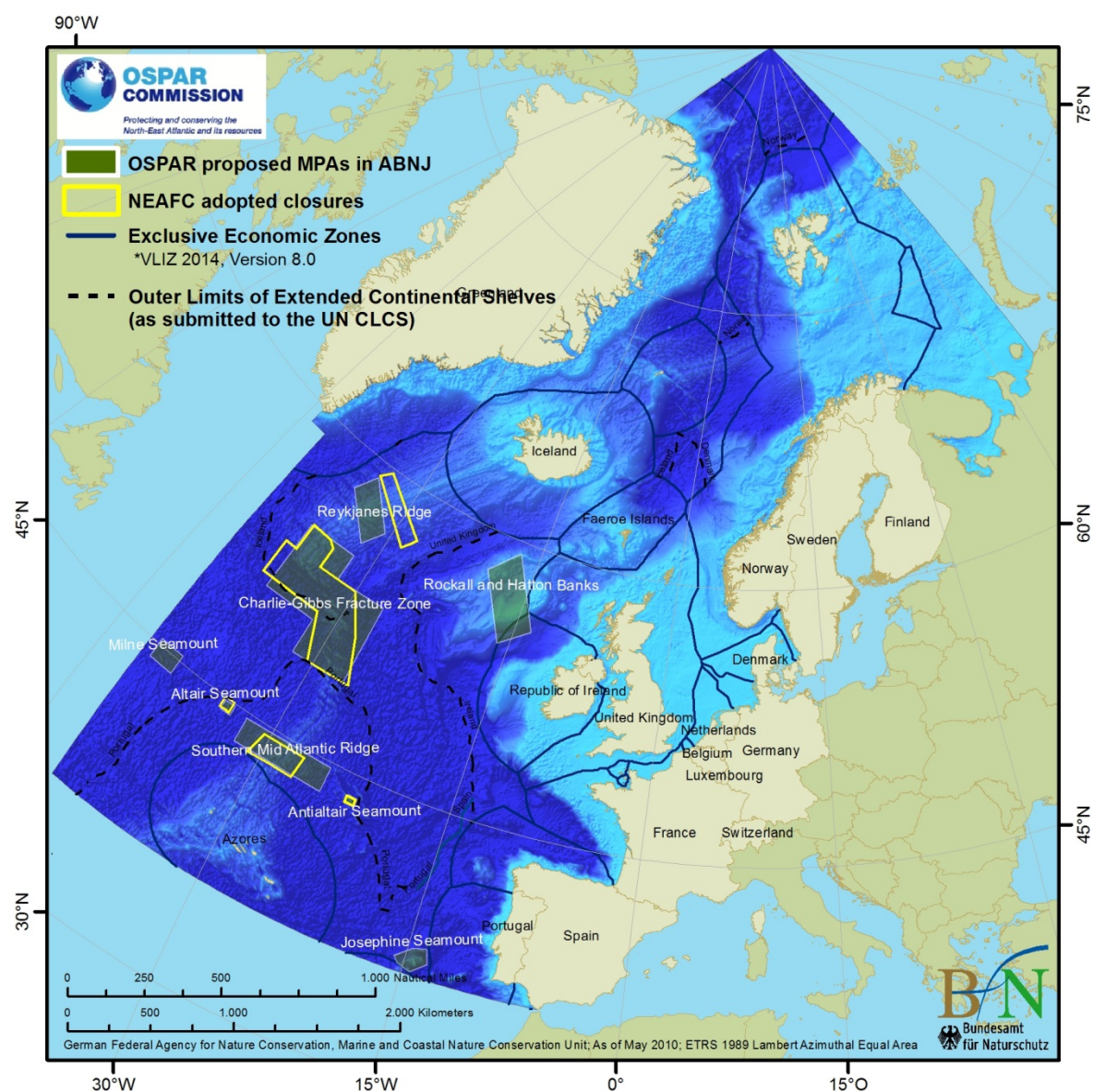


Figure 3. Submissions of OSPAR CPs to the UN CLCS for an ECS affected the legal situation within the proposed OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ (as of May 2010)⁶⁶.

⁶⁵ 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.

⁶⁶ The boundaries of CPs' EEZs have been obtained from the [open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase](#). It is noted, that not all of these boundaries as shown in the map have been officially declared by CPs.

Annex IV – List of Abbreviations

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
BDC	OSPAR Biodiversity Committee
BfN	German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
CBD	Convention of Biological Diversity
CP	Contracting Party
ECS	Extended Continental Shelf
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
HELCOM	The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas/
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICG-MPA	OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Protected Areas
IMO	International Maritime Organization
ISA	International Seabed Authority
IWC	International Whaling Commission
MASH	OSPAR Working Group on Marine Protected Areas, Species and Habitats
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NAMMCO	North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
NCMPA	Nature Conservation MPA
NEAFC	North East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OSPAR Convention	Convention for the Protection of the marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
UN CLCS	United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
VMEs	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems
WWF	World Wide Fund For Nature



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North-East Atlantic used sustainably**

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