



OSPAR
COMMISSION

OSPAR Joint Documentation on Coordination of Measures (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)



OSPAR Joint Documentation on Coordination of Measures (MSFD)

I. Introduction: Background and purpose of the Joint Documentation on Coordination of Measures

1. According to Article 5.2b of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), Member States will develop a Programme of Measures (PoM) by 2015 at the latest and notify the European Commission of their PoM within three months (Article 13.9), which translates to 31 March 2016. The Joint documentation will show where there is existing or possible coherence, coordination and cooperation, in order to show the way the Contracting Parties that are EU Member States are cooperating to realise art. 5.2 of the MSFD: ensuring that their marine strategies are coherent and coordinated across the OSPAR region. Thus, the document is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all national measures.
2. As based on the OSPAR Contribution Document to the EU-CIS¹, joint documentation for reporting at a (sub)regional level on components of Programmes of Measures was planned as a deliverable. On 22 and 23 May 2014, a regional meeting with the Member States Contracting Parties to OSPAR following the Assessment of the Commission on the MSFD implementation (Art.12 report) took place in Brussels. One of the informal conclusions stated that OSPAR should "work towards developing coordinated and if possible joint programmes of measures and elements of programmes of measures". OSPAR 2014 decided that the information on OSPAR coordination on measures would be brought together in the form of 'Joint Documentation on Coordination of Measures MSFD' (Joint Documentation).
3. CoG(2) 2014 endorsed the 'OSPAR regional plan to improve adequacy and coherence of MSFD implementation 2014-2018'. Paragraph 17 of this Regional Plan of Action means OSPAR to "adopt joint documentation on coordination of measures for use by Contracting Parties in their national reporting on Art. 13 MSFD programmes of measures". This activity has been included in the ICG MSFD Forward Work Plan 2015-2018 as deliverable 4.2, 'Coordination and joint documentation on measures (MSFD)'.
4. To improve consistency of reporting between Member States, the European Commission has proposed that some reporting can be prepared jointly in cooperation between Contracting Parties to a Regional Sea Convention². This OSPAR Joint Documentation on Coordination of Measures aims at supporting the OSPAR Contracting Parties that are EU Member States in their reporting to the European Commission on the extent of regional coordination as part of their national Programmes of Measures.
5. This Joint Documentation provides an overview of coherence and coordination on existing measures, and possible additional actions that have been flagged by the committees as well as Contracting Parties. On an OSPAR level, responsibility for the identification and development of specific measures remains with the relevant thematic committees. As such, this document will not cause a need for non-EU Member States to develop measures in the context of the MSFD.

¹ Initial OSPAR Contribution to the EU-MSFD Common Implementation Strategy work programme for 2014 and beyond

² Reporting on Programmes of Measures (Art. 13) and on exceptions (Art. 14) for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, DIKE_11-2015-02

6. The Measures included in this Joint Documentation are based mainly on the “OSPAR *acquis* – existing OSPAR measures in support of MSFD programmes of measures”³, part of which describes regional measures relevant for the implementation of the MSFD. It is to be noted that any inclusion of the OSPAR *Acquis* or other OSPAR measures by EU-MS as a regional component of their MSFD programme of measures does not amend the legal nature of these regional measures.
7. A second source is a questionnaire in which the OSPAR Contracting Parties analysed their national PoMs on existing (sub) regional coherence, possible practical cross-border cooperation, and the exchange of best practices. In some cases this is further validated by bi/multilateral meetings⁴. Several Contracting parties have indicated that their Programmes of Measures have a draft status⁵, and may be revised based on the results from public consultation. In this light, the document is considered a living document, providing Contracting Parties with the opportunity to revise and update the document until mid-March 2016.
8. A final source has been the table “Spring 2014 views on OSPAR coordination role on measures depending on the GES descriptors”⁶. This document, describing ongoing or planned work in the OSPAR Committees, has been used to inform possible future activities on a regional level.
9. The Joint Documentation will not consider exceptions (art. 14 MSFD), as wide variations in the understanding and application of the Directive on that account do not allow for joint reporting.
10. The OSPAR Joint Documentation will be published on the OSPAR website by the end of March 2016. The weblink can be included in the Reporting Sheet. Member States can use the Joint Documentation in whole, or only those parts felt to be of particular relevance.

II. Link to the OSPAR Measures and Actions Programme

11. OSPAR is currently working on a proposal for a Measures and Actions Programme (MAP). The proposed MAP will help organise measures in respect of the NEAES objectives and at the same time assist Contracting Parties that are EU Member States in their implementation of MSFD in the 2nd cycle of the MSFD. The Joint Documentation will inform the development of the MAP.

III. Structure

12. Part 1 of the Joint Documentation consists of an overview of *existing* coherence and coordination relevant to the MSFD, based on the OSPAR *acquis* and the questionnaire responses. Part 2 of the Joint Documentation consists of possibilities for *future* coordination and coherence on measures related to the MSFD, as based on the table compiled by the OSPAR Committees, and the input gained from the questionnaires. In both parts of the Joint Documentation, tables have been included to show the coherence, cooperation and coordination being pursued: the existing coherence is reflected in three tables on a regional, EU/international, and national level, while the future possibilities for cooperation and coordination are compiled in two tables on the regional and national level.

³ After publication: document number

⁴ 19 March 2015, Dublin: BE/FR/NL/UK quadrilateral meeting on Programmes of Measures

20 March 2015, Dublin: FR/IE/UK trilateral meeting on Programmes of Measures

22-23 September 2015, Madrid : FR/ES/PT trilateral meeting on Programmes of Measures

⁵ DE, DK, ES, NL, SE, UK. Denmark has participated in the OSPAR work on regional coordination, but as the Danish draft PoM per mid-march 2016 is pending political decision it was necessary to remove the draft Danish measures in the final version of this document.

⁶ Spring 2014 views on OSPAR coordination role on measures depending on the GES descriptors (Source: CoG(1) 14/4/1-E(L), Annex 3 – update based on EIHA 2015, Annex 4 Summary Record)

Part 1: Existing coherence and coordination on measures relevant for the MSFD per Descriptor

Coherence, coordination and cooperation is pursued on the regional, EU/international as well as national level, and to show this, three individual tables have been included in the Joint Documentation.

Table 1.1 provides an overview of the existing coordination and cooperation at the regional level. This information has been derived one-on-one from those parts of the OSPAR *acquis* that are relevant to MSFD implementation.

Table 1.2 aims to signify that the Contracting Parties are working from a set of EU legislation, and other agreements and Conventions, that form a common framework based on which individual, national measures are designed. This legislative body relevant to the MSFD is thus showing coherence across the OSPAR region. This table is based mainly on Annex 1 to the Recommendation for Implementing and Reporting, dated 25 November 2014.

Table 1.3 contains existing cooperation and coordination on a government to government level: it shows cross-border cooperation between two or more Contracting Parties working to achieve GES, regardless of the driver or instrument behind it. The entries included in this table are based on a questionnaire completed by the Contracting Parties.

Table 1.1 OSPAR Acquis: Regional cooperation and coordination per Descriptor

| COMMON NAME | OSPAR measure ⁷ | OSPAR Regions ⁸ where the species occurs | OSPAR Regions ³ where the species is under threat and/or in decline | Type of actions in the measure ⁹ | Implementation reports (every 6 years after 2019) (cat.) | Associated KTM(s) ¹⁰ |
|---|----------------------------|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| DESCRIPTORS 1, 4 and 6: BIODIVERSITY | | | | | | |
| INVERTEBRATES | | | | | | |
| Ocean quahog | R2013/05 | I, II, III, IV | II | NL, NM, NA, NK, OM, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Azorean barnacle | - | V | All where it occurs | - | - | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Dog whelk | - | All | II, III, IV | - | - | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Flat oyster | R2013/04 | I, II, III, IV | II | NC, NL, NP, NM, NA, NK, OM, OK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |

7 R = OSPAR Recommendation, D = OSPAR Decision. Cat. (1.a) = measure adopted and implemented (reporting ceased), Cat. (1.b) = measure adopted and not yet (fully) implemented (reporting ongoing). Type of actions in measure explained at the bottom of this table.

8 The OSPAR Regions are:

I – the Arctic: the OSPAR maritime area north of latitude 62°N, but also including Iceland and the Færoes;

II – the Greater North Sea: the North Sea, the English Channel, the Skagerrak and the Kattegat to the limits of the OSPAR maritime area, bounded on the north by latitude 62°N, on the west by longitude 5°W and the east coast of Great Britain, and on the south by latitude 48°N;

III – the Celtic Seas: the area bounded by, on the east, longitude 5°W and the west coast of Great Britain and on the west by the 200 metre isobath (depth contour) to the west of 6°W along the west coasts of Scotland and Ireland;

IV – the Bay of Biscay/Golfe de Gascogne and Iberian coasts: the area south of latitude 48°N, east of 11°W and north of latitude 36°N (the southern boundary of the OSPAR maritime area);

V – the Wider Atlantic: the remainder of the OSPAR maritime area.

9 For an explanation of the Types of Action in the Measure, please refer to Annex 2

¹⁰ For an overview of the Key Types of Measures, please refer to Annex 3

| COMMON NAME | OSPAR measure ⁷ | OSPAR Regions ⁸ where the species occurs | OSPAR Regions ³ where the species is under threat and/or in decline | Type of actions in the measure ⁹ | Implementation reports (every 6 years after 2019) (cat.) | Associated KTM(s) ¹⁰ |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Azorean limpet | R2015/02 | V | All where it occurs | NL, NP, NF, NA, NM, NR, NC, NK, OM, OK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| | | | | | | |
| BIRDS | | | | | | |
| Lesser black-backed gull | R2011/01 | I | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NA, NM, NR, NK, OM, OA, OK, OI | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Ivory gull | R2011/02 | I | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NA, NM, NR, NK, OM, OK | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Steller's eider | R2013/12 | I | All where it occurs | NM, NP, NA, OM, OI, OK | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Little shearwater | R2011/03 | V | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NA, NM, NR, OM, OK, OI | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Balearic shearwater | R2011/04 | II, III, IV, V | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NA, NM, NR, OM, OK, OI | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Black-legged kittiwake | R2011/05 | I, II, III, IV, V | I, II | NC, NL, NA, NM, NR, OM, OK, OI | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Roseate tern | R2011/06 | II, III, IV, V | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NA, NM, NR, OM, OK, OI | | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Iberian guillemot | R2014/16 | IV | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NP, NK, NR, NA, NM, OM, OI, OK | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Thick-billed murre | R2011/07 | I | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NA, NK, NM, NR, OM, OK, OI | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| FISH | | | | | | |
| Sturgeon | R2014/01 | II, IV | All where it occurs | NL, NP, NR, NA, OK, OA, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Allis shad | R2015/04 | II, III, IV | All where it occurs | NL, NP, NA, NM, NK, OK, OU, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| European eel | R2014/15 | I, II, III, IV | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NP, NK, NA, NM, OM, OI, OK | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Portuguese dogfish | R2014/05 | All | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NP, NF, NK, NR, NA, OM, OA, OK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Gulper shark | R2014/03 | IV, V | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NP, NF, NK, NR, NA, OM, OA, OK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Leafscale gulper shark | R2014/04 | All | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NP, NF, NK, NR, NA, OM, OA, OK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Basking shark | R2010/06 | All | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NR, NA, NM, OK, OI | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |

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|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Houting | - | II | All where it occurs | - | - | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Common Skate | R2010/06 | All | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NR, NA, OK, OI | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Spotted Ray | R2014/07 | II, III, IV, V | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NP, NK, NR, NA, OM, OI, OA | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Cod | R2014/14 | All | II, III | NC, NL, NP, NK, NA, OM, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Long-snouted seahorse | R2012/03 | II, III, IV, V | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NP, NA, NK, NR, OM, OK, OI | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Short-snouted seahorse | R2012/02 | II, III, IV, V | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NP, NA, NK, NR, OM, OK, OI | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Orange roughy | R2010/07 | I, V | All where it occurs | NL, NF, NK, NR, OM, OK, OI | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Porbeagle shark | R2014/06 | All | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NP, NF, NK, NR, NA, OM, OA, OK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Sea lamprey | R2015/03 | I, II, III, IV | All where it occurs | NL, NP, NA, NR, NM, NK, OK, OU, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Thornback skate / ray | R2014/08 | I, II, III, IV, V | II | NC, NL, NP, NK, NR, NA, OM, OI, OA | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| White skate | R2010/06 | II, III, IV | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NR, NA, OK, OI | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Salmon | - | I, II, III, IV | All where it occurs ¹¹ | - | - | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| [Northeast Atlantic] spurdog | R2014/02 | All | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NP, NF, NK, NR, NA, OM, OA, OK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Angel shark | R2010/06 | II, III, IV | All where it occurs | NC, NL, NR, NA, OK, OI | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Bluefin tuna | - | V | All where it occurs ¹² | - | - | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| REPTILES | | | | | | |
| Loggerhead turtle | R2013/07 | IV, V | All where it occurs | NL, NP, NM, NA, NR, NK, OM, OK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Leatherback | R2013/06 | All | All where it | NL, NP, NM, | 2016, 2019 | WFD: 20 |

¹¹ In accordance with the comments of ICES in its review, the varying states of the numerous different stocks have to be taken into account.

¹² The main threat is the high rate of catch of juvenile fish of the species (SCRS Report, page 59).

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|--|----------------------------|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| turtle | | | occurs | NA, NR, NK, OM, OK, OI | (1.b) | MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| MAMMALS | | | | | | |
| Bowhead whale | R2013/08 | I | All where it occurs | NM, NP, NA, NR (coll.), NK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Blue whale | R2013/09 | All | All where it occurs | NM, NP, NA, NR (coll.), NK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Northern right whale | R2013/10 | All | All where it occurs | NM, NP, NA, NR (coll.), OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Harbour porpoise | R2013/11 | All | II, III | NC, NL, NP, NA, NM, NK, OM, OA, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| HABITATS | | | | | | |
| Carbonate mounds | R2014/10 | I, V | V ¹³ | NC, NL, NP, NM, NK, NR, NA, OM, OI, OK | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| Coral Gardens | R2010/09 | I, II, III, IV, V | All where they occur | NL, NP, NM, NR, NA, NK, OM, OK, OI, OU | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| <i>Cymodocea</i> meadows | R2014/12 | IV | All where they occur | NC, NL, NP, NM, NK, NR, NA, OM, OI, OK | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| Deep-sea sponge aggregations | R2010/10 | I, III, IV, V | All where they occur | NL, NP, NM, NR, NA, NK, OM, OK, OI, OU | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| Intertidal <i>Mytilus edulis</i> beds on mixed and sandy sediments | R2015/01 | II, III | All where they occur | NL, NM, NK, NP, NA, NR, NK, OM, OK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| Intertidal mudflats | - | I, II, III, IV | All where they occur | - | - | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| Littoral chalk communities | R2013/01 | II | All where they occur | NC, NL, NP, NM, NR, NA, NK, OM, OK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| <i>Lophelia pertusa</i> reefs | R2010/08 | All | All where they occur | NL, NP, NM, NR, NA, NK, OM, OK, OI, OU | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| Maerl beds | R2014/13 | All | III | NC, NL, NP, NM, NK, NR, NA, OM, OI, OK | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| <i>Modiolus modiolus</i> beds | R2013/03 | All | All where they occur | NC, NL, NP, NM, NR, NA, NK, OM, OK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| Oceanic ridges with hydrothermal vents/fields | R2014/11 | I, V | V | NC, NL, NP, NM, NK, NR, NA, OM, OI, OK | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |

¹³ To be confirmed in the light of further survey work being undertaken by Ireland.

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|---|----------------------------|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <i>Ostrea edulis</i> beds | R2013/04 | II, III, IV | All where they occur | NC, NL, NP, NM, NA, NK, OM, OK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reefs | R2013/02 | All | II, III | NC, NL, NP, NM, NR, NA, NK, OM, OK, OI | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| Seamounts | R2014/09 | I, IV, V | All where they occur | NC, NL, NP, NM, NK, NR, NA, OM, OI, OK | 2016, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities | R2010/11 | I, II, III, IV | II, III | NL, NP, NM, NR, NA, NK, OM, OK, OI | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| <i>Zostera</i> beds | R2012/04 | I, II, III, IV | All where they occur | NC, NL, NP, NM, NR, NA, OM, OI | 2013, 2019 (1.b) | MSFD: 26,27,30,37 |
| | | | | | | |
| MARINE PROTECTED AREAS | | | | | | |
| Milne Seamount Complex | D2010/1 | SB, SW | E | - | - | MSFD: 26,27,30,37, 38 |
| | R2010/12 | SB, SW | MM | AR, IB, MS, ND, TP | 2011, thereafter annually if applicable | MSFD: 26,27,30,37, 38 |
| Altair Seamount High Seas | D2010/3 | SW | E | - | - | MSFD: 26,27,30,37, 38 |
| | R2010/14 | SW | MM | AR, IB, MS, ND, TP | 2011, thereafter annually if applicable | MSFD: 26,27,30,37, 38 |
| Antialtair Seamount High Seas | D2010/4 | SW | E | - | - | MSFD: 26,27,30,37, 38 |
| | R2010/15 | SW | MM | AR, IB, MS, ND, TP | 2011, thereafter annually if applicable | MSFD: 26,27,30,37, 38 |
| Josephine Seamount High Seas | D2010/5 | SW | E | - | - | MSFD: 26,27,30,37, 38 |
| | R2010/16 | SW | MM | AR, IB, MS, ND, TP | 2011, thereafter annually if applicable | MSFD: 26,27,30,37, 38 |
| Mid Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores | D2010/6 | SW | E | - | - | MSFD: 26,27,30,37, 38 |
| | R2010/17 | SW | MM | AR, IB, MS, ND, TP | 2011, thereafter | MSFD: 26,27,30,37, 38 |

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|--|----------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | | annually if applicable | 38 |
| Charlie-Gibbs South | D2010/2 | SB, SW | E | - | - | MSFD: 26,27,30,37, 38 |
| | R2010/13 | SB, SW | MM | AR, IB, MS, ND, TP | 2011, thereafter annually if applicable | MSFD: 26,27,30,37, 38 |
| Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas | D2012/1 | SW | E | - | - | MSFD: 26,27,30,37, 38 |
| | R2012/1 | SW | MM | AR, IB, MS, ND, TP | 2013, thereafter annually if applicable | MSFD: 26,27,30,37, 38 |
| DESCRIPTOR 2: NON-INDIGENOUS SPECIES | | | | | | Associated KTM(s) |
| <p>The OSPAR Commission will endeavour to limit the introduction of non-indigenous species by human activities that do not adversely alter the ecosystems. It is therefore important to control the predominant pressures on the marine environment, in particular the distribution and inputs of invasive alien species through the discharge of ballast water of sea-going vessels. In 2004 the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments was adopted (IMO). However this Convention has not yet entered into force.</p> <p>The Annex to the Convention provides for Parties, under Regulation A-4, the scope to issue exemptions from Regulation B-3 (Ballast Water Management for Ships) and Regulation C-1 (Additional Measures). Therefore, the Helsinki and OSPAR Commissions have jointly developed such guidelines, prior to the Convention coming into force, to ensure that exemptions are granted in a constant manner that prevents damage to the environment, human health, property or resources.¹⁴</p> <p>There is also general guidance on the voluntary interim application of the D1 Ballast Water Exchange Standards (1) in the North-East Atlantic and the Baltic Sea (agreement: 2008-10), (2) by vessels leaving the Baltic Sea and transiting through the North-East Atlantic to other destinations (agreement: 2009-05), (3) by vessels operating between the Mediterranean Sea and the North-East Atlantic and/or the Baltic (agreement: 2010-17). OSPAR also established a Joint Notice to Shipping from the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, OSPAR and HELCOM on such guidance (agreement: 2012-17)</p> | | | | | | WFD: 18 MSFD: 34 |
| DESCRIPTOR 5: EUTROPHICATION | | | | | | Associated KTM(s) |
| <p>OSPAR's (thematic) strategic objective with regard to eutrophication is to combat eutrophication in its maritime area with the ultimate aim to achieve and maintain a healthy marine environment where anthropogenic eutrophication does not occur. This is largely based on Annex I and Appendices 1 and 2 of the Convention due to pollution mainly originating from land-based sources. The Eutrophication Strategy will be implemented progressively by making every endeavour, through appropriate actions and measures, to move towards the targets of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. achieving that human-induced eutrophication is minimised, especially the adverse effects thereof, such as losses in biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algae blooms and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters, and finally; b. achieving and maintaining by 2020, that all parts of the OSPAR maritime area have the status of non-problem area. | | | | | | WFD: 1,2,12,17, 21, 22, 23 MSFD: 33 |

¹⁴ HELCOM/OSPAR Guidelines on the granting of exemptions under the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, Regulation A-4 guidelines (agreement 2013-09).

| COMMON NAME | OSPAR measure ⁷ | OSPAR Regions ⁸ where the species occurs | OSPAR Regions ³ where the species is under threat and/or in decline | Type of actions in the measure ⁹ | Implementation reports (every 6 years after 2019) (cat.) | Associated KTM(s) ¹⁰ |
|--|----------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Already at an early stage, the OSPAR Commission agreed on the following programmes and measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> PARCOM Recommendation 88/2 on the Reductions in Inputs of Nutrients to the Paris Convention Area (to reduce nutrient inputs to eutrophication problem areas by 50% relative to input levels in 1985, until new reduction targets are set for problem areas to move to non-problem area status); PARCOM Recommendation 89/4 on a Coordinated Programme for the Reduction of Nutrients. Such a coordinated programme encompasses measures concerning agriculture, wastewater treatment plants, industry, aquaculture, nitrogen emissions from combustion of fossil fuel and detergents, inter alia by applying best available techniques, on the basis of national action plans. PARCOM Recommendation 92/7 on the reduction of nutrient inputs from agriculture into areas where these inputs are likely, directly or indirectly, to cause pollution. Reductions aimed at ammonia volatilization; leaching of nitrogen, mainly nitrate; leaching, run-off and erosion losses of phosphorus; farm waste discharges. It was agreed that the measures annexed to the recommendation should all be applied, or some of them, giving preference to those which involve reduction of emissions at source. These measures may include regulatory and/or advisory measures and financial instruments. The list of measures is not exhaustive. <p>These OSPAR measures are largely covered by measures under existing EU legislation such as the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC), the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC), the Industrial Emissions Directive on integrated pollution prevention and control (2010/75/EU) which are regarded as so-called basic measures for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). The National Emission Ceilings Directive (2001/81/EC) is also important for the protection of the marine environment against emissions of NOx to air. With regard to agricultural sources of nutrients the Rural Development Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 supports funding of measures for environmental protection.</p> <p>Implementation reporting on PARCOM Recommendations 89/4 and 92/7 has ceased in 2008 in view of the fact that all Contracting Parties who reported were in compliance with the recommendations (cat. 1.a). It was also apparent that in 2005, six of nine reporting Contracting Parties met the 50% reduction target for phosphorus. However, most of the Contracting Parties had by then not yet achieved the 50% target for nitrogen. Three Contracting Parties had achieved a 50% reduction in nitrogen inputs, or of the order of 50%. Reported national reductions for 1985 – 2005 ranged between 20% and 48% for all Contracting Parties not yet meeting the 50% reduction target. The basis for calculating the reductions varied from country to country, and was not all based on the same sources of discharges, emissions and losses. Therefore, data could only be compared internally and it was not possible to compare the achievements of Contracting Parties on a common basis. The OSPAR Commission agreed in 2009 that implementation reporting for Recommendation 88/2 should pause until the reporting arrangements for PARCOM Recommendation 88/2 to support future implementation reporting should have been improved (cat. 1.b).</p> <p>The Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee has further work planned on how to establish and apply transboundary nutrient targets between eutrophication assessment areas, with the assistance of model scenarios of nutrient reductions, in order to justify additional measures necessary, if any, to achieve non-problem area status.</p> <p>Under the auspices of the MARPOL 73/78 Convention, in line with Appendix III to Annex IV of this Convention, environmental and economic impact assessments of shipping on the eutrophication status of the North Sea have been carried out that provide a basis for a possible joint submission to IMO justifying the case for designating the North Sea as a NOx Emission Control Area (NECA).</p> | | | | | | |
| DESCRIPTOR 7: HYDROGRAPHIC CONDITIONS | | | | | | Associated KTM(s) |
| <p>The OSPAR Commission published in 2012 an advice document on MSFD descriptor 7 in which it considered approaches for target setting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a good status for hydrographical conditions is hard to define; this descriptor is meant to address new developments; this descriptor is meant to address large-scale developments; this descriptor is meant to address permanent alterations. <p>The European Commission has indicated that this indicator is related to planned activities that will have to fulfil EIA requirements. It was concluded in OSPAR that any possible additional monitoring should be seen in</p> | | | | | | <p>WFD: 5,6,7</p> <p>MSFD: 30</p> |

| COMMON NAME | OSPAR measure ⁷ | OSPAR Regions ⁸ where the species occurs | OSPAR Regions ³ where the species is under threat and/or in decline | Type of actions in the measure ⁹ | Implementation reports (every 6 years after 2019) (cat.) | Associated KTM(s) ¹⁰ |
|---|----------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| <p>the light of such activities. It was further advised that the most appropriate scale for assessing this Descriptor is one equivalent to EUNIS level 3.</p> <p>It was recommended that unless there is evidence to the contrary, the requirements under the MSFD to address Descriptor 7 might be fulfilled if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> measures have been identified under the WFD to safeguard GES; permanent changes of hydrographical conditions are restricted to the coastal waters; permanent changes of hydrographical conditions are assessed in the Initial Assessment. <p>However it has been recognised that, in the future, situations may occur where WFD does not apply i.e. outside of coastal waters or where EIA is not enough i.e. in picking up effectively cumulative effects. Examples are structures such as offshore windfarms, airports, and a tidal power barrage across the southern North Sea, etc.</p> <p>Under the condition that effects of the permanent changes of hydrographical conditions are restricted to the coastal waters, it was recommended that Descriptor 7 does not need further work in OSPAR. The OSPAR Commission has adopted OSPAR Recommendation 2010/5 on assessments of environmental impact in relation to threatened and/or declining species and habitats, which is not yet fully implemented (cat. 1.b). This recommendation addresses amongst others the construction of structures at sea which may have consequences for hydrographical conditions and species and habitats. OSPAR has also established an Agreement on Sand and Gravel Extraction (agreement: 2003-15)¹⁵.</p> | | | | | | |
| DESCRIPTORS 8 and 9: CONTAMINANTS | | | | | | |
| OSPAR measures on point sources and their coverage by the Industrial Emissions Directive (IPPC)¹⁶ | | | | | | |
| Industrial sectors | OSPAR measures | | | | | Associated KTM(s) |
| | Measure ¹⁷ | BAT/BEP | Limit values for emissions and discharges | Implementation report (cat.) | Targeted substances | |
| Iron and steel industry (primary and secondary) | R92/2 R93/1 | X | X | 1996 (1.a) 2002 (1.a) | Phenol, PAHs, nitrogen | 2001 and 2005 BATC (03.2012) BREF (03.2012) |
| | R92/3 | X | X | 1996 (1.a) | Hydrocarbons, cadmium, chromium, nickel, zinc, nitrogen dioxides | |
| | R91/3 | X | | 1998 (1.a) | Cadmium, mercury, chlorinated oils, other chlorinated compounds, dioxin | |
| | R90/1 | X | | 1994 (1.a) | Metals, PAHs, nitrogen oxides | |
| | R91/2 | X | | 1994 (1.a) | Metals, PAHs, sulphur dioxides, nitrogen oxides, fluorides | |

¹⁵ OSPAR has also developed OSPAR Guidelines for Risk Assessment and Management of Storage of CO₂ Streams in Geological Formations (reference number 2007-12) in the light of concerns around climate change.

¹⁶ The IPPC Directive has been replaced by the IED Directive 2010/75/EU

¹⁷ Note: R = PARCOM or OSPAR Recommendation. D = PARCOM or OSPAR Decision. Cat. (1.a) = measure adopted and implemented (reporting ceased). Cat. (1.b) = measure adopted but not yet (fully) implemented (reporting ongoing). BREF = BAT Reference Document published by the EC under Article 13 of Directive 2010/75/EU. BATC = BAT conclusions. FD = formal draft of BREF (or review) sent to Art. 13 forum. D1/2/3 = the latest formal draft which is available. Source: <http://eippcb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reference/>

| COMMON NAME | OSPAR measure ⁷ | OSPAR Regions ⁸ where the species occurs | | OSPAR Regions ³ where the species is under threat and/or in decline | Type of actions in the measure ⁹ | Implementation reports (every 6 years after 2019) (cat.) | Associated KTM(s) ¹⁰ |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Non-ferrous metal industry (primary and secondary) | D96/1 | | | 2010 (1.a) | Phase-out of the use of hexachloroethane | 2001 and 2005 FD (10.2014) | WFD: 15,16 |
| | R2002/1 | | X | 2010 (1.a) | PAHs | | MSFD: 31,32 |
| | R98/2 | | X | 2010 (1.a) | Fluoride, PAHs | | |
| | R92/1 | X | X | 2010 (1.a) | PAHs, fluorides | | |
| | R94/1 | X | | 2010 (1.a) | PAHs, fluorides, fluorocarbon gases, sulphur dioxides | | |
| | R96/1 | X | | 2010 (1.a) | Fluorides, sulphur dioxides | | |
| | R98/1 | X | | 2008 (1.a) | Cadmium, lead, mercury | | |
| Surface treatment of metals | R92/4 | X | X | 2006 (1.a) | Chromium, copper, lead, nickel, silver, tin, zinc, unbound cyanide, volatile organic halogens | 2006 | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31,32 |
| Chlor-alkali industry | D80/2, D81/1, D81/2, D90/3, R85/1 | | X | 2008 (1.a) for D90/3 all measures are part of annual report for the sector | Mercury | 2001 BATC (12.2013) | WFD: 15,16 |
| | D82/1 | X | | idem | Mercury | | MSFD: 31,32 |
| Textile industry | R97/1 | | reference values | 2005 (1.a) | Antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, nickel, tin, zinc, organohalogen substances (e.g. PCBs, chlorine), organochlorine pesticides, organophosphorus pesticides | 2003 | WFD: 15,16 |
| | R94/5 | X | | 2005 (1.a) | | | MSFD: 31,32 |
| Pharmaceutical industry | R92/5 | X | | 2005 (1.a) | Heavy metals, halogenated and aromatic hydrocarbons, nutrients | | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31,32 |
| Organic chemical industry | R94/4 | X | | 2004 (1.a) | Hydrocarbons, PAHs, organohalogen, heavy metals | 2003 and 2006 D1 (04.2014) | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31,32 |
| Large combustion plants | R97/2 | X | | 2002 (1.a) | Heavy metals, PAHs and other POPs | 2006 D1 (06.2013) | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31,32 |
| Pulp and paper industry | D96/2 | | | 2006 (1.a) | Phase-out of the use of molecular chlorine in bleaching. Target substances: dioxins | 2001 FD (07.2013) | WFD: 15,16 |
| | D92/1 | | X | 2005 (1.a) | Chlorinated organic substances | | MSFD: 31,32 |
| | D95/2 | | X | 2006 (1.a) | Nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxides | | |
| | D95/3 | | X | 2006 (1.a) | Nitrogen oxides, gaseous sulphur, organic sulphuric compounds (methyl- | | |

| COMMON NAME | | OSPAR measure ⁷ | OSPAR Regions ⁸ where the species occurs | | OSPAR Regions ³ where the species is under threat and/or in decline | Type of actions in the measure ⁹ | Implementation reports (every 6 years after 2019) (cat.) | Associated KTM(s) ¹⁰ |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| | | | | | | mercaptan, di-methyl-sulphide, di-methyl-disulphide) | | |
| | | R94/2 R94/3 | X | | 2006 (1.a) | Nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxides, organic substances | | |
| Vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) industry | VCM, 1,2-dichloroethane | D98/4 R96/2 | X | X | 2010 (1.a) | Vinyl chloride monomer, 1,2-dichloroethane, polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans, hydrogen chloride, chlorinated hydrocarbon, copper, organohalogen substances | 2007 | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31,32 |
| | Suspension PVC | D98/5 R96/3 | X | X | 2010 (1.a) | Vinyl chloride monomer, organohalogen substances | | |
| | Emulsion PVC | R2000/3 R99/1 | X | X | 2010 (1.a) | Vinyl chloride monomer, organohalogen substances | | |
| Refineries | | R83/1 R89/5 | X | | 2004 (1.a) | Hydrocarbons | 2003 FD (07.2013)) | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31,32 |
| Production, collection, regeneration and disposal of waste oils | | R81/1 | X | | (cat. unknown) | Hydrocarbons | 2006 (waste treatment) | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31,32 |
| Reception facilities and oil terminals | | R87/2 | | X | (cat. unknown) | Hydrocarbons | 2006 (storage) | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31,32 |

| Substance (Section A of the OSPAR List of Chemicals for Priority Action) | | OSPAR measures | | | | Implementat ion reporting (cat.) | EC restrictions | | | EC WFD | International actions on POPs | | Associated KTM(s) |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------|---|---------|---------------------|--|-----------------------|---------|-----------|------------|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| | | Measure 18 | Uses | BAT/BEP | Restrictions | | Marketin g and use | Biocide | Pesticide | | | UN-ECE | |
| Metals and organometallic compounds | Cadmium | D85/2 | Various sources | | A/W | BD 2004 (2010) (1.a) | X | – | – | PHS | – | – | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31 |
| | | D90/2 | Batteries | X | X | BD 2004 (2010) (1.a) | | | | | | | |
| | Lead and organic lead compounds | – | – | – | – | BD 2009 | X | – | – | PS | – | – | |
| | Mercury and organic mercury compounds | R89/3 | Discharges from various sources | X | Use of alternatives | 2006 (1.a) | X | – | – | PHS | – | – | |
| | | R93/2 | Discharges from dentistry | X | – | 2006 (1.a) | | | | | | | |
| | | R2003/4 | Dispersal from crematoria | X | – | 2011, 2016 (1.b) | | | | | | | |
| | | R81/1 | Thermometers, batteries, dental filters | X | – | BD 2004 (2010) (1.a) | | | | | | | |
| | | D90/2 | Batteries | X | X | BD 2004 (2010) (1.a) | | | | | | | |
| | Organic tin compounds | R87/1 | Antifouling paints for use on sea-going vessels and underwater structures | – | X | 2006 (1.a) BD 2011 | X | X | – | PHS (TBTs) | – | – | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31, 32 |
| | | R88/1 | Docking activities (sand-blasting etc.) | X | – | 2006 (1.a) BD 2011 | | | | | | | |
| Organic ester | Neodecanoic acid, ethenyl ester | – | – | – | – | BD 2011 | X | – | – | – | – | – | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31 |

¹⁸ Note: D = PARCOM or OSPAR Decision, R = PARCOM or OSPAR Recommendation, A = limit values for emissions to air; W = limits for discharges to water, Cat. (1.a) = measure adopted and implemented (reporting ceased), Cat. (1.b) = measure adopted and not yet (fully) implemented (reporting ongoing), BD year = most recent OSPAR background document, (year) = review statement of OSPAR background document, PS = Water Framework Directive Priority Substance, PHS = Water Framework Directive Priority Hazardous Substance (status as at Directive 2013/39/EU); X = EC restriction applies, or substance is covered by the UN-ECE POP Protocol and the UNEP Stockholm POPs Convention; – EC restriction does not apply, or substance is not covered by the UN-ECE POP Protocol and the UNEP Stockholm POPs Convention; * = under consideration for inclusion in UNEP Stockholm POPs Convention

| Substance (Section A of the OSPAR List of Chemicals for Priority Action) | | OSPAR measures | | | | Implementat ion reporting (cat.) | EC restrictions | | | EC WFD | International actions on POPs | | Associated KTM(s) |
|--|---|----------------|---|---------|--------------|--|-----------------------|---------|-----------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | Measure 18 | Uses | BAT/BEP | Restrictions | | Marketin g and use | Biocide | Pesticide | | UN-ECE | Stockholm | |
| Organohalogenes | PFOS | – | – | – | – | BD 2006 (2011) | X | – | – | PHS | X | X | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31 |
| | Tetrabromobisphenol-A | – | – | – | – | BD 2011 | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| | Trichlorobenzenes | – | – | – | – | BD 2005 (2011) | X | – | – | PS | – | – | |
| | Brominated flame retardants | – | – | – | – | BD 2009 | X | – | – | TBDE, PBDE, HexaBDE, HeptaBDE: PHS | TBDE, PBDE, HexaBDE, HeptaBDE | TBDE, PBDE, HexaBDE, HeptaBDE | |
| | Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) | D92/3 | Any use | – | Phase-out | 2006 (1.a) BD 2004 (2008) | X | – | – | PHS (12 PCB-DLs) | X | X | |
| | Polychlorinated dibenzodioxins and dibenzofurans (PCDDs, PCDFs) | – | – | – | – | BD 2007 | X | – | – | PHS (7 PCDDs, 10 PCDFs) | X | X | |
| | Short chained chlorinated paraffins | D95/1 | Plasticiser in paints, coatings and sealants, use in metal work fluids and as flame retardants in rubber, plastics and textiles | – | Phase-out | 2006 (1.a) BD 2009 | X | – | – | PHS | X | * | |
| Organic nitrogen comp. | 4-(dimethylbutylamino) diphenylamin (6PPD) | – | – | – | – | BD 2006 | – | – | – | – | – | – | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31 |
| Pesticides/ biocides/ organohalogenes | Dicofol | – | – | – | – | BD 2004 (2008) | – | X | X | – | – | – | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31 |
| | Endosulfan | – | – | – | – | BD 2004 (2008) | – | X | X | PHS | – | X | |
| | HCH isomers | – | – | – | – | BD 2002 (2008) | X | lindane | lindane | PHS | X | X | |
| | Methoxychlor | – | – | – | – | BD 2004 (2008) | – | – | – | – | – | – | |
| | Pentachlorophenol (PCP) | – | – | – | – | BD 2004 | X | – | – | PS | – | * | |
| | Trifluralin | – | – | – | – | BD 2005 (2012) | – | X | – | PHS | – | – | |

| Substance (Section A of the OSPAR List of Chemicals for Priority Action) | | OSPAR measures | | | | Implementat ion reporting (cat.) | EC restrictions | | | EC WFD | International actions on POPs | | Associated KTM(s) |
|--|--|----------------|--|---------|--------------|--|-----------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| | | Measure 18 | Uses | BAT/BEP | Restrictions | | Marketin g and use | Biocide | Pesticide | | UN-ECE | Stockholm | |
| Pharma- ceuticals | Clotrimazole | – | – | – | – | BD 2013 | – | – | – | – | – | – | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31 |
| Phenols | 2,4,6-tri- <i>tert</i> - butylphenol | – | – | – | – | BD 2006 (2009) | – | – | – | – | – | – | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31 |
| | Nonylphenol- ethoxylates | R92/8 | Cleaning agents | | Phase-out | 2006 (1.a) BD 2009 | X | – | X | NPs: PHS | – | – | |
| | Octylphenol | – | – | – | – | BD 2006 (2009) | X | – | X | PS | – | – | |
| Phtha- late esters | Phthalates: dibutylphthalate (DBP), diethylhexyl-phthalate (DEHP) | – | – | – | – | BD 2006 | X | – | – | DEHP: PHS | – | – | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31 |
| Polycyclic aromati c compou nds | Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) | R96/4 | One-component coal tar coating systems for inland ships | – | Phase-out | 2006 (1.a) BD 2009 | X | – | – | PHS | X | – | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31 |
| Syn- thetic musks | Musk xylene | – | – | – | – | BD 2004 | X | – | – | – | – | – | WFD: 15,16 MSFD: 31 |

| DESCRIPTOR 10: MARINE LITTER | Associated KTM(s) |
|--|---|
| <p>In order to achieve the objective of the Biological Diversity and Ecosystems Strategy, the OSPAR Commission will substantially reduce marine litter in the OSPAR maritime area to levels where properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and the marine environment. OSPAR Ministers declared in 2010: "We note that quantities of litter in many areas of the North-East Atlantic are unacceptable, and therefore we will continue to develop reduction measures and targets, taking into consideration an ambitious target resulting in a reduction in 2020" (Bergen Statement).</p> <p>In 2010, The Commission adopted OSPAR Recommendation 2010/19 on the Reduction of Marine litter through the Implementation of Fishing for Litter Initiatives. The purpose of this Recommendation is to promote the establishment of Fishing for Litter initiatives in fishing harbours of Contracting Parties and to facilitate: (1) the raising of awareness of the social, economic and ecological impacts of marine litter among fishermen and within the fishing industry, (2) a change in waste management practices within the fishing industry, and (3) the direct removal of marine litter from the marine environment within fishing areas. Contracting Parties should promote the establishment of Fishing for Litter initiatives in line with the Guidance on Fishing for Litter projects (agreement: 2007-10). Implementation reporting has started in 2013 and a first overview and assessment of fishing for litter projects has been published (OSPAR publication 629/2014) and further work needs to be done in the Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee on the review of the arrangements set out in the Recommendation (cat. 1.b).</p> <p>In 2014, the OSPAR Commission adopted the Regional Action Plan for Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in the North-East Atlantic (agreement: 2014-1, see Annex 1 to the Joint Documentation) which contains four themes: (1) objectives, scope and principles, (2) actions, (3) monitoring and assessment, and (4) implementation and reporting. The RAP will be implemented during the period 2014-2021, after which time it shall be reviewed and updated in accordance with the outcome of the Quality Status Report 2021, the new OSPAR Strategy, and assessments under the MSFD. The RAP sets out actions to be implemented by Contracting Parties individually and – more than 30 - OSPAR actions to be taken collectively. The actions are divided into four themes: (1) actions to combat sea-based sources of marine litter, (2) actions to combat land-based sources of marine litter, (3) removal action, and (4) education and outreach.</p> <p>The set of actions in the RAP for OSPAR collectively identifies, as far as currently possible, the type of OSPAR measure, the (co)lead parties and the anticipated year of implementation. Overseeing the current work package background documents and measures should be prepared, discussed and adopted mainly in 2015 and 2016, while the remainder of this type of work under the RAP will be finalised in 2017-2018. Cooperation with other organisations and competent (international) authorities will be an important part of the work. The RAP also requires Contracting Parties to report on implementation of their national actions every second year, starting in 2016. This work will increase when OSPAR measures are being adopted with additional implementation reports.</p> | <p>WFD: 1, 21</p> <p>MSFD: 29</p> |
| DESCRIPTOR 11: UNDERWATER NOISE | Associated KTM(s) |
| <p>In order to achieve the objective of the Biological Diversity and Ecosystems Strategy, the OSPAR Commission will endeavour to keep the introduction of energy, including underwater noise, at levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment in the OSPAR maritime area. Until now work was, and is being undertaken on monitoring and assessment including the further development of a common register for impulsive noise and on a proposal for a jointly designed and implemented noise monitoring programme.</p> <p>In 2014-2015 work will be undertaken to establish and keep up-to-date an inventory of underwater noise mitigation measures that will provide OSPAR Contracting Parties an overview of effectiveness and feasibility of mitigation options to avoid or reduce emissions and impacts of underwater noise. The inventory is an annotated list, a collation of existing practices and promotes discussion on current, developing and 'new' measures. Since there is considerable dynamic in the development of techniques and practices and improving knowledge about the impacts of underwater noise on the marine environment, maintaining an inventory will be a continuous process so will be periodically reviewed.</p> <p>The inventory aims to provide an overview of national experiences on developing and applying measures. The inventory is designed to help avoid and reduce the introduction of underwater noise and/or its impacts on the marine environment through a common understanding of best mitigation options and by aiding Contracting Parties in their choice of options in the management of underwater noise sources and ultimately by the application of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practice (BEP), as defined in Appendix 1 to the OSPAR Convention, for activities generating underwater noise.</p> <p>Priority has been given to those activities which are considered of prime concern. These are pile-driving, and seismic activities, and to a lesser extent shipping noise. Among other sources, consideration may also</p> | <p>WFD: –</p> <p>MSFD: 28</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>be given to high frequency impulsive sources (e.g. from echo sounders), dredging, explosions and sonar, noting that for managing military activities (explosives and sonar), OSPAR action may have limited impact. While vessels are a sector of concern, it is noted that IMO is the competent authority to address technical improvements for those ships which fall within its remit and that technical Guidelines is under way. There is opportunity for the OSPAR Commission to explore the scope for mitigation options for those vessels and shipping activities not covered by IMO.</p> | |
|--|--|

Table 1.2: Indicative list of relevant EU legislation, other agreements and conventions that contribute to achieving MSFD per Descriptor¹⁹

This table aims to signify that the Contracting Parties are working from a set of EU legislation, and other agreements and Conventions, that form a common framework based on which individual, national measures are designed. This legislative body relevant to the MSFD is thus showing coherence across the OSPAR region. This list does not guarantee complete coordination, or provide an analysis of coherence and coordination under each piece of legislation, but provides an overview background legislation applied by the Contracting Parties relevant to the MSFD.

| Descriptor | Topic | Indicative list of related EU legislation |
|--------------|------------------------|--|
| D1, 4, and 6 | Biodiversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats Directive (directive 92/42/EEC) • Birds Directive (directive 2009/147/EC) • Water Framework Directive (directive 2000/60/EC) • SEA directive (2001/42/EC) • EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) • Renewable energy directive (85/337/EEC) • North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Implementation Plan (NASCO) • Convention on Migratory Species (UN) • Delivery of commitments under ASCOBANS (Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas) • Delivery of commitments under ACCOBAMS (Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean and Contiguous Atlantic Area) • Delivery of commitments under CITES (Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species) • Council Regulation (EC) No 1185/2003 on the removal of fins of sharks on board vessels • Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Shark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) • International Whaling Commission: cetaceans protection • Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) |
| D2 | Non-Indigenous species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation (EC) No 708/2007 concerning use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture • Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species |

¹⁹ Source: Annex 1 to the Recommendation for Implementing and Reporting, 25.11.2014

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------|---|
| D5 | Eutrophication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Framework Directive (directive 2000/60/EC) • Urban Waste Water Directive (directive 91/27/EEC) • Nitrate Directive (91/676/EEC) • National Emission Ceilings Directive (2001/81/EC) • MARPOL Convention (IMO) • Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) Regulations 2008 (as amended) |
| D7 | Hydrographic conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Framework Directive (directive 2000/60/EC) • SEA directive (2001/42/EC) • EIA Directive (2011/92/EU) |
| D8 | Contaminants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Framework Directive (directive 2000/60/EC) • Directive on Environmental Quality Standards (directive 2008/105/EC) as amended by directive 2013/39/EU • Directive on industrial emissions (Directive 2010/75/EU) • Chemical legislation including Reach Regulation (Regulation 1907/2006) and biocides Regulation (528/2012) • Directive on ship-source pollutions (directive 2009/123/EC) • Sulphur directive 2012/33 • Directive 2014/94/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure • UNECE POP Protocol • MARPOL Convention (IMO) • Anti-fouling Convention (IMO) • Bonn Agreement |
| D9 | Contaminants in seafood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International source control legislation: Persistent organic Pollutants under Stockholm Convention • Seafood legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regulation 188/2006 ○ Regulation 2073/2005 ○ Regulation 178/2002 ○ Regulation 852/2004 ○ Regulation 854/2004 ○ Regulation 853/2004 |
| D10 | Marine Litter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Framework Directive (directive 2008/9/EC) • Directive on Port Reception Facilities (directive 2000/59/EC) • Urban Waste Water Directive (directive 91/27/EEC) • Directive on ship-source pollutions (directive 2009/123/EC) • Bathing directive (directive 2006/7/EC) • MARPOL Convention (IMO) |

| | | |
|-----|------------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing • International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (IMO) • Responsible fishing schemes • Packaging Directive (directive 720/2015/EU) • Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC) • Eco-design Directive (2009/125/EC) • London Convention 1972 (Convention on the Prevention of Maritime Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter) and 1996 Protocol • Industry Code on Sky Lanterns |
| D11 | Underwater Noise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEA directive (2001/42/EC) • EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) • IMO guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping |

Table 1.3: List of existing cross-border government to government cooperation relevant to the MSFD per Descriptor

At the national level, Contracting Parties have included their examples of existing government to government cooperation relevant to the MSFD as based on their Programmes of Measures. It shows cross-border cooperation between two or more Contracting Parties working to achieve GES, regardless of the driver or instrument behind it. The entries included in this table are based on a questionnaire completed by the Contracting Parties.

| DESCRIPTORS 1, 4 and 6: BIODIVERSITY | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Measure | CPs involved | Associated KTM(s) |
| Implementing Management Plans Natura2000/Habitat Directive: joint proposals for fishery measures by all Contracting Parties with fisheries interests in an area | NL, UK, DE, plus DK: Dogger Bank NL, BE, DE, UK: Cleaver Bank NL, BE, DE, UK: Frisian Front NL, BE, UK: Central Oyster Grounds BE, NL, FR, UK, DE and DK: Vlaamse Banken | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35, 37 |
| Implementation of the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives and national legislation, including development of Marine Protected Areas | Group/bilateral discussions through Scheveningen between EU MS | WFD: 20 MSFD: 26, 27, 35, 37 |
| Implementation of the Water Framework Directive(2000/60/EEC), including the development of River Basin management Plans | All CPs with shared river basins are cooperating in their respective catchment areas. | WFD: 5, 20, 24 MSFD: - |
| Implementation of the EU Eel Regulation (Council Regulation 1100/2007), including the development of Eel management plans | Bi-trilaterals UK-IE and FR and coordination through the ICES Working Group on Eels; Similarly, SE, DK, DE coordination through ICES WG and HELCOM-FISH. | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35, 36 |
| Implementation of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) Implementation Plan (regional) including national measures on the protection of Salmon, e.g. prohibition on drift nets; catch and release schemes; habitat improvement. | Coordination between countries that are members of NASCO | WFD: 20, 5 MSFD: 26, 27, 35, 37 |
| Delivery of commitments under ASCOBANS (Agreement of the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas) (Daughter Agreement Under the Convention on Migratory Species) | International coordination between countries that are members of ASCOBANS | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35, 37 |
| Implementation of the Habitats Directive Annex I, | European coordination through | WFD: 20 |

| | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and Offshore Habitats Regulations 2007 (as amended) | coordination groups such as the marine expert group on the implementation of Birds and Habitats directives. In addition, IE and NI (UK) collaborate with regard to cross-border site designation and management issues, particularly with regard to N2K and Ramsar sites | MSFD: 35, 37 |
| MPA Bratten, subregional protection of Natura 2000 and OSPAR habitat | SE, DK, NO | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35, 37 |
| Kosterhavet, Yttervaler National Parks Areas, collaboration around marine area protection | SE, NO | WFD: 20 MSFD: 26, 27, 35, 37, 38 |
| National plan for developing marine spatial protection in Sweden | SE, Regional coordination in accordance with CFP/ BALTFISH and Scheveningen. DK, NO, DE through Espoo, where relevant. | WFD: 20 MSFD: 26,27,35,36,37 |
| Harbour porpoise management plans within ASCOBANS framework | SE, North sea, Baltic sea countries | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36,37 |
| Proposal for establishment of new MPAs with restrictions on bottom trawling, dredging and extraction of non-living resources in Kattegat | DK, SE, NO, DE through Espoo | WFD: 20 MSFD: 26,27,35,36,37 |
| Restriction of fisheries with mobile bottom contacting gears around reefs in N2000 areas | DK, Regional coordination in accordance with CFP/ BALTFISH and Scheveningen corporation. | WFD: 20 MSFD: 26,27,35, 36,37 |
| ECAPRHA project: Present and future work on development of OSPAR common indicators for biodiversity | ES, FR, NL, UK | WFD: 14 |
| DESCRIPTOR 2: NON-INDIGENOUS SPECIES | | Associated KTM(s) |
| Ratification Ballast Water Convention | DE, DK, ES, FR, IS, NL, SE | WFD: 18 MSFD: 34 |
| Implementation of River basin management plans (Water Framework Directive, WFD) | All CPs with shared river basins are cooperating in their respective catchment areas. | WFD: 18 MSFD: 34 |
| IAS strategy - there is an All-Ireland approach to NIS and I(A)S: Action plans developed by the IAS Ireland | UK, IE and Northern IE (UK) | WFD: 18 |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| project are coordinated with Northern Ireland | | MSFD: 34 |
| Joint harmonised procedure on granting exemptions from ballast water treatment provisions (BWM Convention) | Helcom-Ospar CPs | WFD: 18 MSFD: 34 |
| DESCRIPTOR 5: EUTROPHICATION | | Associated KTM(s) |
| Implementation of the Water Framework Directive(2000/60/EEC), including the development of River Basin management Plans | All CPs with shared river basins are cooperating in their respective catchment areas. | WFD: 2, 12, 16,17,21,22,23 MSFD: 33 |
| HARMONY INTERREG project | SE, DK, NO | WFD: 14 MSFD: 39 |
| Investigations on the possibilities to affect the internal nutrient load, locally in eutrophicated bays and inlets and in the Baltic Proper. | SE, DK, (as HELCOM CP), Box project in Byfjorden | WFD: 14 MSFD: 33 |
| DESCRIPTOR 7: HYDROGRAPHIC CONDITIONS | | Associated KTM(s) |
| Implementation of the Water Framework Directive(2000/60/EEC), including the development of River Basin management Plans | All CPs with shared river basins are cooperating in their respective catchment areas. | WFD: 6,7 MSFD: 30 |
| DESCRIPTOR 8 AND 9: CONTAMINANTS | | Associated KTM(s) |
| Prevention and fight against accidental pollution at sea: Biscay Plan | FR, ES | WFD: - MSFD: 32 |
| Implementation of the Water Framework Directive(2000/60/EEC), including the development of River Basin management Plans | All CPs with shared river basins are cooperating in their respective catchment areas. | WFD: 3,4,12,15,16,21, 22 MSFD: 31 |
| To investigate the presence of tributyltin (TBT) and its degradation products in the marine environment; investigating opportunities for further regulation or national guidance. | Change project (BONUS) GER/FIN/SE on reducing use of harmful antifouling | WFD: 21 MSFD: 31 |
| North Sea Emergency Plan of the North Sea Disasters Regional Management Team | BE, DE, DK, NL, UK | WFD: - MSFD: 32 |
| DESCRIPTOR 10: MARINE LITTER | | Associated KTM(s) |
| Potential collaboration in the implementation of measures under the Barcelona Convention RAP ²⁰ | FR, ES, Barcelona Convention | WFD: 21 MSFD: 29 |

²⁰ Among other things to identify and promote cost-effective measures to prevent marine littering from dredging activities.

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| Implementation of the Water Framework Directive(2000/60/EEC), including the development of River Basin management Plans | All CPs with shared river basins are cooperating in their respective catchment areas. | WFD: 21 MSFD: 29 |
| Implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) | UK, Limited coordination on UWWTD with other EU MS through annual committee/working group, focussed mostly on reporting; little opportunity for further coordination. | WFD: 21 MSFD: 29 |
| Implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 850/98 for the conservation of fishery resources through technical measures for the protection of juveniles of marine organisms | UK, Working across EU MS to bring about Omnibus amendment (to bring this regulation in line with landing obligation) and will continue to work across regional (sea basin) groups to fully overhaul the regulation (probably 2018) | WFD: 21 MSFD: 29 |
| DESCRIPTOR 11: UNDERWATER NOISE | | Associated KTM(s) |
| Implementation of Marine Licensing procedures (as introduced by part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) and part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010) to assess potential adverse impacts of proposals for regulated marine activities or developments, and to introduce conditions to limit adverse impacts where necessary. | UK, Coordination on certain aspects, e.g. dredged material guidelines, through EIHA | WFD: - MSFD: 28 |

Part 2: Possibilities for future coordination and cooperation on measures relevant to MSFD per Descriptor

Part 2 of the Joint Documentation consists of possibilities for future coordination and coherence on measures related to the MSFD. Cooperation and coordination on that account is taking place on a regional and national level, described in two separate tables.

Table 2.1 reflects the possibilities for future coordination and cooperation on the regional level. Each of the OSPAR Committees has considered this question, and has concluded upon future possibilities²¹. These indications are thus supported by all Contracting Parties.

Table 2.2 shows those items that Contracting Parties have flagged in their questionnaires to be taken up in the near future. These topics show promise to further consider on a (sub) regional scale. This can take shape in bi- or multilateral contact, or can be raised in OSPAR Committees.

Table 2.1: Possibilities for future coordination and coherence at the regional level

| Current developments of measures in OSPAR (expected delivery on time for being taken into account for the 1 st implementation cycle of MSFD) | Need for developing additional measures (and timing)? | Proposed type of coordination in OSPAR? ²² | Committees potentially concerned |
|--|---|---|----------------------------------|
| DESCRIPTORS 1, 4 and 6 | | | |
| Finalisation and adoption of recommendations (containing measures) on the protection and conservation of OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats. Implementation through ICG-Posh. | To be seen depending on the outcomes of the discussions on the recommendations | (1), (2) and (3) | BDC (EIHA) |
| EIHA: Implementation of Recommendation 2010/5 on assessments of environmental impact in relation to threatened and/or declining species and habitats | New MPAs? | | |
| BDC: Elements of the Recommendations on the protection and conservation of threatened and/or declining species and habitats that are for implementation by Contracting Parties acting collectively within the framework of OSPAR comprise regionally coordinated action. | Additional measures may need to be developed following the assessment of common biodiversity indicators. | | |
| DESCRIPTOR 2: NON-INDIGENOUS SPECIES | | | |
| Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Guidelines for the Contracting Parties of OSPAR and HELCOM on the granting of exemptions under IBWC, Regulation A-4 | A review of requirement for measures may need to be developed following the assessment of common biodiversity indicator(s). | (1) and (3) | EIHA |

²¹ Spring 2014 views on OSPAR coordination role on measures depending on the GES descriptors (Source: CoG(1) 14/4/1-E(L), Annex 3 – update based on EIHA 2015, Annex 4 Summary Record)

²² For explanatory notes for column “Proposed type of coordination in OSPAR?”, please refer to Annex 3

| Current developments of measures in OSPAR (expected delivery on time for being taken into account for the 1 st implementation cycle of MSFD) | Need for developing additional measures (and timing)? | Proposed type of coordination in OSPAR? ²² | Committees potentially concerned |
|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| DESCRIPTOR 5: EUTROPHICATION | | | |
| | Noting that a lot has been done already and depending on progress in other fora: - Working more closely with River Basin Committees - Developing a recommendation to the IMO with respect to a possible NECA. | (1) and (3) | HASEC |
| DESCRIPTOR 10: MARINE LITTER | | | |
| A Regional action plan for marine litter was adopted by OSPAR 2014 (OSPAR Agreement 2014/1) | Depending on the outcome of the agreed RAP ML, e.g. - Working more closely with River Basin Commissions - UNEP | (1), (2), (3) | EIHA |
| DESCRIPTOR 11: UNDERWATER NOISE | | | |
| Development of an impulsive noise registry | Based on the Intermediate Assessment of 2017, consider developing a Regional Action Plan on underwater noise | (1) in 2014 (1), (2) and (3) for the next MSFD implementation cycle | EIHA |

Table 2.2: Possibilities for future coordination and coherence between Contracting Parties in further developing national measures

| DESCRIPTORS 1, 4 and 6: BIODIVERSITY | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| Measure | CPs and inter/supranational institutions involved | Associated KTM(s) |
| Measures to protect migratory species in marine areas | DE, DK, NL, SE | WFD: 5 MSFD: 35,36 |
| Possible cross-border cooperation on pilot reintroduction Flat Oyster | BE, NL | WFD: 5 MSFD: 35,36 |
| Explore potential cooperation on MPAs | FR, PT, ES | WFD: - MSFD: 38 |
| National legislation on the protection of seals | UK, Potential for coherence with other CPs | WFD: 20 MSFD: 35,36 |
| Planned: Implementation of the UK Seabird Bycatch Plan of Action (FAO and EU seabird by catch plans of action) | UK, Potential for coherence with other CPs | WFD: 20 MSFD: 36 |
| Exploring opportunities for collaboration (subregional/bilateral) around conservation plans where relevant for threatened species and habitats | SE, EU MSs, OSPAR CPs Potential for coordination/cooperation around specific species/habitat Discussions with FIN+ within HELCOM State and Conservation already ongoing on suitable ways to collaborate. | WFD: 20 MSFD: 26,27,35,36 |
| DESCRIPTOR 2: NON-INDIGENOUS SPECIES | | |
| Measures related to the development of national warning and response system for early detection of new invasive non-indigenous species and contingency plans for managing these. | SE, potential for regional cooperation/coordination | WFD: 18 MSFD: 34 |
| DESCRIPTOR 5: EUTROPHICATION | | |
| Promoting measures to reduce NOX inputs from shipping | DE, IMO, EU | WFD: 21 MSFD: 33 |
| Support the designation of a NECA in the North and Baltic Seas | NECA North Sea Consultation Group | WFD: 21 MSFD: 33 |
| DESCRIPTOR 7: HYDROGRAPHIC CONDITIONS | | |
| Information sharing regarding guidance on hydrographic aspects in marine-related | SE, potential coordination with OSPAR CPs | WFD: - MSFD: 30 |

| | | |
|---|--|------------------------|
| environmental impact assessments | | |
| DESCRIPTOR 8 AND 9: CONTAMINANTS | | |
| Requirements for the discharge and disposal of scrubbing waters from exhaust treatment on board ships | DE, EU-level and IMO; For port related measures OSPAR (OSPAR CPs) | WFD: 15,21 MSFD: 31 |
| Preventing and combating marine pollution – improving maritime emergency preparedness and response | DE, Bonn Agreement, OSPAR, IMO | WFD: - MSFD: 32 |
| DESCRIPTOR 10: MARINE LITTER | | |
| Possible cross-border cooperation pilot alternative for dolly rope (as part of a measure to restore the natural gravel beds) | BE, NL | WFD: - MSFD: 29 |
| Potential common projects on Marine Litter | PT, ES, FR | WFD: MSFD: 29 |
| Green Deals (soft law) Clean Beaches and Fisheries | NL (BE and UK interested) Applies to multiple Descriptors | WFD: - MSFD: 29 |
| Tax relief schemes for environmentally friendly investment (VAMIL/MIA) | NL (BE and UK interested) Applies to multiple Descriptors | WFD: - MSFD: 29 |
| DESCRIPTOR 11: UNDERWATER NOISE | | |
| Development and application of biological limit values for the impact of underwater noise on relevant species | DE, Region II CPs | WFD: 14 MSFD: 28 |
| Establishment of a register for impulsive noise and shock waves and of standardised mandatory reporting requirements | DE, OSPAR | WFD: - MSFD: 28 |
| Development and application of noise mitigation measures for the North and Baltic Seas | DE, Region II CPs | WFD: - MSFD: 28 |
| Potential common projects on Underwater Noise [e.g.: work together in the implementation of a Monitoring Programme for this descriptor] | PT, ES, FR | WFD: - MSFD: 28 |
| Planning of regionally coordinated impulsive sound register (OSPAR, HELCOM) | SE, OSPAR and HELCOM CPs | WFD: - MSFD: 28 |
| Participation of OSPAR CPs in HELCOM and EU Expert Networks on Underwater Noise | SE, DK, DE, FIN | WFD: - MSFD: 28 |
| When proven necessary, cooperation on additional measures and/or alternative techniques for explosives clearance | NL, relevant international partners | WFD: - MSFD: 28 |

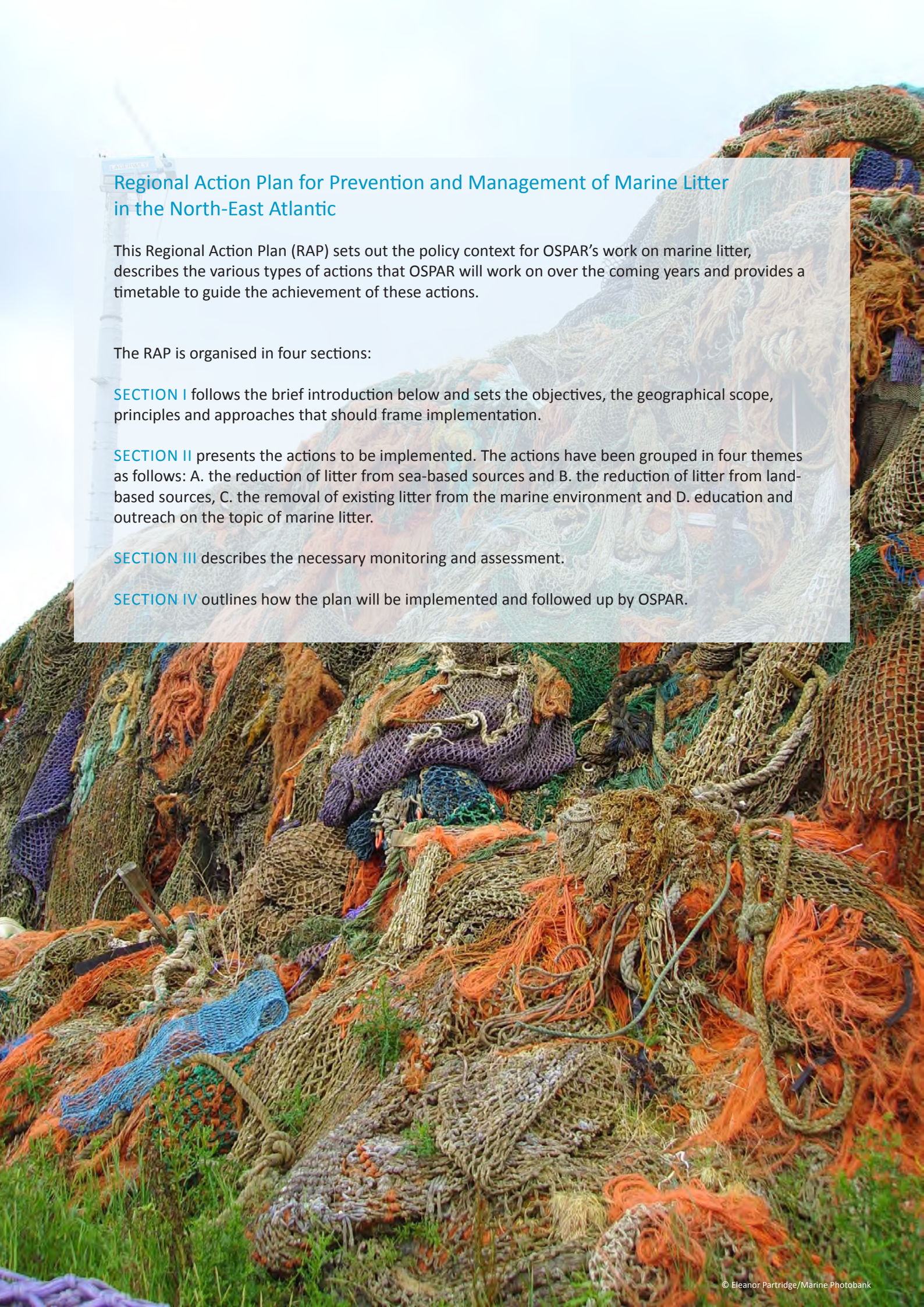
OSPAR Marine Litter Regional Action Plan

Marine Litter Regional Action Plan



OSPAR
COMMISSION

*Protecting and conserving the
North-East Atlantic and its resources*



Regional Action Plan for Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in the North-East Atlantic

This Regional Action Plan (RAP) sets out the policy context for OSPAR's work on marine litter, describes the various types of actions that OSPAR will work on over the coming years and provides a timetable to guide the achievement of these actions.

The RAP is organised in four sections:

SECTION I follows the brief introduction below and sets the objectives, the geographical scope, principles and approaches that should frame implementation.

SECTION II presents the actions to be implemented. The actions have been grouped in four themes as follows: A. the reduction of litter from sea-based sources and B. the reduction of litter from land-based sources, C. the removal of existing litter from the marine environment and D. education and outreach on the topic of marine litter.

SECTION III describes the necessary monitoring and assessment.

SECTION IV outlines how the plan will be implemented and followed up by OSPAR.

Marine Litter

Marine litter covers any solid material which has been deliberately discarded, or unintentionally lost on beaches and on shores or at sea, including materials transported into the marine environment from land by rivers, draining or sewage systems or winds. It includes any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material. Marine litter originates from different sea- and land-based sources and is largely based on the prevailing production and consumption pattern.

Marine litter consists of a wide range of materials, including plastic, metal, wood, rubber, glass and paper. Although the relative proportions of these materials vary regionally, there is clear evidence that plastic litter is by far the most abundant type. In some locations plastics make up 90 % of marine litter of shorelines. A similar predominance of plastics is reported from sampling at the sea surface and on the seabed.

Most plastics are extremely durable materials and persist in the marine environment for a considerable period, possibly as much as hundreds of years. However, plastics also deteriorate and fragment in the environment as a consequence of exposure to sunlight (photo-degradation) in addition to physical and chemical deterioration. This breakdown of larger items results in numerous tiny plastic fragments, which, when smaller than 5mm are called secondary micro plastics. Other micro plastics that can be found in the marine environment are categorised as primary micro plastics due to the fact that they are produced either for direct use, such as for industrial abrasives or cosmetics or for indirect use, such as pre-production pellets or nurdles.

Marine litter is not only an aesthetic problem but incurs socioeconomic costs, threatens human health and safety and impacts on marine organisms. It is broadly documented that entanglement in, or ingestion of, marine litter can have negative consequences on the physical condition of marine animals and even lead to death. Ingestion of micro plastics is also of concern as it may provide a pathway for transport of harmful chemicals into the food web. Additionally, marine litter is known to damage and degrade habitats (e.g. in terms of smothering) and to be a possible vector for the transfer of alien species.

The large majority of biodegradable plastics can only biodegrade under specific conditions of constant temperature and humidity in industrial composting installations. Therefore they do not degrade in a reasonable time when entering the marine environment as litter. Moreover, many biodegradable plastics may not degrade in the intestines of marine species. Hence injury and starvation are likely to remain issues.



Background to the Plan

OSPAR Ministers declared in 2010: “We note that quantities of litter in many areas of the North-East Atlantic are unacceptable, and therefore we will continue to develop reduction measures and targets, taking into consideration an ambitious target resulting in a reduction in 2020” (Bergen Statement). The OSPAR objective with regard to marine litter, as laid down in the Strategy for the protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic for the years 2010-2020, is “to substantially reduce marine litter in the OSPAR maritime area to levels where properties and quantities do not cause harm to the marine environment”. The OSPAR objective and this RAP are supportive of the Rio+20 global commitment to “take action to, by 2025, based on collected scientific data, achieve significant reductions in marine debris to prevent harm to the coastal and marine environment” in the “The Future We Want” and with the 2013 UNGA resolution A/RES/68/70 in which States noted concern on marine debris.

The OSPAR objective is also in line with the definition of Descriptor 10 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, where Good Environmental Status can be seen to be achieved, when “Properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment. It will also support the achievement of an EU-wide “quantitative reduction headline target” for marine litter, as agreed in the 7th Environment Action Programme.

OSPAR 2013 agreed to develop a Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter by 2014. The sources of marine litter are diverse and ocean dynamics turn it into a transboundary issue requiring collective action. Therefore, OSPAR examined the feasibility of developing a Regional Action Plan to implement the commitments in the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy as well as to coordinate actions to deliver Good Environmental Status across the MSFD descriptors. Moreover, the RAP is contributing to the UNEP and GPA Global Partnership on Marine Litter, a global framework for prevention and management of marine debris, and the Honolulu Strategy developed at the 5th International Marine Debris Conference. In that sense, the RAP for prevention and management of marine litter can be seen as an exemplar for regional effort supporting multiple regional and global commitments.

This RAP emerged from a series of workshops, coordinated by Germany as lead country, involving relevant expertise from the public and private sectors, academics and non-governmental organisations and under a dedicated OSPAR intersessional correspondence group on marine litter (ICG-ML). Through this process OSPAR also actively contributed to the International Conference on Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in European Seas held in Berlin in April 2013.

Following the agreement of OSPAR 2013 this RAP and Implementation Plan aims to deliver the following elements:

- a. a focus on specific sources or items of marine litter that are of most concern in each OSPAR region or the OSPAR maritime area as a whole;
- b. the development of regional measures, taking into account the socioeconomic aspects including cost effectiveness, for reducing the input of marine litter from sea-based and land-based sources, and for removing litter from the marine environment. These measures should be based on an assessment of the OSPAR Marine Litter Checklist, the measures identified at the Berlin Conference and any existing and new initiatives within Contracting Parties;
- c. regionally coordinated SMART reduction/operational targets, including those linked to sources, taking into account the MSFD targets submitted by EU Member State Contracting Parties to the European Commission;
- d. monitoring and necessary arrangements required to assess progress towards reaching the targets, taking into account any outputs from the EU Technical Group Marine Litter, and including the work in progress for the MSFD monitoring programmes;
- e. cooperation with other relevant regional and international organisations, including Regional Seas.

Background cont...

The OSPAR Regional Action Plan for prevention and management of Marine Litter in the North-East Atlantic has been adopted by OSPAR Contracting Parties as an OSPAR Other Agreement. The Regional Action Plan is designed as a flexible tool providing a set of actions to address marine litter. It contains actions requiring collective activity within the framework of the OSPAR Commission through, where applicable, OSPAR measures (i.e. Decisions or Recommendations) and/or other agreements such as guidelines.

Other actions listed are those that Contracting Parties should consider in their national programmes of measures, including under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The approach regarding these national actions is based around the core principle that the RAP allows Contracting Parties to identify which of the measures and actions listed they have already taken forward (e.g. as a result of existing or planned national or European legislation or other initiatives) and consider others needed to further combat marine litter. It therefore provides guidance to Contracting Parties and a framework for regional cooperation.

Finally, a third category of actions that address issues that fall under the competence of other international organisations and competent authorities.



SECTION I: Objectives & Scope

The main objectives of the RAP are to:

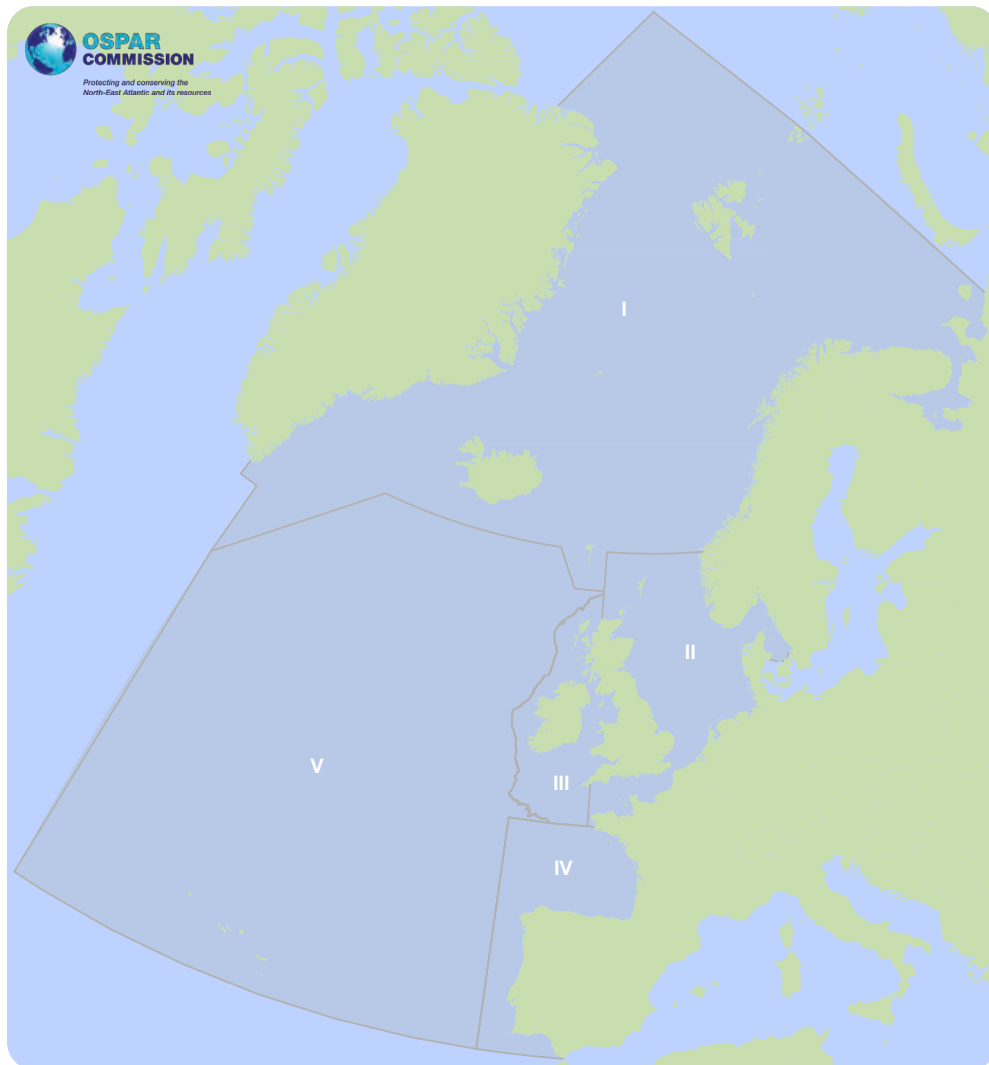
- Prevent and reduce marine litter pollution in the North-East Atlantic and its impact on marine organisms, habitats, public health and safety and reduce the socioeconomic costs it causes;
- Remove litter from the marine environment where practical and feasible;
- Enhance knowledge and awareness on marine litter;
- Support Contracting Parties in the development, implementation and coordination of their programmes for litter reduction, including those for the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- Develop management approaches to marine litter that are consistent with accepted international approaches

The role of the RAP ML is to:

- Coordinate work to improve the evidence base on the impacts of litter on the marine environment;
- Establish a range of measures and actions, identifying gaps and opportunities where OSPAR can add value through its marine focus. This should take into account existing activities;
- Be a framework under which Contracting Parties can identify where a regional approach can add value to the actions of individual Contracting Parties, including in relation to their implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, where appropriate;
- Promote reporting by Contracting Parties to OSPAR regarding their progress and cooperation in a manner consistent with obligations under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, where appropriate.

Area of application

The Regional Action Plan targets litter discharges from sea-based and land-based sources as well as litter which is already present in the marine environment and applies to the whole OSPAR maritime area:



Region I – Arctic Waters
Region II – Greater North Sea
Region III – Celtic Seas
Region IV – Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast
Region V – Wider Atlantic

SECTION I cont...Guiding principles

The key principles that should guide action to address marine litter are: the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle, as described in Article 2(2) of the OSPAR Convention, as well as the aim to adopt programmes and measures designed to prevent and eliminate pollution (Art. 2 (3) (a and b)):

The precautionary principle: “by virtue of which preventive measures are to be taken when there are reasonable grounds for concern that substances or energy introduced, directly or indirectly, into the marine environment may bring about hazards to human health, harm living resources and marine ecosystems, damage amenities or interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea, even when there is no conclusive evidence of a causal relationship between the inputs and the effects; ” (Article 2 (2) (a) OSPAR Convention);

The polluter pays principle: “by virtue of which the costs of pollution prevention, control and reduction measures are to be borne by the polluter” (Art. 2(2) (b) OSPAR Convention). Additionally there are other approaches that should help guide interpretation and decision-making on the implementation of actions within the framework of the RAP. These approaches are not legal formulations, but should help frame the development of measures.

Integration: marine litter management should be an integral part of the solid waste management to ensure environmentally sound management of human activities and rational use of resources;

The ecosystem approach: the comprehensive integrated management of human activities based on the best available scientific knowledge about the ecosystem and its dynamics, in order to identify and take action on influences which are critical to the health of the marine ecosystems, thereby achieving sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services and maintenance of ecosystems;

Public participation and stakeholder involvement: to create awareness about the problem of marine litter and ensure a sense of public ownership in order to build support for relevant measures;

Sustainable consumption and production: the use of goods and services that respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life, while minimising the use of natural resources, toxic materials and emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle;

Best available knowledge and socioeconomic effectiveness: actions and operational targets should be based on available knowledge of the predominant amounts, materials, items and sources of marine litter found in the North-East Atlantic and take into account the social and economic costs of degradation compared to the cost and benefits of proposed measures.

Cooperation with other organisations and competent authorities

Cross-sectorial cooperation is very important in order to reduce marine litter in the OSPAR maritime area. The Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter should therefore be implemented in close cooperation with other relevant regional and global organisations and initiatives, including UNEP and other Regional Seas Conventions, the International Maritime Organisation, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the European Union, Fisheries Regional Advisory Councils, North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission and River and River Basin Commissions. Partnerships with the private sector and with non-governmental organisations should also be part of the working approach.

Appropriate arrangements should be developed to exchange relevant information and to address significant transboundary marine litter issues. Contracting Parties should cooperate directly to address transboundary marine litter issues, with the assistance of the OSPAR Secretariat or the competent international or regional organisation. Where countries are Contracting Parties of more than one relevant organisation they should endeavour to coordinate internally to raise the appropriate issues in those fora.



SECTION II: Actions

This section identifies a number of actions in conformity with the objectives and principles of the RAP, informed by the findings on main items, materials, amounts and sources of marine litter. Section II is divided into four themes: A) actions to combat sea-based and B) combat land-based sources of marine litter; C) actions for the removal of existing litter from the marine environment and D) actions for education and outreach on the topic of marine litter. Smarter production is treated as an integral theme.

The majority of the actions, as outlined in section II are those actions at a regional level with a large-scale, wide-spread and transboundary character. Coordination on these kinds of actions is the key aim of the OSPAR RAP. Additionally some of the actions aim for information exchange and coordination of measures that are primarily of national concern and responsibility of Contracting Parties. In other cases where it is considered that appropriate action might be taken by the EU or other international organisations (such as Fisheries organisations), actions are formulated to approach those bodies/authorities through OSPAR. Annex I includes an Implementation Plan with timelines and lead countries for the development of OSPAR measures.

OSPAR Contracting Parties which are also EU Member States should consider including the actions set out in the RAP ML in their EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive programmes of measures. OSPAR in this respect will serve as an exchange platform for gaining and sharing information on technical, economic and policy aspects of such measures and the effects they have on the marine environment.

The following actions are expressed in a way to differentiate between those which require a cross-regional joint action through OSPAR, including some which require OSPAR to address other international organisations, and others which are primarily within the remit of Contracting Parties.

This RAP does not pre-determine which of the “OSPAR actions” should ultimately take the form of OSPAR measures (Recommendations, Decisions) or other agreements, including guidelines, adopted within the framework of the Convention. However the Implementation Plan presented in Annex I will be updated on a regular basis to show where Contracting Parties have agreed to develop OSPAR measures. Development of regional measures will follow the accepted OSPAR procedure, including lead country responsibility and production of background document(s) outlining the rationale for OSPAR action, costs and benefits, best practices, cooperation etc.

OSPAR Collective Actions

The following actions have been identified, on the basis of the evidence gathered in the development of this plan, which will be updated through the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP) (See Section III), as those that require joint regional effort. Therefore Contracting Parties, acting collectively within the framework of the OSPAR Commission will develop and implement the actions detailed in the tables starting on page 9.

In order to fulfil the commitments made in the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy and at OSPAR 2013 an action of this RAP will be to develop and agree regionally coordinated SMART reduction/operational targets linked to relevant actions as listed in the implementation plan, starting from 2015, including those linked to sources. OSPAR targets will take into account the Marine Strategy Framework Directive targets submitted by EU Member States and the 7th EU Environmental Action Programme marine litter target. Likewise OSPAR targets will also inform MSFD Targets and will contribute to the further implementation of the Directive.

The Actions, outlined in the tables starting on page 9 are divided into 4 themes

| | |
|----------|---|
| THEME A: | Actions to combat sea-based sources of marine litter |
| THEME B: | Actions to combat land-based sources of Marine Litter |
| THEME C: | Removal Action |
| THEME D: | Education and Outreach |

OSPAR ACTIONS

This table sets out the planned implementation for common actions OSPAR Contracting Parties will take to combat marine litter in the North East Atlantic.

Details include the expected target date for the implemented action and the lead countries/organisations for developing the work where this is known.

As an implementation plan this table is by definition an evolving document subject to annual review.

| RAP § no. | ACTION | Lead Party / Parties | Implementation Year |
|-----------|---|--|-------------------------|
| | The following Actions are listed in the Regional Action Plan. Numbers refer to paragraph numbers in the Action Plan. | | |
| 29 | Develop and agree regionally coordinated SMART reduction/operational targets linked to relevant actions as contained in this implementation plan, starting from 2015, including those linked to sources. | OSPAR Litter Expert Group (ICG-ML) | To be decided at ICG-ML |
| | Theme A: Actions to combat sea-based source | | |
| | Harmonised system for port reception facilities | | |
| 30 | Ensure regional coordination on the implementation of EU Directive 2000/59/EC in relation to MARPOL Annex V ship generated waste. Such coordination could: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) deliver a cost recovery system, ensuring the maximum amount of MARPOL Annex V ship generated waste is delivered to port reception facilities; b) not solely focus on reception facilities, but also other relevant differences; c) analyse the implementation of compulsory discharge of waste in each port for all ships leaving the OSPAR maritime area for non-EU ports, in line with EU Directive 2000/59/EC. | Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, With assistance from Seas at Risk. | 2017 |
| 31 | OSPAR will assist the European Commission in the ongoing revision of EU Directive 2000/59/EC. | Sweden and Germany, with assistance from Seas at Risk and the Secretariat. | 2014 |



| | | | |
|----|---|--|------|
| | Enforcement of international legislation/regulation regarding all sectors | | |
| 32 | Identify best practice in relation to inspections for MARPOL Annex V ship generated waste, including better management of reporting data, taking into consideration the Paris MOU ¹ on port state control. | Tbc ICG-ML | |
| 33 | Seek the dialogue with the Paris MOU to take the risk of illegal waste discharges into consideration for the prioritisation of port state control inspections. | | 2016 |
| | Incentives for responsible behaviour/disincentives for littering | | |
| 34 | Improve implementation of the ISO standard 201070:2013 in relation to port reception facilities. | Belgium and Netherlands | 2016 |
| 35 | Identify the options to address key waste items from the fishing industry and aquaculture, which could contribute to marine litter, including deposit schemes, voluntary agreements and extended producer responsibility. | France, Belgium and EU, with participation from Portugal | 2015 |
| | Develop best practice in relation to fishing industry | | |
| 36 | Through a multinational project, together with the fishing industry and competent authorities develop and promote best practice in relation to marine litter. All relevant aspects (including e.g. dolly rope ² , waste management on board, waste management at harbours and operational losses/net cuttings) should be included. | Sweden and the United Kingdom, with participation of Germany, the Netherlands and Norway | 2016 |
| 37 | Investigate the prevalence and impact of dolly rope (synthetic fibre). Engage with competent authorities (such as National Authorities, EU, North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, etc.) and the fishing industry in order to work together to reduce the waste generated by dolly rope on a (sub) regional basis. | Netherlands | 2016 |
| | Fines for Littering at Sea | | |
| 38 | Analyse penalties and fines issued by Contracting Parties for waste disposal offences at sea to highlight the differences, trends, problem areas and issues to relevant organisations, such as the North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors. | Germany | 2015 |

¹Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control

²Bunches of polyethylene threads used to protect the codend of demersal trawl net from abrasions

| | | | |
|----|---|--|--------|
| | Theme B: Actions to combat land-based sources | | |
| | Improved waste prevention and management | | |
| 39 | Highlight those waste prevention and management practices that impact significantly on marine litter. Engage with the industry and other authorities, at the appropriate level, in order for them to be able to develop best environmental practice, including identification of circumstances where litter “escapes” into the marine environment. Encourage the recyclability of plastic products (e.g. through reduction of additives). | Germany, with participation of the Netherlands | 2016 |
| 40 | Share best practice on waste management, e.g. on landfill bans of high caloric wastes (especially for plastics). | Germany, with participation of the Netherlands | [2016] |
| 41 | Exchange experience on best practice to prevent litter entering into water systems and highlight these to River or River Basin Commissions. | Netherlands with the assistance of Germany and Belgium | 2015 |
| | Reduction of sewage and storm water related waste | | |
| 42 | Investigate and promote with appropriate industries the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP) to develop sustainable and cost-effective solutions to reduce and prevent sewage and storm water related waste entering the marine environment, including micro particles. | Ireland, Norway and Sweden. | 2017 |
| | Incentives for responsible behaviour/ Disincentives for littering | | |
| 43 | Assess relevant instruments and incentives to reduce the use of single-use and other items, which impact the marine environment, including the illustration of the associated costs and environmental impacts. | Germany, Ireland and Portugal | 2016 |
| 44 | Reduce the consumption of single use plastic bags and their presence in the marine environment, supported by the development of quantifiable (sub) regional targets, where appropriate, and assist in the development of relevant EU initiatives. | Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter | 2015 |
| 45 | Encourage international environmental certification schemes to include the management and prevention of marine litter in their lists of criteria. | Netherlands | 2016 |



| RAP § no. | Elimination, change or adaptation of the products for environmental benefits | | |
|-----------|--|--|---------|
| 46 | Evaluate all products and processes that include primary micro plastics and act, if appropriate, to reduce their impact on the marine environment. | Belgium, Germany and Netherlands | 2015 |
| 47 | Engage with all appropriate sectors (manufacturing, retail etc.) to explore the possibility of a voluntary agreement to phase out the use of micro plastics as a component in personal care and cosmetic products. Should a voluntary agreement prove not to be sufficient, prepare a proposal for OSPAR to call on the EU to introduce appropriate measures to achieve a 100% phasing out of micro plastics in personal care and cosmetic products. | Germany and Netherlands with the participation of Belgium, UK and SAR | ongoing |
| 48 | Evaluate the potential harm caused to the marine environment by items such as cigarette filters/butts, balloons, shotgun wads, cotton buds and bio-film support media used in sewage plants. Based on this evaluation, proposals can be made on the elimination, change or adaptation requirements for these other potentially problematic items. | Germany | 2015 |
| 49 | Investigate the prevalence and impact of expanded polystyrene (EPS) in the marine environment, and engage with industry to make proposals for alternative materials and/or how to reduce its impacts. | Portugal with support from IE | |
| | Development of sustainable packaging | | 2015 |
| 50 | Engage in a dialogue with industry aimed at highlighting the top marine litter problem items based on OSPAR beach monitoring surveys and/or other evidence on impacts. | Germany | |
| 51 | Explore with industry the development of design improvements to assist in the reduction of negative impacts of products entering the marine environment in order to better inform industry on alternative solutions. | | |
| | Zero pellet loss | | 2015 |
| 52 | Promote initiatives and exchange of best practice aiming at zero pellet loss along the whole plastics manufacturing chain from production to transport. | France, with participation from Germany, Netherlands and Seas at Risk. | |



| | | | |
|----|--|--|---------|
| | Theme C: Removal Actions | | |
| | Application of Fishing for Litter activities | | 2016 |
| 53 | Strengthen the existing OSPAR Recommendation 2010/19 on the reduction of marine litter through implementation of fishing for litter initiatives, including by reviewing the option that any vessel involved in the scheme can land non-operational waste at participating harbours in OSPAR countries. | Netherlands, The United Kingdom and KIMO, with participation from Portugal | |
| | Cleaning environmental compartments and keeping them clean | | |
| 54 | Establish an exchange platform on experiences on good cleaning practices in beaches, riverbanks, pelagic and surface sea areas, ports and inland waterways. Develop best practice on environmental friendly technologies and methods for cleaning. | ICG-ML with assistance from Germany and Seas at Risk | 2016 |
| 55 | Develop sub regional or regional maps of hotspots of floating litter, based on mapping of circulation of floating masses of marine litter, and identification of hotspots of accumulation on coastal areas and the role of prevailing currents and winds. | Portugal | 2018 |
| | Reduction of abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) | | |
| 56 | Identify hot spot areas through mapping of snagging sites or historic dumping grounds working with other initiatives, research programmes and with fishing organisations. | Norway | |
| 57 | Develop a risk assessment for identifying where accumulations of ghost nets pose a threat to the environment and should be removed. | Germany | ongoing |

| | | | |
|----|---|---------------------------------|------|
| | Theme D: Education and outreach | | |
| | Education | | |
| 58 | Develop marine litter assessment sheets to assist Contracting Parties in developing material for education programmes, including those for professional seafarers and fishermen. | ICG-ML | 2016 |
| | Outreach | | |
| 59 | Establish a database on good practice examples of marine litter measures and initiatives and share this database with other Regional Seas Conventions in order to make action more visible to the public. | Germany, ICG-ML and Secretariat | 2016 |
| 60 | Develop a communication strategy on the Regional Action Plan (RAP) linked in a coherent way with national initiatives/measures. This will include linking the OSPAR website to relevant projects and initiatives. | Secretariat | 2015 |

Contracting Party Actions

The following table details actions which may be taken at the national level by Contracting Parties to implement OSPAR's Regional Action Plan for Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in the North-East Atlantic. Contracting Parties will report on these actions every second year from 2016.

| RAP § no. | Action Summary |
|--|---|
| Theme A: Actions to combat sea-based sources of marine litter | |
| 62 | Ensuring effective implementation and enforcement of MARPOL Annex V in relation to both fishing and shipping waste. |
| 63 | Investigating markets for plastic waste from the fishing and shipping industry |
| Theme B: Measures to combat land-based sources | |
| 64 | Ensuring considerations related to marine litter and actions in this plan are integrated, as appropriate, into the implementation and any future revision of relevant EU Directives. |
| 65 | Seeking cooperation in the river and river basin authorities in order to include impacts of litter on the marine environment in river and river basin management plans. |
| 66 | Promoting and supporting, where appropriate, the inclusion of measures aimed at the prevention and reduction of marine litter in the 2014 revision of the EU's waste legislation. |
| 67 | Including a reference to marine litter, where applicable, in National Waste Prevention Plans and Waste Management Plans. |
| 68 | Entering into dialogue with the waste industry, working towards highlighting waste management practices that impact on the marine environment. |
| 69 | Identifying illegal and historic coastal landfill or dumpsites, including where these might be at risk from coastal erosion, and take action if appropriate. |
| 70 | Promoting Extended Producer Responsibility Strategies requiring producers, manufacturers, brand owners and first importers to be responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product with a focus on items frequently found in the marine environment. |
| 71 | Encouraging the development and implementation of Sustainable Procurement Policies that contribute to the promotion of recycled products |
| 72 | Promoting and enhancing national stakeholder alliances focusing on marine litter. |
| Theme C: Removal measures | |
| 73 | Removing barriers to the processing or adequate disposal of marine litter collected in Fishing for Litter initiatives, including landfilling if relevant and in line with waste legislation |
| 74 | Encouraging all fishing vessels to be involved in Fishing for Litter schemes, where they are available. |
| 75 | Ensuring that any vessel involved in the scheme can land non-operational waste collected at sea at any participating harbour. |
| 76 | Undertaking an awareness-raising campaign to make fishermen aware of their obligations under EU Control Regulation (1224/2009) with regard to reporting, marking and retrieval of lost nets |
| Theme D: Education and outreach | |
| 77 | Promoting education activities in synergy with existing initiatives in the field of sustainable development and in partnership with civil society. |
| 78 | Promoting curricula for marine-related education, including the recreational sector. |
| 79 | Promoting or adopting environmental awareness courses for fishermen and the fishery sector. |
| 80 | Encourage participation in International, EU and National Litter Cleanup Campaigns. |
| 81 | Promoting the "Adopt a beach" system. |
| 82 | Raising public awareness of the occurrence, impact and prevention of marine litter, including micro plastics. |
| 83 | Supporting/initiating community/business-based producer responsibility schemes or deposit systems, for example on recycling fishing nets. |
| 84 | Developing collective agreements between Contracting Parties, NGOs and industry to tackle particular problems of marine litter. |

SECTION III: Monitoring and Assessment

Article 6 and Annex IV of the OSPAR Convention outline the requirement to assess the quality of the marine environment. Contracting Parties are obliged to “undertake and publish at regular intervals joint assessments of the quality status of the marine environment and of its development, for the maritime area or for regions or sub-regions thereof”. They are also required to “include in such assessments both an evaluation of the effectiveness of the measures taken and planned for the protection of the marine environment and the identification of priorities for action.”

In order to obtain reliable and comparable monitoring data within the OSPAR area to assess the state of marine litter in the marine environment and the effectiveness of the actions taken, it is important to coordinate monitoring programmes trans-nationally and, whenever possible, to adopt consistent methodologies to collect, record and report data. A beach litter indicator is already in operation for the whole OSPAR area and the indicator for plastic particles in fulmar stomachs for the North Sea. They allow identification of different categories of litter, providing information on potential origin and an analysis of trends in individual items. In the case of the fulmar, an Ecological Quality Objective is applied encompassing specific and measurable objectives: “There should be less than 10% of northern fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis*) having more than 0.1 g plastic particles in the stomachs in samples of 50-100 beach-washed fulmars found from each of 4 to 5 areas of the North Sea over a period of at least five years”.



SECTION III: Monitoring and Assessment cont...

OSPAR has developed common and candidate indicators, with a particular focus on MSFD requirements covering the following issues:

beach litter
plastic particles in biota
seabed litter
micro plastics



The objective is that the indicators are applied by Contracting Parties in coordinated monitoring programmes. The monitoring programmes should be linked, where relevant, to monitoring obligations under Article 11 of the MSFD. Further development of these and other indicators e.g. on ingestion of litter in other biota (e.g. fish and turtles) and for other relevant impacts (e.g. entanglement of biota in marine litter) will take place under OSPAR's Environmental Impact of Human Activities Committee (EIHA).

Marine litter will be considered by the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP). The JAMP sets out the process for achieving OSPAR's major assessment products i.e. the intermediate Assessment in 2017 and the next Quality Status Report (QSR). Whereas the intermediate assessment will mainly consist of the results of assessment of agreed common indicators, the QSR will include more integrated assessment approaches. These should include cumulative assessment of pressures or advances of understanding on socio-economic issues, as well as to respond to the targets set out in the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy. Reporting is envisaged for June 2016 and June 2020 to fit with the above assessments, with the objective to monitor levels of beach and seabed litter in the OSPAR maritime area, assess quantities, types, sources and trends of marine and beach litter as well as litter in biota. Assessment should include whether the introduction and levels of litter in the marine environment (including in marine organisms) and on beaches causes harm. This relates closely to MSFD Descriptor 10, under which achievement of Good Environmental Status by 2020 requires that: "properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment".

Any operational or reduction targets developed in relation to specific actions or measures produced under the framework of the RAP will be assessed through the JAMP and based upon the monitoring for the common indicators, where applicable. The next QSR should assess the effectiveness of the plan in achieving the aims of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy.

Relevant research and development programmes should also be coordinated in order to make best use of expertise and (EU) resources. Main and emerging R&D topics are related to the development of an indicator and monitoring for micro plastics, quantification of harm, relation between harm and risk and monitoring, assessing the relevance of riverine litter.

* This image was published in Current Biology, Volume 23, Issue 23 December 02, 2013, Wright et al. (pages R1031–R1033) & Browne et al. (pages 2388–2392), Copyright Elsevier (2013)



SECTION IV: Implementation & Reporting

The overall OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine litter is implemented through Agreement 2014/1. Contracting Parties will use the implementation reporting process to update OSPAR on their national progress in implementing the plan. However, individual actions recommended above, particularly those which have a regional focus, may also be implemented through guidelines, recommendations or decisions, depending upon their topic.

The OSPAR Regional Action Plan will be implemented during the period 2014-2021, after which time it shall be reviewed and updated in accordance with the outcomes of the Quality Status Report 2021, the new OSPAR Strategy, and assessments under the MSFD.

The regional plan will be implemented by means of OSPAR's measures, guidelines and other agreements included in the Implementation Plan presented in Annex I as well as Contracting Parties' national programmes of measures, joint activities and partnerships with other organisations. Some milestones to support implementation have already been identified.

In order for OSPAR to be able to effectively monitor progress, Contracting Parties should report against their national implementation of the actions set out in this Regional Action Plan (Agreement 2014 1) to OSPAR's Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee every second year, starting in 2016.

Task leads will report against progress on the development of regional OSPAR actions as set out in the Regional Action Plan ('OSPAR Collective Actions') to EIHA.

Reporting against targets and an assessment of the effectiveness of the Regional Action Plan should be undertaken as part of the assessment and monitoring process outlined in the JAMP 2014-2021.



The 1992 OSPAR Convention is the current instrument guiding international cooperation on the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic.

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OSPAR'S vision is of a healthy and diverse North-East
Atlantic ecosystem, used sustainably

Explanatory Notes

1. Categorisation Regional Measures OSPAR *Acquis*: Type of actions in the measure

Actions to be considered on a national basis:

NC = Promote conservation measures, including those arising from international action plans e.g. for seabirds, and where appropriate promoting to include species or habitats under international conventions.

NL = Implement measures in national legislation and, e.g. for seabirds, in national action plans.

NP = Assess whether existing management measures for protection are effective and determine what further measures are needed to address key threats, including the implementation of existing OSPAR measures concerning e.g. pollution from chemicals, oil, nutrients or marine litter, or conservation measures where populations are either depleted or locally extinct, with a special focus on estuarine habitats, spawning habitats and river migration routes.

NM = Set up sufficient capacity for monitoring and assessment (NM).

NF = Promote funding for research where knowledge gaps exist.

NR = (Improve) raising awareness of the status of species and habitats across those who live and work around and on the seas (NR).

NK = Increase knowledge and improve the way this information is fed back into decision making – whether this is within OSPAR or whether it is to be brought to the attention of other organisations that have responsibilities for management in the oceans.

NA = Pay particular attention of the species and habitats in the designation of marine protected areas and report to OSPAR (NA).

Actions that Contracting Parties should take collectively:

OM = Set up OSPAR monitoring strategies and assessment frameworks, including improvement of OSPAR habitat mapping.

OA = Develop and implement an OSPAR action plan, e.g. for birds, or establishing guidance on how to minimise disturbing and/or harmful physical effects to mammals, or assessing effectiveness of MPAs concerning certain habitats and/or species.

OK = Promote cooperation with e.g. ICES to improve the knowledge base on temporal occurrence, abundance and geographical distribution in the maritime area (and address research needs).

OI = Cooperate with the relevant international competent authorities to promote management measures, e.g. with respect to fisheries

OU = Promote inclusion of species and habitats as subsets of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME), subject to conservation measures as given in United Nations General Assembly resolutions 61/105 and 64/72 on Sustainable fisheries, and UN Food and Agriculture Organisation International Guidelines for the management of deep sea fisheries in the high seas.

2. “Proposed type of coordination in OSPAR”

- (1) consideration by the OSPAR main Committees of the degree to which existing OSPAR programmes and measures (agreed previously and/or in relation to OSPAR’s North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy and its agreed objectives, targets) and are contributing to the MSFD objectives and targets, (starting this activity in the upcoming Committee meetings in Spring 2014);
- (2) the exchange of information and coordination of measures that are primarily of national concern and responsibility;

- (3) the development of measures at regional level (e.g. through OSPAR decisions or recommendations) with a focus on large-scale, widespread and transboundary issues. This form of coordination is central for the establishment of an OSPAR Regional Action Plan, as is currently being established for marine litter;
- (4) the development of joint proposals for measures that are required to achieve GES but are in the competence of the EU or international authorities (such as river basins and/or the International Maritime Organisation but excluding Regional Sea Conventions) and agreement of concerted actions of Contracting Parties to approach those bodies/authorities through OSPAR.

Key Types of Measures²³

Table 1:

List of Key Types of Measures and an indicative relationship to the MSFD and its GES Descriptors

| N° | WFD KTM description | Indicative relevance to MSFD |
|----|---|--|
| 1 | Construction or upgrades of wastewater treatment plants | Relevant for the reduction of nutrient loads & solid particles (D5, D10) |
| 2 | Reduce nutrient pollution from agriculture | Relevant for the reduction of nutrient loads (D5) |
| 3 | Reduce pesticides pollution from agriculture | Relevant for the reduction of contaminants loads (D8, D9) |
| 4 | Remediation of contaminated sites (historical pollution including sediments, groundwater, soil) | Relevant for the reduction of contaminants loads (D8, D9) |
| 5 | Improving longitudinal continuity (e.g. establishing fish passes, demolishing old dams) | Relevant in relation to diadromous fish (D1) and sediments (D7) |
| 6 | Improving hydromorphological conditions of water bodies other than longitudinal continuity (e.g. river restoration, improvement of riparian areas, removal of hard embankments, reconnecting rivers to floodplains, improvement of hydromorphological condition of transitional and coastal waters, etc.) | Relevant (D7) |
| 7 | Improvements in flow regime and/or establishment of ecological flows | Relevant (D7) |
| 8 | Water efficiency technical measures for irrigation, industry, energy and households | Unlikely |
| 9 | Water pricing policy measures for the implementation of the recovery of cost of water services from households | Unlikely |
| 10 | Water pricing policy measures for the implementation of the recovery of cost of water services from industry | Unlikely |
| 11 | Water pricing policy measures for the implementation of the recovery of cost of water services from agriculture | Unlikely |
| 12 | Advisory services for agriculture | Relevant for nutrient and pesticide reduction (D5, D8, D9) |
| 13 | Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc.) | Relevant for seawater desalination (D7) |
| 14 | Research, improvement of knowledge base reducing uncertainty | Relevant, could be applied to all descriptors |
| 15 | Measures for the phasing-out of emissions, discharges and losses of priority hazardous substances or for the reduction of emissions, discharges and losses of priority substances | Relevant for the reduction of contaminant loads (D8, D9) |
| 16 | Upgrades or improvements of industrial wastewater treatment plants (including farms) | Relevant for the reduction of nutrients, solid particles and contaminant loads (D5, D8, D9, D10) |

²³ As based on page 10-12 of the document "Reporting on Programmes of Measures (Art. 13) and on exceptions (art. 14) for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive", MSCG_17-2015-03rev

| N° | WFD KTM description | Indicative relevance to MSFD |
|----|---|--|
| 17 | Measures to reduce sediment from soil erosion and surface run-off | Possibly relevant for the reduction of nutrients & sediments (D5, D7) |
| 18 | Measures to prevent or control the adverse impacts of invasive alien species and introduced diseases | Relevant (D2) |
| 19 | Measures to prevent or control the adverse impacts of recreation including angling | Relevant (D2, D3, D10, D11) |
| 20 | Measures to prevent or control the adverse impacts of fishing and other exploitation/removal of animal and plants | Relevant (D1,D3, D4, D6) |
| 21 | Measures to prevent or control the input of pollution from urban areas, transport and built infrastructure | Relevant for the reduction of pollution in general (D5, D8, D9, D10, D11) |
| 22 | Measures to prevent or control the input of pollution from forestry | Possibly relevant for the reduction of nutrient and contaminant loads (D5, D8, D9) |
| 23 | Natural water retention measures | Relevant for positive effects on nutrients and sediment transport (D5, D7) |
| 24 | Adaptation to climate change | Relevant, in particular when related to the coastal zone (D1, D4, D6, D7) |
| 25 | Measures to counteract acidification | Unlikely (WFD KTM refers to freshwater systems) |

Table 2:

Key Types of Measures for the MSFD, supplementing the WFD KTMs in table 1

| N° | Additional KTMs for MSFD reporting |
|----|---|
| 26 | Measures to reduce physical loss ²⁴ of seabed habitats in marine waters (and not reported under KTM 6 in relation to WFD Coastal Waters) |
| 27 | Measures to reduce physical damage ²⁵ in marine waters (and not reported under KTM 6 in relation to WFD Coastal Waters) |
| 28 | Measures to reduce inputs of energy, including underwater noise, to the marine environment |
| 29 | Measures to reduce litter in the marine environment |
| 30 | Measures to reduce interferences with hydrological processes in the marine environment (and not reported under KTM 6 in relation to WFD Coastal Waters) |
| 31 | Measures to reduce contamination by hazardous substances (synthetic substances, non-synthetic substances, radio-nuclides) and the systematic and/or intentional release of substances in the marine environment from sea-based or air-based sources |
| 32 | Measures to reduce sea-based accidental pollution |
| 33 | Measures to reduce nutrient and organic matter inputs to the marine environment from sea-based or air-based sources |
| 34 | Measures to reduce the introduction and spread of non-indigenous species in the marine environment and for their control |

²⁴ Measures relating to placement of infrastructure and landscape alterations that introduce changes to the sea-floor substratum and morphology and hence permanent loss of marine habitat.

²⁵ Measures which address other types of sea-floor disturbance (e.g. bottom fishing, gravel extraction) which can change the nature of the seabed and its habitats but which are not of a permanent nature.

| N° | Additional KTMs for MSFD reporting |
|----|--|
| 35 | Measures to reduce biological disturbances in the marine environment from the extraction of species, including incidental non-target catches |
| 36 | Measures to reduce other types of biological disturbance, including death, injury, disturbance, translocation of native marine species, the introduction of microbial pathogens and the introduction of genetically-modified individuals of marine species (e.g. from aquaculture) |
| 37 | Measures to restore and conserve marine ecosystems, including habitats and species |
| 38 | Measures related to Spatial Protection Measures for the marine environment (not reported under another KTM) |
| 39 | Other measures |



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**OSPAR's vision is of a clean, healthy and biologically diverse
North-East Atlantic used sustainably**

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