



**OSPAR  
COMMISSION**

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

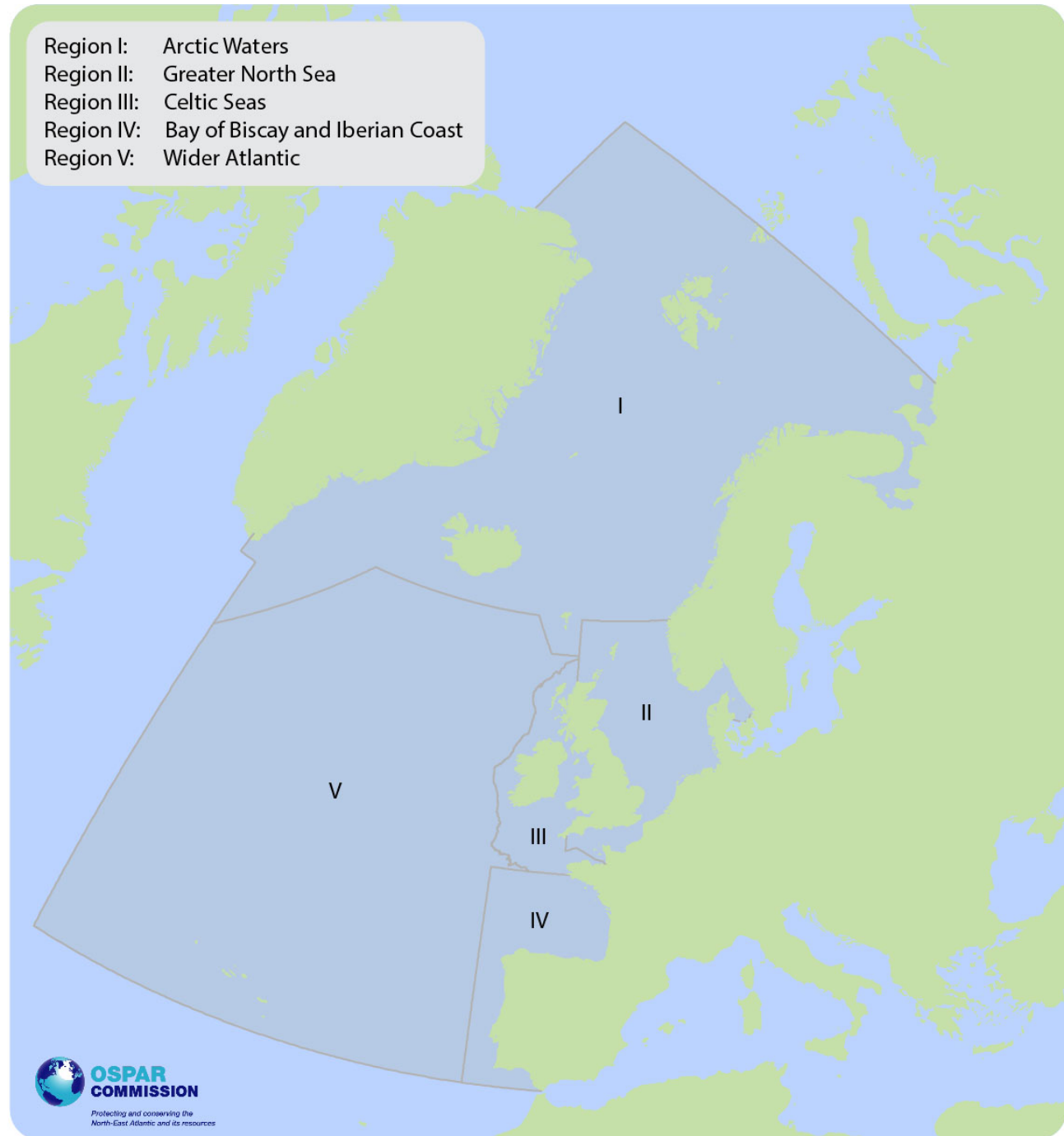
# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



# OSPAR MARITIME AREA

2018  
/19

- 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



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# FROM OUR NEW CHAIR OF OSPAR, RICHARD CRONIN

In my role as Chairman of the OSPAR Commission, I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their contributions in the past year. Everything OSPAR has achieved in the fulfilment of our common purpose to protect the environment of the North-East Atlantic is due to the dedication, commitment and cooperation of the network of scientists, policy makers and other experts from the OSPAR Contracting Parties and Observer Organisations.



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Chair Richard Cronin (Ireland) with Vice-Chairs, John Clorley (UK) and Ane-Marie L. Raun (Denmark)

This cooperation is also evident in OSPAR's work with other Competent Authorities in the North-East Atlantic. The Collective Arrangement continues to provide a strong platform for the co-creation of solutions that meet the needs of the environment and stakeholders alike.

In the years since the launch of the last OSPAR strategy in 2010, we have seen an exponential growth in global concern for the health of our oceans. Plastic pollution, the effects of climate change and the demand for more resources from the ocean, all serve to highlight the need for increased cooperation between countries in managing and protecting the ocean.

In the 2018-2019 period, OSPAR made significant progress on the development of a new 10-year strategy to run from 2020-2030. The new strategy will respond to the challenges in front of us and ensure that OSPAR plays a pivotal role in regional cooperation. The strategy will have ambitious goals developed by the dedicated Strategy Task Group (STG) and clear operational objectives being developed by the OSPAR thematic committees. This new strategy will build on the performance review of the existing strategy (2010-2020) but will also look to address the challenges of the coming decade and beyond. To support the successful implementation of the new strategy OSPAR has also commenced an examination of its governance structures and is developing sustainable financing and resourcing proposals through the Governance Task Group (GTG).

Beyond the work on the new strategy, 2018 – 2019 was another very busy period for the OSPAR Commission.

Underscoring all OSPAR work is the evidence produced through monitoring and assessment of the state of the marine environment. Building on the work of the Intermediate Assessment 2017, OSPAR agreed new guidance on the delivery of a new QSR (QSR) for 2023.

I want to welcome Ane-Marie Løvendahl Raun (Denmark) as incoming Vice-Chair and wish a warm farewell to outgoing OSPAR Vice-Chair Sesselja Bjarnadóttir (Iceland). I am confident that Ane-Marie will contribute to the success of the team of Chairman and Vice-Chairs of OSPAR.

Finally, I want to extend thanks on behalf of OSPAR to Minister Ana Paula Vitorino and the Government of Portugal for the generous offer to host in Lisbon the OSPAR Ministerial meeting in July 2020, bringing together Ministers and high level representatives from the North-East Atlantic region and beyond to a reflection on common achievements and future goals for the benefit of the oceans and human health.



# FROM OUR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, SUSANA SALVADOR

**T**he main activities developed by the OSPAR Commission in 2018/2019 echoed the commonly agreed objectives towards the protection and conservation of the marine environment as defined by the OSPAR North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES) 2010-2020. An ambitious agenda was designed to focus on the accomplishments under the current Strategy - including the effectiveness assessment of OSPAR measures - as well as on ambitions and goals for 2020 onwards.



2018  
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OSPAR Contracting Parties engaged in a thorough reflection around strategic and operational objectives across subsidiary bodies in a way to support the founding of a future Environment Strategy for the decade 2020-2030. Committees mapped their work, including against UN Sustainable Development Goals, which feeds into the outline of the new Strategy and the preparatory work for the next Quality Status Report (QSR) to be launched in 2023.

Clear guidance from Heads of Delegation and Coordination Groups, as well as the relevant work developed by the Strategy Task Group (STG) and the Governance Task Group (GTG), were key to orientate OSPAR efforts so far and towards the achievement of a very busy agenda up until 2020 with the successful delivery of agreed OSPAR products in 2020, first and foremost the adoption of a North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2020-2030. The adoption in June 2019 of the revised mandates of STG and GTG was a significant step to assure further guidance and advice on the work ahead as outlined on the OSPAR 2018/2020 roadmap.





## → During 2018/2019, amongst many other achievements, OSPAR:

### reinforced its role as a knowledge hub

Data collection, monitoring and scientific evaluation serve as a basis for the decision-making and regulatory work, whereby OSPAR scientists and policy makers collaborate to assess the marine environment whilst making assessments available to the scientific community and the general public. To function as a data hub OSPAR needs to manage all data streams through the online OSPAR Data and Information Management System (ODIMS). This tool was further developed in 2018/2019 to enhance OSPAR's capacity and make sure all data used by OSPAR continued to be available via the online tool supporting repeatable, accessible and transparent periodic assessments and reports.

### considered further work on Ecosystem assessments in a changing marine environment

OSPAR discussions around its future Strategy revealed important ambitions, including further developing ecosystem assessments methodologies and the analysis of cumulative effects through our ICG-EcoC group. As climate change and ocean acidification are cross-cutting throughout the thematic Strategies, monitoring and assessment outputs on ocean acidification were considered crucial to develop an understanding and projections of ecosystem behavior and responses. OSPAR counts on a new group of experts (ICG-OA) who started their work in 2019 towards the development of a new indicator for the 2023 OSPAR Quality Status Report.

### followed a cross-cutting approach and showcased its regional cooperation example

OSPAR counts on its own data hub and scientific processes, whilst applying an ecosystem and integrated approach to the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. Through data collection on the different activities, regular assessments and monitoring activities, OSPAR provides comprehensive knowledge on the impacts of human activities, which offers a basis for the identification of priority actions. As measures adopted by OSPAR do not embrace all human activities impacting the marine environment, cross-sectoral cooperation is considered increasingly necessary. This has led OSPAR to further work with other organisations with complementary legal competences to manage potential impacts from human activities and engage in exchange of information and collaboration, not only through its bilateral Memoranda of Understanding with those organisations, but also through the collective arrangement created in 2014 by OSPAR and NEAFC as a platform for cross-sectoral collaboration. As both 2018 and 2019 meetings of the collective arrangement unequivocally confirmed, the multilateral dialogue to which OSPAR has actively contributed has reinforced the key role of OSPAR as a *forum* for collective commitment and collaborative work.

Alongside this work, OSPAR collaborated and engaged in specific dialogue with other organisations, such as the Arctic Council, NEAFC, International Seabed Authority, International Maritime Organization (IMO), Food and Agricultural Organisation, Convention on Biodiversity, The Helsinki Commission, inter alia.

I had the opportunity to participate at 2018 and 2019 plenary sessions of the UN Intergovernmental Conference and thematic side-events organised by UNEP, where OSPAR's remit of work and lessons learnt were showcased as a successful example of regional cooperation in the North-East Atlantic.

I am very pleased to provide this 2018/19 review and will continue to faithfully follow the mandate of the OSPAR Commission and strive towards achieving the objectives that have been defined. ■



# OSPAR ACTIVITIES 2018-2019

2018  
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## DATA

The first meeting of the OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Data took place! This is a big step for data management in OSPAR, providing a central group to consider, discuss and respond to data and information management activities within OSPAR.

This forum will facilitate the further development of a coherent approach to data and information related activities.

The Version Control System within OSPAR's data and assessment portals is now live.

You will notice a "versions" box on each individual layer page, this will allow you to see a list of versions of the dataset representing each time a change or update has been made to the dataset. The same is true for assessments presented in the Assessment Portal. This development allows a complete lifecycle of the data and assessments to be presented online, increasing clarity of the data processing history and boosting reference potential.

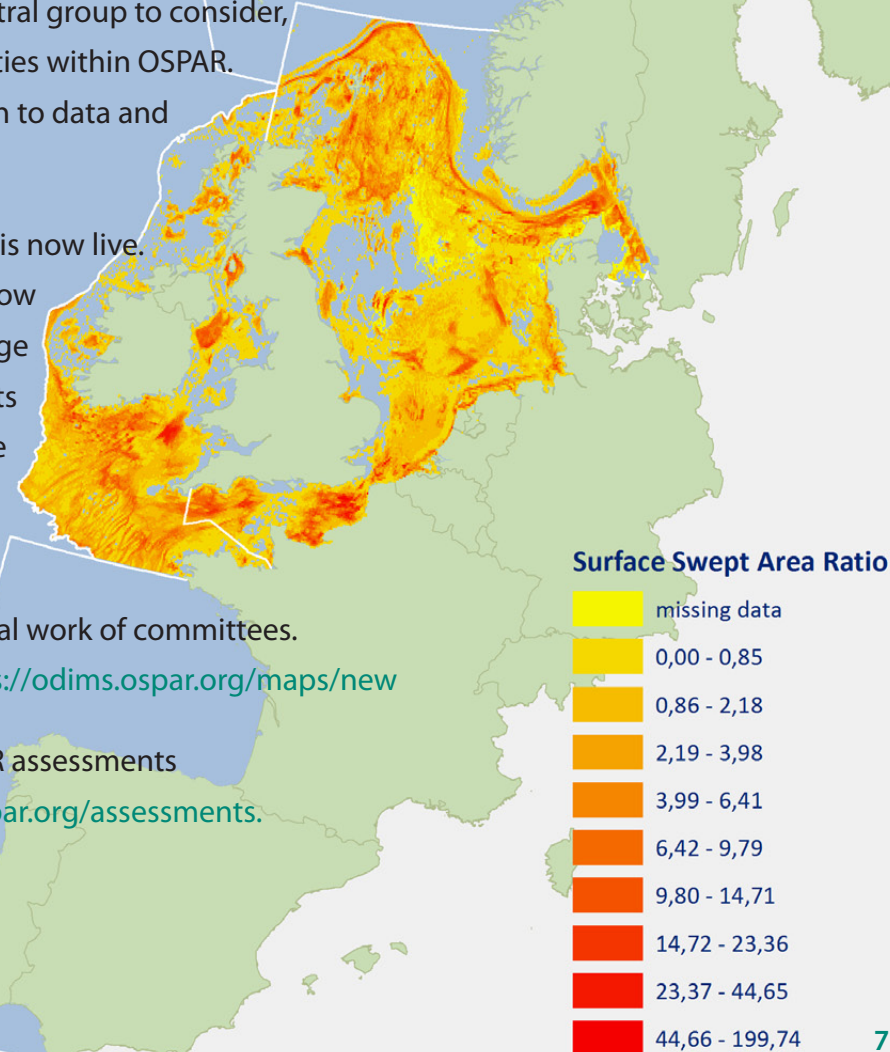
More data are always being added to the data portal following the annual work of committees.

The addition of new data increases the map making opportunities! <https://odims.ospar.org/maps/new>

As always, OSPAR data are accessible via [www.ospar.org/data](http://www.ospar.org/data) and OSPAR assessments (including the Intermediate Assessment 2017) are available via [www.ospar.org/assessments](http://www.ospar.org/assessments).

Background image, this page: **OSPAR Bottom Fishing Intensity – Surface 2017**, available to view and download via [https://odims.ospar.org/layers/geonode:ospar\\_bottom\\_f\\_intensur\\_2017\\_01\\_001](https://odims.ospar.org/layers/geonode:ospar_bottom_f_intensur_2017_01_001).

Citation <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.data.4685>





# BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEMS

OSPAR's Biological Diversity & Ecosystems Committee (BDC) continued its extensive work programme towards the fulfilment of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES)'s thematic Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy by 2020.

The review of progress made against the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2010-2020 on biodiversity topics was agreed by BDC 2019. During the past ten years, OSPAR has made significant progress in enlarging the OSPAR network of Marine Protected Areas (MPA). OSPAR has also developed a framework for managing threatened and/or declining features. In planning for the coming ten years and biodiversity aspects of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2020-2030, BDC suggested that focus should be placed on the implementation and management of the systems that have been put in place.

BDC 2019 agreed on the guidelines for carrying out status assessments of OSPAR listed features. This will result in regular status updates on species such as blue whale and habitats such as *maerl* beds. The threatened and/or declining features on the OSPAR list focus the efforts of Contracting Parties when taking priority action to protect and conserve the marine environment. Regular status updates will over time show the effect of the protective actions. Among the actions to be taken to protect the features are collective actions that all Contracting Parties need to work on together. These actions were further progressed through updates on work under the species and habitats roadmap, including several new communication products having been made available on the OSPAR website.

New MPA were welcomed into the OSPAR MPA network in 2018, as Norway and the United Kingdom nominated 31 new MPAs covering more than 5,400 km<sup>2</sup>.

The OSPAR MPA network now comprises 496 MPAs with a total surface area of 864,337 km<sup>2</sup> or 6.4 % of the OSPAR Maritime Area.

The draft nomination proforma for the 'North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Seamount MPA' proposed to be designated in the Area Beyond National Jurisdiction in the OSPAR Maritime Area was further developed. OSPAR invited views on the proforma from other competent authorities and stakeholders. This inclusive process resulted in several valuable contributions to the content of the proforma.

The OSPAR biodiversity common indicators form a large part of the evidence base for evaluating progress against the overall goal of halting loss of biodiversity.



The indicator updates will require a concerted effort and the current meeting cycle focused on detailed planning of upcoming assessment work towards the OSPAR Quality Status Report 2023.

BDC was chaired by Jeroen Vis of the Netherlands, who was re-elected for a two-year term.



# OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

OSPAR is re-invigorating its work on the important global issue of ocean acidification (OA).

In 2010 OSPAR committed to monitor and assess the nature, rate and extent of the effects of climate change and ocean acidification on the marine environment and consider appropriate ways of responding to those developments.

The new expert group on ocean acidification (OA) is well-represented with 11 Contracting Party experts. It intends to cooperate with existing initiatives to build on their good work and representatives from the external organisations attended its inaugural meeting in January 2019; Mercator Océan, to which the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS) is entrusted, and the North-east Atlantic hub of Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON), which is a coordination and facilitation activity, helping OA experts to share data and information.

An important focus for the group's work is to provide OA assessments for OSPAR's Quality Status Report (QSR) 2023. As a first step the experts made initial maps of OA monitoring from existing, ongoing and new comprehensive OA research programmes, to identify overlaps and gaps in coverage. These will continue to be revised as living documents.

Plans are underway for the OA assessments for the QSR 2023, to be composed of four or five elements: trends of individual OA parameters (such as pH, carbonate system parameters and temperature);

maps of status, and modelled projections of future OA. The experts will aim to present impacts, or predicted impacts, from observed declines in pH, including for example consideration of impacts on marine protected areas (MPAs) and the consequences of OA on sensitive species. There will also be case study illustrations of a specific OA topic.

The OSPAR Commission is developing an OA Voluntary Commitment for the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14.3 and is considering making the Commitment at the Ministerial Meeting 2020.

The expert group on ocean acidification is co-convened by Evin McGovern of Ireland and Rob Berbee of the Netherlands.





# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES

OSPAR's Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee (EIHA) met in Copenhagen where it finalised 3 indicator assessments on beach litter, plastic particles in fulmar stomachs and impulsive noise. These assessments add extra data to assessments produced for OSPAR's 2017 Intermediate Assessment and will be published on the assessment portal in the summer. A new indicator on ingestion of litter by turtles was also agreed. This will complement the existing one on fulmars by extending the geographic scope of indicators covering litter in the water column.

Further work on OSPAR's Marine Litter Regional Action Plan was also progressed in the form of a Recommendation and accompanying guidelines on education programmes for fishers, as well as a scoping document on key waste items from the fishing industry and aquaculture and a review of Best Available Technologies in urban wastewater treatment systems. EIHA agreed to a target to increase the total number of vessels participating in Fishing for Litter schemes in the OSPAR Maritime Area by 100% by 2021, compared to the baseline situation in 2017. While the target is seen as helpful in increasing the

amount of litter that is recovered and returned to land, it is also seen as having a wider awareness-raising benefit within the industry.

As with other Committees, EIHA also made progress on a revised North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES) for 2020-2030, devoting time to furthering a set of operational objectives to support the high-level strategic objectives proposed for the new 2020-2030 Strategy.

The developing work on its objectives reflects an increasing desire in EIHA to focus on the management of pressures on the marine environment in addition to the management of specific human activities. This was also reflected in proposals for new Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme products on seabed disturbance, non-indigenous species and human activities.

These will all aim to produce assessments for inclusion in the 2023 Quality Status Report.

Further work in 2019/20 will include completing the development and assessment of an indicator for risk from noise impacts as well as development of an indicator on ambient noise; an indicator assessment on seabed litter; and continued implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

EIHA was chaired by Lex Oosterbaan of the Netherlands.



# BETTER INFORMATION ON MARINE LITTER FOR FISHERS

**T**he OSPAR Marine Litter Regional Action Plan runs from 2014 to 2021. The plan has a broad scope based around 32 common actions, reinforced by the implementation of 23 national actions. In 2019, approximately 70% of the common actions were either 'in progress' or 'fully implemented', and nine Contracting Parties stated that more than 85% of national actions were 'ongoing' or 'fully implemented'.

Most recently, OSPAR has adopted Recommendation 2019/01 on the reduction of marine litter through the Implementation of Sustainability Education Programmes for Fishers. The Recommendation follows the agreement of a background document which can be found [here](#).

The education programmes will inform future fishers of pressures on the marine environment and the various associated challenges. The aim is to inspire inform them so they are able to better consider pressures on the marine environment, and will contribute to the prevention of new marine litter whilst supporting a responsible, sustainable and successful fishing industry.





# HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND EUTROPHICATION

In 2019 the Hazardous substances and eutrophication committee (HASEC) finalised its review of the eutrophication and hazardous substances themes of OSPAR's North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES) 2010-2020. HASEC is also refining its draft for eutrophication and hazardous substances objectives for the Clean Seas theme of the new NEAES 2020-2030.

HASEC is developing a suite of 11 hazardous substances and eutrophication indicator assessments that will contribute to OSPAR's Quality Status Report (QSR) 2023. The indicators of the Intermediate Assessment 2017 will be expanded to cover more of the OSPAR Maritime Area and there will be two thematic assessments, for eutrophication and hazardous substances. New assessments are also planned such as ocean acidification, fish disease, integrated biological effects, and PCBs in marine mammal blubber.

The eutrophication experts are preparing for their next thematic assessment, harmonising with the eutrophication indicator assessments, and they are trialling a new online tool that semi-automates the eutrophication assessment process. Meanwhile, the new online hazardous substances assessment application is now launched (<https://ocean.ices.dk/oat/>) and in future the annual assessments will be presented in this application.

Close collaboration with external organisations is important for HASEC. For example AMAP<sup>1</sup> continues to work closely with the hazardous substances experts and in June 2019 a joint AMAP-OSPAR-ICES<sup>2</sup> workshop took place on harmonisation of trend analyses, funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Through AMAP there will be more Region I data for the QSR 2023 and assessment products from the statistical analysis will be available for a variety of uses.

OSPAR's ocean acidification (OA) expert group held its inaugural meeting in January 2019. Their work is featured on page 9.

HASEC was chaired by Philip Axe of Sweden.

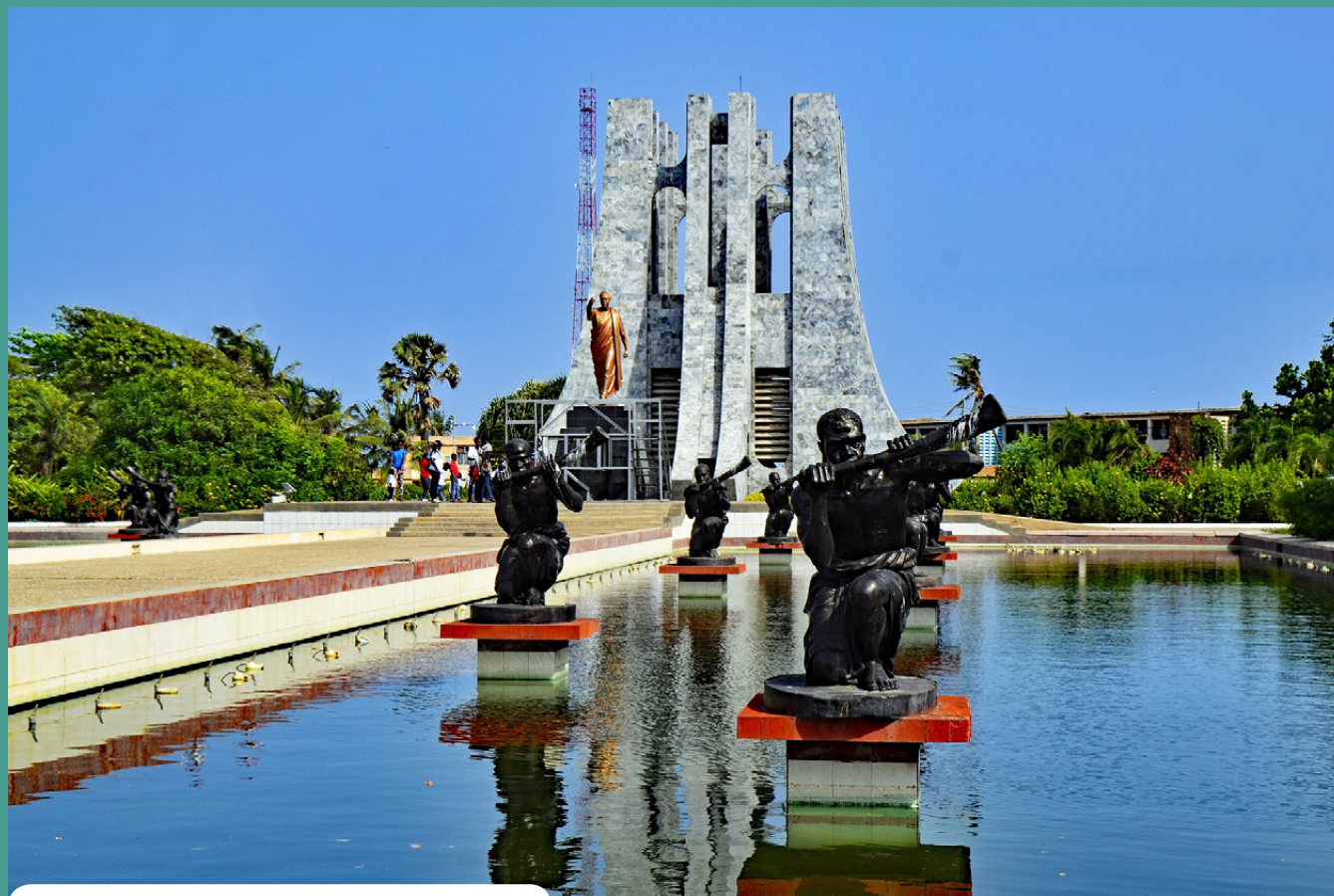
<sup>1</sup> Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme

<sup>2</sup> International Council for the Exploration of the Sea



# ABIDJAN CONVENTION

The OSPAR Secretariat, the IMO Office for the London Convention and Protocol & Ocean Affairs, Norway's Oil for Development Programme and the Abidjan Convention Secretariat held a Joint Regional Capacity Building Workshop in Ghana, Africa, to support implementation of the London Protocol and development of the Abidjan Convention Offshore Protocol. The workshop focused on implementation of measures on an International, Regional and National level. The IMO set the scene for international work, OSPAR provided examples of established tools and experience in regional cooperation, highlighting its Decisions, Recommendations and Agreements and Norway demonstrated how the national and international measures can be integrated into national legislation.





# OFFSHORE INDUSTRY



In 2019, the Offshore Industry Committee (OIC) finalised the assessment of the impacts of disturbance of cuttings piles related to decommissioning activities for publication. Progress has also been made on the assessment of impacts of discharges of oil and chemicals in produced water on the marine environment. The assessment of impacts of decommissioned pipelines on the marine environment and on other users of the sea was finalised at OIC 2019, in order to fulfil OIC's obligation to the NEAES 2010-2020.

Several OSPAR Recommendations have been amended: Recommendation 2010/3 on a Harmonised Offshore Chemical Notification Format (HOCNF), was amended to include monitoring of the use and discharge of plastic and microplastic substances contained in offshore chemicals; Recommendation 2006/3 on Environmental Goals for the Discharge by the Offshore Industry of Chemicals that Are, or Which Contain Substances Identified as Candidates for Substitution, was amended to include appropriate measures to phase out or, where that is not possible for technical and safety reasons, to provide detailed justification for the continued discharge of such substances; and Recommendation 2017/1 on a Harmonised Pre-screening Scheme for Offshore Chemicals, was amended in order to update the REACH definition and to include checks for applicability of Biocidal Products Regulation.

Work has started to produce guidance for the comparative assessment of decommissioning options under Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations and a discussion paper is being drafted by the Contracting Parties.


The Committee finalised the 2017 annual report on discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations, as well as the assessment reports from Denmark, Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands.

OIC has reviewed the Committee's progress towards achieving the objectives of 2010 – 2020 thematic Strategy and has agreed on operational objectives for the new North-East Atlantic Environmental Strategy (NEAES 2020-2030) on topics covering produced water, chemicals, plastic materials and substances, nanomaterials, noise, disposal of disused installations and carbon capture and storage activities.

OIC was chaired by Saravanan Marappan of the United Kingdom.



# RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES



During 2019 the Radioactive Substances Committee (RSC) worked on the definition of operational objectives for the future Strategy NEAES 2020-2030, considering the outcomes of specific strategy meetings held in London (September 2018) and in Oslo (January 2019). RSC also focused on the work of its Intersessional Correspondence Groups, to produce and test a method for assessing “additional concentrations in the marine environment above historic levels are close to zero”; and on the modelling of additional concentrations of naturally occurring radionuclides in seawater from discharges of produced water from the offshore oil and gas sector. RSC finalised the 2017 annual report on discharges of radioactive substances from the nuclear sector (nuclear power stations, nuclear fuel processing plants, nuclear fuel fabrication and enrichment plants, research and development facilities and decommissioning) and the 2017 annual report on discharges of radioactive substances from the non-nuclear sector. Work has continued on reporting on national implementation of the Best Available Techniques (BAT) / Best Environmental Practice (BEP) for radioactive discharges under the 7th round of OSPAR Recommendation 2018/01.

RSC was chaired by Justin Gwynn from Norway.



## Biodiversity Committee

Report on the status of the OSPAR network of MPAs in 2018

## Environmental Impact of Human Activities

Offshore renewable energy developments 2018

Encounters with chemical and conventional munitions 2017

Fishing for Litter 2018

Dredged material, waste and other matter deposited at sea in 2017

Review of BAT in urban wastewater treatment systems

Background document on key waste items from the fishing industry and aquaculture

## Updated Assessments

Plastic particles in Fulmar stomachs

Beach litter

Impulsive noise

## Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee

Report on the OSPAR List of Chemicals for Priority Action

Report and assessment on losses of mercury from the chlor-alkali industry

Levels and trends in marine contaminants and their biological effects – CEMP Assessment report 2018

Comprehensive Atmospheric Monitoring Programme (CAMP) –2017 data report

Comprehensive Study on Riverine Inputs and Direct Discharges (RID) – 2017 data report

OSPAR consideration of the use of EQSbiota for secondary poisoning

## Offshore Industry Committee

OSPAR report on discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations in 2017

OSPAR report on discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations Country Assessment Report 2013 - 2017: Denmark

OSPAR report on discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations Country Assessment Report 2013 - 2017: Germany

OSPAR report on discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations Country Assessment Report 2013 - 2017: Ireland

OSPAR report on discharges, spills and emissions from offshore oil and gas installations Country Assessment Report 2013 - 2017: the Netherlands

Impacts of Disturbance of Cuttings Piles related to Decommissioning Activities

## Radioactive Substances Committee

Annual report on liquid discharges from nuclear installations in 2017

Annual report on discharges of Radionuclides from the Non-nuclear Sectors in 2017

German report on the implementation of PARCOM Recommendation 91/4 on Radioactive discharges to the OSPAR Commission on the application of Best Available Technology in nuclear facilities

French report on the implementation of PARCOM Recommendation 91/4 on Radioactive discharges to the OSPAR Commission on the application of Best Available Technology in nuclear facilities

Swiss report on the implementation of PARCOM Recommendation 91/4 on Radioactive discharges to the OSPAR Commission on the application of Best Available Technology in nuclear facilities

Norwegian report on the implementation of PARCOM Recommendation 91/4 on Radioactive discharges to the OSPAR Commission on the application of Best Available Technology in nuclear facilities

# OSPAR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ENGAGEMENT





## OSPAR RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL BODIES

# ARCTIC COUNCIL

The incoming Icelandic Chairmanship of the Arctic Council – from May 2019 to May 2021 – will continue to count on OSPAR collaboration, in particular on one of its main priority areas, the reduction of the impact of plastics on the Arctic marine ecosystem. OSPAR has been invited as one of the co-sponsors of the International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region, which will take place on 21-23 April 2020 in Reykjavik – [www.arcticplastics2020.is](http://www.arcticplastics2020.is) – hosted by the Icelandic Chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

OSPAR has been active in Arctic Council working groups, in particular PAME (Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment, which met 4-7 February 2019), contributing as co-lead to a desk-top study on marine litter in the Arctic and the finalisation of a report on the state of knowledge on underwater noise. The 2019-21 work-plan includes follow up work on underwater noise using ship-tracking data to generate noise maps for the Arctic region and the development of a marine litter regional action plan.

OSPAR participated at PAME's 3rd Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum held in London on the 3-4 June 2019 to support an effective implementation of the IMO Polar Code and at PAME's workshop held immediately after to develop a framework for more systematically engaging with observers on PAME's shipping related work.

OSPAR is working with the Arctic Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP). In particular OSPAR and AMAP's hazardous substances experts are collaborating on assessment procedures, including extraction and compilation of relevant data, and methods and processes for providing AMAP's Region I information and data for OSPAR's QSR 2023. A joint "AMAP-OSPAR Workshop on Temporal Trend Analysis Systems" took place 12-14 June 2019 on harmonisation of trend analyses, funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Through AMAP there will be more Region I data for OSPAR Quality Status Report 2023 and the assessment products from the statistical analysis should be available for a variety of uses.



ARCTIC COUNCIL

# UNEP AND MARINE LITTER

UNEP continues to develop its interest in marine litter. A Second meeting of an Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics was held on 3-7 December 2018, attended by a number of OSPAR policy experts. Out of this a number of options were presented to the meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (11-15 March 2019), including establishing a “global knowledge hub” and scientific and technical advisory group; an inter-agency examination of health and environmental issues; and preparing a compendium of existing and planned industry initiatives.





# UNITED NATIONS – 2ND SESSION OF BBNJ NEGOTIATIONS, MARCH/APRIL 2019

OSPAR showcased its work at the 2nd session of Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) negotiations, including the example of the collective arrangement. The Executive Secretary participated at the second session of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, in New York – <https://www.un.org/bbnj/content/second-substantive-session>, where the OSPAR's remit of work was showcased as a regional example of cooperation.

UNEP kindly organised two side-events with OSPAR. The first was co-organised with FAO (2 April 2019), dedicated to the existing dialogue mechanisms between regional seas programmes and regional fisheries bodies, where the Executive Secretary made a presentation on both OSPAR and NEAFC specific scope of competences and the Collective Arrangement as a multilateral dialogue tool. The other regional examples were presented by the Secretaries to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and Mediterranean Action Plan (GFCM).

The second side-event (3 April 2019) was devoted to the theme of area-based management tools under the Regional Seas Programmes, and counted with an OSPAR presentation on the designation process of Marine Protected Areas; and by other organisations: the Mediterranean Action Plan and Barcelona Convention, on specially protected areas of Mediterranean importance; by the Permanent Commission of South Pacific, on a regional process to consider issues related to biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction on South East Pacific; by HELCOM, on Marine Protected Area network in the Baltic Sea; and by UNEP-WCMC, on pilot application of area-based planning approaches in Western Indian Ocean.





# EUROPEAN UNION

In relation to the BBNJ process, OSPAR made a presentation at a COMAR meeting prior the second BBNJ session. On 22 January 2019, OSPAR Secretariat and the Convenor of ICG-Eco-C, Adrian Judd, made presentations which were followed by a Q&A session. OSPAR's work was described, including the designation process of marine protected areas and the cooperation framework with other institutions, including through the collective arrangement, as well as the assessment of cumulative effects from human activities on the marine environment, in particular assessment method identified by OSPAR ("bow-tie approach"). The Council Working Party considered OSPAR's presentations very useful and relevant in relation to the ongoing BBNJ discussions and believed its example could bring inspiration to other marine regions, whilst advising on the expansion of the Collective Arrangement to other organisations.





# EUROPEAN OFFSHORE AUTHORITIES GROUP (EUOAG)

The OSPAR Secretariat attended the 17th Meeting of the European Offshore Authorities Group (EUOAG), held on 7 May 2019, in Brussels, on decommissioning and dismantling of offshore installations. The Secretariat provided a description of Decision 98/3 on the disposal of disused offshore installations, describing the consultation procedure to deal with derogations proposed by Contracting Parties to the existing general prohibition of leaving in place disused installations.





# EUROPEAN OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM (EOOS)

OSPAR Secretariat participates in the Advisory Committee of the nascent European Ocean Observing System (EOOS), which aims to link the components of the ocean observing system and promote shared strategies, infrastructure development, data standardization, open access, and capacity building. The Secretariat contributed to the development of EOOS' [Implementation Plan and Strategy](#), and helped to draft the 2018 EOOS Conference programme and subsequent Call to Action (<https://eoosconference2018.eu/conference-report>).



European  
Ocean  
Observing  
System



# HELCOM

Specific cooperation with HELCOM in different areas of interest is being covered throughout the OSPAR Committees. The Seminar “Prevention of and sanctions on illegal waste disposal from ships at sea” was held in Berlin in November 2018 to further discuss the measures of OSPAR and HELCOM Region Action Plans on Marine Litter. The Ninth Meeting of HELCOM Expert Group on Monitoring of Radioactive Substances in the Baltic Sea (HELCOM MORS EG 9-2019) in Denmark in late May 2019 was attended by the Vice Chair of OSPAR Radioactive Substances Committee.

OSPAR is a partner to WestMOPoCo Project, together with HELCOM and REMPEC, with the aim of strengthening the cooperation in the field of preparedness and response to oil and chemical marine pollution for Mediterranean countries. OSPAR will participate in the HNS Manual preparation meeting and the Steering Committee will be held in June 2019 during REMPEC Focal Points meeting.



# HELCOM

# OSPAR PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

<b>Convention on Biological Diversity</b>	<b>Regional consultation on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for the western European and others group and other members of the European Union</b>	The OSPAR Secretariat attended the regional consultation on post-2020 global biodiversity framework, on 19-21 March, Bonn, Germany ( <a href="http://www.cbd.int/meetings/POST2020-WS-2019-02">www.cbd.int/meetings/POST2020-WS-2019-02</a> ). The OSPAR Secretariat was invited to participate in the regional consultation and participated to observe the process and participate in discussions during breakout sessions.
<b>International Seabed Authority (ISA)</b>	<b>Expert meeting on the Regional Environmental Management Planning</b>	The OSPAR Secretariat attended this expert meeting on 28-30 May, in Paris. The meeting was arranged by an EU-funded project led by Seascope Consultants, to support the development of a Regional Environmental Management Plan (REMP) for the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, in collaboration with the ISA Secretariat.
<b>Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)</b>	<b>ABNJ Deep-Sea meeting</b>	From 7-9 May 2019, the Secretariat attended a meeting of The Common Oceans Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep Seas Project - <a href="http://www.fao.org/in-action/commonoceans/en/is">http://www.fao.org/in-action/commonoceans/en/is</a> - one of the Projects of the Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ Program (Common Oceans ABNJ Program), supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by the FAO and UNEP.





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### Monaco Blue Initiative

OSPAR attended the 10th edition of the Monaco Blue Initiative (MBI), on 24/25 March 2019 – <http://www.monacoblueinitiative.org/> – hosted by Prince Albert II, and this time dedicated to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) around the world – <https://www.protectedplanet.net/marine>. The 10th edition focused on the state of MPAs worldwide.

### Because the Ocean Initiative

In collaboration with the Spanish Ministry the Ecologic Transition and the European Commission, the Because the Ocean initiative – <https://www.becausetheocean.org/> – organised a second regional workshop in Madrid 10-11 April 2019 – <https://www.becausetheocean.org/the-madrid-workshop/> – which was attended by the Secretariat.

### 24th CEDRE Information Day

The Secretariat attended a meeting on 5th March 2019 in Paris. The 2019 Cedre Information Day addressed public and industry policies (notably under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the OSPAR Convention) on reducing litter in the marine environment, as well as the contribution of the circular economy. Cedre is a multidisciplinary team composed of international experts in water pollution, including response support, contingency planning, training, analysis and testing and research. The Coordinator of the Regional Action Plan made a presentation on *"The international response: the example of the OSPAR Convention"* – <http://wwz.cedre.fr/en/Resources/Cedre-Days/Cedre-Information-Day/Marine-litter-2019>.

# OSPAR'S VISION IS OF A HEALTHY AND DIVERSE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC ECOSYSTEM, USED SUSTAINABLY

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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