



Terms of Reference for the Coordination Group and Committees for 2022 – 2025

(Agreement 2022-02)

Source: OSPAR 22/12/01, Annex 13

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Terms of reference for the Coordination Group

1. The Coordination Group (CoG) is a high-level subsidiary body of OSPAR comprising representatives of all Contracting Parties supported by their technical experts as appropriate, observers, and the chairs of all main Committees. The function of CoG is to ensure integration of OSPAR work and delivery of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES 2030).
2. The scope of work of CoG includes cross-cutting issues, specifically but not limited to:
 - a. Socioeconomics;
 - b. Cumulative effects; and
 - c. Climate change and ocean acidification.

Operation and organisation of work

3. CoG shall hold at least two annual meetings, unless otherwise instructed by the OSPAR Commission.
4. The chair of the Commission shall chair CoG.
5. CoG shall maintain a list of actions for small and short-term tasks to be completed within a meeting cycle.
6. CoG shall consider key issues from Committees that require coordination/management by CoG.
7. CoG shall provide an annual progress report to OSPAR HOD.
8. CoG shall report annually on its work to the OSPAR Commission and advise the Commission on specific questions related to its work remitted to it by the Commission.
9. CoG shall retain oversight of its subsidiary bodies with technical input as required from Committees. Subsidiary bodies are currently ICG-MSFD, ICG-EcoC, ICG-OA, ICG-ESA, ICG-QSR, ICG Data, NSN, and TG MAP¹. If needed CoG may establish subsidiary bodies as required to progress on supporting implementation of the NEAES 2030 tasks and on monitoring and assessment products.
10. CoG shall ensure there is sufficient flow of information between CoG's subsidiary bodies and the main Committees where appropriate.

Implementation of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030

11. The CoG will review the implementation of the NEAES 2030 overall, by:
 - a. focusing on the issues highlighted in the management report prepared by the Secretariat, identifying those issues that require cross coordination with the focus being on matters with possible financial implications and reporting its conclusions to HOD;

¹ Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG) Marine Strategy Framework Directive; ICG-on Ecosystem Assessment Outlook – Cumulative Effects Assessment; ICG-Ocean Acidification; ICG-Economic and Social Analysis; ICG-Quality Status Report; ICG on Data; North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors, Technical Group on Measures and Actions Programme.

- b. leading cross-cutting operational objectives as set out in the Implementation Plan either directly or through its subsidiary bodies; and
- c. considering any proposals from its subsidiary bodies for additional tasks to be included, updated or archived upon completion.

12. In doing so CoG shall pay particular attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the Quality Status Reports and Intermediate Assessments.

Measures and Actions

13. CoG shall coordinate the evaluation of implementation and effectiveness of all OSPAR programmes and measures under the Measures and Actions Programme (MAP) aiming to develop a structured and systematic approach, including taking into account measures taken in other relevant fora, such as the UN and EU.

Monitoring and assessment

14. CoG shall oversee the environmental assessment and monitoring under the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme 2014-2023 (JAMP), and any successor programme, working closely with the main Committees and taking into account their annual reports. CoG shall have oversight of the periodic review of the condition of the OSPAR maritime area delivered through OSPAR's status assessment (Quality Status Reports and Intermediate Assessments) and reporting processes, and the overall effectiveness of the measures taken and planned, providing advice on priorities for action in accordance with Article 6 and Annex IV of the OSPAR Convention.

International engagement

15. CoG will also maintain appropriate interaction with other international organisations, when instrumental for the fulfilment of these Terms of Reference. In particular intergovernmental organisations in the North-East Atlantic region and adjacent regions with mandates similar to those of OSPAR, including those under Regional Seas Conventions, United Nations specialised agencies and any other body at regional or global level which is of strategic interest to the OSPAR Commission.

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

16. CoG shall facilitate, for those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States, the coordinated and coherent implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) through the work of the ICG MSFD and the Committees. CoG will ensure coordination at the sub-regional level to deliver cost effective use of Contracting Parties resources in meeting their respective obligations and will assist in the development of regional targets and indicators to assess status and progress towards the NEAES 2030 and the MSFD considering the criteria and the methodological standards of the EU.

Terms of Reference for the Radioactive Substances Committee

1. The Radioactive Substances Committee (RSC) is a subsidiary body of OSPAR comprising representatives of all Contracting Parties and OSPAR Observer organisations. The function of RSC is to take forward and coordinate the work under the OSPAR Convention that concerns radioactive substances and contribute to the delivery of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES 2030).
2. The scope of work is to develop programmes and measures which includes those related to:
 - a. all activities that result in a pressure on the OSPAR maritime area via discharges, emissions and losses of radioactive substances;
 - b. monitoring the state of radioactive substances in the marine environment and evaluating any associated impact; and
 - c. keeping under review OSPAR measures and actions related to radioactive substances.

Operation and organisation of work

3. RSC shall hold at least one annual meeting.
4. RSC shall maintain a list of actions for small and short-term tasks to be completed within a meeting cycle.
5. RSC shall report to the Coordination Group (CoG) on its work on key issues that require coordination/management by CoG.
6. RSC shall provide an annual progress report to the OSPAR Commission.
7. RSC shall ensure the exchange of information with other OSPAR Committees as required but specifically:
 - a. with the Offshore Industry Committee (OIC) in respect of the discharge of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) from offshore oil and gas activities; and
 - b. with CoG in respect of cross cutting issues such as the ecosystem approach and climate change.
8. Existing Intersessional Correspondence Groups (ICGs), and where necessary new ICGs, will focus on supporting implementation of the NEAES 2030 tasks and on monitoring and assessment products.

Implementation of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030

9. RSC will facilitate the implementation of the NEAES 2030, by:
 - a. leading the work under strategic objective S3 on preventing pollution by radioactive substances in order to safeguard human health and to protect the marine environment with the ultimate aim of achieving and maintaining concentrations in the marine environment at near background values for naturally occurring radioactive substances and close to zero for human made radioactive substances;
 - b. leading or supporting those operational objectives for which the Committee has a leading or supporting role as set out in the Implementation Plan;

- c. identifying and specifying tasks to be recommended to CoG/HOD for inclusion into the Implementation Plan under those operational objectives for which it has a leading or supporting role; and
- d. ensuring progress reporting on implementation of NEAES 2030 tasks as set out in Agreement 2021-02 and identifying any issue that should be brought to the attention of CoG/HOD.

10. In doing so RSC shall pay particular attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the Quality Status Reports and Intermediate Assessments.

Measures and actions

11. RSC will develop measures, as appropriate, to prevent and eliminate pollution of the marine environment caused by radioactive substances. RSC will periodically report and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of relevant OSPAR programmes and measures taking into account guidance from CoG towards a structured and systematic approach within OSPAR, including taking into account measures taken in other relevant fora, such as the UN and EU.

12. RSC will periodically review, and revise if necessary, the applicability of its related measures in line with the NEAES 2030.

Monitoring and assessment

13. RSC shall develop and maintain appropriate monitoring programmes and assessment methodologies in line with the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP 2014-2023), and any successor programme, in order to address the operational objectives included in the NEAES 2030.

International engagement

14. RSC will also maintain appropriate interaction with other international organisations, when instrumental for the fulfilment of these Terms of Reference. In particular, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an OSPAR observer organisation that actively contributes to the work of RSC by participating in the annual meetings and contributing to ICGs. The IAEA recommendations and those of other international organisations as appropriate, are taken into account when adopting any programmes or measures for radioactive substances.

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

15. RSC shall facilitate, for those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States, the coordinated and coherent implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) with regard to the inclusion of radioactive substances in any MSFD assessment.

Terms of Reference for the Offshore Industry Committee

1. The Offshore Industry Committee (OIC) is a subsidiary body of OSPAR comprising representatives of all Contracting Parties and OSPAR Observer organisations. The function of OIC is to take forward and coordinate the work under the OSPAR Convention on the prevention and elimination of pollution from offshore activities and from storage of carbon dioxide activities and contribute to the delivery of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES 2030).
2. The scope of work of OIC is to develop programmes and measures which includes those related to:
 - a. offshore activities and storage of carbon dioxide activities that exert pressures on the OSPAR maritime area;
 - b. monitoring and assessing the impacts of offshore activities and storage of carbon dioxide activities on the marine environment; and
 - c. keeping under review OSPAR measures and actions related to the prevention and elimination of pollution from offshore activities and storage of carbon dioxide activities.

Operation and organisation of work

3. OIC shall hold at least one annual meeting.
4. OIC shall maintain a list of actions for small and short-term tasks to be completed within a meeting cycle.
5. OIC shall report to the Coordination Group (CoG) on its work on key issues that require coordination/management by CoG.
6. OIC shall provide an annual progress report to the OSPAR Commission.
7. OIC shall ensure the exchange of information with other OSPAR Committees as required but specifically:
 - a. with the Radioactive Substances Committee (RSC) in respect of the discharge of NORM from offshore activities;
 - b. with the Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee (HASEC) in respect of the phase out of discharges of hazardous substances;
 - c. with the Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee (EIHA) in respect of noise, marine litter and storage of carbon dioxide;
 - d. with the Biodiversity Committee (BDC) in respect of pressures and impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity of the maritime area and the OSPAR network of marine protected areas (MPAs); and
 - e. with CoG in respect of cross cutting issues such as the ecosystem approach and climate change.
8. Existing Intersessional Correspondence Groups (ICGs), and where necessary new ICGs, will focus on supporting implementation of the NEAES 2030 tasks and on monitoring and assessment products.

Implementation of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030

9. OIC will facilitate the implementation of the NEAES 2030, by:
 - a. contributing to the strategic objectives S2, S4, S8, S9 and S12;
 - b. leading or supporting those operational objectives for which the Committee has a leading or supporting role as set out in the Implementation Plan;
 - c. identifying and specifying tasks to be recommended to CoG/HOD for inclusion into the Implementation Plan under those operational objectives for which it has a leading or supporting role; and
 - d. ensuring progress reporting on implementation of NEAES 2030 tasks as set out in Agreement 2021-02 and identifying any issue that should be brought to the attention of CoG/HOD.
10. In doing so OIC shall pay particular attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the Quality Status Reports and Intermediate Assessments.

Measures and actions

11. OIC will develop new measures as appropriate to prevent and eliminate pollution from offshore activities and from storage of carbon dioxide activities or to mitigate their effects.
12. OIC will periodically report and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of relevant OSPAR programmes and measures taking into account guidance from CoG towards a structured and systematic approach within OSPAR, including taking into account measures taken in other relevant fora, such as the UN and EU.
13. OIC will periodically review the applicability of its related measures in line with the NEAES 2030.

Monitoring and assessment

14. OIC shall develop and maintain appropriate monitoring programmes and assessment methodologies in line with the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP 2014-2023), and any successor programme, in order to address the operational objectives included in the NEAES 2030.

International engagement

15. OIC will also maintain appropriate interaction with other international organisations, when instrumental for the fulfilment of these Terms of Reference. In particular, OIC shall share knowledge and exchange information with the Bonn Agreement, the London Convention and its Protocol, the Arctic Council and the Barcelona Convention.

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

16. OIC will facilitate, for those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States, the coordinated and coherent implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive regarding Descriptors 8, 10 and 11.

Terms of reference for the OSPAR Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee

1. The Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee (HASEC) is a subsidiary body of OSPAR comprising representatives of all Contracting Parties and OSPAR Observer organisations. The function of HASEC is to coordinate the work under the OSPAR Convention on hazardous substances and eutrophication and contribute to the delivery of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES 2030).
2. The scope of work is to develop programmes and measures which include those related to:
 - a. all activities that result in a pressure on the OSPAR maritime area via discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances and plant nutrients;
 - b. monitoring the state of hazardous substances and eutrophication in the marine environment and evaluating any associated impact; and
 - c. keeping under review OSPAR measures and actions related to hazardous substances and eutrophication.

Operation and organisation of work

3. HASEC shall hold at least one annual meeting.
4. HASEC shall maintain a list of products for small and short-term tasks to be completed within a meeting cycle.
5. HASEC shall report to CoG on its work on key issues that require coordination/management by CoG.
6. HASEC shall provide an annual progress report to the OSPAR Commission.
7. HASEC shall ensure the exchange of information with other OSPAR Committees as required but specifically:
 - a. with the Offshore Industry Committee (OIC) in respect of the phasing out of hazardous substances in the offshore industries;
 - b. with the Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee (EIHA) in respect of pressures and impacts on the ecosystem arising from human activities in the maritime area; and
 - c. with the Biodiversity Committee (BDC) in respect of the effects of nutrient and hazardous substance pollution on ecosystems and biodiversity of the maritime area.
8. HASEC shall retain oversight of the following working groups:
 - a. Monitoring and Trends and Effects of Substances in the Marine Environment (MIME)
 - b. Inputs to the Marine Environment (INPUT).

9. Existing Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG) on Eutrophication and ICG on Ocean Acidification, and where necessary new ICGs, will focus on supporting implementation of the NEAES 2030 tasks and on monitoring and assessment products.

Implementation of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030

10. HASEC will facilitate the implementation of the NEAES 2030, by:
- a. contributing to the strategic objectives S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S9, S10, S11, and S12;
 - b. leading or supporting those operational objectives for which the Committee has a leading or supporting role as set out in the Implementation Plan;
 - c. identifying and specifying tasks to be recommended to CoG/HOD for inclusion into the Implementation Plan under those operational objectives for which it has a leading or supporting role; and
 - d. ensuring progress reporting on implementation of NEAES 2030 tasks as set out in Agreement 2021-02 and identifying any issue that should be brought to the attention of CoG/HOD.
11. In doing so, HASEC shall pay particular attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the Quality Status Reports and Intermediate Assessments.

Measures and Actions

12. HASEC will periodically report and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of relevant OSPAR programmes and measures taking into account guidance from CoG towards a structured and systematic approach within OSPAR, including taking into account measures taken in other relevant fora, such as the UN and EU.
13. HASEC will periodically review the applicability of its related measures in line with the NEAES 2030.

Monitoring and assessment

14. HASEC shall develop and maintain appropriate monitoring and assessment in line with the JAMP 2014-2023, and successor programmes, paying particular attention to:
- a. **for hazardous substances:**
 - i. quantification of regional sources, releases and pathways of hazardous substances associated with Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) descriptor 8 and those on the List of Chemicals for Priority Action;
 - ii. effective regional coordinated monitoring and assessment, including development and implementation of indicators, targets and monitoring programmes associated with MSFD descriptor 8 and where possible assessment of progress towards achievement of good environmental status;

b. for inputs to the marine environment and eutrophication:

- i. ensuring implementation of the Common Procedure for the Identification of the Eutrophication status of the maritime area, in conjunction with development and implementation of indicators, targets and monitoring programmes associated with MSFD descriptor 5 and where possible assessment of progress towards achievement of good environmental status ;
- ii. quantification of regional sources, releases and pathways of substances associated with MSFD descriptor 5;
- iii. evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of measures addressing eutrophication problems, including modelling of reduction scenarios;
- iv. coordinating the development of measures to reduce or eliminate anthropogenic eutrophication in marine waters in problem areas;

c. for both hazardous substances and eutrophication:

- i. preparing appropriate environmental assessments and arranging for their publication;
- ii. ensuring assessments are based on results of monitoring, on research related to monitoring and assessment, and on data and information from other sources;
- iii. providing advice to the Commission on, and contributing and responding to, assessments undertaken by other Committees or by fora outside OSPAR;
- iv. developing analytical tools and criteria for assessment procedures linked to hazardous substances and eutrophication and developing assessment tools for the purposes of coherent conduct of assessments.

d. for ocean acidification:

- i. supporting the development of i) ocean acidification assessments and and ii) an ocean acidification specific monitoring programme in the context of the Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme (CEMP).

International engagement

15. HASEC will also maintain appropriate interaction with other international organisations, when instrumental for the fulfilment of these Terms of Reference. In particular, but not limited to:

- a. Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region (MoU 2013);
- b. Arctic Council;
- c. Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme;
- d. Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution;
- e. Bonn Agreement (MoU 2021);

- f. Bucharest Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution;
- g. Cartagena Convention (MoU 2021);
- h. Cooperative programme for monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transmission of air pollutants in Europe (EMEP);
- i. European Chemicals Agency;
- j. European Environment Agency (MoU 1998);
- k. Helsinki Commission (Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area);
- l. International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (MoU 2006);
- m. International Maritime Organization (MoU 2018);
- n. Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation;
- o. Joint Research Centre of the European Commission;
- p. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (MoU 1991);
- q. United Nations Environmental Programme;
- r. International River Commissions and River Basin Management Authorities in the OSPAR catchment;
- s. The Common Wadden Sea Secretariat;

Marine policy aspects:

16. HASEC shall facilitate, for those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States, the coordinated and coherent implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and equivalent national policies. In particular, for the qualitative descriptors “Human-induced eutrophication is minimised” (MSFD D5), “Concentrations of contaminants are at levels not giving rise to pollution effects” (MSFD D8) and “Contaminants in fish and other seafood do not exceed [safe] levels” (MSFD D9).

17. HASEC shall take account of the need of Contracting Parties to prepare targets and/or draft measures or to support the development of measures in other fora as necessary, to control use and reduce discharges of chemicals (in particular those identified by OSPAR as being Chemicals for Priority Action) and nutrients. When new information becomes available, HASEC will keep the status of hazardous substances under review, maintaining the List of Chemical for Priority Action, and associated Background Documents, and the List of Substances of Possible Concern, including deselecting substances from the lists when appropriate.

18. HASEC shall consider relevant links to 'good ecological status' and 'good chemical status' under the Water Framework Directive and equivalent national policies.

19. HASEC shall facilitate the work of Contracting Parties in the development and implementation of European and national law concerned with reducing discharges, emissions and losses of nutrients and hazardous substances.

20. HASEC shall be a regional cooperation platform for Contracting Parties to use and inform the further development of marine assessment products and projects within the EU Copernicus, Green Deal and Horizon programmes.

21. HASEC shall support the coordinated implementation of common objectives of the international ocean governance related with these terms of reference, through the common implementation of Agenda 2030. In particular, Sustainable Development Goal 14 targets: 14.1 (NEAES 2030 S1.01), 14.2, 14.3, 14.5, 14.8 and 14.A.

Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee (EIHA) 2022-25

1. The Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee (EIHA) is a subsidiary body of OSPAR comprising representatives of all Contracting Parties and OSPAR Observer organisations. The function of EIHA is to take forward and coordinate work under the OSPAR Convention to ensure that uses of the marine environment are sustainable, through the integrated management of current and emerging human activities and contribute to the delivery of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030 (NEAES 2030).
2. The scope of work is to develop programmes and measures which includes those related to:
 - the assessment and/or management of pressures from marine litter, underwater noise, offshore renewable energy, deep seabed mining, dumping and disposal of dredged materials, munitions, non-indigenous species, and pollution from shipping;
 - OSPAR work on cumulative effects and ecosystem based management; and
 - risks from new, emerging and increasing pressures on the marine environment.

Operation and organisation of work

3. EIHA shall hold at least one annual meeting.
4. EIHA shall maintain a list of actions for short-term tasks to be completed within a meeting cycle.
5. EIHA shall report to the Coordination Group (CoG) on its work on key issues that require coordination/management by CoG.
6. EIHA shall provide an annual progress report to the OSPAR Commission.
7. EIHA shall ensure the exchange of information with other OSPAR Committees as required but specifically:
 - a. with the Biodiversity Committee (BDC) with respect to pressures of human activities on species, habitats and ecosystem functioning, non-indigenous species and disturbance to the seabed;
 - b. with the Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee (HASEC) on monitoring of microplastics, nutrients and hazardous substances from shipping and offshore renewables;
 - c. with the Offshore Industry Committee (OIC) with respect to plastics pollution and the monitoring and assessment of environmental effects of carbon capture and storage;
 - d. with the Radioactive Substances Committee (RSC) with respect to radionuclides and impacts from installations.
8. Existing Intersessional Correspondence Groups (ICGs), and where necessary new ICGs, will focus on supporting implementation of the NEAES 2030 tasks (such as the ICG on Offshore Renewable Developments) and on monitoring and assessment products.

Implementation of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030

9. EIHA will facilitate the implementation of the NEAES 2030, by:
- a. contributing in particular to the strategic objectives S4, S7, S8, and S12, and also supporting strategic objectives S5, S6, S9, S10, and S11;
 - b. leading or supporting those operational objectives for which the Committee has a leading or supporting role as set out in the Implementation Plan;
 - c. identifying and specifying tasks to be recommended to CoG/Heads of Delegation for inclusion into the Implementation Plan under those operational objectives for which it has a leading or supporting role; and
 - d. ensuring progress reporting on implementation of NEAES 2030 tasks as set out in Agreement 2021-02 and identifying any issue that should be brought to the attention of CoG/HOD.
10. In doing so EIHA shall pay particular attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the Quality Status Reports and Intermediate Assessments.

Measures and actions

11. EIHA will periodically report and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of relevant OSPAR programmes and measures taking into account guidance from CoG towards a structured and systematic approach within OSPAR, including taking into account measures taken in other relevant fora, such as the UN and EU.
12. EIHA will periodically review the applicability of its related measures in line with the NEAES 2030.

Monitoring and assessment

13. EIHA shall develop and maintain appropriate monitoring and assessment in line with the JAMP 2014-2023, and any successor programme, paying particular attention to:
- a. Marine litter (JAMP B1);
 - b. Underwater noise (JAMP B2);
 - c. Dredged materials and dumping (JAMP B6);
 - d. Munitions (JAMP B7);
 - e. Assessment of human activities causing pressures on the marine environment (JAMP B14).
14. EIHA shall contribute to the development or application of tools for integrated management, including socio-economic analysis and cumulative effects assessment (led by CoG), marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management.

International engagement

15. EIHA will also maintain appropriate interaction with other international organisations, when instrumental for the fulfilment of these Terms of Reference, in particular, but not limited to:

- the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES),
- the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM);
- the Barcelona Convention (UNEP-MAP) and the Black Sea Commission;
- the Arctic Council working group on Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME);
- the Cartagena Convention (UNEP-CEP);
- the International Maritime Organisation;
- the London Convention and London Protocol; and
- the International Seabed Authority.

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

16. EIHA will facilitate, for those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States, the coordinated and coherent implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, EIHA shall further develop and apply common indicators on marine litter and underwater noise, taking account of the development of EU threshold values; maintain an up-to-date description of Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme (CEMP) appendices; and work on regionally coordinated measures to improve the status of the environment.

Terms of Reference for the Biodiversity Committee 2022-2025

1. The Biodiversity Committee (BDC) is a subsidiary body of OSPAR comprising representatives of all Contracting Parties and OSPAR Observer organisations. The function of BDC is to take forward and coordinate the work under the OSPAR Convention on the protection of biodiversity, and contribute to the delivery of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030 (NEAES 2030).
2. The scope of work is to develop programmes and measures which includes those related to:
 - the protection and conservation of threatened and/or declining species and habitats;
 - drafting status assessments for these conservation features;
 - analysing and further developing the OSPAR network of marine protected areas (MPA);
 - monitoring, development and assessment of biodiversity indicators and thematic assessments for the OSPAR maritime area; and
 - the evaluation of the effects of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity as well as actions that can be taken to improve the resilience of ecosystems.

Operation and organisation of work

3. BDC shall hold at least one annual meeting.
4. BDC shall maintain a list of actions for small and short-term tasks to be completed within a meeting cycle.
5. BDC shall report to the Coordination Group (CoG) on its work on key issues that require coordination/management by CoG.
6. BDC shall provide an annual progress report to the OSPAR Commission.
7. BDC shall ensure the exchange of information with other OSPAR Committees as required but specifically:
 - a. with the Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee (EIHA) in respect of key pressures from human activities impacting marine biodiversity including the OSPAR List of threatened and/or declining species and habitats, non-indigenous species and disturbance, recovery and restoration of the seabed ; and
 - b. with the Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee (HASEC) in respect of impacts of hazardous substances, ocean acidification and eutrophication on biodiversity.
8. Existing Intersessional Correspondence Groups (ICGs), and where necessary new ICGs, will focus on supporting implementation of the NEAES 2030 tasks and on monitoring and assessment products.

Implementation of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030

9. BDC will facilitate the implementation of the NEAES 2030, by:

- a. contributing to the strategic objectives S5, S6, S7, S9, S11 and S12;
- b. leading or supporting those operational objectives for which the Committee has a leading or supporting role as set out in the Implementation Plan;
- c. identifying and specifying tasks to be recommended to CoG/Heads of Delegation (HOD) for inclusion into the Implementation Plan under those operational objectives for which it has a leading or supporting role; and
- d. ensuring progress reporting on implementation of NEAES 2030 tasks as set out in Agreement 2021-02 and identifying any issue that should be brought to the attention of CoG/HOD.

10. In doing so BDC shall pay particular attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the Quality Status Reports and Intermediate Assessments.

Measures and actions

11. BDC will periodically report and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of relevant OSPAR programmes and measures taking into account guidance from CoG towards a structured and systematic approach within OSPAR, including on measures taken in other relevant fora, such as the UN and EU.

12. BDC will periodically review the applicability of its related measures in line with the NEAES 2030.

Monitoring and assessment

13. BDC shall develop and maintain appropriate monitoring and assessment in line with the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme 2014-2023 (JAMP 2014-2023), and actively contribute to the development and implementation of any successor programme, paying particular attention to:

- a. B-3 Threatened and/or declining species and habitats (see also Agreement 2019-05 Guidance on the Development of Status Assessments for the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats);
- b. B-10 Assessment of common biodiversity indicators;
- c. B-11 Biennial Assessment of the Status of the OSPAR network of MPAs.

International engagement

14. BDC will maintain appropriate interaction with other international organisations, when instrumental for the fulfilment of these Terms of Reference. In particular, but not limited to:

- the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC);
- the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM);
- the Barcelona Convention (UNEP-MAP);
- the Arctic Council working groups Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) and Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME);
- the Convention on Biological Diversity to support regional implementation of the post 2020 framework;
- the Cartagena Convention (UNEP-CEP);

- the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS);
- the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO);
- the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

15. BDC will facilitate, for those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States, the coordinated and coherent implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. In particular, BDC shall develop regionally coordinated and ecologically relevant common indicator assessments, maintain an up-to-date description of Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programmes (CEMP appendices) and work on regionally coordinated measures to improve the status of the environment.