



# OSPAR Recommendation 2019/01 on the reduction of marine litter through the Implementation of Sustainability Training Programmes for Fishers

(Consolidated text)<sup>1</sup>

## Source:

**OSPAR Recommendation 2019/01 adopted by OSPAR 2019 (OSPAR 19/20/01, Annex 15)**

**OSPAR Recommendation 2024/03 amending OSPAR Recommendation 2019/01 (OSPAR 24/15/01, Annex 13)**

## Preamble

RECALLING Articles 3 and 5 of, and Annexes I, III and V to, the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (“the OSPAR Convention”) which require the Contracting Parties to take, individually and jointly, all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution from land-based and from offshore sources in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

RECALLING Annex V to the OSPAR Convention on the protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity of the maritime area, and in particular its Article 3 1.a, which makes it a duty of the OSPAR Commission to draw up programmes and measures for the control of the human activities identified by the application of the criteria in Appendix 3;

**RECALLING** Strategic Objective 4 of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES 2030), which is to prevent inputs of and significantly reduce marine litter, including microplastics, in the marine environment to reach levels that do not cause adverse impacts to the marine and coastal environment with the ultimate aim of eliminating inputs of litter;

**RECOGNISING** the adoption of the Second OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML 2) agreed in June 2022 as set out in OSPAR Agreement 2022-05 as the main instrument to deliver the NEAES 2030 objectives on-marine litter reduction;

**RECOGNISING** the results of OSPAR’s 2023 Quality Status Report that show that overall the amounts of marine litter in the OSPAR Maritime Area remain high, despite signs of improvement;

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<sup>1</sup> The consolidated text integrates the original OSPAR measure with subsequent amendments adopted by OSPAR in a single, non-official document to facilitate documentation. Only the original OSPAR measure and the subsequent measures adopted by OSPAR to amend the basic measure are official documents.

**RECOGNISING** the respective Background Document on Sustainability Education at fishing education bodies in OSPAR countries (OSPAR publication 2018/709);

**RECALLING** the International Maritime Organization (IMO) revised International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F), 1995, that contains standards of training, certification and watchkeeping for all fishers, and includes aspects of sustainable fisheries training providing a legal basis for sustainable fisheries training for fishers in countries that have ratified STCW-F;

**RECOGNISING** that the EU sponsored Catching the Potential project has conducted sustainable fisheries training pilots in seven EU countries from 2019-2023 and has developed an EU wide training standard for sustainable fisheries training for fishers;

**AIMING** to provide a means for Contracting Parties to address one of the main sources of marine litter through education and changes in behaviour;

**NOTING** the successful establishment by some Contracting Parties of sustainability training programmes for fishers.

**The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic RECOMMEND:**

**1. Definitions**

1.1 For the purpose of this Recommendation:

- a. *“Sustainability training programmes for fishers”* means all training, workshops and other educational programmes that offer knowledge and understanding of (the importance and the implementation of) sustainable fishing and its contribution to the reduction of marine litter.
- b. *“Marine Litter”* means any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material deliberately discarded or unintentionally lost on beaches, on shores or at sea. It includes materials transported into the marine environment from land by rivers, draining or sewage systems or winds.

**2. Scope and Purpose**

2.1 The purpose of this Recommendation is to reduce marine litter by promoting the implementation of sustainability training programmes for fishers including addressing the social, economic and ecological impacts of marine litter.

2.2 The implementation of sustainability training programmes for fishers should enable fishers to gain understanding of sustainable fishing, of the marine environment and its challenges and of the economic viability of the fishing industry. The aim is to inspire them to take more consideration of the marine environment, contributing to the prevention of new marine litter and to a responsible, sustainable and successful fishing industry.

**3. Programmes and Measures**

3.1 Contracting Parties should promote the use of the OSPAR Guidelines on the reduction of marine litter through Sustainability Training Programmes for Fishers (OSPAR Agreement 2019-08). To this end, they should implement:

- a. basic sustainable fisheries training for all fishers that satisfies the mandatory STCW-F requirements and prepares fishers to participate in the sustainable development of the fishing industry;
- b. additional training based on the add-ons referenced in Agreement 2019-08 and on voluntary STCW-F requirements, when relevant, for example if fishers are dealing with additional regulations, are working together with scientists or other stakeholders in the supply chain, or are engaged in projects that require extra information or knowledge; or
- c. equivalent sustainability training programmes.

3.2 Contracting Parties should notify the details of their national contact for these initiatives to the OSPAR Secretariat.

#### **4. Implementation Reports**

4.1 Contracting Parties should report by 31 January 2021 on the implementation of this Recommendation to the appropriate OSPAR subsidiary body. After 31 January 2021 Contracting Parties should report every three years on the implementation of this Recommendation.

4.2 Contracting Parties should include in the reporting:

- a. a short description of planned activities or activities undertaken to implement this Recommendation;
- b. the number of fishing education bodies with a sustainability training programme for fishers.

4.3 When reporting on implementation, the format as set out in Appendix 1 should be used as far as possible.

4.4 The OSPAR Commission will review arrangements set out in this Recommendation every six years in light of experience of its implementation, based on the reports submitted in line with the reporting format in Appendix 1.

#### **5. Entry into Force**

5.1 This Recommendation has effect from 28 June 2019.

## OSPAR Recommendation 2019/01 on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of sustainability training programmes for fishers

### I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country:

Reservation applies:

Is measure applicable in your country?

If not applicable, then state why not

#### Means of Implementation:

| By legislation | By administrative action | By negotiated agreement |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| yes/no*        | yes/no*                  | yes/no*                 |

Please provide information on:

- specific measures taken to give effect to this measure in line with the Guidelines on the reduction of marine litter through Sustainability Training Programmes for fishers, especially concerning the implementation of the short or full education programme or of equivalent programmes and the number of fishing education bodies with a sustainability training programme for fishers;
- any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;
- any reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported.

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\* Delete whichever is not appropriate.