



# OSPAR Recommendation 2024/03 amending OSPAR Recommendation 2019/01 on the reduction of marine litter through the Implementation of Sustainability Education Programmes for Fishers

## 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;

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

**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.

**WISHING** to up-date OSPAR Recommendation 2019/01 on the reduction of marine litter through the Implementation of Sustainability Education Programmes for Fishers to reflect the changed standard for sustainable fisheries training, as developed by the European project "Catching the Potential - setting the standard for Sustainable fisheries training in Europe (CTP)".

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

### 1. Purpose and Scope

1.1 The purpose of this Recommendation is to update OSPAR Recommendation 2019/01 on the reduction of marine litter through the Implementation of Sustainability Education Programmes for Fishers.

### 2. Provisions

#### Title

2.1 The title of the Recommendation is amended to read:

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

## General

2.2 The term “sustainability education programmes” is replaced with “sustainability training programmes” wherever it appears.

## Preamble

2.3 In the Preamble of Recommendation 2019/01, the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph is replaced by the following text:

**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;

2.4 In the Preamble of Recommendation 2019/01, the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph is replaced by the following text:

**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;

2.5 In the Preamble of Recommendation 2019/01, a new 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph is inserted as follows:

**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;

2.6 In the Preamble of Recommendation 2019/01, a new 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph is inserted as follows:

**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.

2.7 In the Preamble of Recommendation 2019/01, a new 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph is inserted as follows:

**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.

## Section 1 (Definitions)

2.8 In Section 1 (Definitions) of Recommendation 2019/01, the following definition is amended as follows:

- 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.

2.9 In Section 1 (Definitions) of Recommendation 2019/01, the following definition is amended as follows:

- 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.

### **Section 3 (Programmes and Measures)**

2.10 In Section 3 (Programmes and Measures) of Recommendation 2019/01, paragraph 3.1 (a.) is replaced by the following text:

- 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.

2.11 In Section 3 (Programmes and Measures) of Recommendation 2019/01, a new paragraph 3.1 (b.) is included, as follows:

- 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

2.12 In Section 3 (Programmes and Measures) of Recommendation 2019/01, paragraph 3.1 (b.) is renumbered as paragraph 3.1 (c).

### **3. Entry into Force**

3.1 This Recommendation has effect from 28 June 2024.