



OSPAR Recommendation 2024/01 on the Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme

Preamble

RECALLING Article 6 of, and Annex IV to, the OSPAR Convention, which require the Contracting Parties to undertake and publish at regular intervals joint assessments of the quality status of the marine environment and of its development, and to cooperate in carrying out monitoring programmes, as well as other obligations under the Convention to carry out monitoring and make assessments,

NOTING with satisfaction the contribution which the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP), originally approved by the joint Recommendation 95/01 of the Oslo and Paris Commissions and subsequently OSPAR Recommendations 2003/01, 2010/01, 2014/18, has made to the assessments of the quality status of the maritime area in the Quality Status Report 2000, the Quality Status Report 2010, the Intermediate Assessment 2017, and the Quality Status Report 2023,

DESIRING to ensure sound, scientifically based evaluations of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Strategy of the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic 2030 (NEAES 2030) and the effective identification of priorities for future action,

RECALLING OSPAR'S Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme (CEMP) (Agreement 2016-01) which aims to deliver comparable data from across the maritime area, and to use these data to prepare coherent assessments that address the specific issues identified in the JAMP,

DESIRING to support the activities of Contracting Parties in implementing the ecosystem approach including, where appropriate, under the Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of the marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive),

INTENDING to maintain regular, sound, scientifically based assessments of the overall quality status of the maritime area, its regions and sub-regions to support the implementation of the NEAES 2030 and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive,

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

1. Definitions

1.1 For the purposes of this Recommendation:

“the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP)” means the programme of that name approved by the OSPAR Commission on 28 June 2024 as from time to time amended by the OSPAR Commission;

“assessment” means a statement of the whole or part of the current knowledge of the health of the environment of an area of the sea and its coastal margin, and of the human activities¹ affecting it. The evaluation of the effectiveness of measures taken and planned for the protection of the marine environment and the identification of priorities for action should also form part of it;

¹ Human activities include both sea-based and land-based activities.

“monitoring” means the repeated measurement of:

- a. the quality of the marine environment and each of its compartments, that is, water, sediments and biota;
- b. activities or natural and anthropogenic inputs which may affect the quality of the marine environment;
- c. the effects of such activities and inputs.

2. Scope and Purpose

2.1 This Recommendation applies to the monitoring and assessment of the quality status of the maritime area, its regions and sub-regions, as well as to other collection of data and its evaluation as set out in the JAMP.

2.2 The purposes of this Recommendation are:

- a. to fulfil the obligations under the OSPAR Convention in relation to monitoring and assessment;
- b. as part of that, in particular to evaluate the progress in the implementation of the ecosystem approach and the NEAES 2030;
- c. to support an integrated approach to the protection and conservation of the marine environment through establishing the quality status of all its aspects and identifying priorities for action.

3. Programme

3.1 The JAMP should be implemented. Such implementation implies the commitment by each Contracting Party of an appropriate level of resources in order to achieve the common purposes.

4. Reporting

4.1 The preparation and publication of the assessments specified in the JAMP should proceed on the timetable there identified, in order to report on the monitoring and other data collection, and on the assessment of the aspects of the marine environment and the evaluation of the implementation of the ecosystem approach and the NEAES 2030.

4.2 Where an authority or international body other than the OSPAR Commission is competent for some aspect of the marine environment where reasonable grounds for concern are shown by an assessment under the JAMP, those grounds of concern should be drawn to the attention of that authority or body.

5. Entry into Force

5.1 This Recommendation has effect from 28 June 2024. Upon taking effect, this Recommendation supersedes OSPAR Recommendation 2014/18.