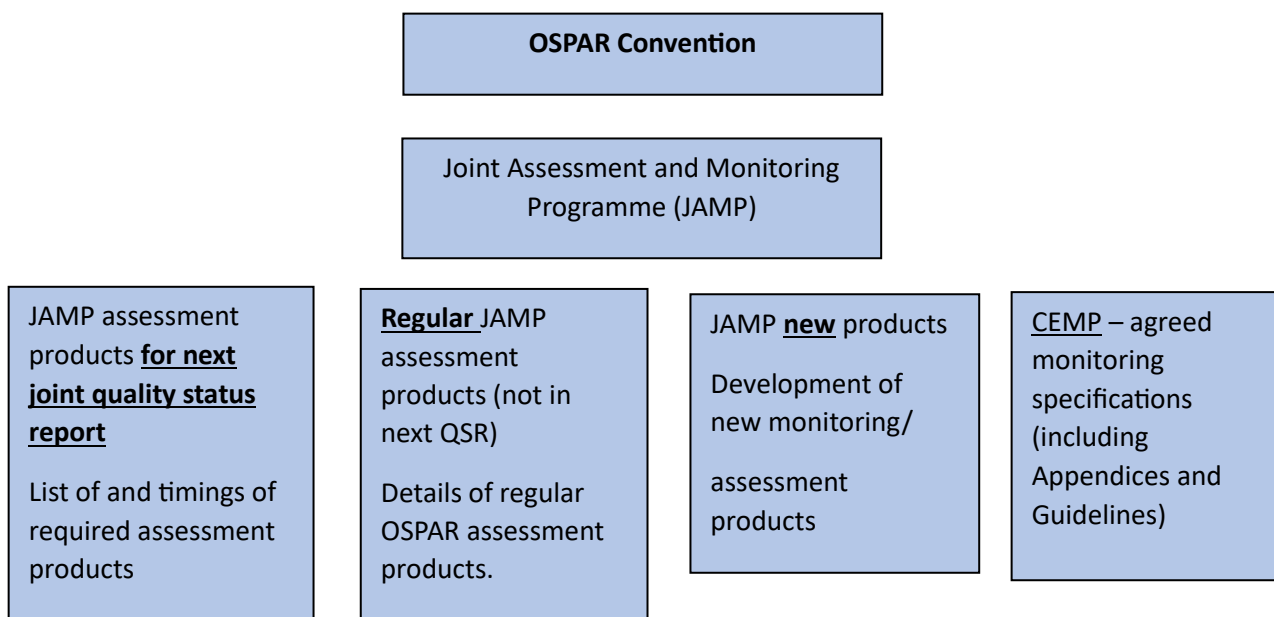


OSPAR Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP) 2024-2028¹

OSPAR Agreement 2024-01



Introduction

1. Monitoring and assessment of the North-East Atlantic is the basis for better understanding its status and is essential to support and guide OSPAR's work to protect the marine environment. The Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme's (JAMP) primary purpose is to describe the products OSPAR Contracting Parties are committed to deliver, through collaborative efforts, to deliver OSPAR Contracting Parties' obligations in Article 6 and Annex IV of the OSPAR Convention to:
 - a. undertake and publish regular joint assessments of the quality status of the marine environment and of its development; and
 - b. assess the effectiveness of measures and identify priorities for action.
2. It sets out a framework to provide the evidence needed by Contracting Parties:
 - a. to take all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution;

¹ Replaces OSPAR Agreement 2014-02

- b. to take measures to protect the OSPAR maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities; and
 - c. to protect and conserve marine species and habitats and, where practicable restore marine areas that have been adversely affected.
3. It supports implementation of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES) 2030 ([NEAES](#)) and, for those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States, implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, Directive 2008/56/EC²).
4. The last OSPAR Quality Status Report was published in 2023 in line with the framework established under the JAMP 2014-2023. This revision replaces the previous JAMP 2014-2023 and is designed to guide delivery of the next OSPAR joint quality status report.

Objectives

5. The objectives of the JAMP are to:
 - a. describe OSPAR's goals and framework for joint assessment and monitoring;
 - b. identify the assessments to be included in the next joint quality status report of the status of the marine environment of the OSPAR Maritime Area or its regions, including the exploration of new or emerging problems in the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic (**Annex I**);
 - c. list regular OSPAR assessment products which will not feature in the next joint quality status report (**Annex II**);
 - d. list new JAMP monitoring and assessment tools that need to be developed (**Annex III**); and
 - e. list the products covered by OSPAR's Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme (CEMP) (**Annex IV**).
6. The assessments undertaken under the JAMP will help to inform the review of OSPAR strategies, including where further measures to protect the marine environment are needed and identify knowledge and research gaps.
7. To deliver these objectives OSPAR Contracting Parties will, where necessary, collectively:
 - a. implement and further develop existing OSPAR monitoring programmes;
 - b. develop additional coordinated environmental monitoring programmes (CEMP);
 - c. develop the tools and collect the further data and information required for the delivery of joint quality status reports;
 - d. establish complementary or joint scientific or technical research programmes for the delivery of joint quality status reports;
 - e. develop the tools and collect the data and information required to deliver an assessment of the effectiveness of relevant measures;
 - f. develop new tools to support the understanding of emerging issues in the marine environment; and
 - g. publish the next joint quality status report in 2028.

² Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)

Guiding principles

8. A key purpose of OSPAR assessment products is to inform policy decisions. To support this process OSPAR joint assessment and monitoring programmes follow a clear progression from data and information collection and management to assessment and decision-making. This requires:
 - a. consideration of the outcomes of the previous joint quality status report;
 - b. identification of clear questions that need answers, and understanding cause-effect;
 - c. monitoring programmes that are scientifically and operationally robust and fit for purpose;
 - d. a focus on the opportunities to strengthen internationally coordinated monitoring to allow assessment at the appropriate geographic scale;
 - e. robust data management under the OSPAR Data and Information Management System (ODIMS) to deliver high quality outputs that are accessible to a wide range of users;
 - f. the preparation of environmental assessments of the marine environment of the OSPAR maritime area or its regions (see Agreement 2020-04 on the OSPAR Maritime Area and its regions³); and
 - g. where appropriate, the use of information from other sources.

See Appendix 1 for a checklist of issues to consider when developing new joint monitoring activities.

Enabling conditions

9. Development of joint assessment and monitoring products by OSPAR Contracting Parties will be facilitated by the following:
 - a. **Availability of resources.** Assessment and monitoring is an obligation under the OSPAR Convention. The JAMP should be implemented. Such implementation implies the commitment by each Contracting Party of an appropriate level of resources. The list of assessment products included in each joint quality assessment report will be subject to the availability of available resources.
 - b. **Adherence to agreed methodologies:** data and information should be gathered in accordance with agreed OSPAR guidelines and procedures and be comparable across the OSPAR Maritime Area.
 - c. **Economy of OSPAR effort and burden sharing:** coordination and sharing of effort provide an opportunity to improve cost effectiveness and add value to monitoring and assessment for Contracting Parties.
 - d. **Synergy with other initiatives:** Contracting Parties should seek to increase the synergy and collaboration with other programmes and organisations, both inter-governmental and non-governmental, and at the appropriate geographic scales including with neighbouring marine regions.
 - e. **Data and information management to secure their long-term value:** Information and data collected under the JAMP need to be collected and kept in an appropriate form (e.g. with the required metadata) so that they continue to maintain their value to the OSPAR community.

³ The description of the maritime area and its regions was previously included as an annex to the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (Agreement 2014-02 (now superseded)).

Accessibility

10. OSPAR is committed to making as much information as possible publicly available. The framework for this is set out in Article 9 of the OSPAR Convention. OSPAR JAMP products should be openly accessible to maximise usefulness to policy makers and a wider audience. Data are made available through ODIMS with linkages to corresponding information via OAP where all OSPAR assessments are published.

Supporting operational application of the ecosystem approach

11. The JAMP needs to support the move towards a more operational application of the ecosystem approach. The core of this is an improved scientific understanding of the marine environment to contribute to the periodic review of policy objectives and associated targets and indicators. The JAMP should also enhance the societal relevance of assessments by incorporating socio-economic considerations. In this context the JAMP should support the development of:
 - a. **common indicators:** an improved and comprehensive set of common indicators, including where relevant threshold values, to enable assessment against OSPAR's objective of a clean, healthy, biologically diverse and productive North-East Atlantic, used sustainably;
 - b. **ecosystem assessment methodologies:** building on the DAPSIR approach, where relevant OSPAR assessments, should include a consideration of relevant ecosystem components and their interactions. Assessment criteria (especially for species) should take into account regional differences and spatial scales. To this effect, appropriate aggregation and integration techniques need to be developed;
 - c. **socio-economic data:** socio-economic data are increasingly relevant in support of assessment work. OSPAR's focus is on the sharing of data for natural capital accounting; and
 - d. **integrated environmental assessments:** to support the assessment of environmental status of our seas, paying specific attention to the components described in common indicators and the requirements of other assessments undertaken by Contracting Parties e.g. MSFD.

EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

12. OSPAR's assessment and monitoring activity is undertaken on behalf of its Contracting Parties and aims to add value and avoid duplication. To support this the activities under the JAMP align with and support the requirements of the MSFD and other EU Directives (e.g. Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Habitats and Birds Directives) as much as possible. This should provide opportunities for Contracting Parties to maximise synergies, share resources and expertise and support delivery of national and international assessment and reporting requirements as well as providing the evidence needed for effective management of the marine environment.
13. For those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States the current JAMP will contribute to delivery of MSFD:
 - a. Article 6: regional coordination;
 - b. Article 8: assessment;

- c. Articles 9 and 10: determination of good environmental status and setting of environmental targets;
- d. Article 11: establishment and implementation of coordinated monitoring programmes;
- e. Article 13: programmes of measures; and
- f. Article 19: facilitating access and use of data and information.

Review

- 14. The Coordination Group (CoG), supported by ICG-QSR, has overall responsibility for the delivery of the JAMP. CoG will review progress under the JAMP on an annual basis to ensure that the coordinated monitoring and assessment programmes are delivering the planned outcomes. CoG can revise the JAMP as and when necessary.

ANNEX I

This annex sets out an indicative list of those monitoring and assessment products to be included in the **Intermediate Assessment 2028** on the status of the marine environment of the OSPAR Maritime Area or its regions. The results of these assessments will contribute towards the review of the NEAES 2030 and reporting under the MSFD, for those Contracting Parties that are EU Member States. Priority will be given to issues where there is the greatest likelihood of significant change (in either direction) as a result of changes in drivers (pressures). Details of the product and the timings are included in the associated roadmap which will be used by the relevant subsidiary body to manage delivery of the products.

Cross-cutting issues (CoG)			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
X.1	Key findings report (incl. trends since QSR 2023 and bright spots)		2029
X.2	Cumulative effects assessment (ICG-EcoC)	S7	2029
X.3	Sufficiency of measures		2029
X.4	Assessment of climate change impacts in the marine environment	S10 – S12	2029
X.5	Ocean acidification assessment	S10 – S12	2029
X.6	<i>Socio-economic assessment</i>	S7	2029
X.7	<i>ABNJ assessment</i>		2029
Biodiversity Committee (BDC)			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
BB1	M3 - Common indicator assessment on seal abundance and distribution (Regions I – III: repeat assessment)	S5	2026/2027
BB2	M4 - Common indicator assessment on abundance and distribution of marine mammals (Regions II - IV: repeat assessment, Region I: new)	S5	2026/2027
BB3	M5 - Common indicator assessment on grey seal pup production (Regions I - III: repeat assessment)	S5	2026/2027
BB18	M6 - Common indicator assessment on marine mammal bycatch (Regions II - IV: repeat assessment, Region I: new)	S5	2026/2027
BBx	M7 - Candidate indicator assessment on status and trends of persistent chemical in marine mammals (Region I, II, III, IV: repeat assessment, but seek promotion to Common Indicator) (BDC&HASEC)	S5	2026/2027
BB4	B1 – Common indicator assessment on marine bird abundance (Region I - IV: repeat assessment, Region V: new)	S5	2026/2027
BBx	B1 - Pilot assessment on at sea marine bird abundance (Region II: repeat assessment, Region I, III, IV: new assessment)	S5	2026/2027
BB5	B3 – Common indicator assessment on marine bird breeding success (Regions I – IV: repeat assessment, Region V: new)	S5	2026/2027

BBx	B5 - Pilot Assessment on Marine bird bycatch (Regions I-V: repeat assessment, but seek promotion to Common Indicator)	S5	2026/2027
BBx	B7 - Pilot Assessment on marine bird habitat quality (Region II: repeat assessment; Regions I and III-V: new)	S5	2026/2027
BB6	FC1 – Common indicator assessment on recovery of sensitive fish species (Regions II-V: repeat assessment, Region I: new)	S5	2026/2027
BB21	BH1 – Common Indicator on Sentinels of the seabed (Region IV: repeat assessment, Regions II and III: new)	S5	2026/2027
BB8	BH2 – Common indicator assessment on condition of benthic habitat communities: the common conceptual approach (Regions I-V: repeat assessment)	S5	2026/2027
BB8	BH2a – Common indicator assessment of some coastal habitats exposed to nutrient and organic enrichment (Regions II-IV: repeat assessment, Regions I and V: new)	S5	2026/2027
BB8	BH2b – Common indicator assessment on condition of benthic habitat communities (Region II: repeat assessment, Regions I and III-V: new)	S5	2026/2027
BB9	BH3a – Common indicator assessment on extent of physical disturbance to benthic habitats – fisheries assessment (Region II-IV: repeat assessment, Regions I and V: new)	S5	2026/2027
BB9	BH3b – Common indicator assessment on extent of physical disturbance to benthic habitats – aggregate extraction (Region II-IV: repeat assessment, Regions I and V: new)	S5	2026/2027
BB8	BH3c – Pilot assessment on extent of physical disturbance to benthic habitats – offshore installations (Region I-V: repeat assessment)	S5	2026/2027
BB20	BH4 – Common indicator assessment on area of habitat loss (Region II except Norwegian waters; promoted from candidate in 2024)	S5	2026/2027
BB10	PH1/FW5 – Common indicator assessment on changes of phytoplankton and zooplankton communities (Regions II-IV: repeat assessment, Regions I and V: new)	S5	2026/2027
BB11	PH2 – Common indicator assessment on plankton biomass and/or abundance (Regions II-IV: repeat assessment, Regions I and V: new)	S5	2026/2027
BB12	PH3 – Common indicator assessment on changes in biodiversity index(es) (Region III: repeat assessment, Region II and IV: new common indicator assessment, Regions I and V: new pilot assessment)	S5	2026/2027
BB13	NIS3 – Common indicator assessment on Trends in introduction of new record of NIS introduced by human activities (Region II - IV: repeat assessment, Regions I and V: new pilot assessment)	S7	2026/2027
BB14	FW2 – Pilot assessment on production of phytoplankton (Regions II-IV: seek promotion to common indicator, Regions I and V: new pilot assessment)	S5	2026/2027

BB15	FW3 – Common indicator assessment on size composition in fish communities (TyL) (Regions II – IV: repeat assessment, Regions I and V: new)	S5	2026/2027
BB16	FW4 – Common indicator assessment on changes in average trophic level of marine predators (cf MTI) (Region IV: repeat assessment)	S5	2026/2027
BB7	FC2 – Common indicator assessment on proportion of large fish (Large Fish Index) (Regions II – V: repeat assessment, Region I: new)	S5	2026/2027
BB19	FC3 – Pilot assessment on mean maximum length of demersal fish and elasmobranchs (Regions II-IV: seek promotion to common indicator, Regions I and V: new pilot assessment)	S5	2026/2027
BBx	FW7 – Pilot assessment on fish biomass and abundance of dietary functional groups (Regions II – IV: repeat assessment, Regions I and V: new)	S5	2026/2027
BBx	FW9 – Pilot assessment on ecological network analysis (Region II: repeat assessment, Region IV and V: new)	S5	2026/2027
BBx	State Chapter of Thematic Assessment Marine Birds	S5	2028
BBx	State Chapter of Thematic Assessment Marine Mammals	S5	2028
BBx	State Chapter of Thematic Assessment Pelagic Habitats	S5	2028
BBx	State Chapter of Thematic Assessment Benthic Habitats	S5	2028
BBx	State Chapter of Thematic Assessment Non-Indigenous Species	S5	2028
BBx	State Chapter of Thematic Assessment Fish	S5	2028
BBx	State Chapter of Thematic Assessment Foodwebs	S5	2028
Environmental Impacts of Human Activities (EIHA)			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
	Common indicator assessment on beach litter	S4	2025/26 and 2028
	Common indicator assessment on plastic particles in Fulmar stomachs	S4	2026
	Common indicator assessment on marine litter ingested by sea turtles	S4	2026
	Common indicator assessment on Seafloor litter	S4	2025/26
	Common indicator assessment on microlitter (including microplastics) in sediments	S4	2026
	Common indicator assessment on pressure of impulsive noise	S7	2026
	Common indicator assessment on risk of impact of impulsive noise on biota	S7	2026
	Common indicator assessment on ambient noise (if approved)	S7	2027
	Assessment of Data on the Management of Wastes or Other Matter (Dredged Material) – for the period 2020-2026	S7	2028
	Hydrographic conditions	S7	tbc
	Feeder report: offshore renewables	S12	2027

	Feeder report: aquaculture [subject to confirmation]	S7	2027
	Feeder report update: Production and consumption of plastics	S4	2027
	Feeder report: Marine geo-engineering	S7, S12	2027
Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee (HASEC)			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
	Integrated assessment on eutrophication		
	Common indicator assessment on Inputs of heavy metals via water and air		
	Common indicator assessment on Waterborne & atmospheric nutrient input trends		
	Potential common indicator assessment on Follow-up of nutrient reduction plans / PARCOM 88/2		
	Common indicator assessment on Winter nutrient concentrations		
	Potential common indicator assessment on Total nutrient concentrations		
	Common indicator assessment on Growing season concentrations of chlorophyll-a		
	Common indicator assessment on Concentrations of dissolved oxygen near the seafloor		
	Potential common indicator assessment on Changes in Secchi depth / extinction coefficient		
	Common indicator assessment on Status and trends for heavy metals (mercury, cadmium and lead) in fish and shellfish & sediment		
	Common indicator assessment on Status and trends in the concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in shellfish & sediment		
	Common indicator assessment on Status and trends in the levels of imposex in marine gastropods (TBT in Shellfish)		
	Common indicator assessment on Status and trends of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in fish and shellfish & sediment		
	Common indicator assessment on Status and trends of TBT in sediments		
	Common indicator assessment on Trends in concentrations of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in fish and shellfish & sediment		
	Other assessment on a Case study on the CONNECT project or similar report on emerging chemicals / NTS results		
	Other assessment on Fish disease index assessment		
	Other assessment on Integrated biological effects approach		
	Integrated assessment on the Status and Trend hazardous substances using CHASE		
	Pilot assessment on Trends and Status of persistent chemicals in marine mammals (HASEC and BDC)		

Offshore Industry Committee (OIC)			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
	Assessment on impacts of the offshore oil and gas industry on the marine environment (OIC)	S2, S4, S8, S9, S12	2027
Radioactive substances Committee			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
	Assessment on discharges of radionuclides from the nuclear sector (RSC)	S3	2027
	Assessment on environmental concentrations of artificial radionuclides in seawater	S3	2027

ANNEX II

This annex lists regular OSPAR assessment products which will not feature in the next joint quality status report.

Biodiversity Committee			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
	Assessment of the Status of the OSPAR network of MPAs	S5	Produced annually
	Report and Assessment of the Status of the OSPAR network of Marine Protected Areas	S5	Produced biannually
	Threatened and/or declining species and habitats Status Assessments (includes impact of human activities) – various species/habitats (BDC&EIHA)	S5	Ongoing
	Overview Assessment of Implementation of OSPAR Recommendations for Protection and Conservation of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats	S5	2025/2026
Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee (HASEC)			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
	Atmospheric and riverine inputs other assessment (Waterborne and Atmospheric Inputs of Nutrients and Metals to the Sea)		
	<i>RID Annual Report</i>		
	<i>Nitrogen Depositions and Atmospheric Deposition products</i>		
	<i>Levels and trends in marine contaminants and their biological effects</i>		
Offshore Industry Committee (OIC)			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
	Assessment on environmental concentrations of naturally occurring radionuclides	S3	
Radioactive Substances Committee			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date

ANNEX III

This Annex lists any new JAMP monitoring and assessment tools to be developed

Biodiversity Committee			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
BB8	BH2c – Pilot assessment on impacts of NIS on some coastal habitats (Regions I-V)	S7	
BBx	BH6 – Pilot assessment of benthic indicator species index (BISI) (Region II)	S5	
BBx	NISx –Pilot assessment on NIS ‘GES’ (following JRC approach) (Region II-IV)	S7	
BBx	NISx – Pilot assessment on impact of NIS (secondary indicator) (Regions II – IV)	S7	
BBx	FW6 – Pilot assessment on biomass, species composition and spatial distribution of zooplankton (Regions I-V)	S5	
BBx	MT1 – Sea turtle bycatch (Regions I-V)	S5	
BBx	MT2 – Loggerhead turtle abundance at sea (Region V)	S5	
Environmental Impacts of Human Activities			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
Hazardous substances and eutrophication Committee			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
Offshore oil and gas Committee			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
Radioactive Substances Committee			
Reference	Product name	Strategic Objective	Delivery date
	Common indicator assessment on discharges of radionuclides from the nuclear sector	S3	
	Common indicator assessment on environmental concentrations of artificial radionuclides		
	Common indicator assessment on discharges of radionuclides from the non-nuclear sector		

ANNEX IV Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme

1. This annex links to OSPAR's Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme (CEMP) (OSPAR Agreement 2016-01). The CEMP (Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme) is the part of OSPAR's monitoring and assessment work that aims to deliver comparable data by coordinating monitoring, data collection and assessment activities with the aim of facilitating the development of common and coherent assessments to deliver the JAMP.
2. The CEMP is made up of three elements:
 - a. CEMP Agreement which details common approaches for the implementation of data collection and monitoring and data analysis and assessment. It lists the components of the marine environment and human pressures that Contracting Parties have agreed to monitor and assess;
 - b. CEMP Guidelines which provide detailed guidance on agreed monitoring and assessment methods grouped under Cross-cutting, Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Eutrophication, Hazardous Substances, Offshore Oil and Gas industry, Radioactive Substances; and
 - c. CEMP Appendices set out details of the agreed monitoring and assessment approaches for each component, including the approaches to be applied to realise coordination of monitoring and assessment. The CEMP Appendices align OSPAR's monitoring and assessment products with the European Commission's (EC) MSFD Art.11 monitoring programme reporting tables to assist Contracting Parties that are member states in their MSFD reporting commitments.

Appendix 1: Common understanding of the approach for putting monitoring and assessment in a single framework

To maximise the 'return on their investment' in developing new joint monitoring activities Contracting Parties will consider the following checklist:

- a. Is the assessment question(s) and the objective and purpose of any monitoring clear?
- b. Is the monitoring strategy (spatial and temporal coverage in relation to statistical demands and representativity) clear?
- c. Are the monitoring parameters determined (incl. any necessary control variables) in relation to the assessment need?
- d. Are adequate sampling or observation methodologies available? Are adequate analytical methodologies available?
- e. Are QA/QC methods available?
- f. Are assessment tools available (as the case may be: statistical analysis tools, assessment criteria)
- g. Has the scope for pooling monitoring infrastructures and resources been established?
- h. Are automated processes for delivering assessments technically feasible for common indicators or other assessment products?
- i. Are there arrangements for the monitoring metadata and data management at national level and at OSPAR level, georeferencing of the data?
- j. Is it clear how change management (modifying important features, such as adding or removing parameters, changing coverage,...) should be addressed at OSPAR level?

Monitoring efforts could be focused on, or redeployed to areas where there is the greatest likelihood of significant change (in either direction) as a result of changes in drivers (pressures).