

**Biodiversity Series**

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**2005 / 2006 Report on the Status of the  
OSPAR Network of Marine Protected  
Areas**



**OSPAR Commission  
2006**

The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the “OSPAR Convention”) was opened for signature at the Ministerial Meeting of the former Oslo and Paris Commissions in Paris on 22 September 1992. The Convention entered into force on 25 March 1998. It has been ratified by Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom and approved by the European Community and Spain.

*La Convention pour la protection du milieu marin de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est, dite Convention OSPAR, a été ouverte à la signature à la réunion ministérielle des anciennes Commissions d'Oslo et de Paris, à Paris le 22 septembre 1992. La Convention est entrée en vigueur le 25 mars 1998. La Convention a été ratifiée par l'Allemagne, la Belgique, le Danemark, la Finlande, la France, l'Irlande, l'Islande, le Luxembourg, la Norvège, les Pays-Bas, le Portugal, le Royaume-Uni de Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord, la Suède et la Suisse et approuvée par la Communauté européenne et l'Espagne.*

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## **Executive Summary/Récapitulatif**

In the 2003 Bremen ministerial statement OSPAR agreed to identify a first set of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2006, establish what gaps then remain and complete by 2010 a joint network of well-managed marine protected areas that, together with the NATURA 2000 network, is ecologically coherent. For this purpose OSPAR 2003 adopted Recommendation 2003/3 on a network of Marine Protected Areas which has the aim of establishing the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas and ensuring that by 2010 it is both ecologically coherent and well-managed.

*Dans la déclaration ministérielle de Brème de 2003 OSPAR est convenue de définir un premier groupe de zones marines protégées (ZMP), en 2006 au plus tard, de déterminer les lacunes qui subsistent alors et de parachever, en 2010 au plus tard, un réseau commun de ZMP bien géré qui, avec le réseau de NATURA 2000, soit écologiquement cohérent. A cette fin, OSPAR 2003 a adopté la Recommandation 2003/3 concernant un réseau de zones marines protégées dont l'objectif est de créer un réseau OSPAR de zones marines protégées et de s'assurer que, en 2010 au plus tard, il s'agisse d'un réseau écologiquement cohérent et bien géré.*

This report, which has been prepared during the first half of 2006, presents the first evaluation of the status of the OSPAR network of MPAs. Up to this point Contracting Parties (France, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the UK) had reported on the selection of 81 MPAs as components of the network.

*Le présent rapport, qui a été préparé durant le premier semestre de 2006, présente la première évaluation de l'état du réseau de ZMP d'OSPAR. Jusqu'à ce jour, les Parties contractantes (Allemagne, France, Norvège, Portugal, Royaume-Uni et Suède) faisaient rapport sur 81 ZMP sélectionnées en tant qu'éléments du réseau.*

Although the sites selected so far provide a good basis for the network, all the sites reported by EU member states are either wholly or partially Natura 2000 sites. Most Contracting Parties have so far concentrated on sites in the nearshore zone with only Germany and Norway reporting sites within their Exclusive Economic Zones. No proposals have been received so far for MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

*Bien que tous les sites qui ont été sélectionnés jusqu'à présent constituent une bonne base pour le réseau, tous les sites qui font l'objet d'une notification de la part des états membres de l'UE sont soit totalement soit partiellement des sites Natura 2000. La plupart des Parties contractantes se sont concentrées, jusqu'à présent, sur les sites de la zone côtière. Seules l'Allemagne et la Norvège notifient des sites dans leurs zones économiques exclusives. Jusqu'à présent, aucune ZMP située au-delà des juridictions nationales n'a été proposée.*

Identification and selection of further sites is therefore necessary before the network can be considered as having met the aims of being ecologically coherent and well managed. OSPAR has therefore agreed that to monitor progress further annual reports on the status of the OSPAR network of MPAs should be prepared in the period up to 2010.

*Il est donc nécessaire de déterminer et de sélectionner des sites supplémentaires avant de considérer que le réseau a atteint son objectif, à savoir être un réseau écologiquement cohérent et bien géré. OSPAR est donc convenue que de nouveaux rapports annuels sur l'état du réseau de ZMP d'OSPAR devront être préparés avant 2010 afin de surveiller les progrès accomplis.*

## 1. Background

In the 2003 Bremen ministerial statement OSPAR agreed, through working with HELCOM and the European Community, to identify the first set of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2006, establish what gaps then remain and complete by 2010 a joint network of well-managed marine protected areas that, together with the NATURA 2000 network, is ecologically coherent;

Accordingly OSPAR 2003 adopted Recommendation 2003/3 with the purpose of establishing the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas and ensuring that by 2010 it is an ecologically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas.

The OSPAR Biodiversity and Ecosystems Strategy sets out that in 2006 OSPAR will make an evaluation of whether the components of the OSPAR Network that have been selected by that date will be sufficient to make that network an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas for the maritime area. The 2003 Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Helsinki and OSPAR Commissions (JMM 2003) adopted a joint HELCOM-OSPAR work programme on MPAs with the commitment to evaluate by 2006 whether the Baltic Sea Protected Areas and the components of the OSPAR Network of marine protected areas that have been identified by that date are sufficient to constitute the joint network, and take steps to identify and fill any gaps that are identified.

With a view to preparing this evaluation, the 2005 meeting of the OSPAR Working Group on Marine Protected Areas Species and Habitats (MASH) agreed that an Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Protected Areas (ICG-MPA) should carry out the following tasks in the period leading up to the 2006 meeting of the OSPAR Biodiversity Committee (BDC 2006):

- a. review the initial selections of MPAs reported by Contracting Parties as components of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas by the deadline of 31 December 2005;
- b. review the considerations of Contracting Parties on how initially selected sites contribute to an ecologically coherent well managed network of MPAs; and,
- c. on the basis of the above, prepare elements of the report to BDC 2006 on the implementation of Recommendation 2003/3 on a network of Marine Protected Areas.

The ICG-MPA met 24-26 January 2006, in Gothenburg Sweden, to review MPA nominations received up to the time of the meeting. At the meeting Contracting Parties were invited to report on recent developments, discuss their nominations, future intentions, and issues experienced while nominating MPAs. On the basis of the findings of the meeting the structure of this report was drafted.

A draft version of this report was presented to BDC 2006. A further opportunity for Contracting Parties to submit MPA nominations up to a new deadline of 10 April 2006, was allowed before finalisation of the report for presentation to the 2006 meeting of the OSPAR Commission (OSPAR 2006).

## 2. MPA nominations to date

To date the following Contracting Parties have reported areas as components of the OSPAR network of MPAs: France, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and UK. A map is provided as Annex 1 of this document, and a full listing is given in Annex 2. The nominations are summarized below in the order they were received.

Portugal: One site, Formigas/Dollabarat bank, within the waters of the Azores, was reported to MASH 05. It was the first OSPAR MPA nomination. It is a nature reserve with a delimited area of 52 527 hectares, extending to below 1500 metres in depth. Of that, 3 628 ha is also a Natura 2000 site, down to the 200 metre isobath. Electronic nomination and Annex 1 of Rec. 2003/03 was submitted in January 2006.

Norway: Six sites were reported in December 2005. Norway completed all the reporting requirements, including the electronic nomination database, on time. The six sites are: Selligrunnen (nature reserve), Røstrevet, Sularevet, Iverryggen, Tisler, and Fjellknausene, the latter five of which have fisheries closures to bottom-tending gear. The six in total are 190 539 hectares.

Germany: Two very large sites were reported in January 2006, and two more in April 2006. The sites are: Helgoland Seabird Protected Area (a Natura 2000 SPA), Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea (national park

and Natura 2000 SCI), SPA-Eastern German Bight (Natura 2000 SPA), and Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park (Natura 2000 SPA and SAC). The sites comprise a total of 1 192 278 hectares.

Sweden: Six sites were reported in January 06: Koster-Väderö archipelago (some enhanced protections including fisheries restrictions), Gullmarn fjord (also with enhanced protections), Nordre älv estuary (fisheries closures), Kungsbacka fjord (nature reserve), Fladen, and Lilla Middelgrund. The six sites overlap Natura 2000 sites, and are a total of 63 900 hectares.

UK: Fifty-six sites were reported in January 2006. Full reporting requirements are not yet completed. Database and information on management of the sites and precise landward boundaries (and consequently accurate area data) for the sites were not able to be fully reported within the timescale, and will be reported in subsequent years. Total area of sites reported by UK to the OSPAR network is estimated to exceed one million hectares.

France: Eight sites were reported in March 2006: Réserve Naturelle Nationale de la Baie de Somme, Réserve Naturelle de l'Estuaire de la Seine, Réserve Naturelle Nationale du Domaine de Beauguillot, Réserve Naturelle de la Baie de l'Aiguillon, Réserve Naturelle de la baie de Saint Briec, Archipel des Sept îles, Réserve Naturelle de Moëze-Oléron, Réserve Naturelle du Banc d'Arguin. They total 24 252 hectares, and are also Natura 2000 sites.

### 3. Future MPA nominations

On the prospects for future MPA nominations some Contracting Parties have reported that there is a strong likelihood of national OSPAR MPA nominations in the course of 2006. Others are less certain. These possibilities are summarized below in alphabetical order.

Belgium: A Royal decree was issued on 14 October 2005 in which five areas (partially overlapping) were delineated. Two were proposed under the EC Habitats Directive<sup>1</sup>, and three were indicated as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the EC Birds Directive<sup>2</sup>. All five areas are within Belgian territorial waters. An official notification to the EC should follow later in 2006. The next step will be a study to indicate whether it would be relevant if one or more of these sites could also qualify to be nominated as an OSPAR MPA, or whether other areas would qualify. Further information should be available by MASH 2006.

Denmark: Work is underway to consider whether Natura 2000 sites are appropriate for nomination as OSPAR MPAs.

France: The French Parliament has adopted a new law on national parks which would provide a legal basis for creation of marine natural parks in waters under its jurisdiction. The initial selection of French MPAs submitted as components of the OSPAR network of MPAs consists exclusively of MPAs that already have a management body and a management plan which has been approved or is in the process of being approved. France is currently working on the selection of other marine protected areas which could be added to the list as soon as they have a management body and management plan.

Iceland: A cautious approach is being taken towards the MPA reporting process in view of the lack of clarity on MPA issues in some international forums and therefore no timeframe has been set for possible reporting of Icelandic MPAs to OSPAR. Area closure has been an integrated part of the fisheries management in Iceland for decades. For example, a total ban for bottom trawling applied to approximately 16 000 km<sup>2</sup> of the EEZ of Iceland. In addition there are extensive areas closed seasonally or with certain gear restrictions. In 2005 the Act on Fishing in Iceland's Exclusive Fishing Zone was revised to facilitate improved protection of vulnerable marine habitats, including habitat forming species such as *Lophelia pertusa*. The revised Act is still to be implemented. Closure of the five coral areas, covering 80 km<sup>2</sup> in total, to bottom trawling and fishing with static fishing gear has been in operation from 1 January 2006. One hydrothermal vent field and the marine area around the volcanic island Surtsey has also been protected.

Ireland: Resource problems had delayed the reporting of sites selected as components of the OSPAR Network. It is hoped to report the first sites by the time of MASH 2006.

Germany: One further site is under consideration for nomination, possibly in 2006: Hamburgisches Wattenmeer (national park). Later, Germany intends to also include its three EEZ Natura pSCIs in the OSPAR MPA network (Borkum-Riffgrund, Sylter Aussenriff, and Doggerbank), once they have been

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<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7), as amended.

<sup>2</sup> Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 103, 25.4.1979, p. 1), as amended.

confirmed by the European Commission –probably not before 2008. There are also indications from the Federal German State Bremen that the estuary of the river Weser could become an OSPAR MPA, after national approval as a pSCI and confirmation by the European Commission. Nominations for the coastal waters (Territorial and Inner Waters) fall under the obligation of the German States (Länder), whereas nominations within the EEZ are under federal jurisdiction. In all, these nominations would mean that more than 90% of German coastal waters would also be OSPAR MPAs, with large sections of the EEZ waters included as well.

**Netherlands:** The Netherlands' National Spatial Strategy calls for a further delineation of boundaries of the five areas with special ecological values to take place in the Integral Management Plan North Sea 2015. In this national Management Plan four areas now have received protection. Based upon the scientific report, areas with special ecological values on the Dutch Continental Shelf have also been delineated. These areas are: the Doggerbank, the Cleaverbank, the Frisian Front and the Coastal Sea. These sites should receive ministerial approval for nomination as proposed Natura 2000 sites, as well as nominated OSPAR MPA site, by the summer of 2006.

**Norway:** Norway intends to select further sites for nomination when the first phase of Norway's national plan for MPAs has been completed. In addition, surveys for cold water corals are continuing and these may lead to more MPA nominations. So far, seabird areas have not been considered as potential OSPAR MPAs, but in light of other Contracting Parties nominations of seabird areas, Norway will re-examine the possibility of nominating some.

**Portugal:** There are plans to report on the selection of three MPAs covering the Rainbow, Menez Gwen and Lucky Strike hydrothermal vent fields later in 2006. (Originally, the Rainbow hydrothermal vent was thought to be an area outside of national jurisdiction, and was proposed by WWF as an MPA.) Consideration is being given on whether further sites will be reported. These may include sites in the Azores: D. João de Castro Bank, Corvo, and Pico–Faial Channel.

**Spain:** BDC 2006 was assured by Spain of its strong commitment to keep advancing in the process towards the nomination of MPAs to the OSPAR Network. Spain highlighted that having both a large and diverse maritime area and a complex governmental system posed particular challenges to identification and selection and reporting of MPAs. Contacts are taking place with relevant Spanish Institutional Agencies and public administrations to collect the scientific data for the identification of the National Marine Special Areas and to analyse the existing conservation measures within the Spanish OSPAR Area in order to identify those areas which met the OSPAR criteria. Spain plans to report a first MPA within 2006.

**Sweden:** A marine inventory of Kattegat and Skagerrak is ongoing, with results to be evaluated by May 2006. Recently discovered areas of interest include seafloor pockmarks with leaking gases, corals, and algal communities rich in fauna. Once this evaluation is completed, some of these sites may be found to qualify as OSPAR MPAs.

**UK:** Due to uncertainties surrounding how best to delineate the landward extent of the OSPAR Maritime Area, and consequently the relevant parts of SACs contributed as OSPAR MPAs the exact landward boundaries of the 56 sites reported by the UK are still being resolved. Although, it is not expected that any additional OSPAR MPAs will be reported before 2008, the UK is identifying additions to the marine component of the Natura 2000 network and will keep under review whether any of these sites merit reporting towards the OSPAR MPA network.

## **4. OSPAR-wide overview of current MPA network**

These initial nominations are not yet expected to constitute an ecologically coherent or well managed network of MPAs. However, MASH has requested that ICG-MPA consider how these sites contribute to this ultimate goal. In this section, a preliminary look at distribution, features, and management is presented.

**Jurisdictions:** The vast majority of sites nominated to date fall within territorial waters. Only four sites of the 81 nominated fall within an EEZ (3 Norway, 1 Germany). No sites are in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

**Contracting Parties:** Only six of the twelve coastal Contracting Parties have nominated sites. Table 1, below, indicates the numbers of sites per contracting party. Germany has reported the largest total area, covering approximately twelve thousand square kilometres. The UK has reported the most sites, which range in area from relatively large to relatively small. Although the total area of the UK sites has not yet been accurately determined, it is expected to exceed ten thousand square kilometres, making it the second largest contribution. Norway has nominated about two thousand square kilometres, Sweden more than six hundred, Portugal about five hundred, and France more than two hundred.

	Sites	Sq. Km.
Belgium	0	0
Denmark	0	0
France	8	243
Iceland	0	0
Ireland	0	0
Germany	4	11 923
Netherlands	0	0
Norway	6	1 905
Portugal	1	525
Spain	0	0
Sweden	6	639
UK*	56	9 858
TOTAL*	81	25 093
OSPAR Area**		14 167 037

\*Areas for the UK sites are estimates based on Natura 2000 marine area. Actual UK OSPAR numbers have not yet been received, but are expected to be somewhat higher, thereby also raising the overall total.

\*\*Not all of the OSPAR Maritime Area is navigable waters, with significant ice cover in the Arctic region.

OSPAR Regions: Table 2, below, summarizes the distribution of MPA nominations by OSPAR marine region. The best represented regions, II & III, are a reflection of the UK nominations, as well as those from Germany and Sweden, and two from Norway. Norway's other four nominations make up those in the Arctic Region I. The one Atlantic region V nomination is from Portugal. Regions I and V are by far the largest regions, including also areas beyond national jurisdiction. However, to date, there have been no nominations in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Region IV, the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast, has received just three small nominations to date, a reflection of the French contributions, and the absence of nominations by Spain and mainland Portugal.

	I: Arctic	II: N. Sea*	III: Celtic*	IV: Biscay	V: Atlantic	Total*
Sites	4	39	34	3	1	81
Area (sq. km.)	1902	15958	6575	75	525	25035

\*Areas for the UK sites are estimates based on Natura 2000 marine area. Actual UK OSPAR numbers have not yet been received, but are expected to be somewhat higher, thereby also raising the overall total.

OSPAR biogeographic regions: Dinter (2001) delineated the OSPAR maritime area into three large biomes. The first Biome considered the pelagic waters less than 1000m in depth, of which there were three provinces. The second biome considered the seafloor up to 1000m depth, of which there were 17 provinces and sub-provinces. Finally, waters and the seafloor deeper than 1000m were treated together with two broad provinces. Thus altogether, there are 22 biogeographic zones. Using biogeographic zones as a surrogate for describing different ecosystems is generally accepted as the only way forward in the absence of detailed biological information. If an MPA network contains representative portions of each bioregion, it can be considered more likely to meet broad-scale ecological objectives, than a network that does not. The Dinter biomes have been accepted by MASH as one indication of broad-scale representativity for the purpose of establishing the OSPAR network. As can be seen in the table below, representativity of the current network ranges up to 2,72% of the biogeographic zones (Boreal). However, thirteen of the twenty-two biogeographic zones have no representation at all.



**Table 3: Biogeographic Representation**

<b>Biome</b>	<b>Region or Sub-Region</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>MPAs</b>	<b>Sq Km</b>	<b>Bioregional Area</b>
Pelagic	Arctic	na	0	0,0	0,00%
	E. Atlantic Temperate	Cool-temperate*	80	24 659,3	0,37%
	E. Atlantic Temperate	Warm-temperate	1	524,1	0,01%
Shelf & Slope	Arctic	Barents Sea	0	0,0	0,00%
	Arctic	Barents Sea: White Sea	0	0,0	0,00%
	Arctic	High Arctic Maritime	0	0,0	0,00%
	Arctic	NE Greenland Shelf	0	0,0	0,00%
	Arctic	NE Water Polynya	0	0,0	0,00%
	Arctic	SE Greenland, N Iceland	0	0,0	0,00%
	E. Atlantic Temperate	Boreal*	44	19 467,7	2,72%
	E. Atlantic Temperate	Boreal-Lusitanian*	27	2 924,5	0,64%
	E. Atlantic Temperate	Lusitanian-Boreal	0	0,0	0,00%
	E. Atlantic Temperate	Lusitanian Cool	0	0,0	0,00%
	E. Atlantic Temperate	Lusitanian Warm N	1	22,0	0,05%
	E. Atlantic Temperate	Lusitanian Warm S	0	0,0	0,00%
	E. Atlantic Temperate	Macaronesian: Azores	1	524,1	2,32%
	E. Atlantic Temperate	Norway: Finnmark	0	0,0	0,00%
	E. Atlantic Temperate	Norway: Skagerrak	2	3,7	0,02%
E. Atlantic Temperate	Norway: W. Norwegian	4	1 901,7	0,55%	
E. Atlantic Temperate	S Iceland-Faero Shelf	0	0,0	0,00%	
Deep Sea	Arctic	na	0	0,0	0,00%
	Atlantic	na	1	524,1	0,01%

\*Areas for the UK sites are estimates based on Natura 2000 marine area. Actual UK OSPAR numbers have not yet been received, but are expected to be somewhat higher, thereby also raising the bioregional totals.

EUNIS: It has been discussed if OSPAR sites could be evaluated according to the European Nature Information System (MASH 2005 summary record, annex 7). However, as the system is currently not spatially comprehensive throughout the OSPAR maritime area and relevant data have not yet been provided to OSPAR, an evaluation is not possible at this time.

Natura 2000: Of the 75 sites submitted by EU Member States, all of them are Natura 2000 sites. Generally, the boundaries are the same as for the OSPAR sites, however for the Portuguese nomination the Natura site is contained within a much larger OSPAR designation, and for the Swedish nominations, the OSPAR sites were sometimes smaller.

Management plans: Of those Contracting Parties that submitted implementation reports, it was indicated that 13 of the 26 sites had management plans in place. (In addition, the UK has informed ICG-MPA that all SACs reported as OSPAR MPAs either have management arrangements for Natura features in place or in preparation.) In general, it was stated that further plans were being developed for those that did not yet have one.

## 5. Conclusions

Rate of nominations: Half the Contracting Parties have submitted sites. Some others have indicated that they will be submitting sites soon. Nonetheless, the submissions have generally been fewer, and slower than ideal. Those Contracting Parties that remain unclear about their timeline for nominating OSPAR sites are encouraged to develop one.

**Overall Area:** These initial nominations represent about 25 thousand square kilometres, which is a good start. However, in relation to the overall OSPAR maritime area, this is very small (see Table 1 and also Annex 1).

**Distribution:** Currently, the nominated sites are not evenly distributed across the OSPAR maritime area. While even spatial distribution does not necessarily ensure ecological coherence, large spatial gaps can indicate ecological coherence is not being achieved. This currently uneven distribution is in part because some Contracting Parties have not yet nominated sites. However, there is also a general tendency to nominate nearshore sites first, thus leaving the further offshore waters vacant for the time being.

**Areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ):** To date, no MPAs have been nominated in areas beyond national jurisdiction. This is a gap that was discussed by ICG-MPA and needs to be addressed. In cases where the continental platform (shelf) extends beyond 200 nautical miles, the seafloor may be considered under the jurisdiction of the concerned party (up to 350 nm extension of the continental platform (shelf), as provided by UNCLOS), but the water column above it will already be an ABNJ. In such cases, coordination and cooperation between OSPAR and the relevant Contracting Party(ies), as well as the relevant organisations with management authority over ABNJ in the OSPAR maritime area, will be required.

**Coordination with HELCOM:** Since 2003, OSPAR and HELCOM have been working together on the establishment of the MPA network. At OSPAR ICG-MPA 05 and 06, HELCOM presented its work so far with regard to establishing a nomination database, a website application, and looking at ecological coherence. Currently each body uses a different nomination database, reflecting the different criteria used in MPA selection for each convention. As the final "bugs" are addressed in each respective database, the next step, will be to create a tool to connect one database to the other.

**Guidance on ecological coherence:** No Contracting Parties have attempted an assessment of ecological coherence of the network of OSPAR MPAs. OSPAR have adopted a document providing guidance to Contracting Parties on ecological coherence of the network of OSPAR Marine Protected Areas (OSPAR agreement number 2006-3), which provides theoretical guidance on what might need to be considered in the development of an ecologically coherent network of OSPAR MPAs. MASH 2005, ICG-MPA Jan 06, and BDC 2006 agreed that further practical guidance on how to assess whether MPAs reported by Contracting Parties constitute an ecologically coherent network of OSPAR MPAs was required. A drafting group has been established with the aim of having a document ready for MASH 2006. It is hoped that this guidance may also be helpful to HELCOM.

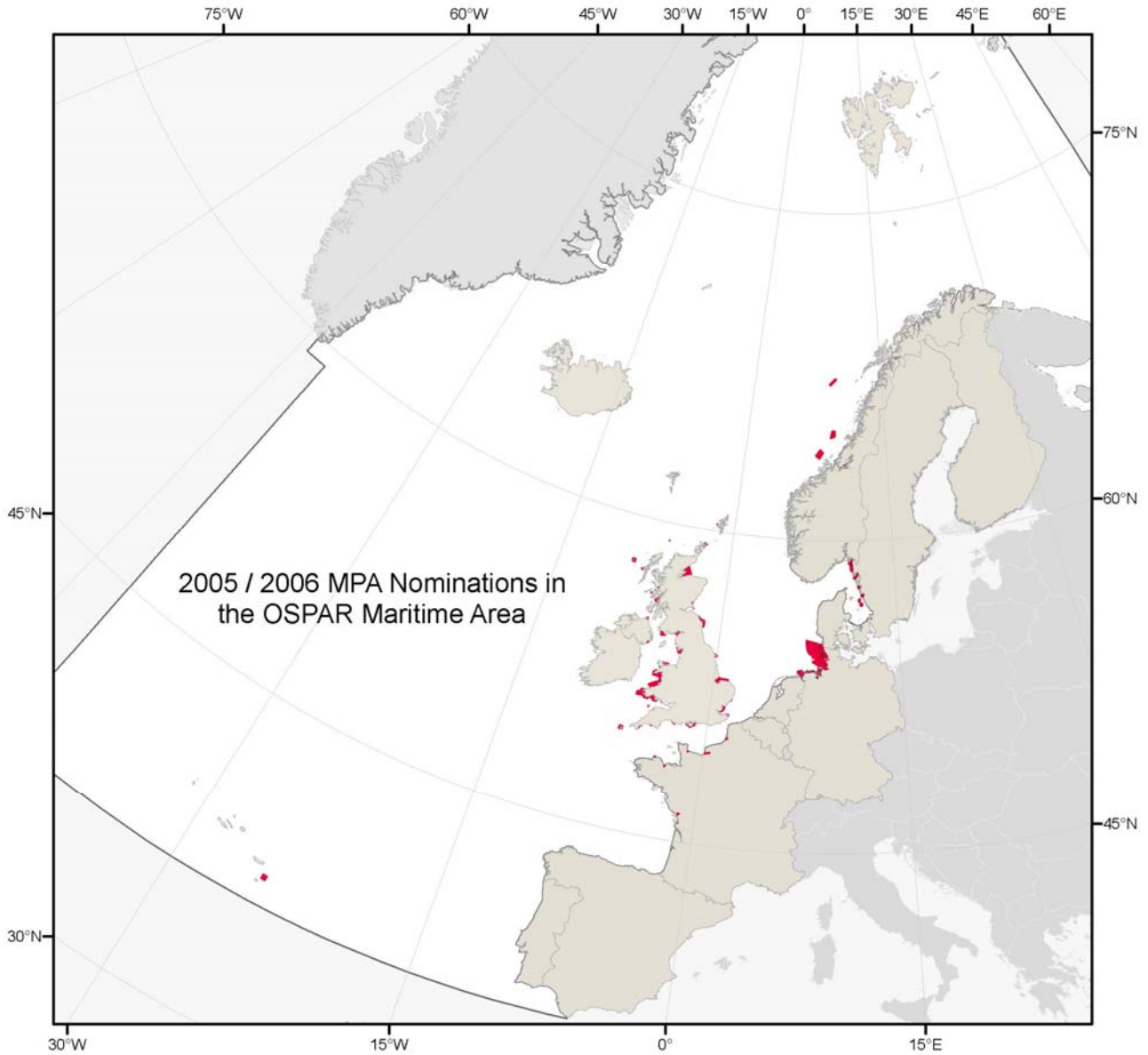
**Ecological coherence:** Given the incomplete nature of the initial 2005 nominations, it is self-evident to note that these do not yet represent an ecologically coherent network. This is not unexpected at the beginning of the process. However, in order to achieve this goal by 2010, considerable effort and further contributions will be required. The issues discussed in this section, if acted upon, would lend some guidance and support to Contracting Parties, in achieving this goal. Given the ongoing evolution of the OSPAR network, it is expected that its ecological coherence would have to be evaluated on a yearly basis in the lead up to 2010, and that such evaluations would become more sophisticated over time, as better data become available.

**Data to determine ecological coherence:** As the number of OSPAR MPA nominations increases, so will the need to more formally evaluate the ecological coherence of the network. The method for such an evaluation will be developed in the work to develop practical guidance on how to assess whether MPAs (see above), and would be likely to rest on quantitative analyses, which in turn will require ecological data. Currently, very few data have been collected by OSPAR for the OSPAR maritime area. Therefore Contracting Parties have been asked to begin to consider what data would be available for such analyses. A brief overview assessment is currently underway, with a fuller questionnaire to be drafted later in 2006 and distributed to MASH and ICG-MPA. Contracting Parties are encouraged to make data or publications relevant to ecological coherence analyses available to OSPAR, or to indicate where such data can be found.

**Natura 2000 overlap:** The initial OSPAR nominations from EU countries largely overlap existing Natura 2000 sites. However, given that the geographical scope of the OSPAR network is larger (including ABNJ), and that the ecological criteria for MPA selection within OSPAR are broader (including a different list of threatened and endangered species and habitats), it is expected that if nominations are limited to existing Natura 2000 sites, exclusively, then it is unlikely that the OSPAR network's ecological goals are met.

**Management:** As sites are reported, attention needs to turn to ensuring the sites are well managed through creating management plans or equivalent mechanisms, and secondly to evaluating management effectiveness. Where OSPAR MPAs are also Natura 2000 sites, there is no additional requirement for management of these sites, but any management should be reported to OSPAR. Several of the OSPAR MPA nominations currently have no management in place. There have been no reported evaluations of management effectiveness so far.

## Annex 1: Map of MPA nominations



Notes: To increase visibility, the reported MPAs (in red) are drawn slightly larger than to scale.  
French data are © MNHN.

## Annex 2: Reported OSPAR MPAs

Summary of reported OSPAR MPAs (as of 10 Apr. 2006)		
Contracting Party	Name	Size (Ha)
Belgium	none	0
Denmark	none	0
France	Réserve Naturelle Nationale de la Baie de Somme	3 000
France	Réserve Naturelle de l'Estuaire de la Seine	6 177
France	Réserve Naturelle Nationale du Domaine de Beauguillot	350
France	Réserve Naturelle de la Baie de l'Aiguillon	4 650
France	Réserve Naturelle de la baie de Saint Brieuc	1 135
France	Archipel des Sept îles	240
France	Réserve Naturelle de Moëze-Oléron	6 500
France	Réserve Naturelle du Banc d'Arguin	2 200
France	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24 252</b>
Iceland	none	0
Ireland	none	0
Germany	Helgoland seabird protection area	161 065
Germany	SPA-Eastern German Bight	313 513
Germany	Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park	276 700
Germany	S-H Wadden sea national park	441 000
Germany	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 192 278</b>
Netherlands	none	0
Norway	Selligrunnen	69
Norway	Røstrevet	30 500
Norway	Sularevet	97 000
Norway	Iverryggen	62 600
Norway	Tisler	180
Norway	Fjellknausen	190
Norway	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>190 539</b>
Portugal	Formigas bank	52 527
Portugal	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52 527</b>
Spain	none	0
Sweden	Gullmarn fjord	5 000
Sweden	Koster-Väderö archipelago	42 600
Sweden	Nordre älv estuary	7 000
Sweden	Kungsbacka fjord	3 000
Sweden	Fladen	3 300
Sweden	Lilla Middelgrund	3 000
Sweden	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63 900</b>
United Kingdom*	Kenfig/ Cynffig SAC	0
United Kingdom*	Braunton Burrows SAC	0
United Kingdom*	Yell Sound Coast SAC	462
United Kingdom*	Monach Islands SAC	3 052
United Kingdom*	North Rona SAC	503
United Kingdom*	Mousa SAC	531
United Kingdom*	Cardigan Bay/Bae Ceredigion SAC	95 381
United Kingdom*	Solway Firth SAC	0
United Kingdom*	Morecambe Bay SAC	60 953
United Kingdom*	Drigg Coast SAC	0
United Kingdom*	Flamborough Head SAC	5 050

<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Luce Bay and Sands SAC	47 106
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Thanet Coast SAC	2 439
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC	3 201
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Fal and Helford SAC	3 833
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Lundy SAC	2 911
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Pembrokeshire Marine/ Sir Benfro Forol SAC	132 547
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau/ Llyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC	135 218
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Essex Estuaries SAC	13 842
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Isles of Scilly Complex SAC	20 138
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	St Kilda SAC	17 445
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Limestone Coast of South West Wales/ Arfordir Calchfaen de Orllewin Cymru SAC	0
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Murlough SAC	10 474
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Strangford Lough SAC	10 009
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Papa Stour SAC	2 056
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Loch nam Madadh SAC	1 740
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC	47 613
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC	54 958
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Chesil and the Fleet SAC	579
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs SAC	2 262
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Faray and Holm of Faray SAC	629
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Sound of Arisaig (Loch Ailort to Loch Ceann Traigh) SAC	4 557
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Sunart SAC	4 713
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC	0
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Moray Firth SAC	151 342
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Mòine Mhór SAC	0
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries/ Bae Caerfyrddin ac Aberoedd SAC	54 269
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Glannau Môn: Cors heli / Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC	0
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Firth of Lorn	20 975
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Rathlin Island SAC	3 110
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Solent Maritime SAC	1 586
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	South Wight Maritime SAC	19 068
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	South-East Islay Skerries SAC	1 199
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Sanday SAC	9 655
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Alde Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC	0
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Isle of May SAC	310
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Eileanan agus Sgeiran Lios mór SAC	969
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Loch Creran SAC	1 214
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Loch Laxford SAC	1 221
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/ Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC	21 186
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Loch Moidart and Loch Shiel Woods SAC	0
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Ascrib, Isay and Dunvegan SAC	2 585
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Sullom Voe SAC	2 672
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Treshnish Isles	1 786
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Tweed Estuary SAC	0
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary SAC	8 492
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>985 841</b>
<b>OSPAR*</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2 509 336</b>

\*Areas for the UK sites are estimates based on Natura 2000 marine area. Actual UK OSPAR numbers have not yet been received, but are expected to be somewhat higher.