



OSPAR
COMMISSION

2008 Report on the progress made in developing the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas



OSPAR Convention

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.

Convention OSPAR

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.

Acknowledgement

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Cover photo:

Le parc naturel marin d'Iroise, one of the areas added to the OSPAR network of MPAs during 2008. Photo by Audrey Baconnais-Rosez during an excursion for delegates attending the 2008 meeting of the OSPAR Commission.

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Executive Summary

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.

This report, which has been prepared during the first half of 2009, presents the fourth evaluation of the progress made in the development of the OSPAR network of MPAs reflecting the progress made up to the end of 2008. By that time 9 Contracting Parties (Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the UK) had reported on the selection of 125 MPAs as components of the network. MPAs were added to the network in 2008 by France, Germany, Iceland, Spain and UK.

Although the sites selected so far provide a good basis for the network, most of the sites reported by EU member states are either wholly or partially Natura 2000 sites. The majority of sites reported so far are in the near shore zone, although Germany, Norway, Portugal, Spain and UK have all reported sites within their Exclusive Economic Zones. Only Portugal has selected a site on the continental shelf beyond the EEZ. A proposal for establishing an MPA for the Charlie Gibbs Fracture Zone has been considered by OSPAR during 2008 and is being handled as a proposal for an MPA beyond national jurisdiction.

The report also reports on a further preliminary assessment of the ecological coherence of the network employing three initial spatial tests, which are described in a parallel background document (OSPAR publication 2008/360). The application of these tests, which should be seen as a first basic step in a multi-staged assessment, continues to indicate that the OSPAR network of MPAs is not yet ecologically coherent.

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 agreed that annual reports on the status of the OSPAR network of MPAs should be prepared in the period up to 2010 to monitor progress.

Récapitulatif

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.

Le présent rapport, qui a été préparé durant le premier semestre de 2009, présente la quatrième évaluation de l'état du réseau de ZMP d'OSPAR et fait état des progrès accomplis jusqu'à la fin de 2008. Jusqu'à ce jour, 9 Parties contractantes (Allemagne, Danemark, Espagne, France, Islande, Norvège, Portugal, Royaume-Uni et Suède) ont soumis des rapports sur 125 ZMP sélectionnées en tant qu'éléments du réseau. Des ZMP ont été ajoutées au réseau durant l'année 2008 par l'Allemagne, l'Espagne, la France, l'Islande et le Royaume-Uni.

Bien que les sites sélectionnés jusqu'à présent constituent une bonne base pour le réseau, la plupart des 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 sites notifiés jusqu'à présent se trouvent dans

la zone côtière. Toutefois, l'Allemagne, l'Espagne, la Norvège, le Portugal et le Royaume-Uni ont notifié des sites dans leurs zones économiques exclusives. Seul le Portugal a sélectionné un site du plateau continental au-delà de la zone économique exclusive. Une proposition portant sur la création d'une ZMP pour la zone de fracture Charlie Gibbs a été étudiée par OSPAR pendant 2008, laquelle est traitée en tant que proposition de ZMP au-delà des juridictions nationales.

Le présent rapport fait état d'une nouvelle évaluation préliminaire de la cohérence écologique du réseau effectuée à l'aide de trois tests spatiaux initiaux, qui sont décrits dans un document de fond parallèle (publication OSPAR 2008/360). L'application de ces tests, qui doit être considérée comme une première étape de base dans une évaluation multi-stade, montre que le réseau de ZMP d'OSPAR n'est pas encore écologiquement cohérent.

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 convenue que des rapports annuels sur l'état du réseau de ZMP d'OSPAR devront être préparés pendant la période qui mène à 2010 afin de surveiller les progrès accomplis.

Background

Recommendation 2003/3 of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention) sets out that in the years subsequent to 2005, Contracting Parties should report by 31 December to the OSPAR Commission on any OSPAR Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that they have selected (or deselected) and on any corresponding management plans that they have adopted or substantially amended in that year. In 2006, the OSPAR Biodiversity Committee (BDC) agreed that annual reports on the status of the OSPAR Network of MPAs should be prepared in the period up to 2010.

This document presents the fourth report on progress in developing the OSPAR Network of MPAs and provides an updated assessment taking into account those MPAs that OSPAR Contracting Parties have reported to the OSPAR Commission in the period 1 January to 31 December 2008. It also employs initial tests to assess the ecological coherence of the Network as agreed upon in 2007 at the OSPAR Working Group on Marine Protected Areas, Species and Habitats (MASH).

2008 Summary Information on the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Maps showing all OSPAR MPAs reported by Contracting Parties, new and previous, are provided as Annex I and II to this document, and a complete listing of sites is given in Annex III.

In 2008, the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas increased from 106 to 125 sites, thereby enlarging the total area coverage from 38 178 km² to 51 907 km² (Table 1, below). As of 31 December 2008, about 0.38% of the OSPAR Maritime Area in the North-East Atlantic is covered by OSPAR MPAs.

Fourth Annual Reporting of new MPAs (01 January 2008 – 31 December 2008)

Nominations of MPAs in 2008

France has reported on the selection of *La Mer d'Iroise*, off the coast of Western Brittany, as a component to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. This site is situated in the coastal waters with a total area of 343 175 hectares (ha) extending across the boundaries of OSPAR Region II, the Greater North Sea

(175 843 ha) and OSPAR Region III, the Celtic Seas (167 332 ha). It has not yet been reported as a Natura 2000 area. No information on management has so far been reported.

Germany has reported on the selection of an additional set of six MPAs¹ to the OSPAR Network of which three sites are located in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), namely the *Dogger Bank* (170 000 ha), the *Borkum Reef Ground* (62 500 ha) and the *Sylt Outer Reef – Eastern German Bight* (560 000 ha); while the other three sites are situated in coastal waters, namely the *Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park and adjacent Coastal Areas* (452 455 ha), the *Steingrund* (17 450 ha), and *Helgoland mit Helgoländer Felssockel* (5509 ha). All of these sites have previously been established as Natura 2000 areas (SCI, SPA) and are located within OSPAR Region II, the Greater North Sea. The total area protected has in 2008 increased by 472 300 ha. With the exception of *Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park and adjacent Coastal Areas* for which (sectoral) national and an overall trilateral management plan(s) exist, management plans for all other sites are still in a preparatory stage.

Iceland has reported on the selection of a first set of seven MPAs as components to the OSPAR Network. Four sites are located in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ): namely *Hornafjarðardjúp Coral Reef 1* (789 ha), *Hornafjarðardjúp Coral Reef 2* (3127 ha), *Skaftárdjúp Coral Reef 1* (736 ha), and *Skaftárdjúp Coral Reef 2* (2 231 ha), while the other three sites are situated in the coastal waters, namely *Eyjafjörður Hydrothermal Vents 1* (12 ha), *Eyjafjörður Hydrothermal Vents 2* (56 ha), and *Reynisdjúp Coral Reef* (945 ha). All of these MPAs are within OSPAR Region I, Arctic Waters, and together cover an area of about 7896 ha. Iceland has reported that management measures have been applied at all of the MPAs such that human activities that might damage the seabed are prohibited or allowed only by special permission.

Spain has nominated *El Cachucho* (234 966 ha), also known as the *Le Danois Bank*, to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. This site is situated in Spain's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) about 65 km off the northern coast of the Iberian Peninsula in the Cantabrian Sea. It is located within OSPAR Region IV, the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast. This MPA has also been proposed as a site of Special Community Importance (SCI) for the European Network Natura 2000. The relevant authorities are in the process of establishing natural resources and fishing management plans for the area.

The United Kingdom has nominated a set of eight additional SACs as components to the OSPAR Network of MPAs, all of which have become Natura 2000 sites since 2005. This includes five offshore/EEZ SACs, namely *Braemar Pockmarks* (518 ha; OSPAR Region II), *Scanner Pockmarks* (335 ha; II), *Haig Fras* (48 134 ha; III), *Stanton Banks* (81 787 ha; III) and *Darwin Mounds* (137 726 ha; V) and three inshore/coastal waters SACs, namely *Severn Estuary* (72 196 ha; III), *Dee Estuary* (13 447 ha; III) and *Humber Estuary* (33 640 ha; II). These sites together cover an area of about 387 783 ha. For all of these MPAs, management measures, arising from requirements of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, are being developed and taken forward.

¹ It has to be noted that the newly designed MPA *Sylt Outer Reef – Eastern German Bight* incorporates and thus supersedes the *SPA Eastern German Bight*, which was nominated to OSPAR during 2005. This (old) smaller site now lies inside the newly designated larger OSPAR MPA, and therefore OSPAR was invited to remove the former from the OSPAR MPA list and database. A similar situation applies with regard to the MPAs nominated in coastal waters. They are either within (*Steingrund*) or extend (*Helgoland mit Helgoländer Felssockel*) the previously nominated *Seabird Protection Area Helgoland* or extend the *Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park* (*Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park and adjacent Coastal Areas*).

Reporting from other OSPAR Contracting Parties on progress in identifying and selecting MPAs as components of the OSPAR Network during 2008²

Ireland have identified a number of sites which would meet the requirements of OSPAR MPAs. They are awaiting a ministerial decision on the reporting to OSPAR. **The Netherlands** is in the process of nominating four Natura 2000 candidate sites (*Dogger Bank*, *Friese Front*, *Klaverbank* and parts of the coastal zone; i.e. the area between Bergen and Petten, and the *Estuary of the Westerschelde*) to the OSPAR Network and reported that they were expecting to be able to report to OSPAR by January 2009. **Norway** announced that they were considering reporting seabird sites that included species on the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats as components of the OSPAR Network of MPAs. **Sweden** provided information on two Natura 2000 sites (together about 8000 ha) in the Kattegat plus the expansion of an existing Natura 2000 site in the Skagerrak that would be submitted to OSPAR in 2009. They also reported that the Koster-Väderö archipelago, an existing OSPAR MPA, was to become a new national park with a slightly increased size and a modified management plan. Sweden also provided information, on behalf of themselves and **Denmark**, about a possible transboundary Natura 2000 site in the Kattegat between Denmark and Sweden and that was being considered as a possible OSPAR MPA.

No information on further progress with regard to the MPA network was provided by **Belgium** or **Portugal**.

Table 1: The OSPAR Network of MPAs [Status as of 31 December 2008]

OSPAR Contracting Party	2007 Total Number of MPAs	2007 Area Coverage (Km ²)	2008 New MPA Nominations	2008 Total Number of MPAs	2008 Area Coverage (Km ²) *
Belgium	0	0		0	0
Denmark	18	5399		18	4644
France	7	275	1	8	3598
Germany	4	11 923	6 (2) **	6	16 644
Iceland	0	0	7	7	79
Ireland	0	0		0	0
Netherlands	0	0		0	0
Norway	6	1905		6	1925
Portugal	8	5698		8	5698
Spain	1	85	1	2	2483
Sweden	6	972		6	972
UK	55	11 921	8	63	15 864
TOTAL	106	38 178	23 (19) **	125	51 907
OSPAR Maritime Area***		13 618 510			13 618 510

* The area coverage of all MPAs nominated to OSPAR has in 2008 been recalculated using the Albers Projection based improved data provided to the OSPAR MPA Network database.

** Of the six German MPA Nominations, only two are completely sites, while the other four extend sites that have previously been nominated.

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

² Based on information given at OSPAR meetings during 2008.

Third Annual Reporting of MPAs (01 January 2007 - 31 December 2007)

In the 2007 reporting period, new MPAs nominated by Denmark, Spain and Portugal increased the number of sites from 87 to 106 with an area increase from 26 619 km² to 38 178 km². At the same time, the UK withdrew one site previously nominated and recalculated its total area coverage by MPAs.

Denmark reported its first OSPAR MPAs, 18 sites totalling 539 866 ha. Seven of the 18 sites are within their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). All of these MPAs are Natura 2000 sites with the same boundaries. Please refer to Annex II for names and further details.

Spain likewise reported its first OSPAR MPA, a conglomerate of four sites under the name *Islas Atlánticas de Galicia*, totalling 8542 ha in territorial waters. This MPA is a Natura 2000 site, with similar boundaries, but somewhat larger (8542 ha as opposed to 7138 ha).

Portugal reported its eighth and at the same time largest site, the *Sedlo Seamount* with an area of 401 253 ha, increasing the total area being protected to 569 825 ha. This MPA is situated within the Portuguese EEZ but is not a Natura 2000 site at all. As noted in the 2006 Status Report, of the EU Member States, only Portugal Azores has nominated sites that are not wholly Natura 2000 sites, which was an important development. Of the eight Portuguese sites, four are not Natura 2000 at all, and the remaining four are larger and more extensive than the smaller Natura 2000 sites contained within them.

The **UK** submitted updated GIS files and provided area calculations for all of its sites, except for its three Northern Ireland MPAs. One site was withdrawn, due to its negligible marine area, reducing the total number of UK sites to 55. However, with renewed calculations, the total area of the UK sites increased from the 2005 estimate of 985 841 ha to 1 192 127 ha.

Second Annual Reporting of MPAs (10 April 2006 - 31 December 2006)

In the 2006 reporting period, new MPAs nominated by Portugal increased the number of sites from 81 to 87, and the total Network area³ increased from 25 426 km² to 26 619 km².

Portugal reported six additional areas as components of the OSPAR Network of MPAs. These MPAs are situated in the waters surrounding the Azores, of which two sites (*Faial-Pico channel*, *Corvo Island*) are in territorial waters, three in the EEZ (*D. João de Castro Seamount*, *Lucky Strike Hydrothermal Vent Field*, *Menez Gwen Hydrothermal Vent Field*), and one on the extended continental shelf (*Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field*). This amounts to 49 742 ha in territorial waters, 64 088 ha in Portugal's EEZ, and 2215 ha on the extended continental shelf, totalling 116 045 ha (1160 km²). Only Portugal has made a continental shelf nomination beyond the EEZ.

It should be noted that due to the extension of the first year's reporting deadline, most of the MPAs in the initial report were actually put forward in the period between January and April 2006. This meant that the second reporting period was less than a calendar year.

³ This 2006 total also corrects mistakes that occurred in the first year's reporting. The total in the first report which read as "25 093 km²" should have correctly been 25 426 km².

Initial MPA Nominations (2005 - 10 April 2006)

The 2005 MPA 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 2005. It was the first OSPAR MPA nomination. It is a nature reserve with a delimited area of 52 527 ha, extending to below 1500 metres in depth. Of that, 3628 ha is also a Natura 2000 site, down to the 200 metre isobath.

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 cover an area of about 190 539 ha.

Germany: Two extensive 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 ha. In all, more than 90% of German coastal waters are also OSPAR MPAs, with large sections of the EEZ waters included as well.

Sweden: Six sites were reported in January 2006: *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 cover a total of 97 177 ha. *Fladen* and *Lilla Middelgrund* both have portions extending into the EEZ (3762 ha and 15 921 ha, respectively).

UK: Fifty-six sites were reported as OSPAR MPAs in January 2006. (But one was withdrawn in 2007, due to its negligible marine area). All sites are also Natura SACs, and total 1 192 127 ha. (See Annex II for names and details).

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 Brieuc*, *Archipel des Sept îles*, *Réserve Naturelle de Moëze-Oléron*, and *Réserve Naturelle du Banc d'Arguin*. They are all Natura 2000 sites and together cover an area of about 27 453 ha.

Overview of the current OSPAR Network of MPAs

Jurisdiction: Of the 125 MPAs reported to OSPAR (Annex III), the majority of sites fall within territorial waters. A total of 32 sites are (at least partly) situated within an EEZ: 8 Denmark, 5 UK, 5 Portugal, 4 Iceland, 3 Norway, 3 Germany, 2 Sweden, and 1 Spain. One site is on an "Extended Continental Shelf" (claimed by Portugal). No MPA has yet been established entirely in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). An illustration of the distribution of MPAs within each Contracting Party's marine area is provided in Annex IV.

Contribution of Contracting Parties: Nine of the twelve coastal Contracting Parties have so far reported sites. Table 1 above, indicates the number of sites per Contracting Party and associated area. Germany and the UK have reported the largest total area, with 16 644 and 15 864 km² respectively. Portugal has nominated about 5700 km², followed by Denmark with 4644 km²⁴, France 3598 km², Spain 2483 km², Norway 1925 km², Sweden 972 km² and Iceland 79 km².

⁴ The total area covered by the MPA nominations from Denmark has been recalculated in 2008; the figure provided originally in the 2007 Status Report (5300 km²) has accordingly been corrected to 4644 km².

Distribution of MPAs in OSPAR Regions: Table 2 below, (and the Map in Annex V) summarizes the distribution of reported MPAs by OSPAR Marine Region. The best represented regions are the North Sea (OSPAR Region II, 3.79% protected) and the Celtic Sea (Region III, 3.09%). The MPAs in the North Sea are a reflection of the German, UK and Danish nominations, as well as those from Sweden and two from Norway. The protected area in the Celtic Sea is almost entirely due to the UK nominated MPAs, only supported by part of the MPA nominated by France this year. In the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast (Region IV), four sites have been reported as MPAs by France and two by Spain, but there have been no MPAs reported so far close to mainland Portugal. Of the nine MPAs reported in the Atlantic (Region V), eight are from Portugal Azores and one from the UK. In the Arctic (Region I), four MPAs have been nominated by Norway and seven by Iceland. Regions I and V are by far the largest regions, including also extensive Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, partly explaining the low percentage of these regions' areas being protected.

Table 2: Distribution/Representativity of OSPAR MPAs by OSPAR Regions

[Status as of 31 December 2008]

OSPAR Region	2007 Total No. of MPAs	2007 Protected Area (Km ²)	2007 Area Coverage (%)	2008 New MPA Nominations	2008 Total No. of MPAs	2008 Protected Area (Km ²)	2008 Area Coverage (%)
I. Arctic	4	1902	0.03	7	11	2000	0.04
II. North Sea	56	22 886	2.97	6	62	28 961	3.76
III. Celtic	34	7468	2.03	5	39	11 355	3.09
IV. Biscay	4	224	0.04	1	5	2511	0.47
V. Atlantic	8	5698	0.09	1	9	7080	0.11
Total	106	38 178	0.28	20 [19]*	126 [125]*	51 907	0.38

* The difference in the figures presented in this table in comparison to the actual number of MPAs newly reported in 2008 [19] and total number of OSPAR MPAs in 2008 [125] is due to the French nomination of *La Mer d'Iroise* which crosses the boundaries of Regions II and III.

Natura 2000: Of the 114 sites submitted by EU Member States to the OSPAR Network of MPAs, 106 are also Natura 2000 sites. Generally, the boundaries are the same as for the OSPAR sites; however, in four Portuguese nominations, smaller Natura 2000 sites are contained within much larger OSPAR designations. Of the EU Member States, only France, Portugal and Spain have submitted sites that are not also Natura 2000.

EUNIS: At MASH 2007 it was discussed if OSPAR sites could be evaluated according to the European Nature Information System (MASH 2005 Summary Record, Annex 7). However, the system is not yet spatially comprehensive throughout the OSPAR Maritime Area, full data have not yet been provided to OSPAR, and thus an evaluation is still not possible at this time.

Marine Protection in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): To date, no MPAs have been established in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), though one reported MPA (Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent) is on the Extended Continental Shelf claimed by Portugal, and as such, the waters

above it are considered high seas.⁵ The lack of MPAs in ABNJ was recognized by MASH 2007 as a gap, and it was agreed that efforts should be intensified in the identification of such areas. The following presents a summary of the progress on protecting areas beyond national jurisdiction in the OSPAR Maritime Area:

OSPAR Proposal to establish a Marine Protected Area in the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone: At its 2008 meeting the OSPAR Commission agreed in principle to work towards the protection of the unique ecosystems of the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone (CGFZ) and its surrounding seas as part of the OSPAR Network of MPAs. The designation of this area (ca. 323 900 km²; > 5% of OSPAR Region V) of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR) in the North-East Atlantic, lying beyond the limits of the jurisdiction of coastal states, would be an important pioneering step towards proper governance of High Seas in the OSPAR Maritime Area (See Annex IX for an illustration of this area proposal). The proposal to designate (parts of) the CGFZ as an OSPAR MPA has been elaborated by WWF and the University of York (UK) and, apart from receiving general support by all OSPAR Contracting Parties since the 2008 Commission Meeting, it is supported particularly by WWF, the Netherlands, France and Portugal.

A set of conservation objectives for the envisaged CGFZ MPA has been drafted to complete the nomination proforma. OSPAR recognises that proper governance of the CGFZ depends upon good cooperation and collaboration with relevant competent authorities (for example NEAFC, IMO, ISA), who are currently being consulted on the proposal. The development of future cooperative mechanisms between OSPAR and these authorities to protect areas in ABNJ is foreseen for 2009. At the same time, OSPAR has asked its Group of Jurists and Linguists to examine the legal mandate of OSPAR to designate and manage MPAs in ABNJ.. An illustration of the proposed CGFZ area is provided in Annex IX.

Other Proposals for OSPAR Marine Protected Areas in ABNJ: One of the tasks assigned in 2008 by the OSPAR Commission to the Intersessional Correspondence Group on MPAs (ICG-MPA) is to identify additional ecologically significant and/or vulnerable areas in ABNJ that should eventually receive protection through OSPAR. In order to support this work, Germany contracted the University of York (UK) to identify such critical areas in the North-East Atlantic and to elaborate proposals for their inclusion as components of the OSPAR Network of MPAs. Based solely on scientific expertise, proposals for the following areas have been elaborated by the University of York: *Northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge* (93 568 km²), *Reykjanes Ridge* (50 876 km²), *Altair Seamount* (4408 km²), *Antialtair Seamount* (2207 km²), *Milne Seamount* (20 913 km²), *Josephine Seamount* (19 370 km²), and *Rockall and Hatton Banks* (97 325 km²). These areas together would cover 288 667 km² in (ca. 4.5% of) OSPAR Region V. An illustration of these area proposals is provided in Annex IX.

NEAFC Fisheries Closures: Up to the end of 2008, the North-east Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) had closed nine areas within its regulatory area to bottom fisheries with the aim of protecting Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs). These are not OSPAR MPAs but NEAFC has encouraged closer co-ordination regarding OSPAR MPA proposals. These NEAFC areas are closed temporarily to fishing with bottom contacting gear, five of them until 31 March 2009 (*Hecate*, *Altair*, *Antialtair* and *Faraday Seamounts*, and a large section of the *Reykjanes Ridge*); and four others until 31 December 2009 (*Hatton Bank* and three areas on *Rockall Bank*). Almost all the areas closed by NEAFC are located within the High Seas, and within OSPAR Region V. If these nine closures are accounted for, they significantly increase the amount of protection in OSPAR Region V, from 7080 km² to 498 220 km². Likewise, the overall spatial protection within the OSPAR Maritime Area would increase from 51 907 km² to 94 649 km². These NEAFC closures are shown on the map in Annex IX.

⁵ In cases where the continental shelf extends beyond 200 nautical miles, the seafloor may be considered under the jurisdiction of the concerned party (generally up to 350 nm extension of the continental 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.

Management of MPAs: In cases where OSPAR MPAs are at the same time Natura 2000 sites, according to OSPAR decisions, there is no additional requirement for management of these sites beyond the obligations arising from the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), but any such management should be reported to OSPAR. In general, it has been stated by Contracting Parties that plans and regulations are being developed or are in place. However, in 2008, no formal submission of management plans, regulations or progress reports has been received.

Ecological Coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs

Between BDC 2007 and MASH 2007, Germany circulated a questionnaire asking Contracting Parties to report on the availability of spatial data. On the basis of the responses, MASH 2007 noted that spatial data were at present not a priority for most Contracting Parties and concluded that it was *unlikely* that OSPAR-wide spatial assessments of ecological coherence that rely on comprehensive bio-physical spatial data could be performed in the near future.

BDC 2008 agreed that a background document outlining three initial spatial tests that begin to look at the ecological coherence of the OSPAR MPA Network should be published on the OSPAR website (see OSPAR publication 2008/360)). These tests were intended as a first basic step in a multi-staged assessment procedure to assess the eco-coherence of the OSPAR Network and it was recognised that additional more sophisticated tests should be developed and subsequently applied as the MPA Network grew. The results of these tests as applied to the 2008 network are presented below.

MASH 2008 agreed to invite the UK and France to apply a new approach to assessing ecological coherence of OSPAR MPAs in the English Channel and report back to MASH 2009 with a view to developing an OSPAR-wide approach for assessing ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs which is complementary (as a secondary step) to the first basic step of the three initial tests.

The following three initial tests are designed to quickly determine if the OSPAR MPA Network has the first indications of ecological coherence, or not. These initial tests should be seen as the first step in a multiple-step network assessment and development process. The three initial spatial tests are ordered according to ease of assessment, as well as descriptive power, and therefore should be applied in the order given. The threshold *limits* suggested in these tests should not be confused as being planning *targets*. These should be seen as cut-off points, beneath which eco-coherence has clearly not been achieved. Further background on the three tests is provided in OSPAR publication 2008/360.

First Initial Test on Ecological Coherence:

Is the OSPAR MPA Network spatially well-distributed, without more than a few major gaps?

The Map of OSPAR MPAs (Annex I and II) illustrates that the components of the Network are not spatially well-distributed across the OSPAR Maritime Area and its Regions. The vast majority of sites are situated in coastal waters and clustered around the central latitudes. Offshore sites are still limited in number and sizes, while no MPA has been established exclusively in the High Seas.

It should be noted however, that from a national/regional perspective the MPAs nominated by some of the Contracting Parties (i.e. UK, Germany, Denmark, France, and Portugal Azores) are distributed fairly evenly along their respective coastlines in the Greater North Sea, the Celtic Sea, or the Azores.

Using the guidance provided in the OSPAR document MASH 07/6/6-E, none of the three “gap tests” (coastal/nearshore; offshore/EEZ; and far-offshore/high seas waters) are met. The number of gaps (> 250 km; > 500 km; > 1000 km) between the different OSPAR MPAs is higher than what would be considered to be connected areas. The inclusion of NEAFC closures (which are not OSPAR MPAs)

improves the situation in far-offshore/high seas waters, yet significant gaps remain and the test is still not met.

In addition to the “gap tests” as indicated above, another illustration has been prepared using GIS to show the interspaces between neighbouring MPAs (Annex VI). From the centre of each MPA a circle has been set with a diameter of 125 km. In cases where the centre of two neighbouring MPAs is not further apart than 250 km their circles connect to one continuous area. Having applied this limiting value (250 km maximum distance), the Map in Annex IX shows that certain sub-regions in the Celtic Sea, the North Sea and around the Azores are connecting to each other. At the same time the number of gaps larger than 250 km between MPAs becomes apparent. In any case, it has to be noted that the limiting value applied here has not been accepted by OSPAR as defining the spatial aspect of the ecological coherence of the Network of MPAs. This illustration is only considered an example of showing the spatial coherence of the OSPAR MPAs.

Second Initial Test on Ecological Coherence:

Does the OSPAR MPA Network cover at least 3% of most (seven of the ten) relevant Dinter Biogeographic Provinces?

This test considers primarily Representativity and Adequacy, and infers some Connectivity and Replication. If this second test is not met the assessment can stop.

The ten OSPAR Biogeographic Provinces relevant for this test have been marked in bold in Table 3, below. As in the first test, above, because of their ice cover and extreme remoteness, the following Dinter (sub-) provinces are not treated in this test: *Cold Arctic Water*, *High Arctic Maritime*, *North-East Greenland Shelf*, and the *White Sea*. This test does not require use of Dinter sub-provinces. Thus, the three Norwegian coastal sub-provinces are treated together as one province, as are the two Lusitanian sub-provinces. In addition, for the purpose of this initial test, the two temperate pelagic Provinces (*Cool-temperate* and *Warm-temperate waters*) shall also be interpreted to include deeper waters and the seafloor. Hence, the Dinter pelagic and benthic classes have been merged.

The result of this test shows that only three of the Provinces surpass the 3% threshold: *Boreal-Lusitanian* (6.69%), *Boreal* (4.60%) and *Macaronesian Azores* (3.60%). Even though a substantial part of the *Boreal-Lusitanian* Province has in 2008 been assigned as protected area resulting in a third Province passing the threshold value, still this test has not been passed.

It should be noted though that the Biogeographic Province *Lusitanian-Boreal* (2.31%) shows a coverage with MPAs that is close to the threshold value (> 3%) applied in this test.

The distribution of OSPAR MPAs by Dinter Biogeographic Provinces is shown in Table 3, below, and in Annexes VII and VIII.

Table 3: Distribution/Representativity of OSPAR MPAs by Dinter Biogeographic Provinces
 [Status as of 31 December 2008]

Dinter Biogeographic Classification						
Province	Subregion	Region	Biome	Total Number of MPAs	Protected Area * (km ²)	MPA Coverage ** (%)
		Arctic	(Holo)Pelagic	0	0	0,00 %
Cool-temperate waters	East Atlantic Temperate	Atlantic	(Holo)Pelagic	110	40.312,5	0.60%
Warm-temperate waters	East Atlantic Temperate	Atlantic	(Holo)Pelagic	21	11657,4	0.33%
Boreal	East Atlantic Temperate	Atlantic	Shelf & Continental Slope	68	32.532,4	4.60%
Boreal-Lusitanian	East Atlantic Temperate	Atlantic	Shelf & Continental Slope	52	10.351,9	6.69%
Lusitanian: (cool and warm)	East Atlantic Temperate	Atlantic	Shelf & Continental Slope	3	1.003,7	0.85%
Lusitanian-Boreal	East Atlantic Temperate	Atlantic	Shelf & Continental Slope	6	3.472,7	2.31%
Macaronesian: Azores	East Atlantic Temperate	Atlantic	Shelf & Continental Slope	4	811,7	3.60%
Norwegian Coast (all)	East Atlantic Temperate	Atlantic	Shelf & Continental Slope	8	2.463,6	0.59%
South Iceland-Faeroe Shelf	East Atlantic Temperate	Atlantic	Shelf & Continental Slope	7	79	0.03%
South-East Greenland-N, Iceland Shelf		Arctic	Shelf & Continental Slope	0	0	0.00%
Barents Sea		Arctic	Shelf & Continental Slope	0	0	0.00%
North-East Greenland Shelf		Arctic	Shelf & Continental Slope	0	0	0.00%
Northeast Water Polynya		Arctic	Shelf & Continental Slope	0	0	0.00%
High Arctic Maritime		Arctic	Shelf & Continental Slope	0	0	0.00%
		Arctic	Deep Sea	0	0	0.00%
		Atlantic	Deep Sea	8	6369.3	0.09%

The ten OSPAR Biogeographic Provinces relevant for the second initial test on ecological coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs have been marked in bold.

* The area coverage of all MPAs nominated to OSPAR has in 2008 been recalculated using the Albers Projection based on improved data provided to the OSPAR MPA Network database. Figures have been adjusted accordingly.

** In contrast to calculations in 2007, in this years Report accurate division of sites into their respective Provinces has been conducted. This explains the differences in some figures (for example the MPAs around Portugal Azores have been differentiated into the Dinter Biogeographic Provinces *Macaronesian Azores* and *Deep Sea*) in Table 3 above in comparison to figures presented in the 2007 Status Report.

Third Initial Test on Ecological Coherence:

Are most (70%) of the OSPAR threatened and/or declining species and habitats, with limited home ranges, represented in the OSPAR MPA Network?

“Represented” for this test shall mean at least 5% of each habitat type/species distribution for each OSPAR Region in which they occur [or at least 3 replicate sites per Region].

This initial test, including its square-bracketed text, could not be considered as neither the spatial data across the OSPAR Maritime Area, nor the reporting in the OSPAR MPA Nomination database are complete.

Better GIS data are unlikely to be available soon. However, better reporting in the MPA database would not take a great deal of effort and therefore addressing the square-bracketed text of this third test is a plausible option in future MPA Status Reports.

Conclusions on the Status of the OSPAR Network of MPAs

Overall Area: The area covered by OSPAR MPAs has increased further in 2008 and currently amounts to about 51 907 km² in the North-East Atlantic. In relation to the overall OSPAR Maritime Area, this is still a very small (0.38%) proportion, even after icebound areas are removed⁶. Not all of the OSPAR Contracting Parties have reported OSPAR sites yet.

Distribution: Currently, the reported 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 not all Contracting Parties have yet reported sites. However, there is also still a general tendency to nominate nearshore sites (first), thus leaving the further offshore waters vacant for the time being.

Representativity: Of all the OSPAR/Dinter Biogeographic Provinces only three (*Boreal Lusitanian* = 6.69%; *Boreal* = 4.60%; *Macaronesian: Azores* = 3.60%) met the second initial ecological coherence test, i.e. to have more than 3% of their respective areas assigned as OSPAR MPAs. Only one additional Province shows more than 2% protected areas (*Lusitanian-Boreal* = 2.31%). Thus, the current MPA Network cannot be said to be representative.

Ecological Coherence: Despite the nomination of additional MPAs in the OSPAR Maritime Area in 2008, the first two initial tests for assessing ecological coherence were not passed. Although the third test was not completed, the results of the first two tests are sufficient to demonstrate that the OSPAR MPA Network is still not ecologically coherent.

Database Reporting: In order to contribute to the assessment of the protection of species and habitats on the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats (i.e. Ecological Coherence Initial Test 3), better reporting of corresponding data to the MPA electronic database is required by Contracting Parties.

Data to determine Ecological Coherence: Currently, very few data have been collated by OSPAR for the OSPAR Maritime Area. As the number of MPAs reported to OSPAR further increases, it will become more possible to evaluate the ecological coherence of the Network. This will require ecological data. The need for spatial data is not limited to the assessment of eco-coherence, but will be necessary for expansion of the EcoQO system, as well as monitoring requirements under the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats.

⁶ It can be assumed that no more than 20 % of the OSPAR Maritime Area is icebound.

Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ): To date, no OSPAR MPAs have been finally agreed upon in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, though one reported MPA (*Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent*) is on the Extended Continental Shelf claimed by Portugal, and as such, the waters above it are considered high seas.⁷ The lack of MPAs in ABNJ was recognized by MASH 2007 as a gap. Since then a proposal to designate the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone and a section on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge as an OSPAR MPA in ABNJ has been elaborated by WWF and the University of York and sponsored by the Netherlands, France and Portugal. In 2008, the OSPAR Commission has unanimously and in principle agreed to support this proposal. As of this time, OSPAR is seeking the cooperation of competent authorities to assign a first MPA in the High Seas of the OSPAR Maritime Area.

In addition and on behalf of OSPAR, a set of seven proposals beyond areas of national jurisdiction in the North-East Atlantic has been identified by the University of York under a contract from Germany and corresponding cases for their inclusion as components to the OSPAR Network of MPAs have been compiled. Following a process of revisions in 2008 by OSPAR ICG-MPA and MASH as well as by ICES, the nomination proformas of six of these proposals were refined.

Natura 2000 Overlap: The majority of MPAs so far reported to OSPAR by EU member states largely overlap existing Natura 2000 sites. However, given that the marine geographical scope of the OSPAR Network is larger (including ABNJ) than the EU marine waters area, and that the ecological criteria for MPA selection within OSPAR are broader (including a different list of threatened and/or declining species and habitats that is more extensive than the relevant species and habitats listed in the EU Directives), 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 will be met. In particular the nominations by Portugal Azores are an important exception, as four sites are not Natura 2000 at all, and for the others, a smaller Natura 2000 site(s) is nested within a larger OSPAR MPA. France and Spain have in 2008 each reported one MPA to OSPAR that were not established previously as Natura 2000 sites.

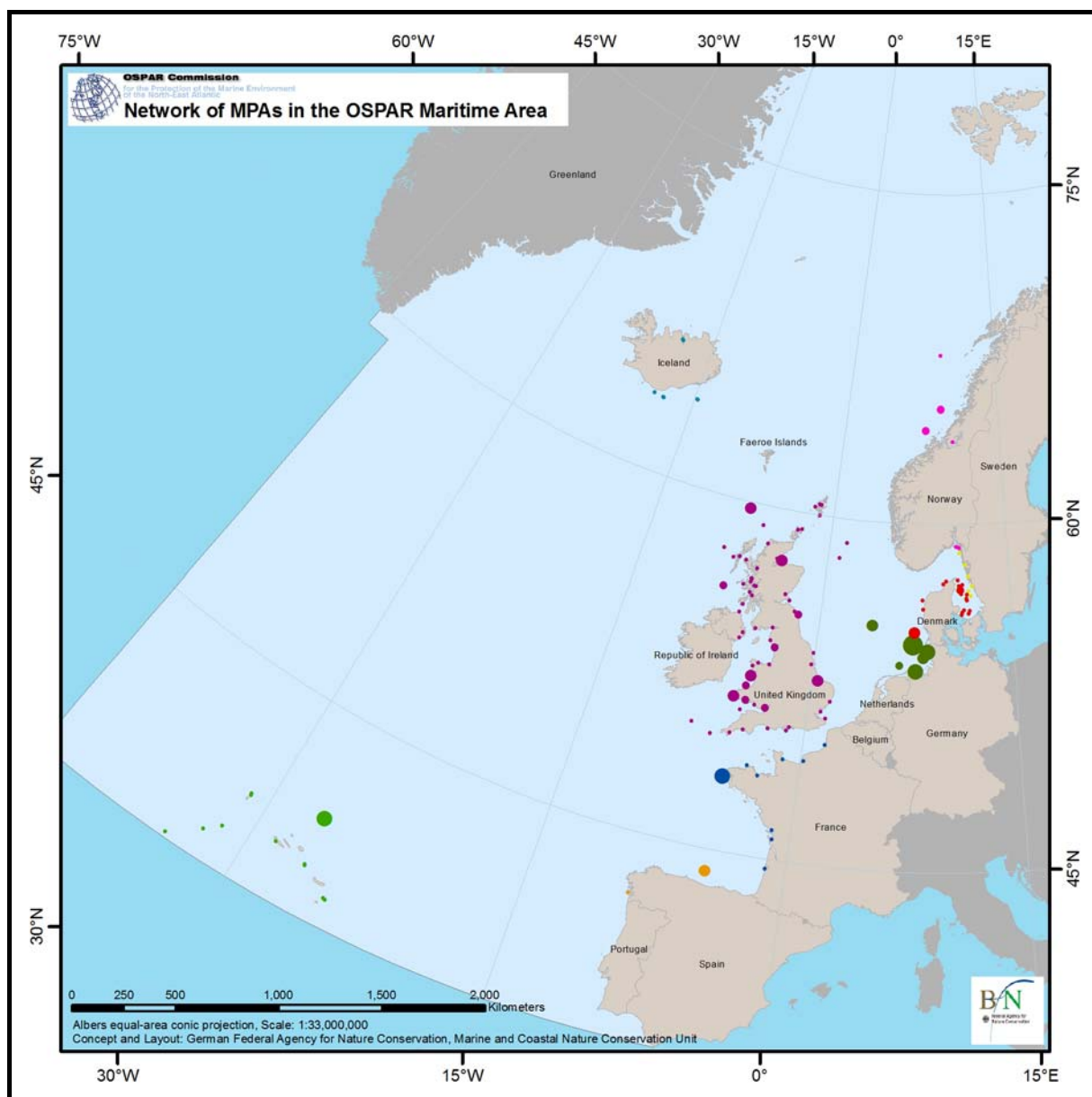
Management of MPAs: As sites are reported, attention needs to turn to ensuring that sites are well managed by creating management plans or equivalent mechanisms, and secondly to evaluating management effectiveness. BDC 2007 adopted a score card on the management effectiveness of MPAs as a tool that could be used by Contracting Parties in the self-assessment of management effectiveness of OSPAR MPAs and urged Contracting Parties to apply it in their management of MPAs (OSPAR Agreement 2007-5). Where OSPAR MPAs are also Natura 2000 sites, according to OSPAR Recommendation 2003/3 there is no additional requirement for management of these sites, but any management should be reported to OSPAR.

To date, no Contracting Party has submitted management plans or regulations or reported evaluations of management effectiveness. Therefore, at MASH 2008 it was stressed again that Contracting Parties are encouraged to report on the progress made in the development of management plans (based on 4 categories: does not exist/under development/completed/implemented) or regulations, and when they exist, to submit these plans or regulations in accordance with the OSPAR Guidelines for the Management of MPAs (OSPAR agreement 2003-18).

⁷ In cases where the continental shelf extends beyond 200 nautical miles, the seafloor may be considered under the jurisdiction of the concerned party (generally up to 350 nm extension of the continental 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.

Annex I: OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas

Map 1: OSPAR Network of MPAs in the OSPAR Maritime Area [Status as of 31 December 2008]



■ Denmark	■ Iceland	■ Spain
■ France ¹	■ Norway	■ Sweden
■ Germany	■ Portugal	■ United Kingdom ²

Based on OSPAR Database, January 2009

To increase visibility, the MPAs are outlined as point symbols according to their size. The actual size of MPAs is slightly smaller than the symbols.

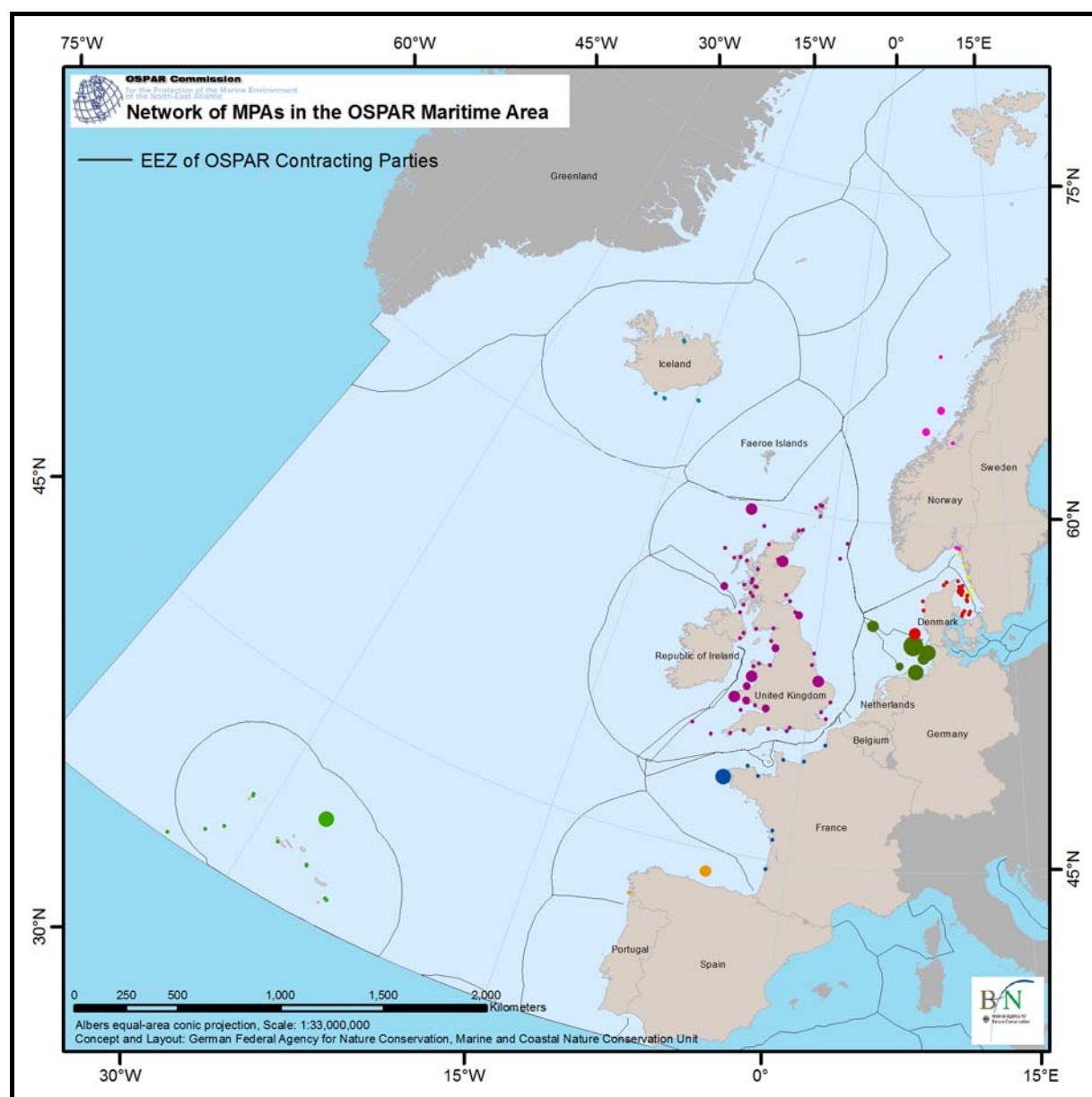
¹French data are © MNHN

²British data are © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. English Nature, 100017954 [2009], Scottish Natural Heritage, 100017908 [2009], Countryside Council for Wales, 100018813 [2009], Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland), [2009]

Annex II: OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas and Contracting Parties Marine Waters

The following map shows - for illustrative purposes only – the OSPAR MPAs and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of OSPAR Contracting Parties. The EEZ boundaries have been derived either from respective coordinates provided by CPs or from setting a generic boundary at 200 nautical miles from the coastal baseline out to the sea. It has to be noted that some CPs have claims over the extended continental shelf, and that these claims are not shown in this map.

Map 2: OSPAR Network of MPAs and Exclusive Economic Zones of OSPAR Contracting Parties
[Status as of 31 December 2008]



■ Denmark	■ Iceland	■ Spain
■ France ¹	■ Norway	■ Sweden
■ Germany	■ Portugal	■ United Kingdom ²

Based on OSPAR Database, January 2009

To increase visibility, the MPAs are outlined as point symbols according to their size. The actual size of MPAs is slightly smaller than the symbols.

¹French data are © MNHN

²British data are © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. English Nature, 100017954 [2009], Scottish Natural Heritage, 100017908 [2009], Countryside Council for Wales, 100018813 [2009], Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland), [2009]

Annex III: Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) reported to OSPAR

[Status as of 31 December 2008]

	MPA	CP	Year	Territory	Hectares (partition)	Hectares (total)	Km² (partition)	Km² (total)
DE - Germany								
1	Nationalpark "Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer"	DE	2006	Territorial Waters		274 740		2747.40
2	Seevogelschutzgebiet (SPA) "Helgoland"	DE	2006	Territorial Waters		161 325		1613.25
(part of 2)	Steingrund (SCI)	DE	2008	Territorial Waters				
(part of 2)	Helgoland mit Helgoländer Felssockel (SCI)	DE	2008	Territorial Waters				
3	Nationalpark „Schleswig- Holsteinisches Wattenmeer“ und angrenzende Gewässer	DE	2008 (updates original nomination in 2006)	Territorial Waters		452 455		4524.55
4	Borkum Riffgrund	DE	2008	Exclusive Economic Zone		62 523		625.23
5	Doggerbank	DE	2008	Exclusive Economic Zone		169 571		1695.71
6	Sylter Außenriff/ Oestliche Deutsche Bucht	DE	2008	Exclusive Economic Zone		559 605		5596.05
DK – Denmark								
7	Anholt og havet nord for	DK	2007	Territorial Waters		13 235.96		132.36
8	Briseis Flak	DK	2007	Exclusive Economic Zone		751.37		7.51
9	Farvandet nord for Anholt	DK	2007	Territorial Waters	34 775.12		347.75	
				Exclusive Economic Zone	195.31	34 970.42	1.95	349.70
10	Hastens Grund	DK	2007	Territorial Waters	731.62		7.32	
				Exclusive Economic Zone	2 321.50	3053.12	23.22	30.53
11	Havet omkring Nordre Rønner	DK	2007	Territorial Waters		18 636.88		186.37

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	MPA	CP	Year	Territory	Hectares (partition)	Hectares (total)	Km ² (partition)	Km ² (total)
12	Herthas Flak	DK	2007	Territorial Waters		1387>57		13.88
13	Hesselø med omliggende stenrev	DK	2007	Territorial Waters		4214.23		42.14
14	Kims Ryg	DK	2007	Exclusive Economic Zone		2394.61		23.95
15	Knudegrund	DK	2007	Territorial Waters		751.75		7.52
16	Læsø Trindel og Tønneberg Banke	DK	2007	Territorial Waters	7413.47		74.13	
				Exclusive Economic Zone	752.27	8165.74	7.52	81.66
17	Læsø, sydlige del	DK	2007	Territorial Waters	26 103.92		261.04	
				Exclusive Economic Zone	10 439.78	36 543.71	104.40	365.44
18	Lønstrup Rødgrund	DK	2007	Territorial Waters		9332.54		93.33
19	Lysegrund	DK	2007	Territorial Waters		1643.67		16.44
20	Sandbanker ud for Thorsminde	DK	2007	Territorial Waters		6396.39		63.96
21	Sandbanker ud for Thyborøn	DK	2007	Territorial Waters		6357.77		63.58
22	Schultz Grund	DK	2007	Exclusive Economic Zone		2381.25		23.81
23	Strandenge på Læsø og havet syd herfor	DK	2007	Territorial Waters		66 715.69		667.16
24	Sydlige Nordsø	DK	2007	Territorial Waters	3648.52		36.49	
				Exclusive Economic Zone	243 802.21	247 450.73	2438.02	2474.51
ES - Spain								
25	Islas Atlanticas	ES	2007	Territorial Waters		8542		85.42
26	El Cachucho	ES	2008	Exclusive Economic Zone		239 847.20		2398.47
FR - France								
27	Baie de l'Aiguillon	FR	2005	Territorial Waters		2458.63		24.59
28	Baie de Saint-Brieuc	FR	2005	Territorial Waters		1058.56		10.59

29	Baie de Somme	FR	2005	Territorial Waters		3409.32		34.09
30	Banc d'Arguin	FR	2005	Territorial Waters		84.95		0.85
31	Domaine de Beauguillot	FR	2005	Territorial Waters		537.47		5.37
32	Estuaire de la Seine	FR	2005	Territorial Waters		8506.22		85.06
33	Les Sept Iles	FR	2005	Territorial Waters		348.79		3.49
34	Marais de Moeze	FR	2005	Territorial Waters		211.63		2.12
35	Iroise	FR	2008	Territorial Waters		343 205.81		3432.06
IS - Iceland								
36	Hornarfjardardjup, coral reef 1	IS	2008	Exclusive Economic Zone		788.59		7.89
37	Hornarfjardardjup, coral reef 2	IS	2008	Exclusive Economic Zone		3127.26		31.27
38	Hverastrytur i Eyjafirdi	IS	2008	Territorial Waters		12.08		0.12
39	Hverastrytur i Eyjafirdi, north of Arnanesnöfum	IS	2008	Territorial Waters		56.30		0.56
40	Reynisdjup, coral reef	IS	2008	Territorial Waters		945.46		9.45
41	Skaftardjup, coral reef 1	IS	2008	Exclusive Economic Zone		736.02		7.36
42	Skaftardjup, coral reef 2	IS	2008	Exclusive Economic Zone		2230.79		22.31
NO - Norway								
43	Fjellknausen	NO	2005	Territorial Waters		188.74		1.89
44	Iverryggen	NO	2005	EEZ		62 093.29		620.93
45	Rostrevet	NO	2005	Exclusive Economic Zone		31 552.63		315.53
46	Selligrunnen	NO	2005	Territorial Waters		56.87		0.57
47	Sularevet	NO	2005	Territorial Waters	1160,32		11.60	
				Exclusive Economic Zone	97335,45	98 495.77	973.35	984.96
48	Tisler	NO	2005	Territorial Waters		176,60		1.77

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	MPA	CP	Year	Territory	Hectares (partition)	Hectares (total)	Km ² (partition)	Km ² (total)
POR - Portugal								
49	Formigas Bank	POR	2005	Territorial Waters		52 415.27		524.15
50	Corvo Island	POR	2006	Territorial Waters		25 745.85		257.46
51	D, Jo/Æo de Castro seamount	POR	2006	Exclusive Economic Zone		35 409.27		354.09
52	Faial-Pico Channel	POR	2006	Territorial Waters		24 017.55		240.18
53	Lucky Strike hydrothermal vent	POR	2006	Exclusive Economic Zone		19 138.58		191.39
54	Menez Gwen hydrothermal vent f	POR	2006	Exclusive Economic Zone		9501.16		95.01
55	Rainbow hydrothermal vent field	POR	2006	Extended Continental Shelf		2216.89		22.17
56	Sedlo Seamount	POR	2007	Exclusive Economic Zone		401 596.64		4015.97
SWE - Sweden								
57	Fladen	SWE	2005	Territorial Waters	9594.66		95.95	
				Exclusive Economic Zone	785.43	10 380.08	7.85	103.80
58	Gullmarsfjorden	SWE	2005	Territorial Waters		11 369.38		113.69
59	Kosterfjorden-Väderöfjorden	SWE	2005	Territorial Waters		42 527.24		425.27
60	Kungsbackafjorden	SWE	2005	Territorial Waters		7867.66		78.68
61	Lilla Middelgrund	SWE	2005	Territorial Waters	8941.68		89.42	
			2005	Exclusive Economic Zone	8898.26	17 839.93	88.98	178.40
62	Nordre älvs estuarium	SWE	2005	Territorial Waters		7083.06		70.83
UK – United Kingdom								
63	Alde-Ore & Butley Estuary	UK	2005	Territorial Waters		1107.87		11.08
64	Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast	UK	2005	Territorial Waters		2055.59		20.56

	MPA	CP	Year	Territory	Hectares (partition)	Hectares (total)	Km² (partition)	Km² (total)
65	Murlough SAC	UK	2005	Territorial Waters		10 570.44		105.70
66	Rathlin Island SAC	UK	2005	Territorial Waters		3143.33		31.43
67	Strangford Lough SAC	UK	2005	Territorial Waters		14 932.95		149.33
68	Ascrib, Isay and Dunvegan	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		2574.89		25.75
69	Cardigan Bay / Bae Ceredigion	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		95 369.26		953.69
70	Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries / Bae Caerfyrddin ac Aberoedd	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		48 883.64		488.84
71	Chesil & The Fleet	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		747.47		7.47
72	Dornoch Firth and Morrich More	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		1524.85		15.25
73	Drigg Coast	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		707.40		7.07
74	Eileanan agus Sgeirean Lios mor	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		1136.45		11.36
75	Essex Estuaries	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		38 246.96		382.47
76	Fal & Helford	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		3644.92		36.45
77	Faray and Holm of Faray	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		721.24		7.21
78	Firth of Lorn, Marine	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		20 961.69		209.62
79	Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		1416.11		14.16
80	Flamborough Head	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		6206.44		62.06
81	Glannau Mon: Cors heli / Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		487.14		4.87
82	Isle of May	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		332.17		3.32
83	Isles of Scilly Complex	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		26 677.50		266.78
84	Kenfig / Cynffig	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		269.14		2.69
85	Limestone Coast of South West Wales / Arfordir Calchfaen De Orllewin Cymru	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		199		1.99

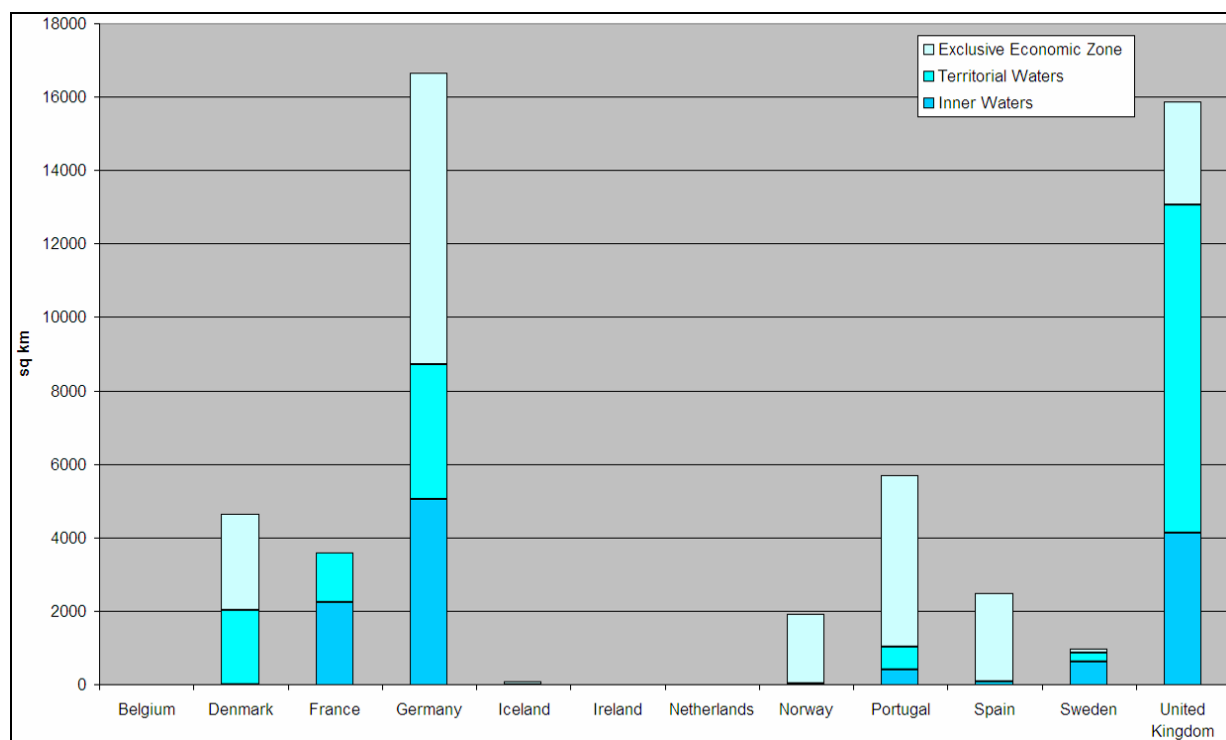
2008 Report on the progress made in developing the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas

	MPA	CP	Year	Territory	Hectares (partition)	Hectares (total)	Km² (partition)	Km² (total)
86	Loch Creran	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		1226.39		12.26
87	Loch Laxford	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		1211.71		12.12
88	Loch Moidart and Loch Shiel Woods	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		283.81		2.84
89	Loch nam Madadh	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		1834.94		18.35
90	Lochs Duich, Long and Aish Reefs	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		2366,.80		23.67
91	Luce Bay and Sands	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		47 936.53		479.37
92	Lundy	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		3055.23		30.55
93	Moine Mhor	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		288.07		2.88
94	Monach Islands	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		3276.81		32.77
95	Moray Firth	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		13 9714.87		1397.15
96	Morecambe Bay	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		2144.12		21.44
97	Mousa	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		249.93		2.50
98	North Rona	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		511.83		5.12
99	Papa Stour	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		123.16		1.23
100	Pembrokeshire Marine / Sir Benfro Forol	UK	2007	Territorial Waters	120 185,.18		1201.85	
				Exclusive Economic Zone	11 894.89	132 080.07	118.95	1320.80
101	Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau / Lleyr Peninsula and the Sarnau	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		144174,80		1441.75
102	Plymouth Sound & Estuaries	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		1198.35		11.98
103	Sanday	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		10 978.05		109.78
104	Solent Maritime	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		6514.12		65.14
105	Solway Firth	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		42 365.25		423.65

	MPA	CP	Year	Territory	Hectares (partition)	Hectares (total)	Km² (partition)	Km² (total)
106	Sound of Arisaig (Loch Ailort to Loch Ceann Traigh)	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		4554.46		45.54
107	South East Islay Skerries	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		1482.13		14.82
108	South Wight Maritime	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		19 179.96		191.80
109	St, Kilda	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		24 541.25		245.41
110	Sullom Voe	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		2693.94		26.94
111	Sunart	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		5484.11		54.84
112	Thanet Coast	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		2759.85		27.60
113	The Wash & North Norfolk Coast	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		43 513.43		435.13
114	Treshnish Isles	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		1854.47		18.54
115	Tweed Estuary	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		17.55		0.18
116	Y Fenai a Bae Conwy / Menai Strait and Conwy Bay	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		17 950.96		179.51
117	Yell Sound Coast	UK	2007	Territorial Waters		663.02		6.63
118	Braemar Pockmarks	UK	2008	Exclusive Economic Zone		518,50		5.18
119	Darwin Mounds	UK	2008	Exclusive Economic Zone		138 014.33		1380.14
120	Dee Estuary/ Aber Dyfrdwy	UK	2008	Territorial Waters		13 459.68		134.60
121	Haig Fras	UK	2008	Exclusive Economic Zone		48 135,99		481.36
122	Humber Estuary	UK	2008	Territorial Waters		3913.60		39.14
123	Scanner Pockmark	UK	2008	Exclusive Economic Zone		335.15		3,35
124	Severn Estuary/ Môr Hafren	UK	2008	Territorial Waters		37 604.65		376.05
125	Stanton Banks	UK	2008	Exclusive Economic Zone		81 816.14		818.16

Annex IV: Distribution of MPAs in OSPAR Contracting Parties' marine areas

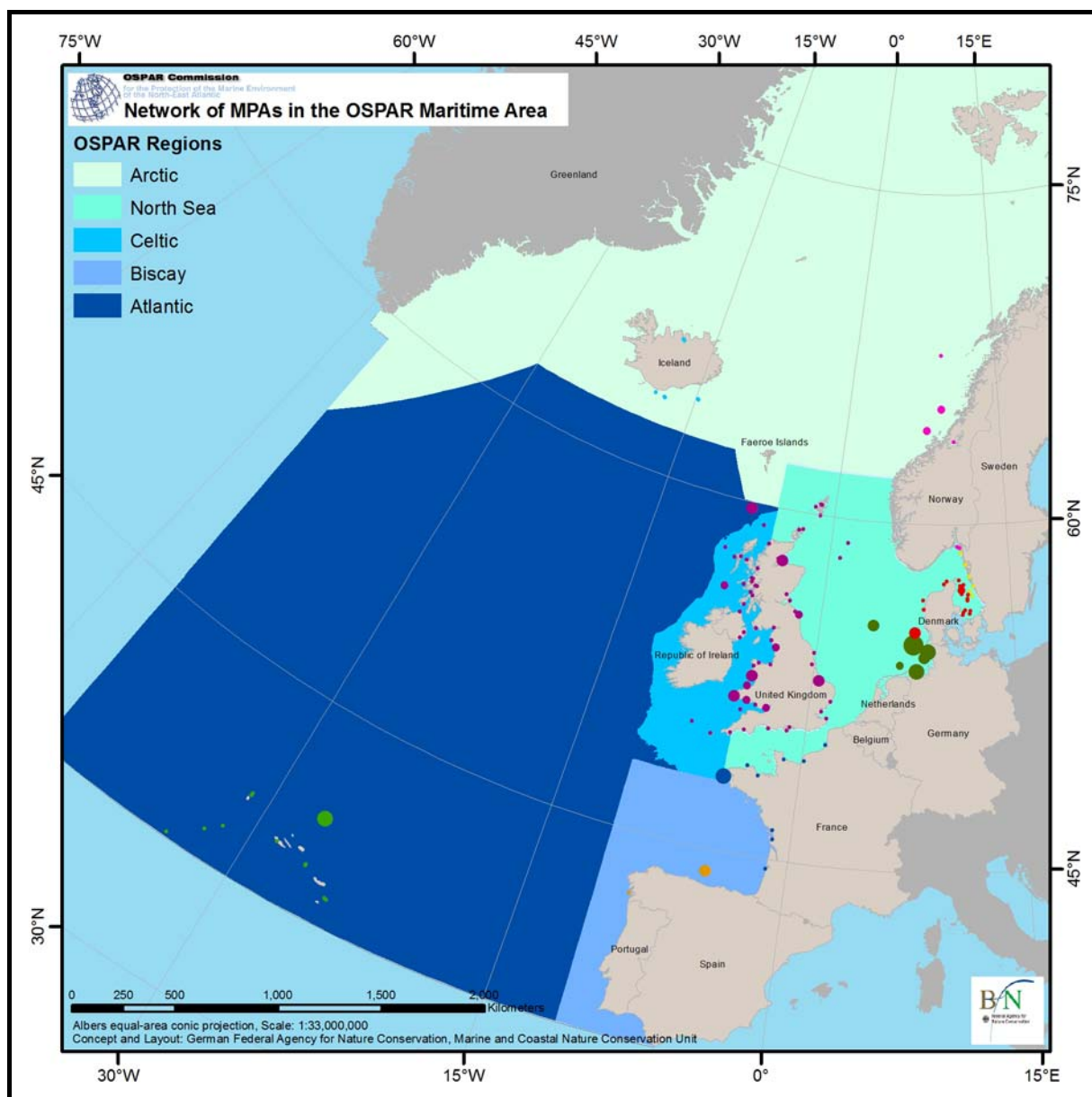
Figure 1: Absolute protected area coverage in Contracting Parties marine areas and distribution into inner waters, territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone



[Status as of 31 December 2008]

Annex V: Distribution/Representativity of OSPAR MPAs by OSPAR Regions

Map 3: Distribution of OSPAR MPAs by OSPAR Regions [Status as of 31 December 2008]



■ Denmark	■ Iceland	■ Spain
■ France ¹	■ Norway	■ Sweden
■ Germany	■ Portugal	■ United Kingdom ²

Based on OSPAR Database, January 2009

To increase visibility, the MPAs are outlined as point symbols according to their size. The actual size of MPAs is slightly smaller than the symbols.

¹French data are © MNHN

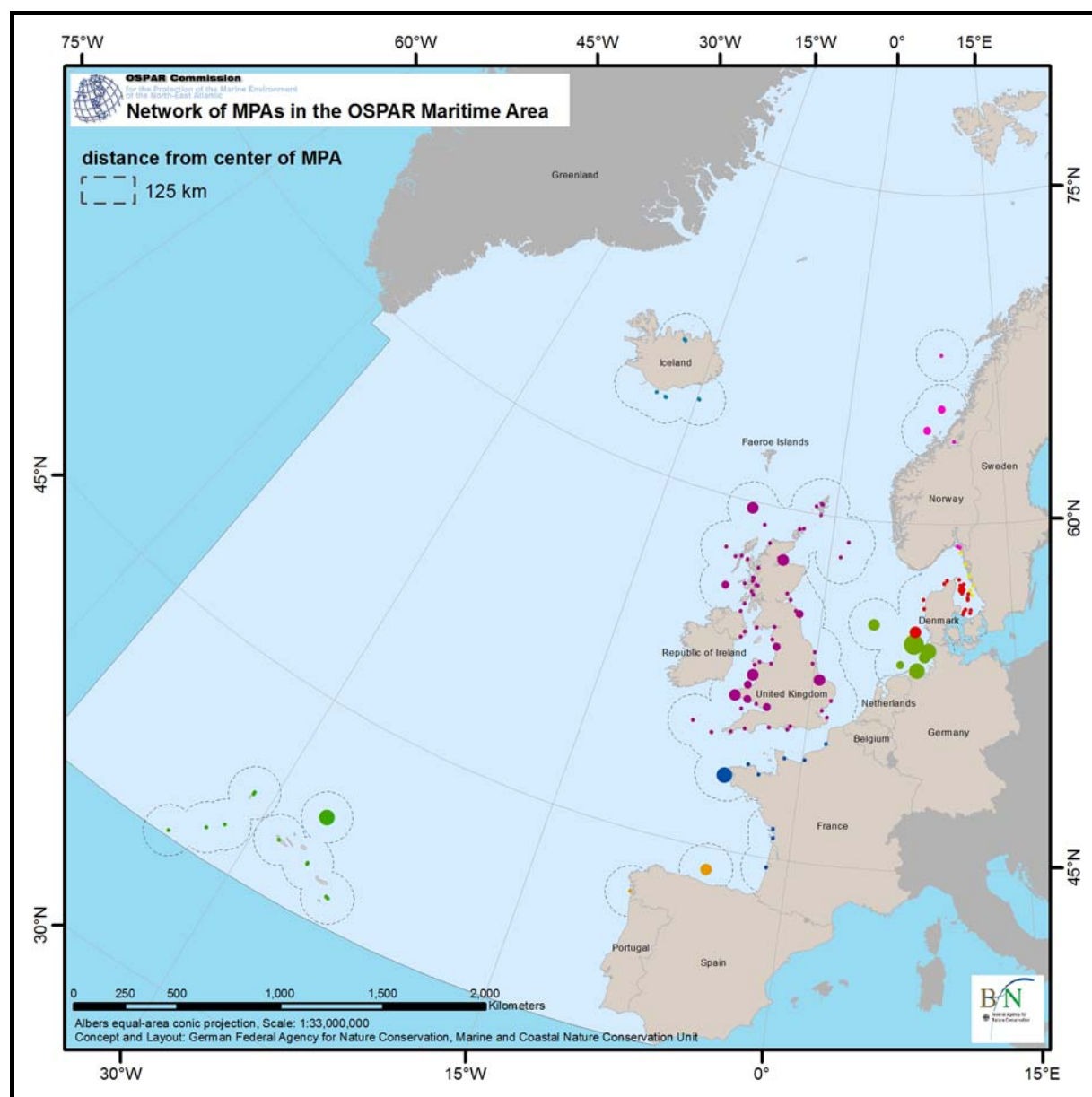
²British data are © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. English Nature, 100017954 [2009], Scottish Natural Heritage, 100017908 [2009], Countryside Council for Wales, 100018813 [2009], Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland), [2009]

Annex VI: Spatial Coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs

The following map shows - for illustrative purposes only – the OSPAR MPAs with a 125 km radius around their respective centre points. In cases where the centre points of two neighbouring MPAs are not further apart than 250 km the encircled areas connect to each other.

It has to be noted that this point of reference (125 km) has not been agreed upon by OSPAR as defining the spatial coherence of the OSPAR Network of MPAs.

Map 4: Exemplary illustration of the spatial connectivity of OSPAR MPAs [Status as of 31 December 2008]



■ Denmark	■ Iceland	■ Spain
■ France ¹	■ Norway	■ Sweden
■ Germany	■ Portugal	■ United Kingdom ²

Based on OSPAR Database, January 2009

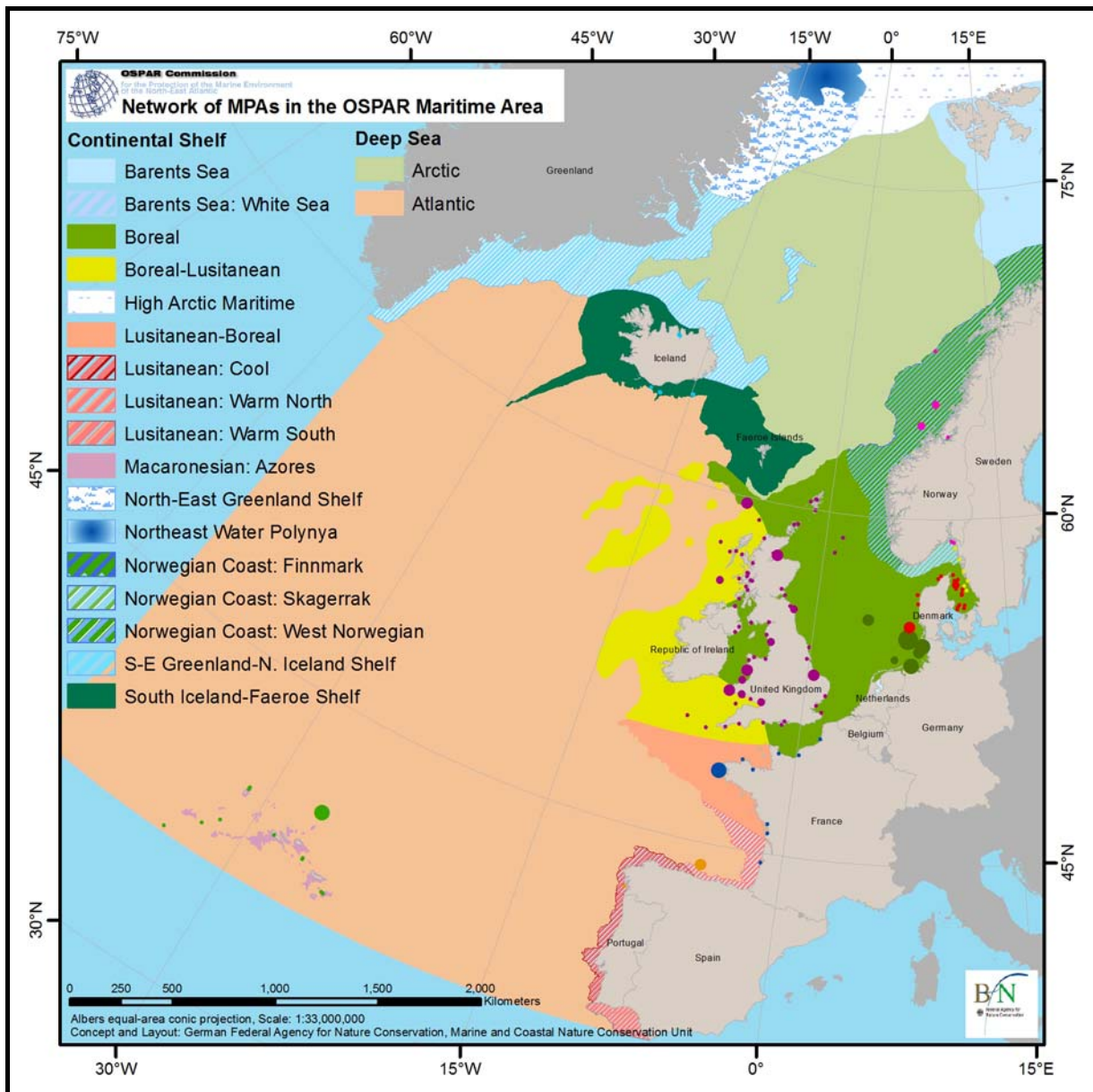
To increase visibility, the MPAs are outlined as point symbols according to their size. The actual size of MPAs is slightly smaller than the symbols.

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Annex VII: Distribution/Representativity of OSPAR MPAs by Dinter Biogeographic Provinces [Continental Shelf and Deep Sea Provinces]

**Map 5: Distribution/Representativity of OSPAR MPAs by Dinter Biogeographic Provinces
[Continental Shelf and Deep Sea Provinces]** [Status as of 31 December 2008]



■ Denmark	■ Iceland	■ Spain
■ France ¹	■ Norway	■ Sweden
■ Germany	■ Portugal	■ United Kingdom ²

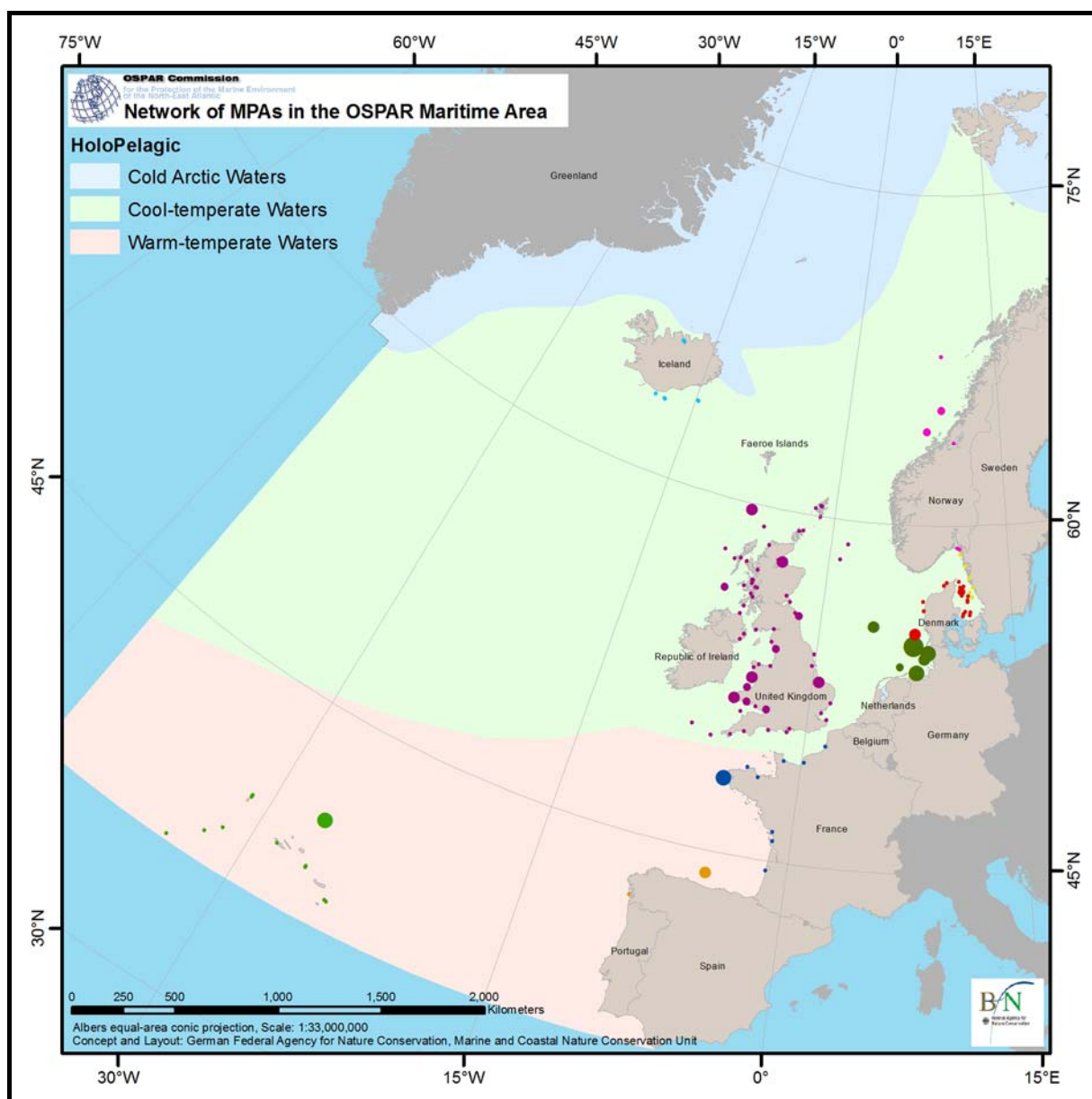
Based on OSPAR Database, January 2009
To increase visibility, the MPAs are outlined as point symbols according to their size. The actual size of MPAs is slightly smaller than the symbols.

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Annex VIII: Distribution/Representativity of OSPAR MPAs by Dinter Biogeographic Provinces [Holopelagic Provinces]

**Map 6: Distribution/Representativity of OSPAR MPAs by Dinter Biogeographic Provinces
[Holopelagic Provinces]** [Status as of 31 December 2008]



Based on OSPAR Database, January 2009

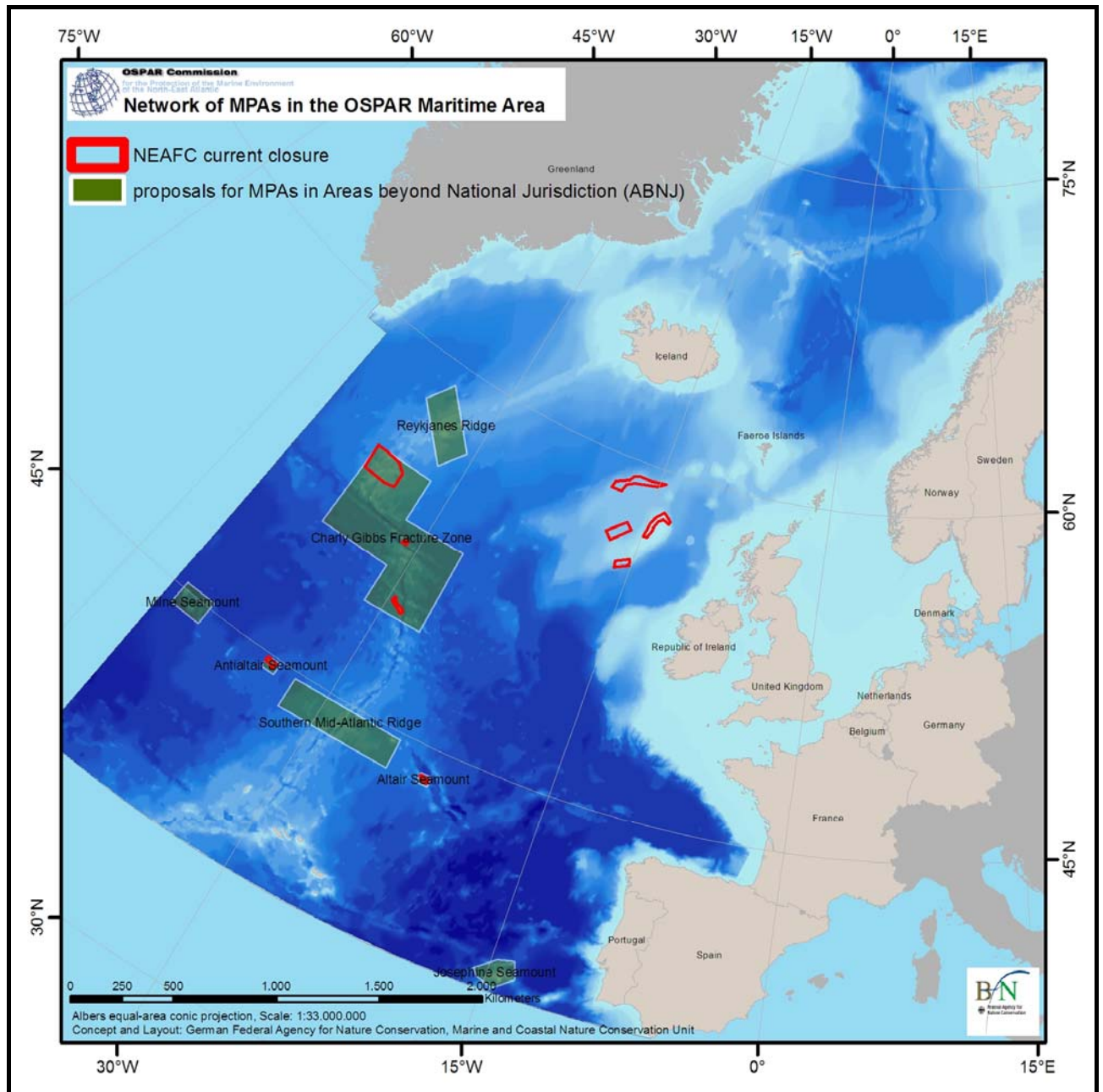
To increase visibility, the MPAs are outlined as point symbols according to their size. The actual size of MPAs is slightly smaller than the symbols.

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Annex IX: Marine Protection in OSPAR Areas beyond National Jurisdiction

Map 7: Proposed Marine Protected Areas in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) in the OSPAR Maritime Area [Status as of 31 December 2008]



The seabed of the OSPAR Maritime Area is shown with depth contours (with depth increasing from light to dark blue), highlighting the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

The proposals for MPAs in ABNJ as shown in this map have been developed by WWF Germany (Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone) and the University of York (UK).



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