OSPAR COMMISSION

OSPAR's North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030 - Progress Report

2025

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Contents

Our vision is of a clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic Ocean, which is productive, used sustainably and resilient to climate change and ocean acidification.

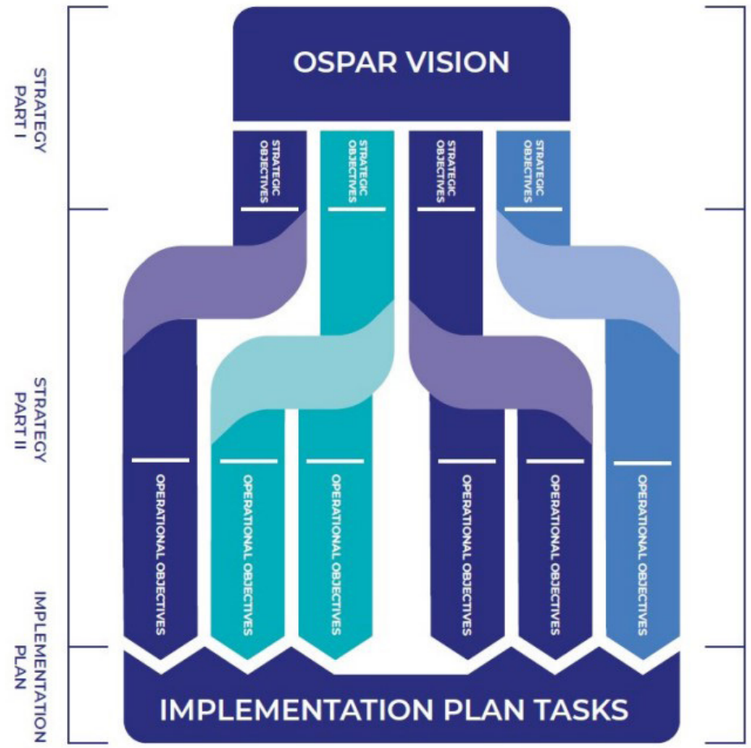


Figure 1. The Strategy has three tiers: our vision and strategic objectives in Part 1, operational objectives in Part 2, all underpinned by a comprehensive implementation plan that sets out the specific tasks needed to deliver the strategic and operational objectives.

Foreword

It is a great honour to assume the role of Chair of the OSPAR Commission at this pivotal moment in our shared environmental journey. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the outgoing Chair, Ane-Marie Løvendahl Eskildsen of Denmark, for her outstanding leadership in guiding us to this point.

As we pass the midpoint of the decade, the urgency and ambition behind our collective commitment—to achieve the goals of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES) by 2030—have never been more apparent.

OSPAR has a proud legacy of science-based cooperation, driving tangible improvements in the health of the North-East Atlantic. Yet the challenges we face—climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and growing human pressures—are increasing in both complexity and scale. This report provides an overview of the progress made by OSPAR Contracting Parties in implementing the NEAES 2030. While there are encouraging signs of success in several areas, the overall picture is mixed, and it is clear that further, accelerated action is needed.

Our path forward must focus on strengthening implementation, deepening cooperation, and building momentum. We must continue to draw on OSPAR's core strengths: rigorous monitoring, transparent reporting, and meaningful collaboration among Contracting Parties and stakeholders. Just as importantly, we must ensure our decisions are inclusive, equitable, and firmly grounded in the best available science.

The North-East Atlantic is one of the most biologically diverse and economically significant marine regions in the world. Safeguarding its health is not only a responsibility we owe to future generations—it is also a crucial contribution to the global effort to achieve sustainability.

I am confident that, with renewed determination and shared purpose, we can fulfil the commitments outlined in the NEAES 2030. Let this Midpoint Report serve as both a roadmap and a call to action. The time to act is now.

Jorge Ureta Maeso (Spain)

J. Maeso

Incoming Chair, OSPAR Commission

Key Messages

- Contracting Parties are **working on 118 tasks** to deliver the objectives of OSPAR's North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES) 2030.
- Since 2021 nearly **20% of the tasks have been completed** and 75% are progressing with no major issues identified.
- Completed tasks include action to address the **decline in marine birds,** identifying sources of **turtle entanglement**, better understanding the **impacts of rocket launch debris** and agreeing further work to **minimise the dumping, and leaving wholly or partly in place, of offshore oil and gas installations**.
- **20 new tasks added in 2025** covering a broad range of topics from tackling nutrient pollution, Marine Protected Areas, and underwater noise to offshore oil and gas and renewables and OSPAR's Intermediate Assessment 2029.
- Resourcing remains an issue**. 16 new tasks do not have the task leads needed to action** them.
- Based on current plans, **around 70% of the operational objectives will be delivered** but further tasks will need to be taken forward in the next 5-year period to fully implement the NEAES.

Figure 2. The OSPAR maritime area, the North-East Atlantic, in 2025

Sources: Maxar, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, GEBCO, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen and the GIS User Community, Esri, GEBCO, Garmin, NaturalVue

What has OSPAR done to implement the objectives of its North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy NEAES 2030?

The NEAES 2030 objectives are fulfilled through "tasks" that are implemented by the OSPAR Committees and other subsidiary groups. Progress is reported to the annual OSPAR Commission meeting by means of a management report that uses a traffic light (Red/Amber/Green) system to communicate the overall state of progress, resourcing and programme-level risk. A snapshot of the NEAES Implementation Plan is made publicly available following the annual OSPAR Commission meeting.

Of the 118 NEAES tasks reviewed at the 2025 OSPAR Commission 19 % have been completed and 75% are on track or not on track but with no major issues.

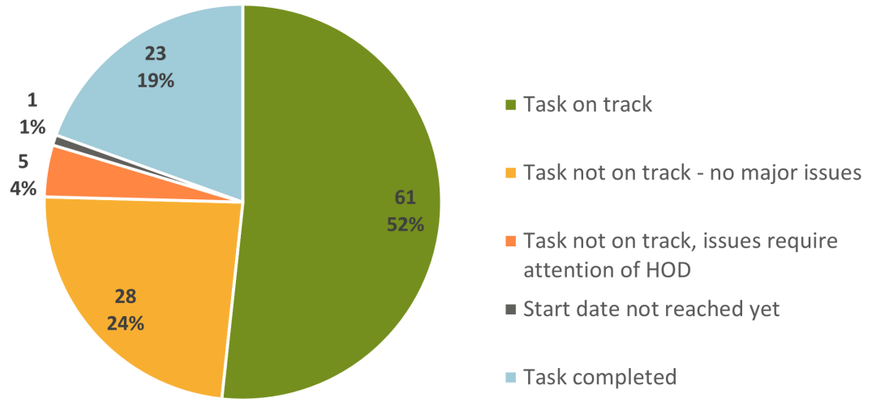


Figure 3: State of play on tasks reported to OSPAR 2025

Tasks have been completed on:

- The OSPAR Marine Bird Regional Action Plan (RAP-Bird). The RAP-Bird was adopted by OSPAR 2024 and contains 11 actions intended to improve the status of marine birds in the OSPAR maritime area. Now that the RAP-Bird has been adopted, work will focus on implementing the plan. Of 11 actions of the RAP-Bird, nine will be implemented as tasks of the NEAES 2030, one will continue to implement the OSPAR threatened and/or declining bird species Recommendations and one will be to implement the OSPAR Recommendation on reducing marine bird bycatch.
- Entanglement of sea turtles within the OSPAR maritime area and in Macaronesia: a background document has been adopted to identify and understand the main sources of entanglement of sea turtles. It sets out proposals for future work at regional level that could be considered by OSPAR.
- Rocket Launch activities: a background document has been adopted on the impacts on the marine environment from deposition of space launch vehicles. It provides a technical overview of these emerging pressures, highlights critical knowledge gaps, and outlines policy considerations for OSPAR Contracting Parties.
- Decommissioning of disused oil and gas platforms: The derogation categories have been reviewed and a roadmap to reduce the derogation applications and promote the advancement on decommissioning technologies has been adopted.

OSPAR 2025 agreed the inclusion of a further 20 new NEAES tasks into the Implementation Plan.

These are:

- Evaluation of reporting on implementing nitrogen reduction measures relating to the 2030 Gothenburg Protocol to reduce eutrophication in the OSPAR maritime area.
- Enhancing our comprehension of climate-related shifts in the seasonality of indicators for eutrophication.
- Assessing the necessity of adjusting eutrophication indicators to align with a changing climate, integrating them with plankton indicators for a coherent evaluation.
- Evaluating our current nutrient input limits in relation to a future marine environment under a changing climate.
- Reviewing work on cumulative effects of radioactive substances and other environmental stressors.
- Identification of priority sites and area-based conservation and management measures in OSPAR's Arctic Waters.
- Integrated monitoring and assessment of marine bird population status and condition.
- A coordinated programme of work to review the benthic habitat complexes and biotopes present within the relevant sections of the European Nature Information System (EUNIS) 2022 habitat classifications.
- Specifying and attaining overarching targets in the OSPAR maritime area such that noise levels are decreasing overall and defining threshold values to determine whether noise levels are having adverse effects on the marine environment (Regional Action Plan on Underwater Noise (RAP-Noise) action 1).
- Supporting and promoting the integration of underwater noise pollution into marine spatial planning and related policy processes (RAP-Noise action 2).
- Reducing underwater noise from commercial shipping by supporting activities which accelerate the implementation of the IMO noise guidelines for vessels operating in the OSPAR maritime area (RAP-Noise action 3).
- Improving the uptake of quieter technologies and operating procedures for seismic airgun and other geophysical surveys (RAP-Noise action 4).
- Increasing the use of noise abatement systems and quieter piling techniques for pile driving operations for construction and operation of marine infrastructure (RAP-Noise action 5).
- Increasing the use of quieter Unexploded Ordanance (UXO) disposal technologies and techniques (RAP-Noise action 6).
- Reducing noise from other sources of underwater noise, including sources which are currently less well understood or are not currently monitored at the OSPAR level, or which are not directly included in OSPAR's remit, such as military sonar (RAP-Noise action 7).
- Identifying key stakeholders for the implementation of the RAP-Noise and to facilitate dialogue with these stakeholders in support of relevant RAP-Noise Actions (RAP-Noise action 8).
- Implementing the roadmap to reduce numbers of applications seeking a derogation and increase full removals of redundant oil and gas installations.
- Developing an OSPAR approach on decommissioning of offshore wind energy installations.
- Identification of chemical emissions from offshore renewable energy initiatives and associated risks for the marine environment.
- Supporting EU Member States' MSFD implementation through OSPAR's Intermediate Assessment 2029 by informing and delivering regionally coordinated biodiversity assessments.

These examples give a good indication of the range of issues covered by OSPAR and its specialist committees and other subsidiary bodies.

There are another 16 tasks which have been drafted but where Contracting Parties are yet to identify resources to lead the work. These have not been included in the Implementation Plan but have been placed in a "holding pen" until the necessary resources can be identified. This is a key challenge for the OSPAR Contracting Parties and for the delivery of the NEAES 2030 itself.

Sufficiency of tasks – will OSPAR deliver the NEAES 2030?

OSPAR still needs to define further tasks to fully deliver the operational objectives of the NEAES 2030.

To help assess whether OSPAR is on track to deliver the NEAES 2030, an exercise was conducted during 2024/25 to assess the sufficiency of NEAES tasks, including those agreed at OSPAR 2025. The assessment, made by the OSPAR Committees and subsidiary bodies, aims to show whether the NEAES tasks agreed by OSPAR will fully deliver each of the relevant operational objectives. Summary results are presented in Annex 1 to this report. A total of 13% of objectives have already been fully implemented. 56% of objectives are mostly or fully covered by the current tasks and 31% are only partly covered or still need to have tasks defined and agreed. Some of the key changes in comparison with the previous assessment conducted in 2023 are:

- A significant improvement in respect of Strategic Objective 3 where the tasks that have been agreed are expected to fully deliver the operational objectives.
- The creation of a new working group on climate change and ocean acidification has also resulted in a series of tasks being agreed that will help deliver operational objectives S10.O1 and S10.O3 under Strategic Objective 10 on 'raising awareness of climate change and ocean acidification by monitoring, analysing and communicating their effects'. Challenges remain however for other climate change and ocean acidification related objectives.
- The biggest implementation challenges continue to be for biodiversity and for cross-cutting issues due to resource constraints within the Contracting Parties. For example, Contracting Parties have drafted tasks on nature-based solutions and restoration, and on the Marine Protected Areas' (MPA) network in light of climate change, know what needs to be done but lack national leads to take these tasks forward.
- For most other areas there is a mixed picture with some improvements and a few instances where the likelihood of achieving the operational objective has decreased. The assessment for each operational objective in 2025 is shown in Annex I and compared to the previous exercise carried out in 2023.
- Decommissioning of disused oil and gas platforms: The derogation categories have been reviewed and a roadmap to reduce the derogation applications and promote the advancement on decommissioning technologies has been adopted.

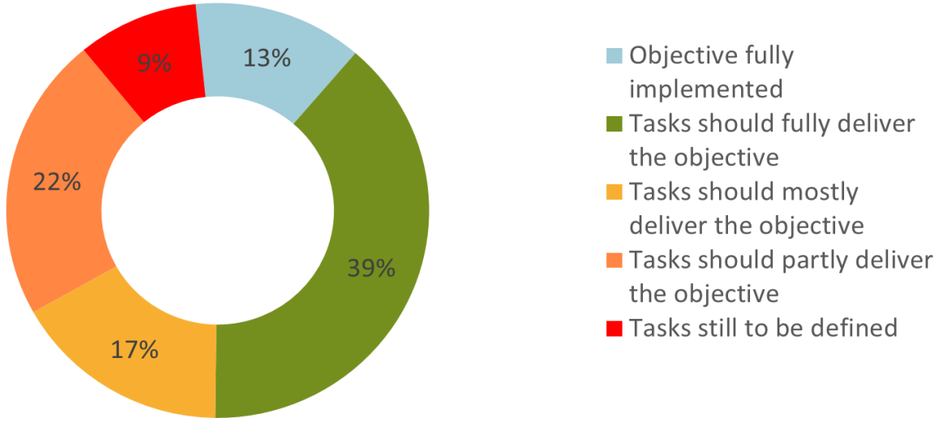


Figure 4: assessment of sufficiency of tasks to implement the objectives; the breakdown shows the percentage of objectives which fall into each category

Next steps

OSPAR will collect lessons learned from the implementation of the NEAES 2030 to inform the work on the preparation of the next Strategy.

A lessons learned exercise will be carried out to review implementation of the NEAES 2030 and make recommendations for improvement. The review will aim to understand more clearly the gap between the defined tasks and the achievement of operational objectives of the NEAES 2030 and the reasons for the lack of progress, e.g. dependence on actions outside OSPAR, poorly defined operational objectives and resourcing.

Annex 1: Strategic and operational objectives of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030

This annex lists the 54 operational objectives of the NEAES 2030 and indicates the extent to which the tasks which have been included in the Implementation Plan up until OSPAR 2030 would deliver the objectives. OSPAR Committees and subsidiary bodies were asked to assess whether the current tasks would fully, mostly or partly deliver the objective, or whether tasks still needed to be defined.

The operational objectives have been highlighted as follows:

- Objective fully implemented
- Tasks should fully implement the objective
- Tasks should mostly implement the objective
- Tasks should partly implement the objective
- Tasks still to be defined

Part II: Operational Objectives

To achieve clean seas we will:

Strategic Objective 1: Tackle eutrophication, through limiting inputs of nutrients and organic matter to levels that do not give rise to adverse effects on the marine environment.

2023 2025

S1.01: By 2022 OSPAR will implement an automated eutrophication assessment tool to deliver harmonised and transparent assessments for OSPAR and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and to provide support for the development of the SDG 14.1.1 Index of Coastal Eutrophication in 2025.

S1.02: By 2022 OSPAR will determine the maximum inputs of nutrients for relevant assessment areas which prevent deterioration and enable the achievement of non-problem area status throughout the North-East Atlantic.

S1.03: By 2024 OSPAR will identify and quantify relevant sources, including transboundary transport, and agree nutrient reduction needs for each Contracting Party to stay at or below the maximum input levels, reporting on progress towards these in 2025 and regularly thereafter.

S1.04: By 2028 OSPAR will ensure that sufficient measures are taken to achieve the necessary input reductions to prevent coastal and offshore eutrophication in the North-East Atlantic, working where appropriate with national and international organisations and authorities concerned with managing nutrient emissions, discharges and losses.

S1.05: By 2030 OSPAR will ensure that nutrient reduction targets and measures are sufficient to avoid adverse eutrophication effects in a changing climate.

S1.06: By 2030 OSPAR will develop and implement a regional approach to applying nature-based solutions to reinstate and safeguard the natural capacity of the ecosystem to sequester nutrients through conservation and restoration of estuarine, coastal and marine habitats, where this is practicable.

Strategic Objective 2: Prevent pollution by hazardous substances, by eliminating their emissions, discharges and losses, to achieve levels that do not give rise to adverse effects on human health or the marine environment, with the ultimate aim of achieving and maintaining concentrations in the marine environment at near background values for naturally occurring hazardous substances and close to zero for human made hazardous substances.

2023 2025

S2.01: By 2022 OSPAR will introduce a revised approach to managing the OSPAR Lists of Chemicals for Priority Action and Substances of Possible Concern (LCPA and LSPC). By 2022 and regularly thereafter, OSPAR will identify contaminants of emerging concern for the marine environment and prioritise them for action, including promoting and where necessary supplementing measures under relevant EU legislation and international organisations.

S2.02: OSPAR will develop and identify marine-relevant assessment criteria for hazardous substances, for use in the Quality Status Report 2023 and subsequently further develop these, including for emerging contaminants, working closely with relevant experts, particularly in the Working Group Chemicals under the Water Framework Directive Common Implementation Strategy.

S2.03: By 2027 OSPAR will ensure that measures to eliminate discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances are in place to achieve or maintain good environmental status for hazardous substances, including through working regularly with other organisations.

S2.04: By 2026 OSPAR will further develop the Harmonised Mandatory Control System for the use and discharge of offshore chemicals to improve coherence with other relevant international requirements such as the EU REACH Regulation and the Biocidal Products Regulation.

Strategic Objective 3: Prevent pollution by radioactive substances in order to safeguard human health and to protect the marine environment, with the ultimate aim of achieving and maintaining concentrations in the marine environment at near background values for naturally occurring radioactive substances and close to zero for human made radioactive substances.

S3.01: On an ongoing basis OSPAR will further prevent, progressively reduce or, where that is not practicable, minimise discharges of radioactive substances through the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT), taking into account technical feasibility, radiological impact and legitimate uses of the sea.

S3.02: By 2025 OSPAR will identify and consider any obstacles in achieving further reductions in environmental concentrations of radioactive substances in the marine environment and examine possible solutions where appropriate.

S3.03: By 2025 OSPAR will identify the different types of loss of radioactive substances that may contribute to pollution of the marine environment. By 2027 OSPAR will determine if any additional measures are required to prevent such pollution, to the extent that such pollution is not already the subject of effective measures agreed by other international organisations or prescribed by other international conventions.

S3.04: By 2028 OSPAR will, following the outcome of the Quality Status report 2023, address, where appropriate, any uncertainties by reviewing and updating methodologies to better determine the possible impact of releases, emissions and losses of radioactive substances on marine ecosystems.

Strategic Objective 4: Prevent inputs of and significantly reduce marine litter, including microplastics, in the marine environment to reach levels that do not cause adverse impacts to the marine and coastal environment with the ultimate aim of eliminating inputs of litter.

2023 2025

S4.01: By 2022 OSPAR will agree an updated Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter including a set of prioritised "SMART" objectives to address new and emerging issues and to reduce the impacts of those items causing most harm to the marine environment.

S4.02: By 2023 OSPAR will improve the evidence base on harm in relation to marine litter with the aim of developing and agreeing actions and measures to reduce harm by 2025.

S4.03: By 2025 OSPAR will reduce by at least 50% the prevalence of the most commonly found single-use plastic items and of maritime-related plastic items on beaches in order to contribute to the achievement of relevant regional and EU threshold values building upon requirements for EU Member States in the EU Single Use Plastics Directive (Directive 2019/904), and by at least 75% by 2030.

S4.04: By 2023 OSPAR will develop additional regionally coordinated quantitative reduction targets for all marine litter on beaches, and as soon as possible for other relevant environmental compartments, taking account of relevant regional and EU threshold values.

S4.05: By 2025 OSPAR will adopt programmes and measures to control and, where appropriate, phase out plastic from materials placed at sea for the purposes of marine infrastructure developments.

S4.06: By 2027 OSPAR will develop measures to control, and where possible, phase out discharges of plastic substances, including microplastics, contained in chemicals from offshore sources.

S4.07: By 2025 OSPAR will develop approaches to prevent and reduce riverine marine litter inputs in cooperation with the relevant international river or river basin commissions, and other appropriate authorities and organisations.

S4.08: By 2025 OSPAR will develop and implement measures to substantially reduce marine litter from fishing and aquaculture gear, in collaboration with those sectors, as appropriate, and by 2027 will determine the need for, and where appropriate adopt, targets or other actions for the separate collection of end-of-life fishing and aquaculture gear coherent with relevant EU directives and the update of the OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter.

To achieve biologically diverse and healthy seas we will:

Strategic Objective 5: Protect and conserve marine biodiversity, ecosystems and their services to achieve good status of species and habitats, and thereby maintain and strengthen ecosystem resilience.

2023 2025

S5.01: By 2030 OSPAR will further develop its network of marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) to cover at least 30% of the OSPAR maritime area to ensure it is representative, ecologically coherent and effectively managed to achieve its conservation objectives.

S5.02: By 2022 OSPAR will identify barriers to the effective management of MPAs, and by 2024 take steps to address them appropriately to enable all OSPAR MPAs to achieve their conservation objectives.

S5.03: By 2024, OSPAR will establish a mechanism to provide that where Contracting Parties are authorising human activities under their jurisdiction or control that may conflict with the conservation objectives of OSPAR MPAs in the ABNJ, these activities are subjected to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

S5.04: By 2025 at the latest OSPAR will take appropriate actions to prevent or reduce pressures to enable the recovery of marine species and benthic and pelagic habitats in order to reach and maintain good environmental status as reflected in relevant OSPAR status assessments, with action by 2023 to halt the decline of marine birds.

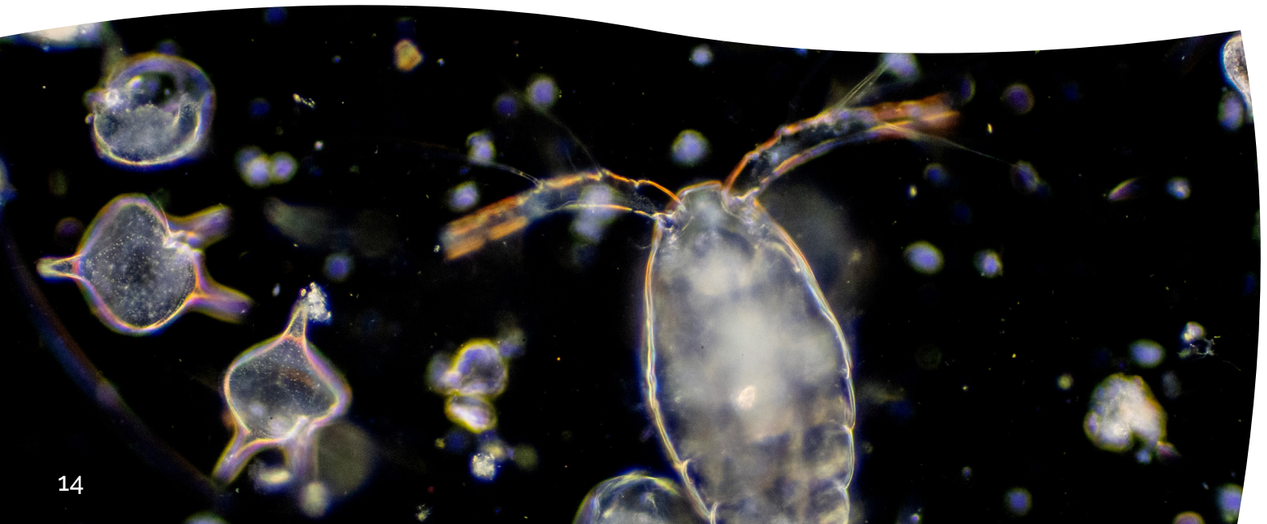
S5.05: By 2025 OSPAR will have implemented all agreed measures to enable the recovery of OSPAR Listed threatened and/or declining species and habitats and will take additional measures as needed.

S5.06: Where the knowledge base is insufficient to achieve OSPAR's biodiversity objectives, OSPAR will take action to improve regional coordination for collection and sharing of data, information and knowledge, with elasmobranchs as a priority by 2023.

Strategic Objective 6: Restore degraded benthic habitats in the North-East Atlantic when practicable to safeguard their ecosystem function and resilience to climate change and ocean acidification

S6.01: By 2023 OSPAR will identify habitats suitable for restoration, and develop a common knowledge base on the most appropriate and effective methods for restoration of degraded habitats.

S6.02: By 2025 OSPAR will develop a regional approach, including relevant qualitative and/or quantitative targets for restoration of degraded habitats suitable for restoration, and will then implement actions to achieve the targets as appropriate.



To achieve productive and sustainably used seas we will:

Strategic Objective 7: Ensure that uses of the marine environment are sustainable, through the integrated management of current and emerging human activities, including addressing their cumulative impacts.

2023 2025

S7.01: By 2028 OSPAR will further develop methods for the analysis of cumulative effects in the marine ecosystems of the North-East Atlantic, taking into account relevant spatial and temporal information on human activities, pressures, sensitive receptors and habitats, and use the results to inform the establishment of measures and actions to prevent, reduce or otherwise manage impacts.

S7.02: By 2025 OSPAR will develop a coordinated management approach to ensure the number of non-indigenous species introduced via human activity is minimised and where possible reduced to zero.

S7.03 By 2025 OSPAR will start accounting for ecosystem services and natural capital by making maximum use of existing frameworks in order to recognise, assess and consistently account for human activities and their consequences in the implementation of ecosystem-based management.

S7.04: By 2023 OSPAR will assess, review and potentially revise the OSPAR criteria, guidelines and procedures relating to the dumping of wastes or other matter and to the placement of matter.

S7.05: By 2024 OSPAR will review the risks from new, emerging and increasing pressures on the marine environment, taking account of OSPAR's Quality Status Report 2023, and prioritise them for action and the adoption of measures where necessary.

S7.06: OSPAR will work with relevant competent authorities and other stakeholders to minimise, and where possible eliminate, incidental by-catch of marine mammals, birds, turtles and fish so that it does not represent a threat to the protection and conservation of these species and will work towards strengthening the evidence base concerning incidental by-catch by 2025.

Strategic Objective 8: Reduce anthropogenic underwater noise to levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment.

S8.01: By 2025 OSPAR will agree a regional action plan setting out a series of national and collective actions and, as appropriate, OSPAR measures to reduce noise pollution.

S8.02: By 2022 OSPAR will develop and implement a coordinated monitoring and modelling programme for continuous sound to support an assessment of anthropogenic underwater noise in the OSPAR maritime area.

Strategic Objective 9: Safeguard the structure and functions of the seabed/marine ecosystems by preventing significant habitat loss and physical disturbance due to human activities.

S9.01: By 2023 OSPAR will deliver a quantitative evidence base on pressures from human activities causing physical loss and disturbance to seabed habitats. On this basis, OSPAR will address and, where possible, reduce these pressures from human activities within its competence and regularly engage with other competent authorities with a view to reducing these pressures within their respective areas of competence in order to help achieve or maintain good environmental status.

S9.02: By 2023 OSPAR will review and, if appropriate, amend the categories of disused offshore installations where derogations may be considered under OSPAR Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations, aiming to reduce the scope of possible derogations. The review will be based, inter alia, on the advancement of decommissioning technologies and on the best available scientific knowledge.

S9.03: By 2023 OSPAR will agree on an approach and on actions to promote and advance decommissioning technologies under the framework of Decision 98/3 with the aim of reducing the scope of possible derogations.

To achieve seas resilient to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification we will:

Strategic Objective 10: Raise awareness of climate change and ocean acidification by monitoring, analysing and communicating their effects.

2023 2025

S10.01: By 2025 OSPAR will implement a coordinated long-term monitoring programme for ocean acidification variables.

S10.02: By 2023 OSPAR will develop assessments of ocean acidification and climate change and will take the impacts of ocean acidification and climate change into account in relevant OSPAR indicators and assessments.

S10.03: In 2023, and every 6 years thereafter, OSPAR will assess the current and projected impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on the OSPAR maritime area and its uses, to inform the development of national and international actions.

Strategic Objective 11: Facilitate adaptation to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification by considering additional pressures when developing programmes, actions and measures.

S11.01: By 2025 OSPAR will develop a coordinated management approach to strengthening ecosystem resilience, including to the consequences of climate change and ocean acidification.

S11.02: By 2023, and every six years thereafter, OSPAR will assess at a regional scale the OSPAR network of marine protected areas in respect of the resilience of marine biodiversity to climate change, with the aim of ensuring that the network provides a good representation of species and habitats and that its spatial design and management regime remains relevant.

S11.03: From 2021 OSPAR will ensure that revisions to the OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining species and habitats and status assessments take account of any relevant impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.

S11.04: From 2021 OSPAR will consider the additional pressures from climate change and ocean acidification both now and under future climate conditions in its regular review of measures and actions and update them as appropriate.

Strategic Objective 12: Mitigate climate change and ocean acidification by contributing to global efforts, including by safeguarding the marine environment's role as a natural carbon store.

2023 2025

S12.01: By 2025 OSPAR will develop a regional approach to applying nature-based solutions for carbon storage and implement specific measures to protect and restore relevant carbon sequestration and storage habitats, such as seagrass beds, kelp forests and saltmarshes.

S12.02: By 2025 OSPAR will take nature-based carbon storage into account when reviewing the criteria for the designation of marine protected areas, and reviewing the OSPAR List of threatened and/or declining species and habitats.

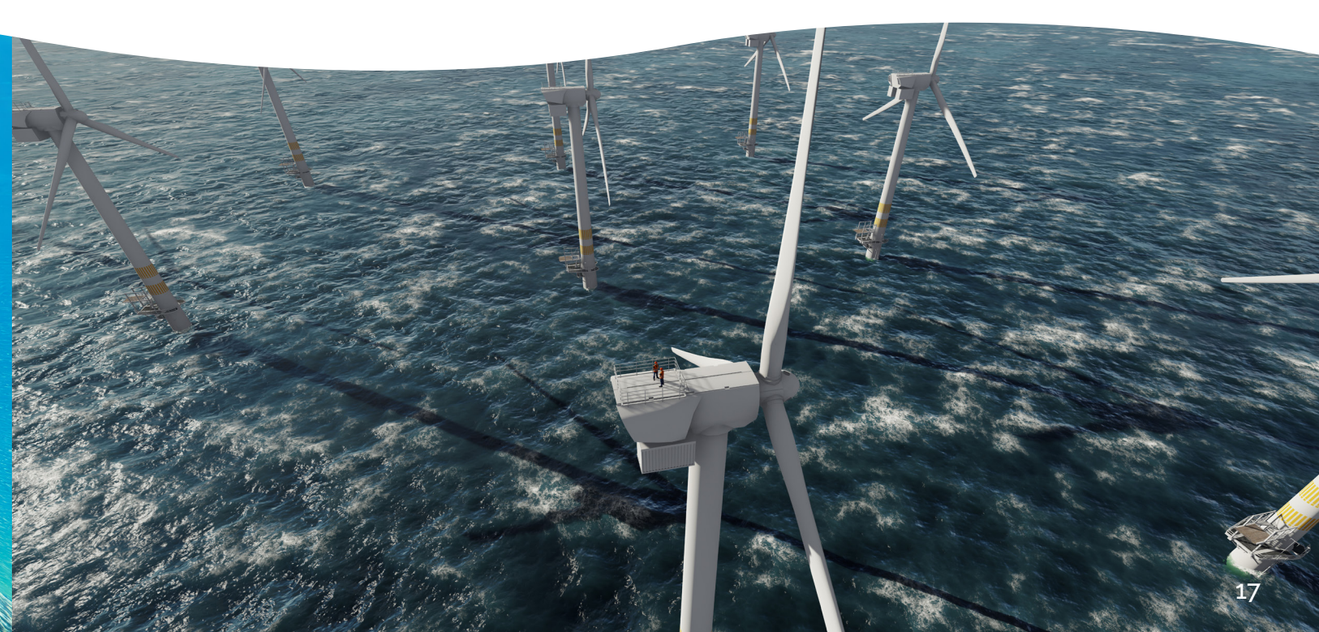
S12.03: By 2024 OSPAR will review the results of monitoring that is undertaken in relation to carbon dioxide storage to assess whether the monitoring techniques deployed are adequate to demonstrate that carbon dioxide streams are retained permanently in the storage complex. By 2026 OSPAR will evaluate the effectiveness of OSPAR measures to ensure that carbon dioxide streams are retained permanently in the storage complex and will not lead to any significant adverse consequences for the marine environment, human health and other legitimate uses of the maritime area.

S12.04: By 2023 OSPAR will develop common principles and by 2024 develop guidance to promote and facilitate sustainable development and scaling up of offshore renewable energy in a way that cumulative environmental impacts are minimised.

Cross-cutting issues

SX.01: By 2023 OSPAR will implement the regional coordination requirements arising from Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 for those Contracting Parties that are EU Member States, including regional lists of elements, aggregation and assessment methods and threshold values for the North-East Atlantic region or its sub-regions.

SX.02: By 2024 OSPAR will initiate discussions on the development of a practical approach for regional-scale ecosystem-based management, including through the 'Collective Arrangement' and in cooperation with fisheries management bodies and other competent organisations, in order to strengthen ecosystem resilience to climate change and to safeguard the marine environment, its biodiversity and ecosystem services.



Our vision is of a clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic Ocean, which is productive, used sustainably and resilient to climate change and ocean acidification.

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