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|  | Annex 6  Ref: §5.12e |
| OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic | |
| Meeting of the Coordination Group (CoG)  Videoconference: 10 May 2021 | |

OSPAR Regional Plan to improve adequacy and coherence of MSFD implementation 2020-2026

# I. Assessment and determination of GES (Art. 8 and 9 MSFD)

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| **OBJECTIVE 1:** Ongoing **regional operationalisation and implementation of the Commission Decision** (EU) 2017/848[[1]](#footnote-2)**on criteria and methodological standards** on good environmental status assessment. |

## ACTION 1: (2021-2023) / Pre-QSR2023

## Continue to develop OSPAR indicators, including list of elements, methodological standards, aggregation methods and threshold values. Each OSPAR Committee and their subsidiary bodies ensure that their work plan and timeline for methodological developments such as common indicators reflect the time plan expressed in the Timetable for regional implementation of the Commission Decision on GES (2017/848/EU) [[2]](#footnote-3)that was provided to the European Commission (EC) in March 2020. This work is undertaken in coherence with CIS EU work groups to improve consistency with the Art.8 MSFD guidance.

## *WHO: OSPAR Committees and their subsidiary bodies, coordinated by CoG*

## ACTION 2: (2020-2023) / Pre-QSR2023

## Agree that OSPAR work represents a coordinated regional response for the implementation of the Commission Decision for the Contracting Parties that are European Member States, at their disposal to use it for their national MSFD reporting obligations.

## *WHO: CoG and HOD*

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| **OBJECTIVE 2:** For the next assessment in 2024 of the Good Environmental Status (GES) under the third cycle of the MSFD and for the forthcoming cycles, **make the Quality Status Report 2023 (QSR 2023) support the national reporting of the EU Member States** that are Contracting Parties. |

## ACTION 3: (2020-2023) Pre-QSR2023

## Each OSPAR Committee and their subsidiary bodies ensure that the thematic assessments and the indicator assessments produced for the next QSR 2023 meet the reporting requirements of Articles 8 and 9 of the MSFD in regard of the GES (EU) Decision 2017/848 of the European Commission[[3]](#footnote-4).

## This action refers to deliverable 1.3 of ICG-MSFD’s Forward Work plan.

## *WHO: ICG-QSR for guidance; OSPAR Committees and their subsidiaries bodies for application*

# II. Environmental targets

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| **MAIN OBJECTIVE: Identify coherent environmental targets** to improve regional implementation of Art.10 MSFD. |

## ACTION 1: (2020-2023)

## OSPAR Committee and subsidiary bodies identify opportunities for coherent regional environmental targets on the pressures where regional and subregional measures are relevant.

## *WHO: OSPAR Committees for guidance and subsidiary bodies for application, on the basis of the steer given by ICG-MSFD*

## ACTION 2: Post-QSR2023

## To provide a regional approach to coherent national targets for all MSFD descriptors.

## *WHO: ICG-MSFD*

# III. Monitoring

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| **MAIN OBJECTIVE:** To improve consistency of the OSPAR Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme (CEMP) with the Art.11 MSFD requirements. |

## ACTION 1: (2020-2023)

## Contracting Parties to make sure the CEMP monitoring guidelines are developed to support Art.11 MSFD requirements and implemented in order to monitor OSPAR indicators used for QSR assessments at a (sub-)regional scale.

## ACTION 2: (2020-2023)

## Identify the gaps of national and regional monitoring and provide guidance for an enhanced regional coordinated monitoring programme.

## *WHO: OSPAR Committees for guidance and subsidiary bodies for application*

# IV. Programmes of Measures

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| **MAIN OBJECTIVE:** To **develop coordinated and, where appropriate, joint measures, taking into account the feedbacks from the MSFD 2nd cycle reporting on Programs of Measures (PoM), in order to improve consistency with the forthcoming cycles of MSFD PoM.** |

## ACTION 1: (2021-2023) / post QSR2023

## OSPAR Committees and subsidiary bodies to improve consistency regarding measures implemented nationally at a (sub-) regional scale especially regarding OSPAR work on noise, marine litter, biodiversity and habitats[[4]](#footnote-5), as required by the NEAES operational objectives and implementation plan.

## *WHO: OSPAR Committees for guidance and subsidiary bodies for application*

## ACTION 2: Post-QSR 2023

## OSPAR Committees, subsidiary bodies and Contracting Parties to identify and provide approaches on how to establish joint measures based on the national MSFD measures.

## *WHO: OSPAR Committees for guidance and subsidiary bodies for application*

# V. Cross-regional cooperation with other Regional Sea Conventions

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| **MAIN OBJECTIVE: Promote further coherence between the four marine regions where required by the Directive, in particular through cooperation between OSPAR and HELCOM and between OSPAR and Barcelona Convention with the view to fostering a coherent level of ambition across the EU, taking into account regional specificities.** |

## ACTION 1: (2020-2023) / Pre-QSR2023

## OSPAR seeks further opportunities for close cooperation with HELCOM and Barcelona Convention with the aim to make maximum use of potential synergies and to apply comparable/consistent approaches for their assessment methods, monitoring guidelines, measures, including through joint working groups.

## *WHO: OSPAR Committees for guidance and subsidiary bodies for application*

## ACTION 2: (2020-2023) / Pre-QSR2023

## Contracting Parties provide guidance to improve consistency of the OSPAR’s QSR 2023 with HELCOM’s HOLAS III and the Barcelona Convention’s QSR 2023.

## *WHO: OSPAR Committees for guidance and subsidiary bodies for application*

1. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017D0848&from=EN> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Cf Annex 1 of the MSFD-CIS work programme, as agreed by Marine Directors in 12/2020: <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/326ae5ac-0419-4167-83ca-e3c210534a69/library/99126297-37b3-45eb-ae06-ec21928b3c2a/details> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017D0848&from=EN> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. These fields were agreed at ICG-MSFD(2) 2019: <https://www.ospar.org/meetings/archive/intersessional-correspondence-group-on-the-marine-strategy-framework-directive-789> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)