

Roadmap for the implementation of collective actions within the Recommendations for the protection and conservation of OSPAR listed Species and Habitats

2017-2025

Action sheet 12

Action 12	Analyse whether any of the key areas justify selection as MPAs for the protection of whale populations and whether such areas may become a component of the OSPAR MPA network.
Participants	Germany, with support of France, the Netherlands, and United Kingdom and ICG-MPA
Plan:	<p>This action is relevant for all OSPAR regions and refers to the following species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bowhead whale - Blue whale - Northern right whale - Harbour porpoise <p>To accomplish Action 12, the following steps are envisaged:</p> <p>Step 1: Literature survey to compile knowledge and data on biological and ecological parameters of the species, such as distribution, abundance, life history, behavioural and physiological traits, and on methods of analysis, e.g. modelling approaches, statistics.</p> <p>Step 2: Check of data availability (e.g. distribution data) to select pilot species (i.e. species with the best available data) to start developing a methodological approach to model the pilot species' key areas.</p> <p>Step 3: Testing of different approaches to model the key areas of the pilot species. Depending on data availability and data needs of modelling approach, call for additional data sets on (all or specific) Action 12 species. Potentially establishment of a "network" of cetacean and modelling experts to discuss e.g. modelling approaches, data availability, knowledge gaps.</p> <p>Step 4: In close cooperation with supporting CPs and experts decide conclusively on the most suitable modelling approach to identify critical habitats of each Action 12 species in the OSPAR maritime area (NB: Depending on data availability, methods might differ between species).</p> <p>Step 5: Modelling of the key areas of all Action 12 species in the OSPAR maritime area (if possible, depending on data availability) and overlay with the OSPAR MPA network;</p>

	<p>regular updates (e.g. interim reports, presentations) of relevant fora, e.g. ICG-MPA, ICG-POSH, BDC, as appropriate.</p> <p>Step 6: Production of final report including description of methods, evaluation of results, conclusions and recommendations to OSPAR.</p>
Timeline	<p>2018-19: Literature review, check of data availability, selection of model species, testing of modelling methods, presentation of progress and preliminary results at ICG-MPA 2018 and ICG-POSH 2018.</p> <p>2018-19: Data call for all species to support selection of pilot species and development of modelling method.</p> <p>2019-2021: Further development of modelling approach; data analyses; regular updates of relevant fora, e.g. ICG-MPA, ICG-POSH, BDC, as appropriate. Additional data call(s), if necessary.</p> <p>2021: Preparation of final report.</p>
Events	Yearly meetings of ICG-MPA and ICG-POSH, potentially also BDC; WebEx meetings as required; potentially also workshop(s) depending on the complexity of modelling approach and available funding.
Links to other actions	<p>Link to Action 13 (similar methodological approach but different species)</p> <p>Possible link to Action 24: “Developing, within the competence of OSPAR, effective mitigation actions against further anthropogenic threats to whale populations and incorporate them into appropriate measures for the protection of these species (Blue whale, bowhead whale and Northern right whale)”.</p>
Added value of action by OSPAR	OSPAR will be informed about the potential of the current network of MPAs to contribute to the protection of specific OSPAR T & D species.
Resources	In addition to resources provided by DE and supporting CPs, the development of a sound scientific modelling approach will require input from modelling experts as well as from experts on Action 12 species.
Barriers to Progress	<p>Possible barriers to progress include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data deficiencies for Action 12 species; - Time constraints of experts may lead to delayed method development and data analyses; - Constraints in availability of financial and human resources
Stakeholders to engage	OSPAR CPs, experts on whales and habitat modelling, and depending on the species: ICES, ASCOBANS, WDC, etc.
Other Competent Authorities:	Depending on the species: NEAFC, NASCO, ICES, ASCOBANS as well as experts from research institutions like universities.
Product(s):	Report with quantitative analyses of the overlap of key areas of specific T & D species with the OSPAR MPA network; maps for visualisation; potentially recommendations for marine areas worth being selected as additional MPAs to improve OSPAR MPA coverage

	of key areas as a complementary measure to other conservation and management actions.
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