

OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
Working Group on Monitoring and on Trends and Effects of Substances in the Marine
Environment (MIME)
Hybrid meeting in Denmark (Copenhagen) and videoconference: 22-26 November 2021

Terms of Reference of the Hazardous Substances Thematic Assessment technical group (HaSTA) to develop the thematic assessments for the QSR 2023

The deadline for completing the terms of reference is HASEC 2022.

Background

The function of the thematic assessments is to bring together integrated assessments, indicator assessments, other assessments (both OSPAR and third-party assessments), data products and other relevant information to present the evidence base for the key conclusions/statements which will be presented in the synthesis report.

These conclusions will be presented in the form of a summary in each thematic assessment. The main body of thematic assessments are intended for an expert audience; this will be reflected in the level of technical detail included as well as the technical language used.

The summaries of the thematic assessments are intended for policy makers. Thematic assessments will present integrated assessment results, which combine the results of several indicator assessments. An example of an integrated assessment is the integrated status of a species based on information from one indicator on its abundance and a second indicator on breeding success, a further integration could be the status of a species group based on the status of the species.

The information and conclusions in the thematic assessments will support the statements on progress for status, pressures and implemented measures in the synthesis report and should to the extent possible be presented in line with the sub-chapter headings in the synthesis report.

The thematic assessments will integrate several types of information of relevance for the theme. Each thematic assessment will be supported by several indicator assessments, reports on implementation and effectiveness of OSPAR measures and as relevant other data products such as spatial information on human activities.

The [QSR 2023 Resources page on the OSPAR website](#) provides the template for the thematic assessments, as well as a guidance on completing the template.

The list of thematic assessments as well as progress being made in developing and drafting the text is maintained and managed through the QSR 2023 Master Plan which is maintained on the QSR SharePoint site.

Objectives

1. It is the objective of TG-HaSTA to develop the thematic assessment for the QSR and coordinate agreed and voluntary inputs and contributions from Contracting Parties and third parties, ensuring the contents provided are checked and revised periodically.

Organisation and participants:

2. TG-HaSTA will be coordinated by the Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee and will report to HASEC;

3. TG-HaSTA will be convened by the overall lead for the thematic report Denmark (Martin M. Larsen, MIME Vice-Chair), the United Kingdom and the Chair of MIME.

4. Lead authors for the thematic report chapters will be confirmed during the first meeting of the TG-HaSTA, it will be important to achieve a balanced representation from the OSPAR regions and thematic backgrounds.

5. Participation is open to all Contracting Parties with at least one point of contact required for each Party.

6. TG-HaSTA will regularly coordinate with ICG-QSR and ICG-EcoC on the production and content of the thematic assessments.

7. TG-HaSTA will follow OSPAR [Agreement 2019-02 providing Guidance on the Production of the QSR 2023](#)

Practical arrangements.

8. The TG-HaSTA will work through correspondence, making use of the appropriate electronic communication means and will meet monthly between December 2021 and June 2022.

9. The thematic assessment report, contents and results will be developed in [SharePoint](#) which will be the platform for data and knowledge exchange and all experts nominated by the Contracting Parties for this working group will have access to it.

10. The Secretariat shall assist the convenor organising the necessary meetings, drafting the list of actions and following up the progress.

Delivery

11. by HASEC 2022 (March 2022) – Draft building blocks (state, pressures/impacts, response measures) and proposals on how the thematic assessment will be structured

12. by OSPAR 2022 – thematic assessment adopted in principle.