

OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
Meeting of the Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee (HASEC)

Hybrid meeting from Paris (France): 24-28 March 2025

Terms of reference for the OSPAR working group on Monitoring and Trends and Effects of Substances in the Marine Environment (MIME)

1. Monitoring and Trends and Effects of Substances in the Marine Environment (MIME) is a subsidiary body of the OSPAR Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee comprising representatives of all Contracting Parties and OSPAR Observer organisations. The function of MIME is to keep the Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP) updated and perform yearly trial assessments for hazardous substances under the Convention on hazardous substances and eutrophication and contribute to HASECs delivery of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES 2030).

2. The scope of work is to develop the CEMP which include those related to:

- a. keeping under review the guidelines under the CEMP, ensuring that there are guidelines for all the matrices and substances monitored;
- b. ensuring that there is quality assurance in place for the parameters monitored
- c. ensuring that there are relevant assessment criteria for the substances of concern and priority action, including development of lists of substances of possible concern (LCPA and LSPC) in cooperation with HELCOM, AMAP and NORMAN;
- d. monitoring the state of hazardous substances in the marine environment with a yearly assessment of status and time trend using the OHAT assessment system;
- e. further develop the OHAT assessment tool, in cooperation with AMAP, HELCOM and ICES, to suit the changing needs of indicators and assessment parameters;
- f. support the development of the HARSAT R package, in cooperation with AMAP and HELCOM, to deliver OSPAR assessments and to enable CPs to assess their own monitoring data;
- g. keeping under review OSPAR measures and actions related to hazardous substances.

Operation and organisation of work

3. MIME shall hold at least one annual hybrid meeting.
4. MIME shall maintain a list of all guideline products including revision year and every year consider if any guidelines need updating.
5. MIME shall report to HASEC on tasks given by HASEC and on key issues that require coordination/management by HASEC.

Implementation of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030

6. MIME will facilitate the implementation of the NEAES 2030, by:
 - a. contributing to HASEC advice on the strategic objectives S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S9, S10, S11, and S12;
 - b. ensuring progress reporting to HASEC on implementation of NEAES 2030 tasks which MIME have been tasked with solving for HASEC.

Measures and Actions

7. MIME will periodically report and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of relevant OSPAR monitoring, considering measures taken in other OSPAR groups, and other relevant fora, such as the other regional Sea Conventions (HELCOM, AMAP), NORMAN and EU.
8. MIME will periodically review the applicability of its related monitoring in line with the NEAES 2030.

Monitoring and assessment

9. Under the auspice of HASEC, MIME shall develop and maintain appropriate monitoring and assessment tools in line with the JAMP 2014-2023, and successor programmes, paying particular attention to:
 - a. **for hazardous substances:**
 - i. Status and time trends of hazardous substances associated with Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) descriptor 8 and those on the List of Chemicals for Priority Action;
 - ii. Assisting HASEC with effective regional coordinated monitoring and assessment, including development and implementation of indicators, targets and monitoring programmes associated with MSFD descriptor 8 and where possible assessment of progress towards achievement of good environmental status;
 - iii. Further develop the OHAT assessment tool to assist in an effective assessment process and assist in the HARSAT development of a user driven tool, enabling the CPs to do individual monitoring in subregions and on subsets of monitoring data, including supplemental monitoring or screening not previously reported to ICES;
 - iv. Assist in coordination of biological effects monitoring, non-target and suspect target screening to optimize knowledge gained for the OSPAR Area and feed into the process of finding hence forth unknown sources of pollution and unforeseen effects on the biological community, feeding new substances and sources into the list of substances of possible concern;
 - v. preparing appropriate environmental assessments for their publication via HASEC;
 - vi. assist HASEC in ensuring assessments are based on results of monitoring, on research related to monitoring and assessment, and on data and information from other sources;

- vii. Cooperate with HELCOM, AMAP and NORMAN, to contribute and respond to, assessments undertaken by other regional sea conventions or by fora outside OSPAR.

OSPAR Science Agenda

10. MIME will periodically review, and update as necessary, the knowledge gaps and science needs in the OSPAR Science Agenda, prioritising those that are more relevant to its work, and informing HASEC of the need of external resources and implementing the OSPAR Project mechanism as appropriate, including plans for cross-cutting development work.