

OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic  
Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication Committee  
Hybrid meeting from Paris (France): 24-28 March 2025

---

## Terms of Reference for ICG-EMO

# ICG-EMO Terms of reference 2023-2026

1. The Intersessional Correspondence Group on Eutrophication Modelling (ICG-EMO) is a subsidiary body of HASEC which should comprise representatives of all Contracting Parties and OSPAR Observer organisations.
2. The function of HASEC is to coordinate the work under the OSPAR Convention on hazardous substances and eutrophication and contribute to the delivery of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES 2030). ICG-EMO is a group of experts advising HASEC.
3. The scope of work is to provide marine modelling support to HASEC, including quantification of the impact of possible management scenarios for nutrient reduction and related issues on eutrophication.

## **Operation and organisation of work**

4. ICG-EMO shall hold at least one annual meeting and intersessional meetings when required.
5. ICG-EMO shall report to HASEC on its work on key issues that require coordination/management by HASEC.
6. ICG-EMO shall provide an annual progress report to HASEC.
7. ICG-EMO shall exchange information with other OSPAR expert and working groups as required as outlined by NEAES 2020-2030 , specifically with
  - a. with Intersessional Correspondence Group on Eutrophication (ICG-Eut) ;
  - b. with the Working Group on Inputs to the marine environment (WG INPUT)
8. ICG-EMO will exchange information with the following groups when support is needed:
  - a. the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Measures and Recommendations (ICG-MaRE)
  - b. the Intersessional Correspondence Group on the Coordination of Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring (ICG-COBAM - Pelagic and Foodwebs Group).
  - c. the Working Group on a Changing Ocean Climate and Ocean Acidification (WG-COCOA)
  - d. the Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee (EIHA)

## **Implementation of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030**

9. ICG-EMO will facilitate the implementation of the NEAES 2030, by:
  - a. contributing to the strategic objectives S1 and S10;
  - b. supporting those operational objectives for which HASEC has a leading or supporting role as set out in the Implementation Plan;
  - c. maintaining its list of NEAES tasks and regularly updating on progress with these tasks, identifying and specifying tasks to be recommended to HASEC to submit to CoG for inclusion into the Implementation Plan under those operational objectives for which it has a leading or supporting role; and

- d. ensuring progress reporting on implementation of NEAES 2030 tasks as set out in Agreement 2021-02 and identifying any issue that should be brought to the attention of HASEC.

10. In doing so, ICG-EMO shall pay particular attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the Quality Status Reports and Intermediate Assessments.

### **Modelling**

11. ICG-EMO shall use and maintain the capabilities developed by OSPAR in eutrophication related modelling. Continued eutrophication modelling work is required in support of the development of assessment products and scenario results that can be used in the context of programmes of measures. This is subject to funding from the Contracting Parties in relation to the priorities in modelling work required by HASEC.

12. The modelling work by the ICG EMO modelling community shall be developed in close dialogue with OSPAR Contracting Parties and its selected modelling groups to predict responses of eutrophication effects parameters to reductions of riverine nutrient loads and to quantify the relative contributions of nutrient loads of various rivers to transboundary nutrient transport.

### **OSPAR Science Agenda**

13. ICG-EMO 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 between indicators and biodiversity components (e.g. pelagic, benthic, food-web, eutrophication linkages).

### **International engagement**

14. ICG-EMO will also maintain appropriate interaction to disseminate their results to other interested parties, by means of international symposium presentations and scientific publications.

### **Marine policy aspects:**

15. ICG-EMO shall support, for those Contracting Parties that are also EU Member States, the coordinated and coherent implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and equivalent national policies.