



**OSPAR**  
COMMISSION

# Arctic Outcomes Working Group

## Online Briefing

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AOWG Co-convenors

## House Rules



Please mute your microphones except when invited to speak



If you have any questions, please raise your virtual hand using the hand-symbol button below



Please note that the “Chat” panel will not be monitored. You are welcome to use it to share scientific information or useful links



If you can, please turn on your camera when participating in the Discussion session

# Briefing Objectives

- To present the 2022-2025 OSPAR Arctic Outcomes Roadmap;
- To present the collation of information and knowledge gathered so far; and
- To receive feedback from stakeholders.



OSPAR Commission:  
30 Years Working for Better Protection and  
Conservation of the Marine Environment  
of the North-East Atlantic

Dominic Pattinson  
OSPAR Executive Secretary



**OSPAR** is the mechanism by which **15 Governments**  
and the **EU** cooperate to protect the marine  
environment of the **North-East Atlantic**



## OSPAR History

The grounding of the Torrey Canyon and the disastrous consequences for the marine environment proved to be a pivotal point for international cooperation to combat marine pollution in the North-East Atlantic ocean

1967

The Bonn Agreement for Cooperation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil was signed

1969

The Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft was signed. This was known as the OSLO Convention

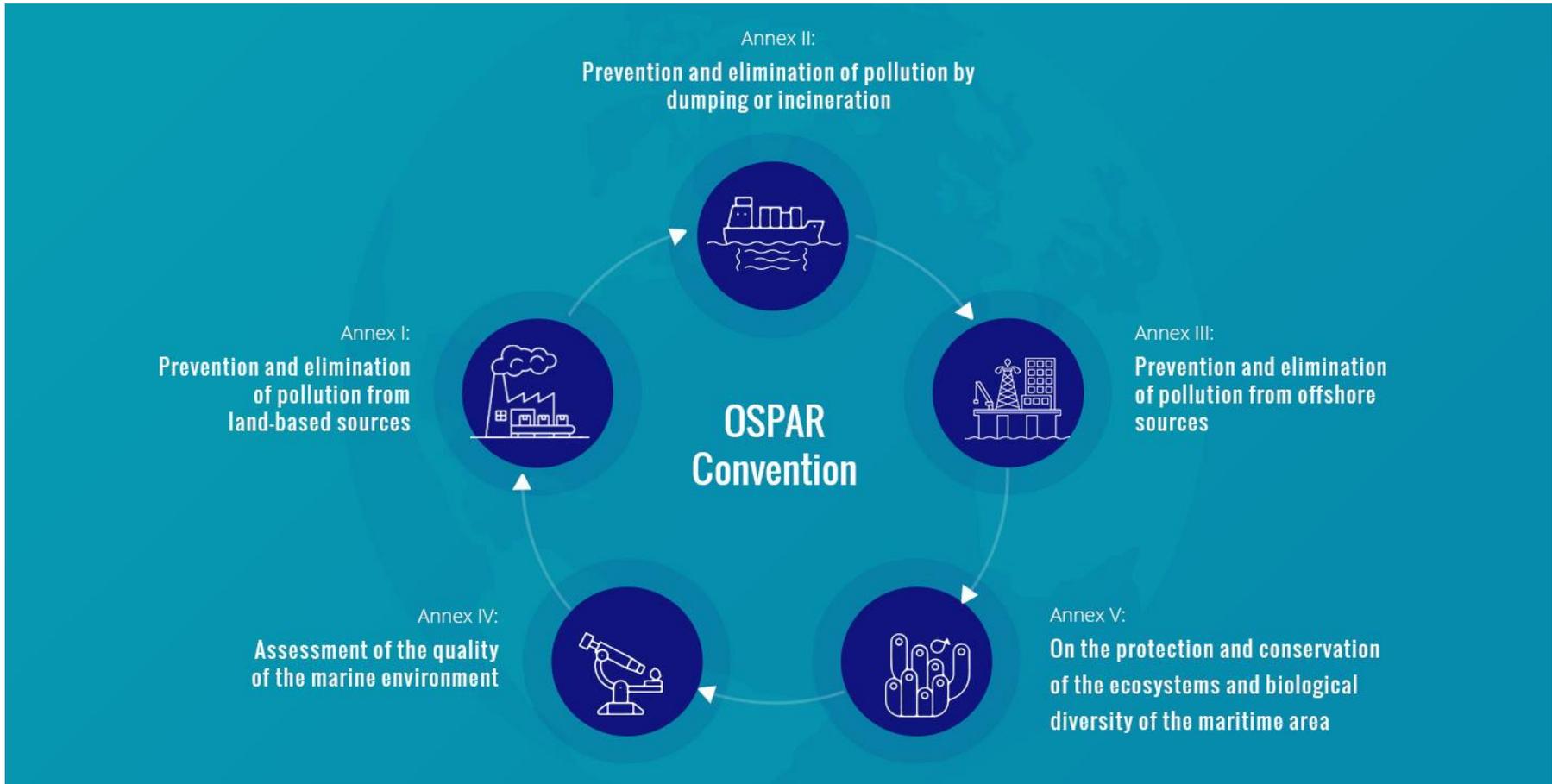
1972

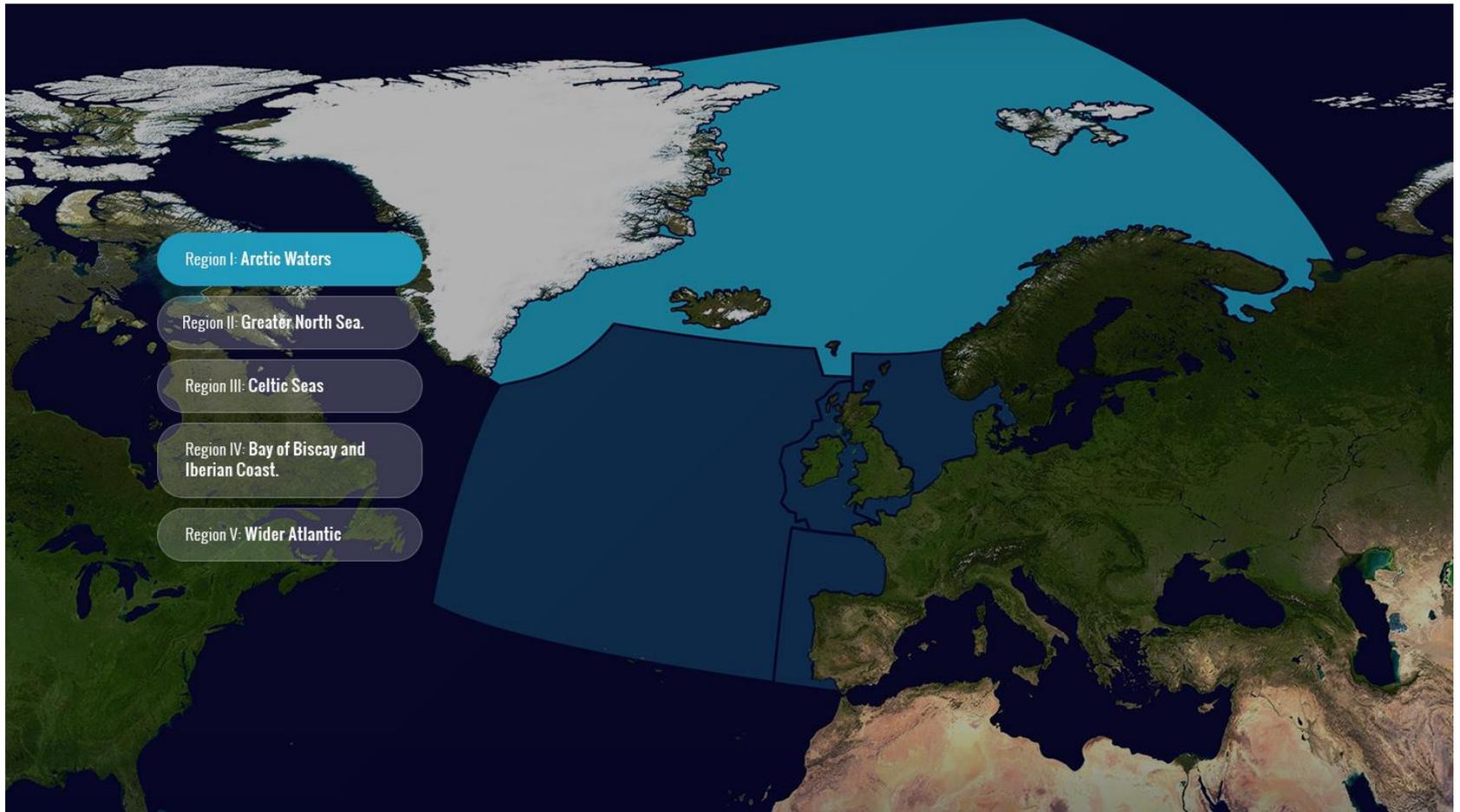
The Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources was opened for signature. This was known as the Paris Convention

1974

The OSPAR Commission is established as a successor to the Oslo and Paris Commissions

1992





## OSPAR Work Areas

Biodiversity & Ecosystems

Radioactive Substances

Environmental Impacts of  
Human Activities

Offshore Industry

Cross-cutting  
issues

Hazardous Substances &  
Eutrophication

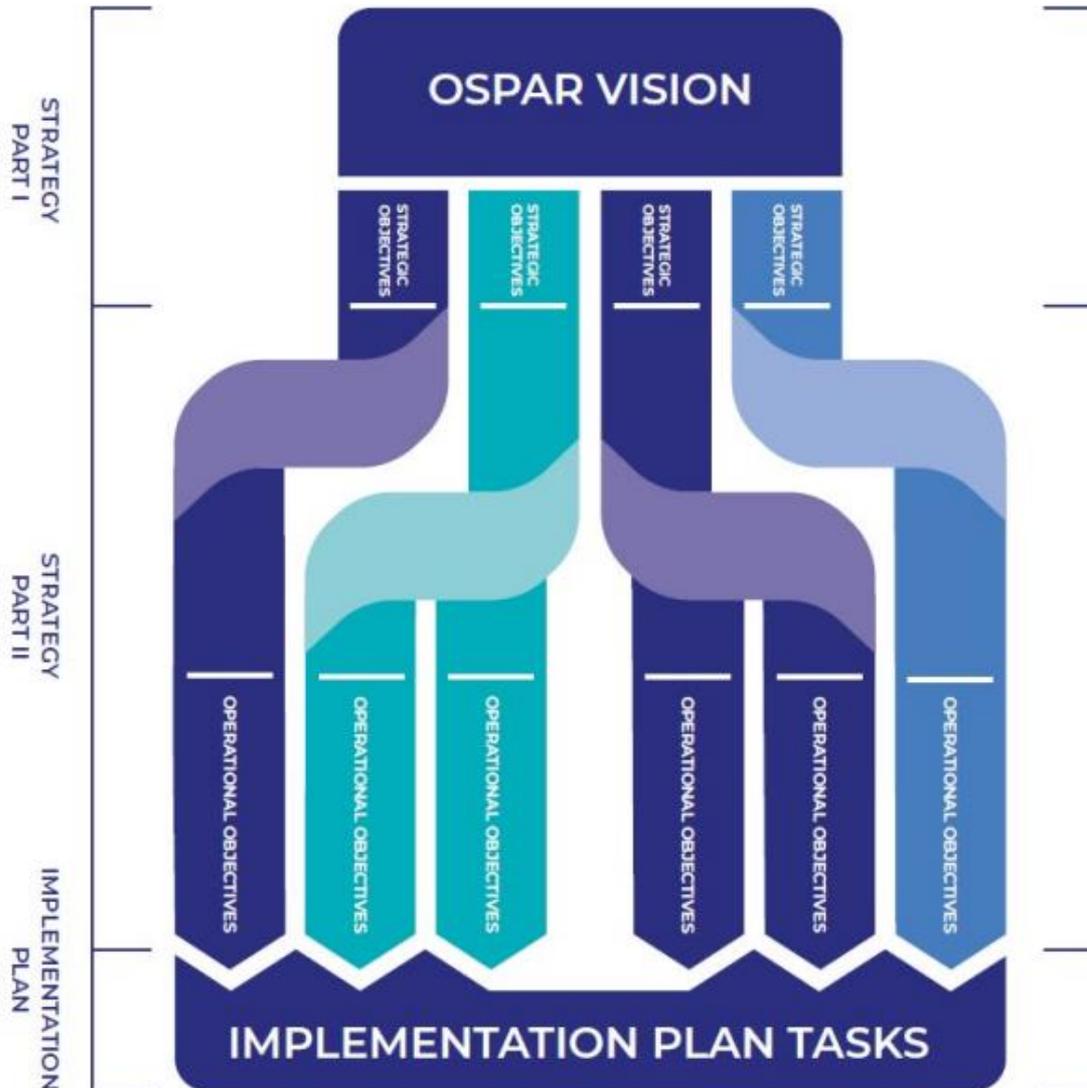
## North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030

OSPAR's vision is a **clean, healthy and biologically diverse** North-East Atlantic Ocean, which is **productive, used sustainably and resilient** to climate change and ocean acidification.

### Strategic objectives

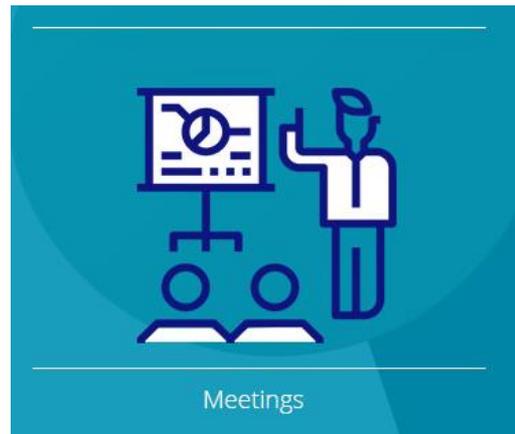
### Operational objectives

All of these are underpinned by a comprehensive implementation plan that sets out the specific tasks needed to deliver the strategic and operational objectives.



## How do we do it?

Dedicated scientists and policy makers, more than 100 meetings a year and a lot of coffee



# OSPAR Observers

65 Observer organisations made up of other intergovernmental organisations working in similar fields, and international non-governmental organisations

The observers not only take part in the various meetings of the OSPAR Commission but also contribute actively to its work and to shaping policy development



## Intergovernmental Organisations



## Non-governmental Organisations



# Questions?



Credit: Thomas Hallerman/Marine Photobank



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# 2022-2025 Arctic Outcomes Roadmap: Process and State of Play

Sara Viljanen and Oliver Ó Cadhla  
AOWG Co-convenors

# Arctic Roadmap: Objective

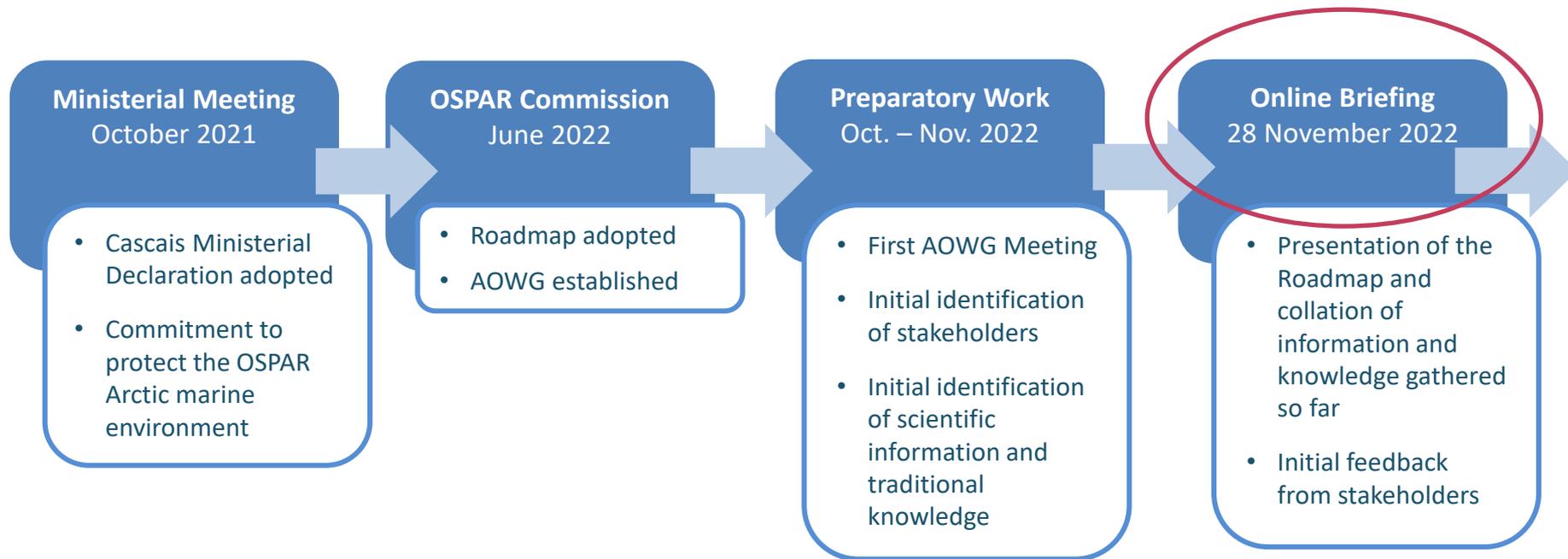


Credit: OSPAR Commission

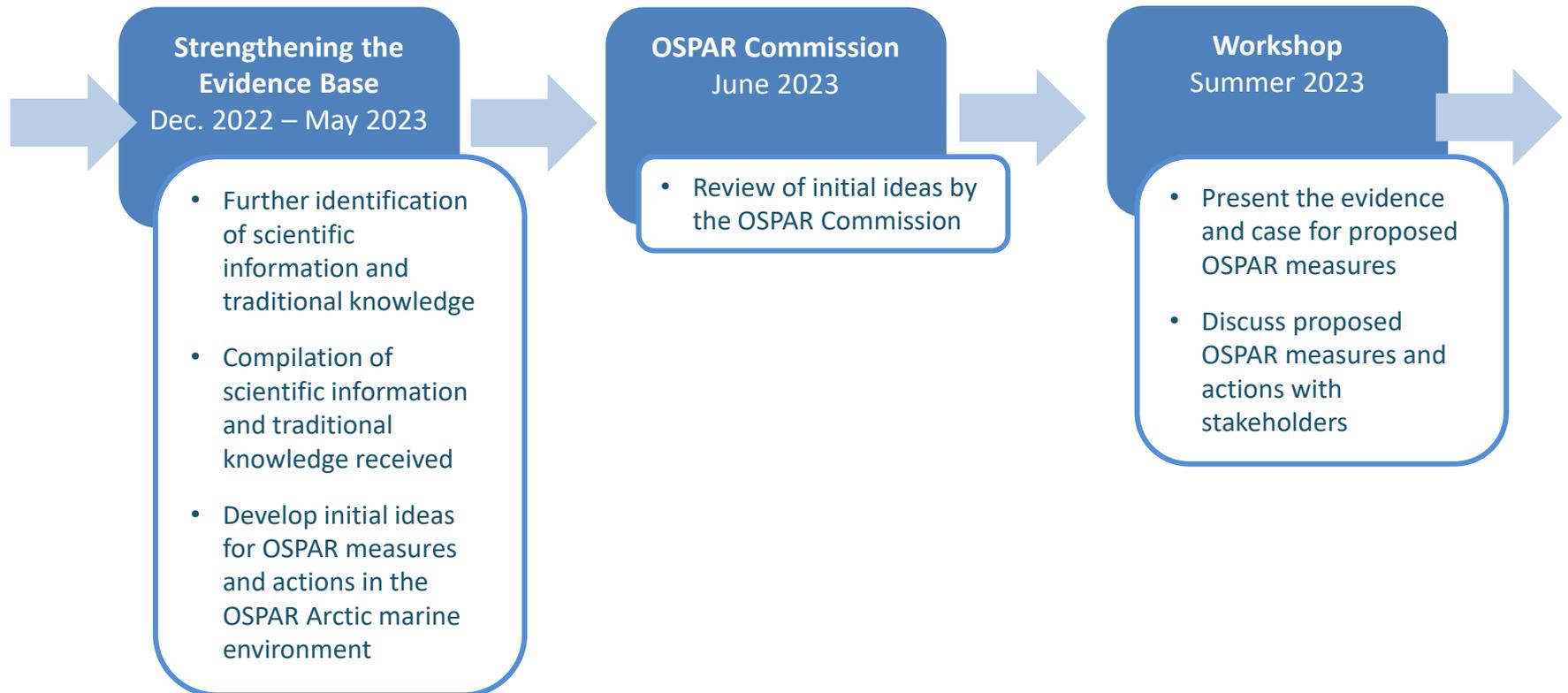
## 2021 Cascais Ministerial Declaration:

*“We **recognise** the unique biodiversity of the Arctic, part of the OSPAR maritime area and **commit** to protect the Arctic marine environment, including through collaboration with other relevant organisations, such as the Arctic Council and the International Maritime Organisation.”*

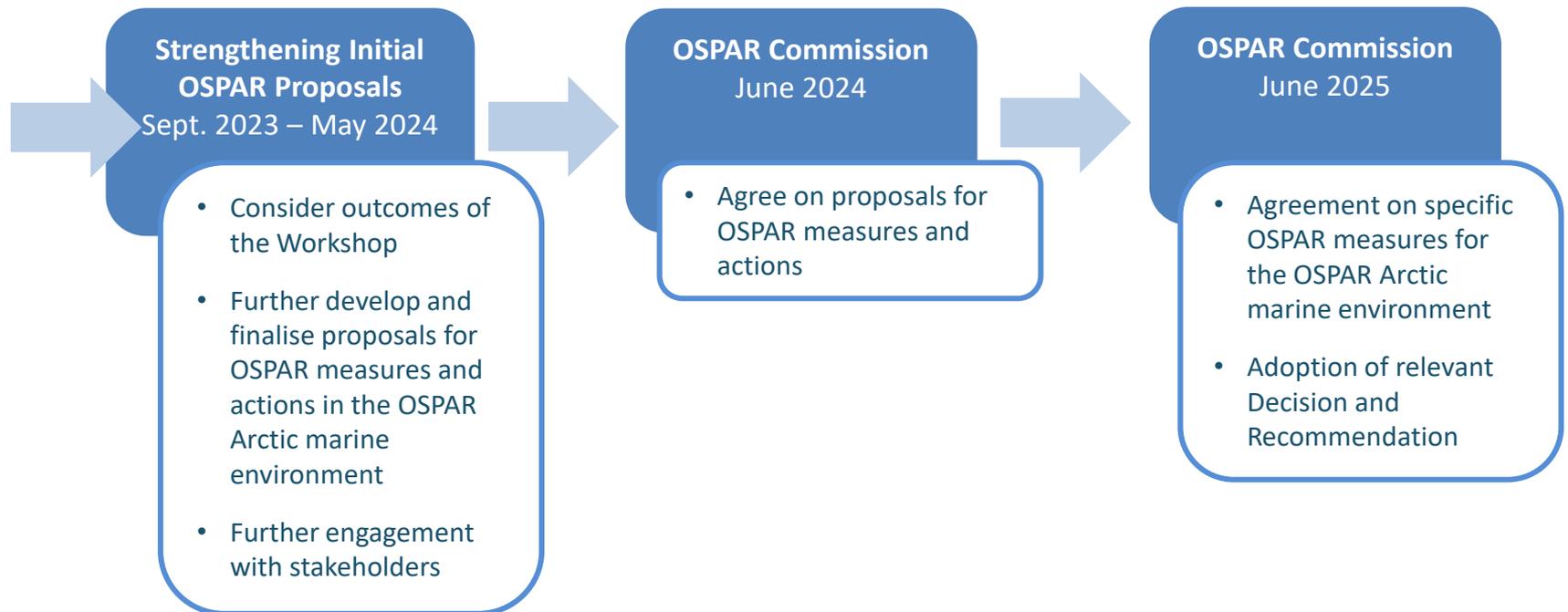
# Arctic Roadmap: Process



# Arctic Roadmap: Process (cont.)



## Arctic Roadmap: Process (cont.)



# Arctic Roadmap: Some Early Steps

- ✓ Workshop in Dingle/Daingean Uí Chúis, Feb. 2022



Credit: Oliver Ó Cadhla

**Irish proverb:**

*“Ní neart go cur le chéile”*

# Arctic Roadmap: Some Early Steps

## ✓ Workshop in Dingle/Daingean Uí Chúis, Feb. 2022

- To encourage a **shared understanding** of what **OSPAR's vision** for protecting the Arctic environment might look like;
- To facilitate **an open airing of Contracting Party views** on what form OSPAR's work on Arctic matters could or should take;
- To bring about an improved recognition and understanding of **what Arctic peoples and stakeholders need** from future engagement with OSPAR, and how this might best be achieved;
- Through the workshop and its results, to **enable OSPAR to work more effectively** on its objectives on Arctic environmental issues.



Credit: OSPAR Commission

# Arctic Roadmap: State of Play

## ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Arctic Outcomes Working Group meeting - 4 October

- **Identified sources of scientific information and traditional knowledge** on the marine environment in the Arctic;

*Including the 2016 draft OSPAR nomination proforma for the designation of an Arctic Ice High Seas MPA, Arctic Council work, existing conservation measures and any other relevant information on the marine environment in the Arctic, as well as on prevailing and predicted pressures*

- **Considered how to approach and contact relevant stakeholders** for potential future engagement;

*Including Arctic Council [SAO] or Arctic states, the Chairs of AMAP, PAME, CAFF, and relevant indigenous peoples organisations*

- The process to deliver the 2022-2025 Arctic Outcomes Roadmap should be **fair, inclusive, transparent, consensus-based and involve all stakeholders.**



Credit: ©Shutterstock

# Questions?



Credit: Thomas Hallerman/Marine Photobank



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# AOWG Science and Traditional Knowledge Base

Dr. Carole Durussel  
OSPAR Deputy Secretary

# Scientific Information & Traditional Knowledge: State of Play



**Initial identification by:** OSPAR Contracting Parties and permanent observers.



**Sources of evidence:** Existing scientific information and traditional knowledge on the state of the OSPAR Arctic marine environment.



**Main focus:** Reports that synthesise evidence, but other relevant sources of evidence could also be included.



**Use:** To consider the case for OSPAR measures and actions in the OSPAR Arctic marine environment.



**Contributions:** To date, the OSPAR Secretariat has received a total of 144 contributions.



Credit: ©Shutterstock

## **Regional organisations**

OSPAR Commission  
Arctic Council Working Groups (AMAP, CAFF, PAME)  
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)  
European Union

## **Intergovernmental bodies**

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)  
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)  
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

## **UN bodies**

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)  
United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

## **Agencies**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
Joint Research Centre (JRC)  
Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)

## **Non-governmental organisations**

WWF  
The PEW Charitable Trusts

## **Research Institutes**

Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea (NCLOS)

## **Peer-reviewed scientific literature**

# Scientific Information & Traditional Knowledge: Topics covered



- Geology
- Governance
- Oceanography
- Science



- Chemicals
- Climate change
- Contaminants
- Gas hydrates
- Heavy fuels
- Marine litter
- Noise pollution
- Ocean acidification
- Radioactivity
- Ship emissions
- Safety



- Biodiversity
- Conservation
- Ecosystem assessments
- Ecosystem resilience



- Traditional knowledge



- Bioprospecting
- Fisheries
- Marine tourism
- Oil and gas
- Shipping

# Questions?



Credit: Thomas Hallerman/Marine Photobank



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# Discussion

## 2022-2025 Arctic Outcomes Roadmap Process and State of Play

Sara Viljanen and Oliver Ó Cadhla  
AOWG Co-convenors

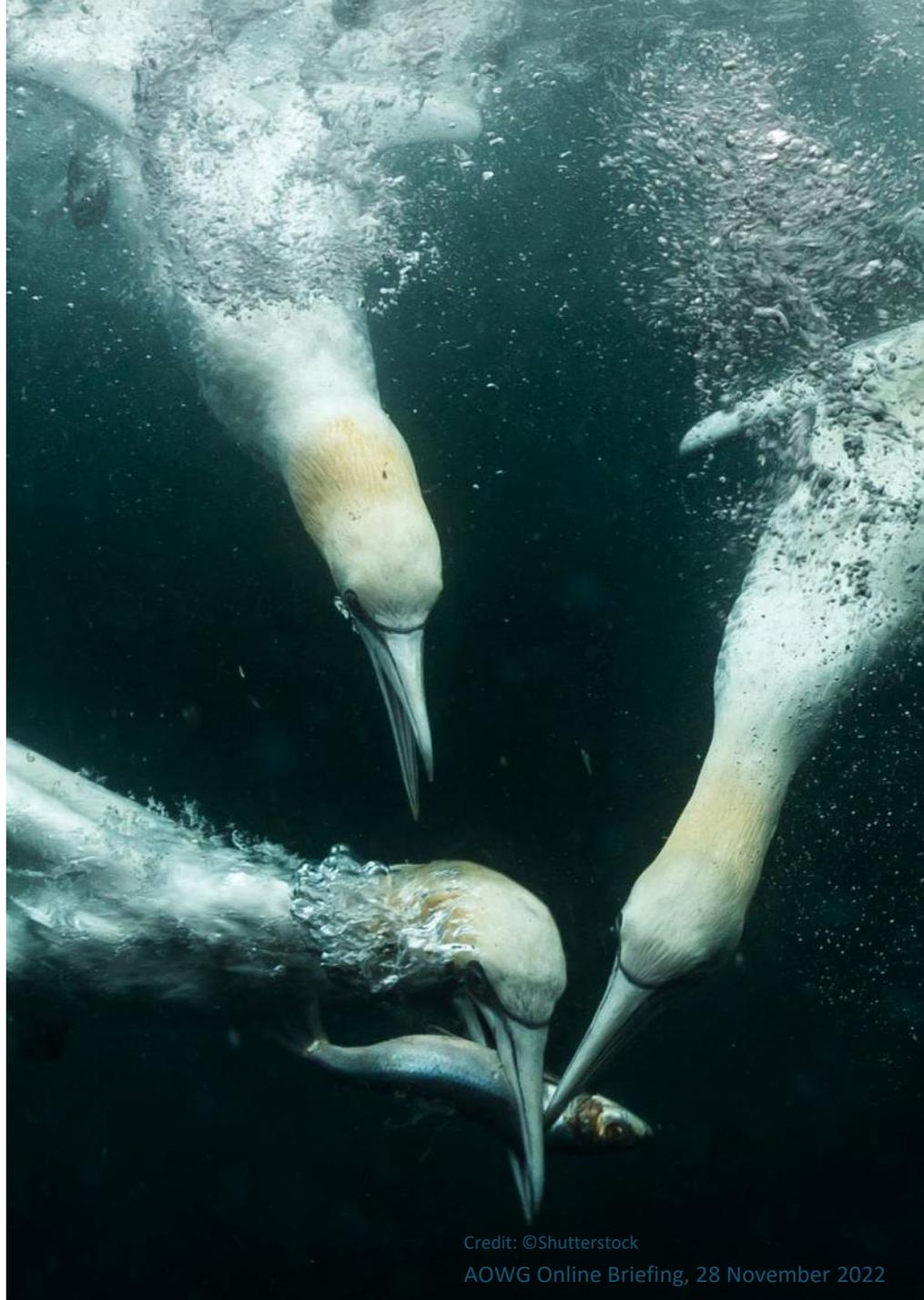


What are your goals for the protection of the OSPAR Arctic marine environment?

What are the main obstacles or challenges you see in trying to achieve successful environmental outcomes in the OSPAR Arctic marine environment?



Do you know of any additional sources of scientific information or traditional knowledge on the state of the OSPAR Arctic marine environment that we should be aware of?





What are your expectations  
for further engagement in  
this process?



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**Thank you!**

If you have any questions or would like to provide further scientific information and traditional knowledge, please email:

Barbara Middleton ([Barbara.Middleton@ospar.org](mailto:Barbara.Middleton@ospar.org))