

OSPAR COMMISSION

**for the protection and conservation of the marine environment of
the North-East Atlantic**

CALL FOR TENDER

**“ External consultancy for the preparation of the OSPAR Overview
Report of Implementation of OSPAR Recommendations for
Protection and Conservation of Threatened and/or Declining
Species and Habitats”**

1. Name, addresses and contact point(s):

Official name: OSPAR Commission

Postal address: Aspect House, 12 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1AS

Contact point(s): Debbie Hembury, Deputy Secretary, OSPAR

Telephone: +44 (0)20 3848 5200

E-mail: Secretariat@ospar.org

Internet address(es): www.ospar.org

Applications to the call for tender must be received by Friday 4 September 2026.

The Secretariat will acknowledge receipt of your tender bid by email. If you do not receive a confirmation that OSPAR has received your bid by Monday 7 September 2026, please contact the Secretariat by phone to check that your response has been received.

Please note that the Secretariat does not actively review quarantined emails.

2. Title attributed to the contract

External consultancy for the preparation of the OSPAR Overview Report of Implementation of OSPAR Recommendations for Protection and Conservation of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats

3. Description of the contract

Overview

The OSPAR Commission is an international intergovernmental organisation established to protect the marine environment in the North-East Atlantic Ocean. It consists of representatives of the Contracting Parties: that is, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union. The Commission is administered by a Secretariat based in London.

The OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats ([OSPAR Agreement 2008-06](#), the OSPAR List) has been developed in response to Annex V of the [OSPAR Convention](#) 'On the Protection and Conservation of the Ecosystems and Biological Diversity of the Maritime Area' which provides that Contracting Parties to the OSPAR Convention shall 'take the necessary measures to protect and conserve the ecosystems and the biological diversity of the Maritime Area' and 'cooperate in adopting programmes and measures for those purposes for the control of the human activities' (OSPAR Convention Annex V Article 2). The OSPAR List is based upon nominations by Contracting Parties and Observers to the Commission of species and habitats that they consider to be of particular concern in order to set priorities for its further work on the conservation and protection of marine biodiversity.

In 2025, OSPAR Contracting Parties reported on national activities undertaken in implementation of the Recommendations on OSPAR Listed species and habitats, in fulfilment of requirements for regular reporting by Contracting Parties under Article 22 of the OSPAR Convention to provide information on compliance and information on the effectiveness of the Recommendations. Based on that information, this contract is to

produce a stand-alone overview assessment report which, as set out in [OSPAR Agreement 2003-23](#), should include:

- a summary assessment of compliance and, as appropriate;
- a summary assessment of effectiveness, and
- an overview of any problems and barriers experienced by Contracting Parties in implementing the Recommendations

The last overview assessment was published in 2023 as part of the [OSPAR Quality Status Report 2023](#), based on the implementation reporting delivered by OSPAR Contracting Parties in 2019.

The implementation reporting and overview assessment is coordinated through an Intersessional Correspondence Group on the implementation follow up of measures for the protection and conservation of species and habitats (ICG-POSH) which reports to the OSPAR Committee on Biodiversity (BDC). The draft overview assessment will be presented and discussed at ICG-POSH 26 (24 -26 November 2026; deadline for submission of documents to be considered at the meeting is 2 November 2026).

Since the last overview assessment was prepared based on 2019 implementation reporting, OSPAR has developed a reporting and assessment portal to facilitate reporting of Implementation of OSPAR Recommendations for Protection and Conservation of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats. Additionally, the assessment section of the portal provides initial analysis, statistics and graphics based on the information provided by OSPAR Contracting Parties. The assessment portal is not yet publicly accessible, but the successful bidder will be provided with user credentials. Statistics and figures for the overview report can be drawn from the new assessment portal, and examples of the figures and statistics available in the assessment portal are provided in Annex 1. These should be supplemented by a narrative overview, qualitative analysis, analysis of information provided separately on collective actions, and the use of case studies to produce the overview assessment report.

Additional information on the status and Recommendations of OSPAR Listed Threatened and/or Declining benthic habitats and marine birds is reflected in the [OSPAR List of Threatened and Declining Species and Habitats](#). Further information about the OSPAR Commission can be obtained from the Commission's website at www.ospar.org.

Aim

The aim of this project is to provide an overview report of Implementation of OSPAR Recommendations for Protection and Conservation of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats for the reporting cycle from 2019 up to and including 2025. The overview report shall be based on the information submitted to the new OSPAR portal by Contracting Parties, and follow, but not be restricted to, the structure, of the previous [overview assessment in 2023](#). The delivery of the draft report will be due on 2 November 2026.

4. Tasks and products

Tenderers are required to demonstrate in the response how they will fulfill the following tasks:

- a. Write a draft overview report for the reporting period 2019-2025 following the section headers of the [overview assessment 2023](#) and complying with the requirements set out in [OSPAR Agreement 2003-23](#);
- b. Use the information provided in the reporting and assessment portal and the previous overview assessment in 2023;

- c. Deliver the draft report by the deadline for document submissions for ICG-POSH 26 (2 November 2026);
- d. Present the draft overview report at ICG-POSH 26 (24 -26 November, online);
- e. Implement changes to the draft assessment requested at ICG-POSH 26 by 15 December 26;
- f. Keep in close communication with the OSPAR Secretariat and ICG-POSH convenor during the duration of the contract;
- g. Submit a final overview report to the OSPAR Secretariat by Tuesday 15th December 2026.

Duration of the contract and timing of deliverables

Start date: estimated 01 October 2026; earlier if contracting processes permit

End date: 15/12/2026

5. Type of tender:

Open

6. Estimated level of provision of consultancy services

The agreed level of support will be approximately 18 days over the contract period up to an expected maximum value of 12,000 EUR. The consultancy should be provided primarily by one individual in order to maximise efficiency. It is envisaged that the work will be conducted online, with online participation at ICG-POSH 26 that will take place as a hybrid event in Paris, France, on 24-26 November 2026. The consultant will be expected to maintain time sheets providing evidence of the support provided.

Travel is not expected to be necessary for the purposes of the delivery of the contract, however, should travel be required it shall be agreed with the Secretariat in advance. Reasonable travel costs and subsistence would be reimbursed by the Secretariat and should not be included in the tender.

7. Exclusion criteria for selection of offers

Contracts may only be awarded when the tender comes from a tenderer who is not excluded from access to the market due to a situation of exclusion and who meets the selection criteria set out in these contract documents.

The contracting authority may carry out an early examination of tenders.

The tenderer shall submit a UK or a UK equivalent Procurement Document such as a European Single Procurement (ESPD) with their tender.

Mandatory and discretionary exclusions criteria set out as in Schedule 6 and 7 of the Procurement Act 2023 (Act), England and Wales will apply.

8. Selection criteria and weighting:

Criteria	Weighting (%)
Understanding of the issue and OSPAR's requirements	25
Clarity and content of proposed services	25

Contractor's expertise, experience	25
Value for money	25

9. Management, delivery and completion of the work

The OSPAR Secretariat will act as project manager. The ICG-POSH convenor will act as steering group, meaning The ICG-POSH Convenor will be responsible for overseeing the work. ICG-POSH will provide guidance on content, as required, and approve the final report.

The contractor will be required to attend part of the annual meeting of ICG-POSH (24-26 November 2026) online.

All deliverables must be submitted to the OSPAR Secretariat. The consultant will be expected to provide a full financial report summarising the assistance provided in relation to the above tasks and providing evidence of having delivered a product that fulfils the specification agreed in the contract.

10. Information required in the tender response

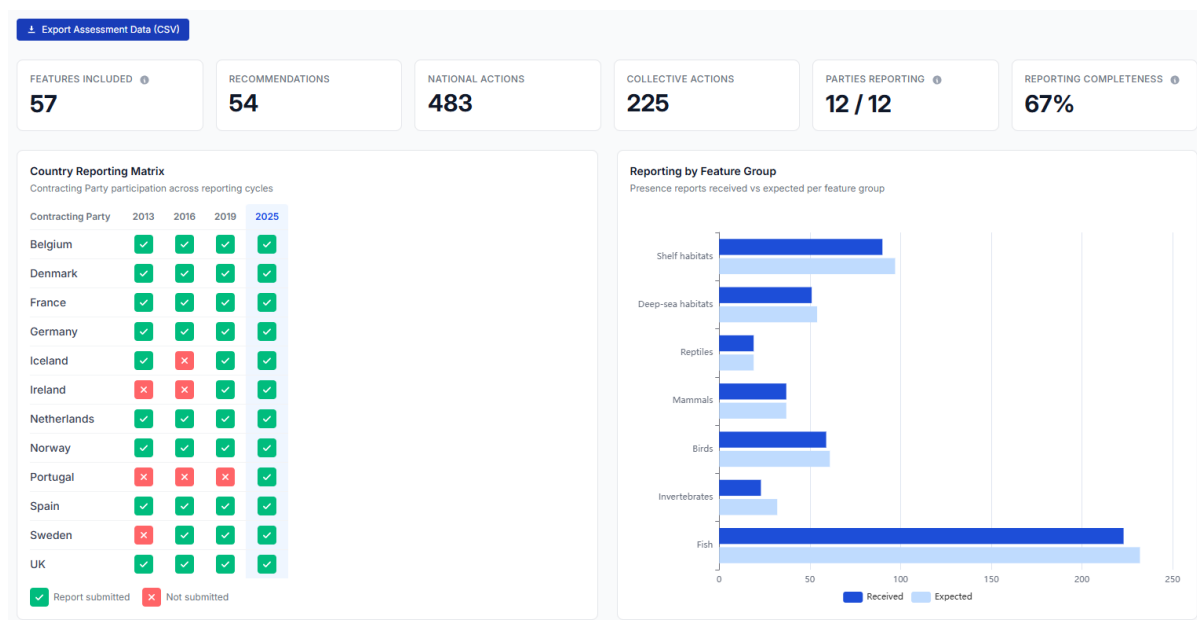
The response to this call should incorporate the following elements:

1. Demonstration of understanding of the issue and requirements;
2. Description of how the report would be provided;
3. Examples of relevant previous experience;
4. Skills and expertise;
5. Project budget breakdown;
6. Name, address, full details of a primary contact;
7. Copy of the Ultimate Beneficial Ownership or equivalent.

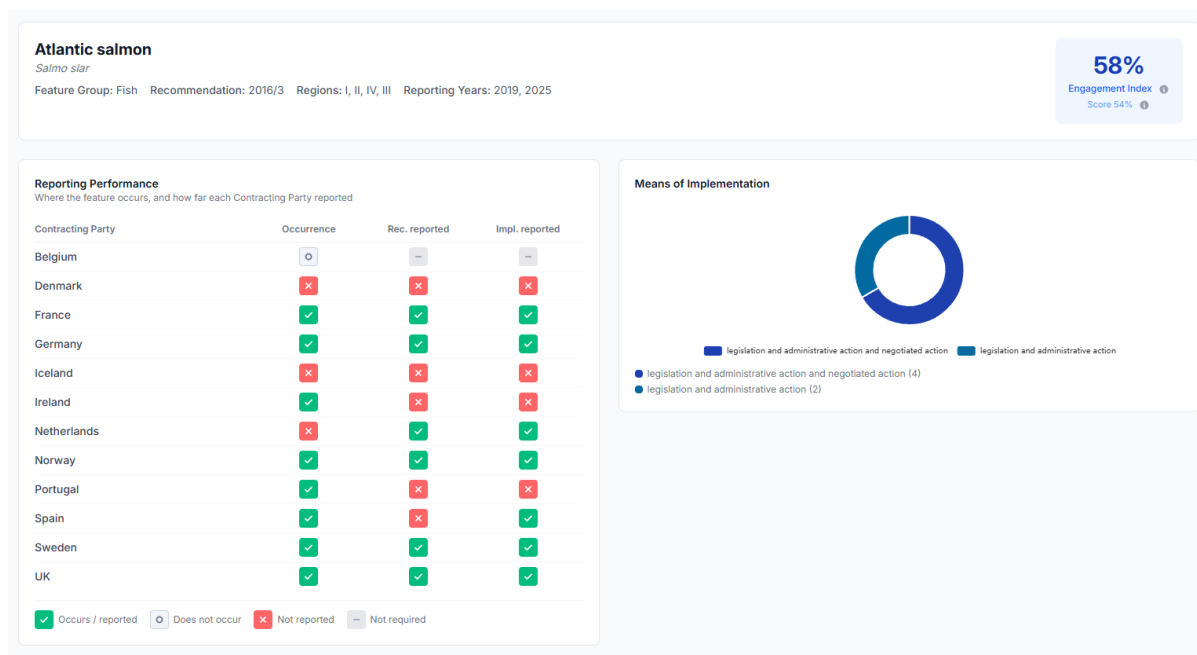
Annex 1

Screenshots to exemplify the type of statistics and visualizations that will be available to the contractor in the new ICG-POSH online assessment portal. These figures have been produced with data that has not yet been validated, so are provided for indicative purposes only.

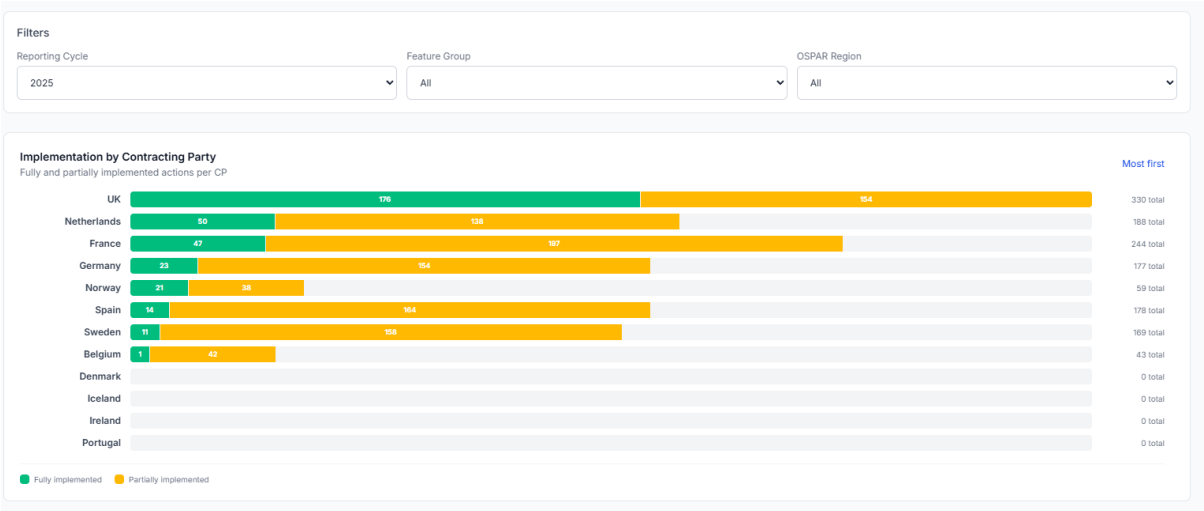
Overview of reporting



Feature level assessments



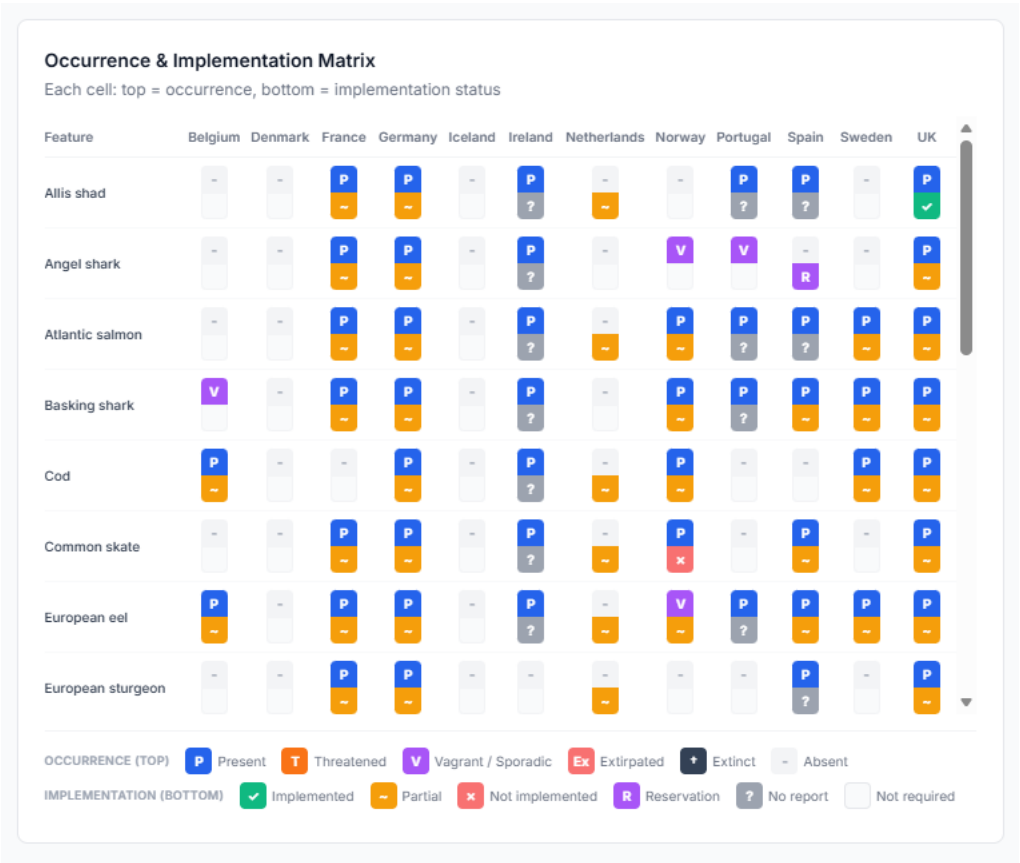
Implementation by feature group and Contracting Party



Implementation means by Contracting Party and feature



Occurrence and implementation information by feature



Analysis of barriers by feature

