

NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2030 MIDPOINT REVIEW

Why is this important?

The North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES) 2030 is the means by which OSPAR's 16 Contracting Parties implement the OSPAR Convention. Agreed by Ministers in Cascais in 2021 and designed to last until 2030, it sets out OSPAR's collective objectives to tackle the triple challenge facing the ocean: biodiversity loss, pollution, including marine litter, and climate change. OSPAR's Quality Status Report published in 2023, and other global assessments of the state of the marine environment, highlight that these challenges remain as serious as ever. Assessing progress on the implementation of the Strategy and amending it where necessary will ensure that it remains fit for purpose and that OSPAR remains on track to achieve its vision of "a clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic Ocean which is productive, used sustainably and resilient to climate change and ocean acidification."

What is OSPAR doing?

2025 marks the midpoint of the NEAES and Ministers will meet in Vigo (Spain) to assess OSPAR's progress in meeting its vision, strategic and operational objectives. In reviewing the NEAES, OSPAR Contracting Parties concluded that its vision and strategic objectives, focussed around four themes: clean seas; biologically diverse seas; productive and sustainably used seas; and seas resilient to climate change and ocean acidification, remain as relevant today as they were in 2021. This midpoint review focusses on the operational objectives and whether OSPAR is on track to meet them.

Ministers will discuss whether amendments are required to the NEAES to reflect the outcomes of the QSR 2023 and any new and emerging issues impacting on the marine environment. Where necessary, NEAES Operational Objectives will be amended, and where justified new ones added.

Ministers will also take the opportunity to celebrate the successes made thus far and to recognise the huge contribution of the many scientists, experts and policy officials from across the OSPAR Maritime Area to improving the state of our ocean.

The updated NEAES 2030, progress report and report "Celebrating OSPAR and the North-East Atlantic" will be published and made available on the OSPAR website.

How will this benefit the North-East Atlantic?

The purpose of the NEAES is to improve the status of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic while ensuring it is used sustainably. A clean, healthy and biologically diverse ocean is essential to support livelihoods and a thriving blue economy. It is only by working together and with other international organisations that we will achieve our goals.

For more information,
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