
OSPAR DELIVERS ON ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITMENT

Why is this important?

The Arctic marine environment is characterised by a climate with extreme variations in light, temperature and ice cover that supports large populations of fish, marine mammals and birds. This is an ecologically important environment that supports major fisheries in the Nordic and Barents Sea and is home to major spawning grounds for several commercially important fish species.

What is OSPAR doing?

Following the commitment made in the 2021 Cascais Ministerial Declaration to protect the Arctic marine environment within its Maritime Area, OSPAR agreed:

- to identify priority sites to be considered in developing OSPAR's network of marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and will, where supported by the evidence, and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and in accordance with the precautionary principle and ecosystem-based approach, collectively designate marine protected areas and support the adoption of other area-based conservation and management measures in areas beyond national jurisdiction in Arctic Waters, building on previous proposals and information;
- to engage Indigenous Peoples Organisations of the region through the establishment of a special fund to allow them to actively participate as observers in OSPAR meetings; and
- to strengthen collaboration and cooperation with the Arctic Council and the International Maritime Organisation on Arctic marine environmental protection.

How will this benefit the North-East Atlantic?

Working collaboratively with stakeholders in the region will help to ensure a more comprehensive protection of the Arctic marine environment.

For more information,
please visit ospar.org