
THE VIGO MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

Why is this important?

The Ministerial Declaration is the key political outcome from the OSPAR Ministerial meeting 2025. It sends a clear statement of OSPAR Ministers' and the EU Commissioners commitment to the work of OSPAR and the need to protect and conserve the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic while using it sustainably. It highlights the continuing threat that biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change poses to the health of the ocean and its ability to support human health, livelihoods and a sustainable blue economy. The Declaration also sends an important message that OSPAR Ministers and the EU Commissioner will act where necessary and adopt, implement and effectively resource the delivery of the OSPAR's North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES) 2030.

What is OSPAR doing?

The Ministerial meeting provides an opportunity for OSPAR Contracting Parties to come together to demonstrate their continued, shared commitment to the international rules-based order and to multilateral regional cooperation on the protection and sustainable use of the North-East Atlantic. The Declaration reaffirms that the Contracting Parties are stronger when they work together.

How will this benefit the North-East Atlantic?

The review of the NEAES 2030 will ensure that it remains relevant and that OSPAR, using the QSR 2023 as its evidence base, is addressing new and emerging issues that threatened the status of the marine environment. Adopting new measures and action plans will address some of the most pressing challenges facing the ocean. Ensuring that the NEAES is fully implemented will help to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, prevent and eliminate pollution, and address the effects of climate change and ocean acidification on the marine environment.

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