



A Historic Step for Ocean Protection: Expanding the OSPAR Maritime Area

Portugal is proud of the successful expansion of the OSPAR Maritime Area. I had the privilege of leading this important work of the team from Direção Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos in Portugal along with our colleagues in Spain. This milestone marks not only a significant achievement for OSPAR but also a reaffirmation of our shared commitment to the long-term protection of the North-East Atlantic.

Portugal has always understood the deep value of the ocean — environmentally, culturally, and economically. With this extension, we have taken a concrete step towards strengthening regional governance, filling key gaps in marine protection, and fostering our collective stewardship.

This achievement reflects years of careful negotiation, scientific collaboration, and a shared vision among Contracting Parties. I am deeply grateful to all who contributed to this process, and I look forward to the work ahead as we continue to protect and preserve our shared marine environment for future generations.

Portugal, 16th September 2025,

