

OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic

Meeting of the OSPAR Commission (OSPAR)

Online: 19 June 2025

Vigo: 23-27 June 2025



OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine
Environment of the North-East Atlantic

Amendment of the OSPAR Convention on the enlargement of the OSPAR Maritime Area

1. The proposal at Annex I is to enlarge the OSPAR maritime area within Macaronesia based on a proposal from Portugal and Spain. The objective of extending the OSPAR maritime area is to:
 - a. ensure the coordinated protection of an area known to be important for numerous species and highly important habitats, including seamounts, coral gardens, sponge aggregations, and *maerl* beds;
 - b. align MSFD and OSPAR as foreseen in the MSFD and the NEAS 2030; and
 - c. promote the integration between OSPAR and other EU processes including on maritime spatial planning and nature conservation in an area adjacent to the current OSPAR maritime area already considered part of the North-East Atlantic region.

Annex I

Amendment of the OSPAR Convention on the Enlargement of the OSPAR Maritime Area

Preamble

RECALLING recitals 8 and 11 of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (“the OSPAR Convention”) on the coordination and cooperation of States at regional or sub-regional levels to protect the North-East Atlantic,

RECALLING Article 15 on the amendment of the Convention which provides the procedure for the proposal, adoption, and entry into force of an amendment to the Convention,

RECALLING Directive 2008/56/EC, establishing a Framework for Community Action in the field of Marine Environmental Policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive),

RECALLING the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, in particular, the Sustainable Development Goal 14 “Life below water” and the declaration “Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action” (A/RES/71/312) calling for enhanced cooperation, coordination, and policy coherence,

RECALLING OSPAR Agreement 2021-01 (North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030) on the role of OSPAR in facilitating the coordinated implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in the North-East Atlantic region,

NOTING that the Macaronesia sub-region is part of the North-East Atlantic region and is the largest marine sub-region of the European seas and that it holds a rich diversity of habitats and species, including, a number of OSPAR Threatened and/or Declining Species & Habitats,

NOTING that currently, the OSPAR Maritime Area only partly covers the waters of the Macaronesia sub-region as delimited and agreed at the EU level,

RECALLING the Vienna Convention on the law of the treaties of 23 May 1969, in particular Article 25 on “Provisional application”.

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic:

ADOPT the amendment to the OSPAR Convention as set out in the Annex;

DECIDE that existing OSPAR Decisions, Recommendations and Agreements apply to the part of the OSPAR maritime area described in subparagraph (iii), unless otherwise determined by the OSPAR Commission;

RECOGNISE that the entry into force of the amendment is set out in Article 15 of the OSPAR Convention;

DECIDE that a Contracting Party may, before the amendment enters into force, provisionally apply the amendment by notice, submitted to the Depositary Government.

In Article 1 (a) of the Convention:**At the end of subparagraph (ii), delete the full stop and replace with a semi-colon;****After subparagraph (ii), add a new subparagraph as follows:**

- ii. ;
- iii. that part of the Atlantic Ocean comprised within the following coordinates¹:

	Longitude	Latitude
Point 1	-42°	36°
Point 2	-42°	27,383°
Point 3	-17,96°	27,383°
Point 4	-15,583°	27,53°
Point 5	-13,8°	27,95°
Point 6	-13,1°	29,283°
Point 7	-13,1°	36°

¹ All coordinates are in decimal degrees on the WGS84 datum.