Assessing the state of regional seas:
Ocean observation to indicators

Jo Foden, OSPAR Deputy Secretary
1. OSPAR overview
2. OSPAR observation to assess ocean health
3. Challenges & next steps
1. OSPAR overview

16 Contracting Parties

Belgium  Norway
Denmark Portugal
Finland Spain
France Sweden
Germany Switzerland
Iceland The United Kingdom
Ireland
Luxembourg
The Netherlands

OSPAR Maritime Area and Regions

Region I  Arctic Waters
Region II  Greater North Sea
Region III  Celtic Seas
Region IV  Bay of Biscay/Iberian Coast
Region V  Wider Atlantic
1. OSPAR overview

GDP and sea area (EEZ) of OSPAR Contracting Parties
1. OSPAR overview

- 40 years experience
- Practical
- Bottom-up
- EU & non-EU Parties
- Regionally coherent
- Consensus
1. OSPAR overview

- Fisheries (no OSPAR measures)
- Shipping (IMO to take measures)
- Dumping and Dredging
- Offshore renewable energy
- Oil and gas exploration
- Coastal defence and other structures
- Cables and pipelines
- Artificial reefs
- Land reclamation
- Sand and gravel extraction
- Tourism
- Mariculture
- Marine litter
- Underwater noise
- Dumped munitions
All activities and resources at sea are interconnected, including their overall impact on marine ecosystems and coastal communities. This complexity is not sufficiently considered under the sectorial approaches used, causing a lack of efficiency and poor coordination.
1. OSPAR overview

Marine Protected Areas

- Cooperation to establish MPA network
- 448 MPAs, including seven in ABNJ
- Network covers 5.9% of the OSPAR area; 16.7% of coastal waters
- 2.3% in national EEZs
- 8.9% in areas beyond national EEZs
2. Observation & assessment

OSPAR’s Coordinated environmental monitoring programme (CEMP)

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[Image of icons representing each component]
2. Observation & assessment

Seabed litter

Contaminants

Noise
2. Observation & assessment

OSPAR’s Intermediate Assessment 2017
Assessments by Theme

- Non-indigenous species: 1
- Marine mammals: 6
- Marine birds: 2
- Fish communities: 3
- Benthic habitats: 4
- Pelagic habitats: 3
- Foodwebs: 3
- Marine protected areas: 1
- Marine litter: 3
- Noise (impulsive): 1
- Dredged material: 1
- Eutrophication / nutrients: 6
- Hazardous substances: 11
- Radioactive substances: 1
- Offshore industry: 1

Total: 47
2. Observation & assessment
3. Challenges and next steps

Climate change and ocean acidification
3. Challenges and next steps

Ecosystem approach; cumulative effects assessment
3. Challenges and next steps

Socio-economic assessment
3. Challenges and next steps

1. Biological diversity
2. Non-indigenous species
3. Population of commercial fish/shellfish
4. Elements of marine food webs
5. Eutrophication
6. Sea floor integrity
7. Alteration of hydrographical conditions
8. Concentrations of contaminants
9. Good Environmental Status
10. Contaminants in fish/seafood for human consumption
11. Marine litter
12. Introduction of energy including underwater noise

EU’s MSFD
OSPAR Quality Status Report 2023

- Build on Intermediate Assessment
- Cover all OSPAR Regions
- Ecosystem assessment, including cumulative effects
- Indicator assessments aligned to MSFD & SDGs
- Assessment of effectiveness of measures
- Publication in 2023