



OSPAR
COMMISSION

OSPAR Marine Protected Area network, conservation objectives and strategic activities

eMSP workshop

13 June 2023, OSPAR Secretariat

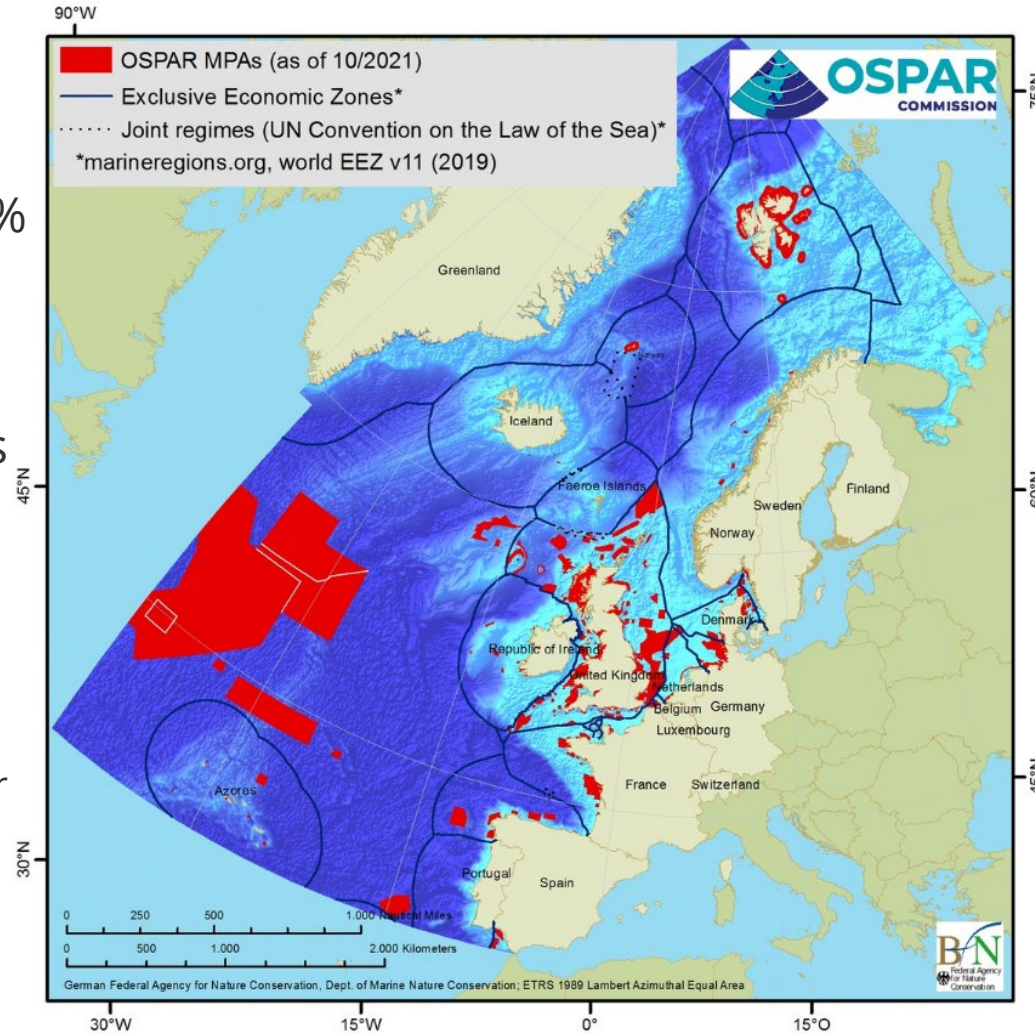
Lena Avellan, Deputy Secretary

OSPAR network of Marine Protected Areas

OSPAR Network of MPAs; comprises 583 MPAs covering 1 368 053 km², ie 10,8% of the OSPAR Maritime Area

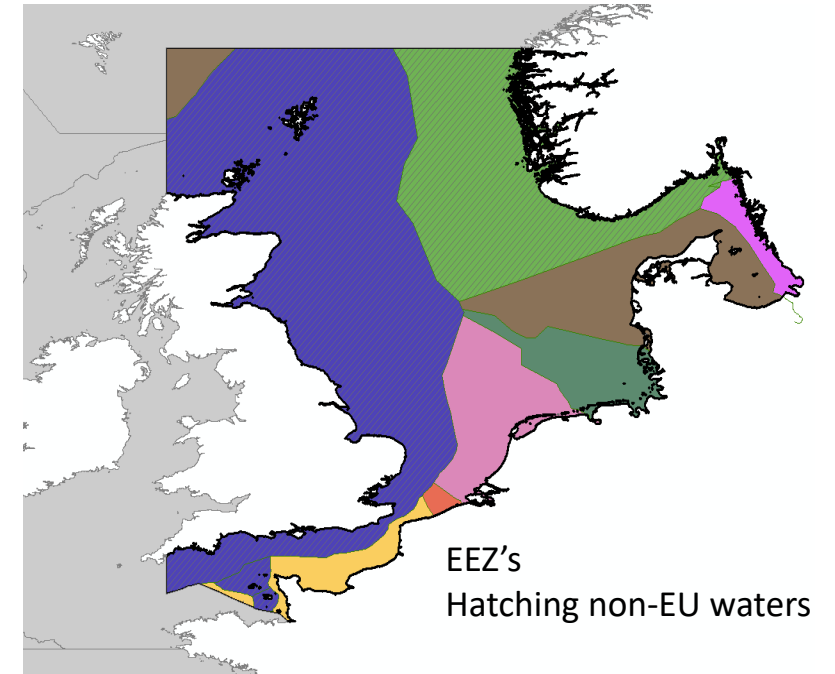
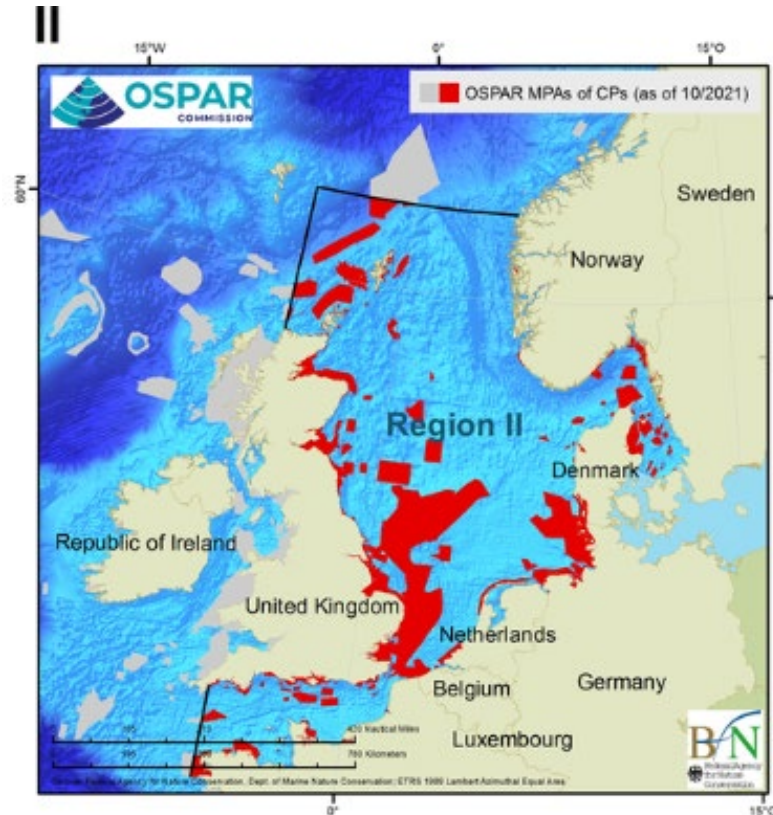
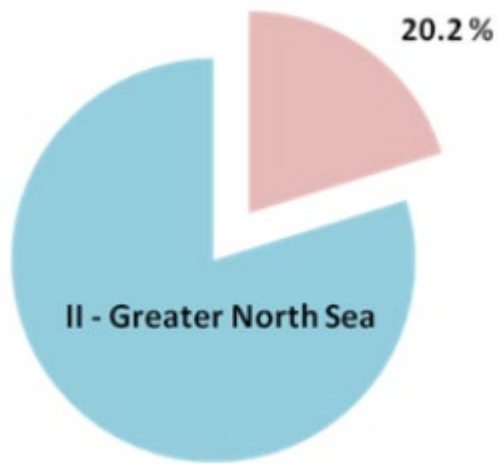
572 MPA within national waters
11 MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs

As of 1 October 2021
QSR 2023 assessment
oap.ospar.org > QSR > QSR 2023 > other assessments > 2021 MPA status report



OSPAR
QUALITY STATUS REPORT 2023

OSPAR network of Marine Protected Areas



Flanders Marine Institute (2019). Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase: Maritime Boundaries and Exclusive Economic Zones (200NM), version 11. Available online at <https://www.marineregions.org/>. <https://doi.org/10.14284/386>

mpa.ospar.org

Contracting Parties of the OSPAR Convention



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



Credit: OSPAR Commission

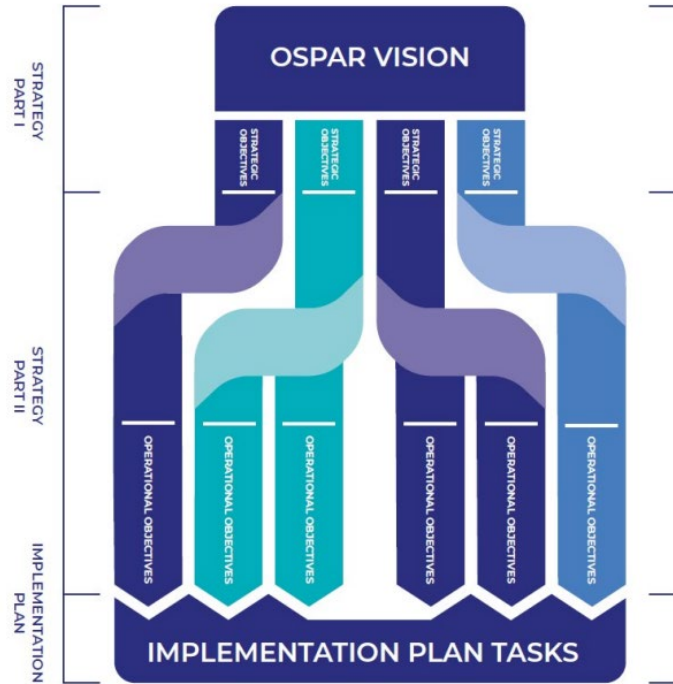
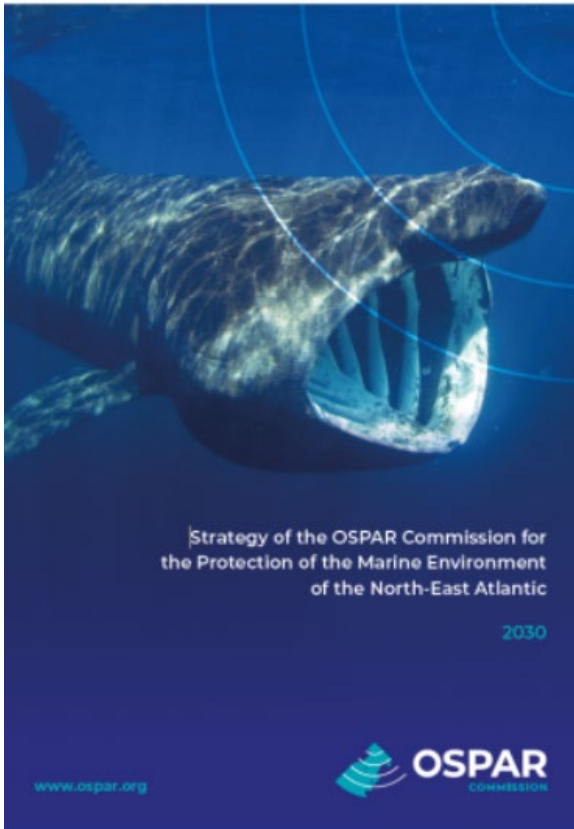


Ministerial Meeting of the OSPAR Commission October 2021

Cascais Declaration

1. WE, THE MINISTERS AND THE MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, meeting within the framework of the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, **adopt** this Declaration and **commit** to achieve a clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic, which is productive, used sustainably and resilient to the effects of climate change and ocean acidification. We will do this through the **implementation** of our new North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030.
2. As the OSPAR Commission, we form a like-minded community committed to the international rules-based order and regional multilateral cooperation on the protection and sustainable use of the North-East Atlantic. We **believe** that we are stronger when we work together, and **commit** to inclusive, transparent and consensus-based decision-making involving all stakeholders.
3. Guided by our Convention, we will **pursue** all possible actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, to prevent and eliminate pollution including marine litter and underwater noise and to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change and ocean acidification on the marine environment.
4. We **commit** to improve the health of the North-East Atlantic and through that the lives and prospects of everyone in our region and will continue to develop innovative programmes and measures that deliver sustainable solutions.

OSPAR North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030



Vision

'Clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic Ocean, which is productive, used sustainably and resilient to climate change and ocean acidification'

Strategic objectives

S05: Protect and conserve marine biodiversity, ecosystems and their services to achieve good status of species and habitats, and thereby maintain and strengthen ecosystem resilience.

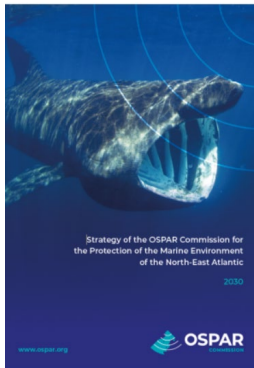
Operational objectives

S5.01: By 2030 OSPAR will further develop its network of marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) to **cover at least 30%** of the OSPAR maritime area to ensure it is **representative, ecologically coherent and effectively managed to achieve its conservation objectives.**

S5.02: By 2022 OSPAR will **identify barriers to the effective management** of MPAs, and by 2024 take steps to address them appropriately to enable all OSPAR MPAs to achieve their conservation objectives.

Points on OSPAR work

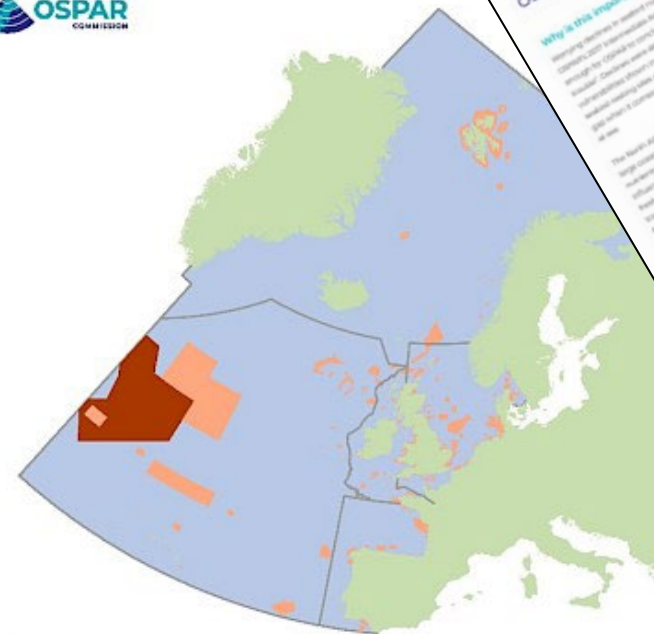
- OSPAR provides a forum for cross-border cooperation in North Sea (and N-E Atlantic) across wide range of human activities, bringing together EU and non-EU Parties
- Legal basis for adopting new recommendations and decisions where needed
- Capability for cross-sectoral analysis using the programme of assessments
- OSPAR does not work directly on MSP but many of its products and groups are highly relevant
- NEAES 2030 commitments to develop a practical approach for Ecosystem Based Management; cross-sectoral working is challenging in any organisation – MSP provides an excellent mechanism to promote long-term EBM, especially when supported by high quality data and analysis



SX.O2: By 2024 OSPAR will initiate discussions on the **development of a practical approach for regional-scale ecosystembased management**, including through the ‘Collective Arrangement’ and in cooperation with fisheries management bodies and other competent organisations, in order to strengthen ecosystem resilience to climate change and to safeguard the marine environment, its biodiversity and ecosystem services.

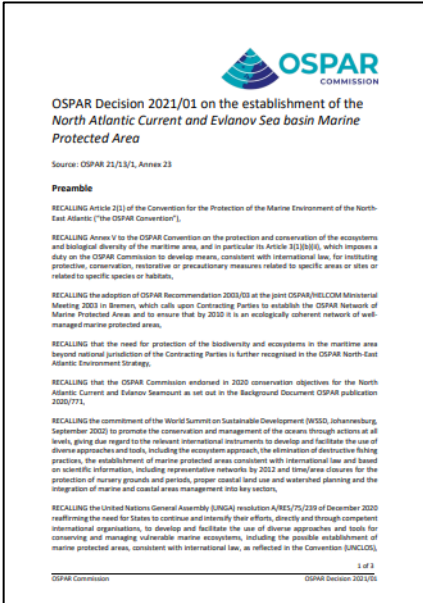
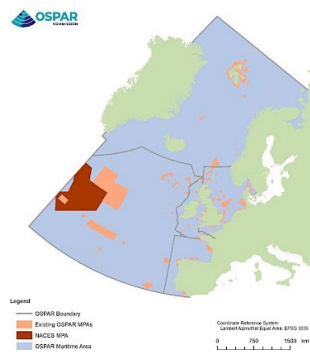
OSPAR North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Sea basin MPA (NACES MPA)

- OSPAR 2021 Ministerial Meeting in Cascais Portugal decided to designate the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Sea basin MPA
- Covers nearly 600 000 km²
- Wide consultation with other competent organisations and stakeholders



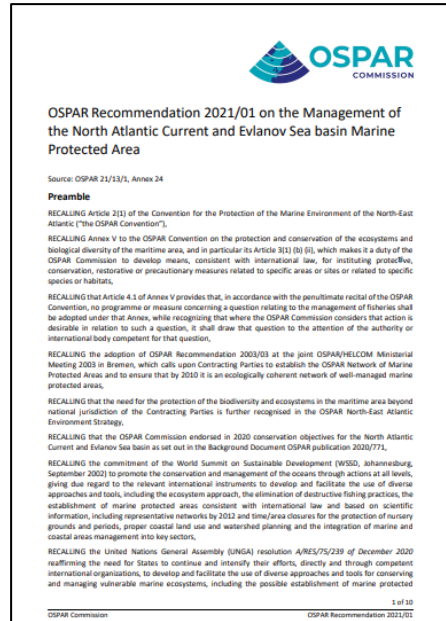
The legal documents for a collectively designated MPA

OSPAR North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Sea basin MPA



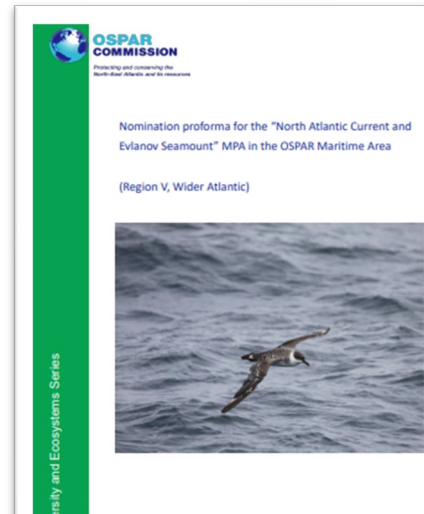
Decision 2021/1

Legally binding instrument that designates the MPA



Recommendation 2021/1

Establishes management of the site, specifying national and collective actions as well as an annual implementation reporting obligation

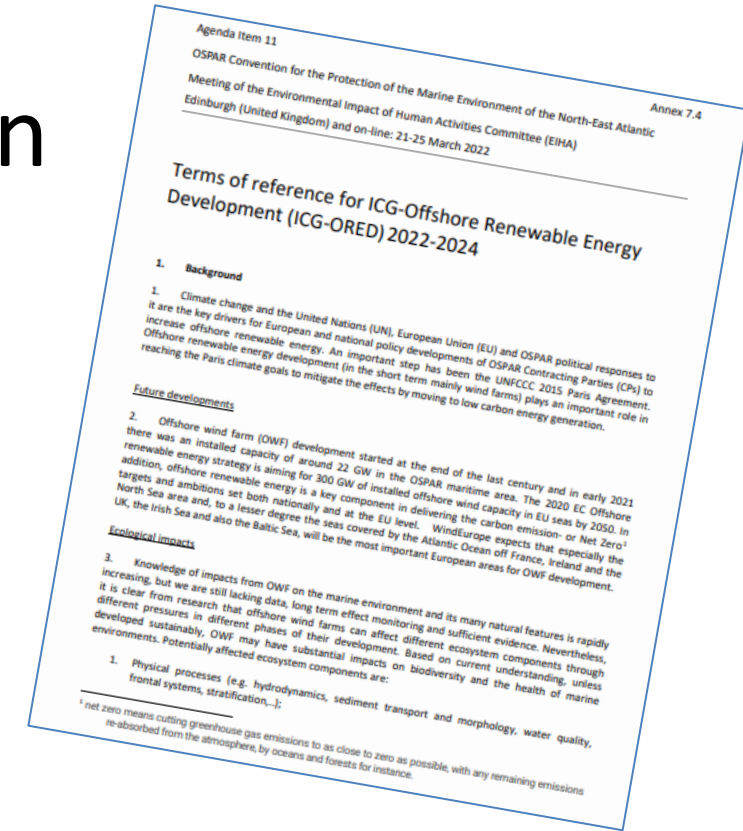


Publication 771

Background Document to Recommendation 2021/01, nomination proforma collates scientific information against nomination criteria and describes the conservation objectives

Developments and conservation objectives

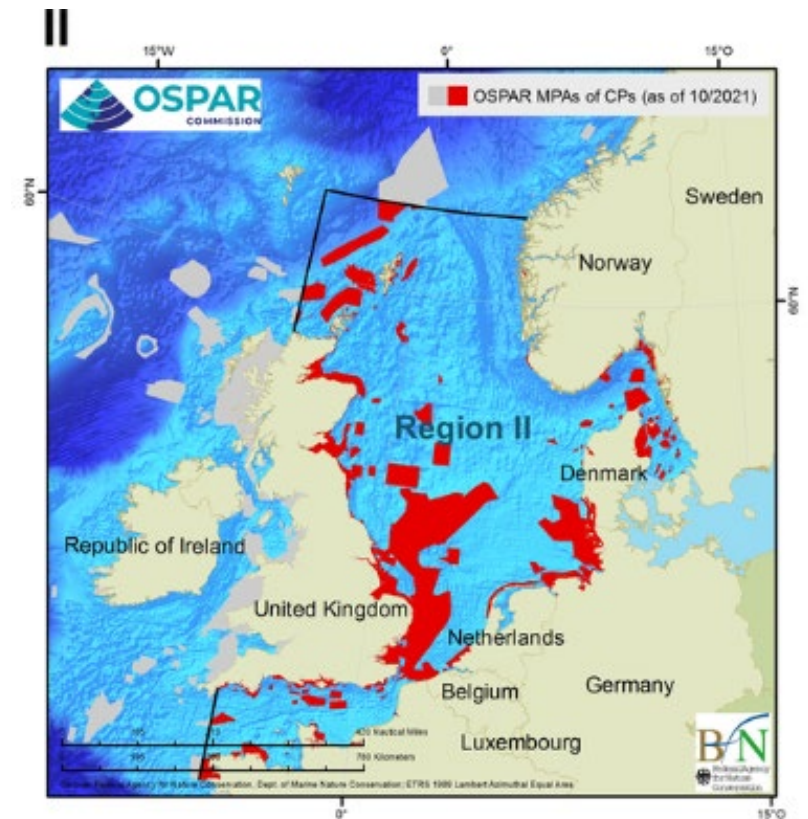
- *Offshore wind farm development... in early 2021 there was an installed capacity of around **22 GW** in the OSPAR maritime area. The 2020 EC Offshore renewable energy strategy is aiming for **300 GW** of installed offshore wind capacity in EU seas by 2050... WindEurope expects that especially the North Sea ... will be the most important European areas for OWF development. (ICG-ORED ToR §2)*
- OSPAR assesses cumulative effects on a regional sea level
 - Pilot study on current and projected future installations impacts on seabirds
- Develop guidance based on regional sea assessment and identified needs on measures and actions



ospar.org > Organisation > Terms of Reference

Conservation objectives in perspective

- Conservation objectives of MPA to guide implementation and effective management of the network
- Identification of critical habitats as a basis for future MPA nominations
- Ecosystem based management of the wider marine space
 - Area based measures
 - Feature based measures



Future Outlook

Technical work and assessments ongoing
Identification of new sites to be nominated to the MPA network
Implementing and developing measures to manage pressures

2025 Ministerial Meeting
NEAES 2030 completion



Credit: Thomas Hallerman/Marine Photobank