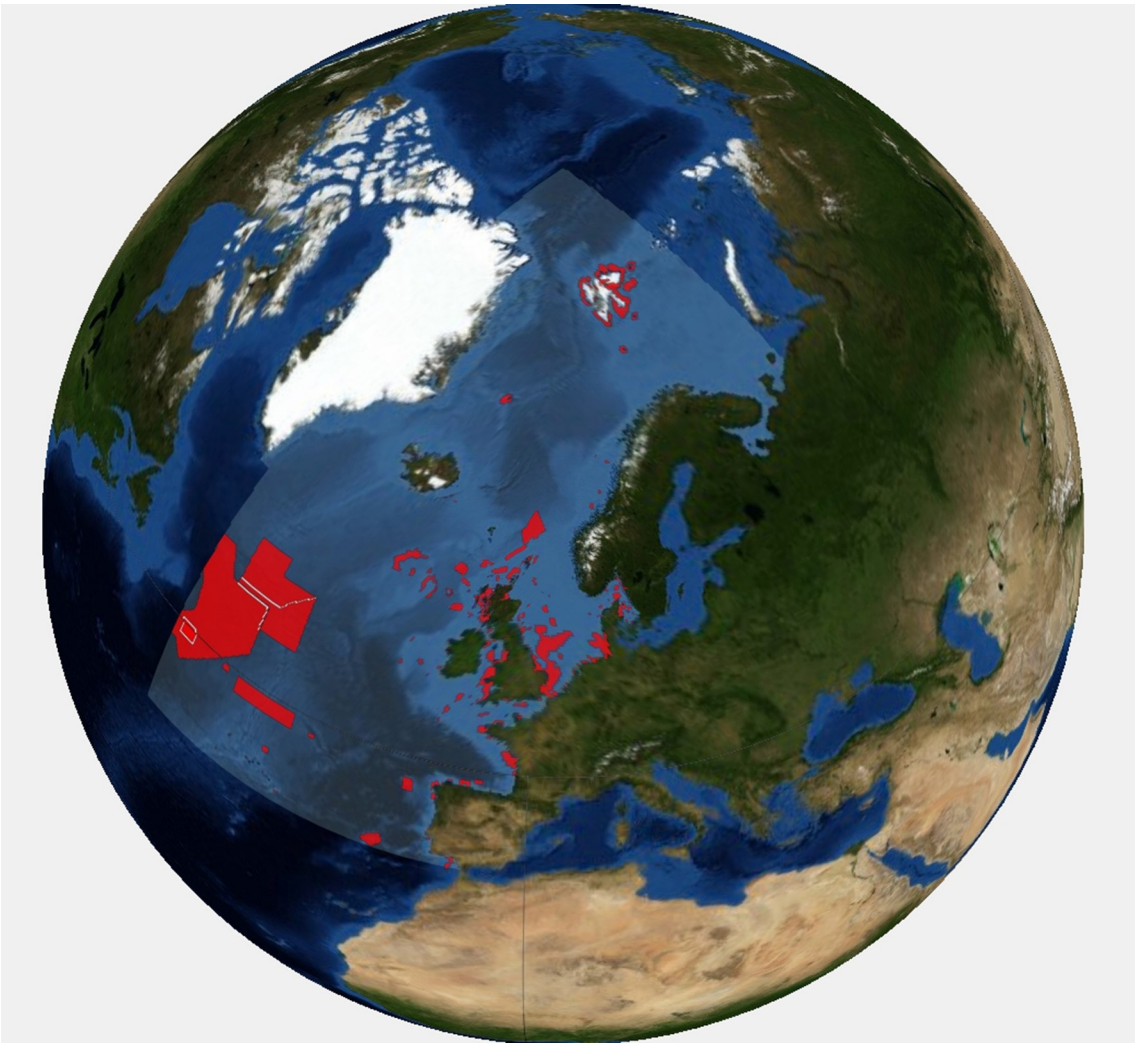
OSPAR COMMISSION

OSPAR QUALITY STATUS REPORT 2023

Report and assessment of the status of the OSPAR network of Marine Protected Areas in 2021



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Report and assessment of the status of the OSPAR network of Marine Protected Areas in 2022

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Cover illustration

The illustration on the front page was created by Mirko Hauswirth (BfN).

OSPAR Convention

The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the “OSPAR Convention”) was opened for signature at the Ministerial Meeting of the former Oslo and Paris Commissions in Paris on 22 September 1992. The Convention entered into force on 25 March 1998. It has been ratified by Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom and approved by the European Union and Spain.

Convention OSPAR

La Convention pour la protection du milieu marin de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est, dite Convention OSPAR, a été ouverte à la signature à la réunion ministérielle des anciennes Commissions d'Oslo et de Paris, à Paris le 22 septembre 1992. La Convention est entrée en vigueur le 25 mars 1998. La Convention a été ratifiée par l'Allemagne, la Belgique, le Danemark, la Finlande, la France, l’Irlande, l’Islande, le Luxembourg, la Norvège, les Pays-Bas, le Portugal, le Royaume-Uni de Grande Bretagne et d’Irlande du Nord, la Suède et la Suisse et approuvée par l’Union européenne et l’Espagne.

Contents

Executive Summary

The North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES)[1] 2030 is the means by which OSPAR's 16 Contracting Parties will implement the OSPAR Convention until 2030. It sets out collective objectives to tackle the triple challenge facing the ocean: biodiversity loss, pollution, including marine litter, and climate change. Its implementation is part of OSPAR's contribution to the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. The Strategy sets out the goal of OSPAR Contracting Parties to further develop the OSPAR Network of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the North-East Atlantic and to ensure that:

- *by 2030 the network of marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective conservation measures (OECMs)[2] cover at least 30%[3] of the OSPAR maritime area and to ensure it is representative, ecologically coherent and effectively managed to achieve its conservation objectives.*

This report aims to summarise the information made available by OSPAR Contracting Parties on their respective MPAs nominated to the OSPAR Commission and on this basis assess the progress towards overall status, management and ecological coherence of the OSPAR MPA network.

Since Contracting Parties started nominating MPAs to the OSPAR Network of MPAs in 2005, all 12 Contracting Parties bordering the North-East Atlantic have nominated sites to the OSPAR Network of MPAs in their national waters. All Contracting Parties to OSPAR have collectively designated MPAs in Areas Beyond National jurisdiction (ABNJ) of the OSPAR Maritime Area.

By 1 October 2021, the OSPAR Network of MPAs comprised 583 MPAs, including 8 MPAs collectively designated in ABNJ. All MPAs have a total surface area of 1 490 552 km^2, covering 11,0% of the OSPAR Maritime Area. Therefore, by designating more than 10% of marine and coastal waters as MPAs, OSPAR has achieved Aichi Biodiversity target 11 of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Since the last Status Report in 2018, 87 MPAs with a surface area of more than 625 000 km^2 were added to the OSPAR network of MPAs. The new MPAs were nominated by the United Kingdom (71 MPAs), the Kingdom of Denmark (6 MPAs) and Norway (9 MPAs). Another MPA, the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov sea basin MPA (NACES) was nominated collectively in ABNJ. This MPA covers an area of 595 196 km^2. The overall area covered by OSPAR MPAs of the OSPAR Maritime Area increased from 6,4% in 2018 to 11,0% in 2021.

To date, the majority of designated OSPAR MPAs are located in territorial waters, with an overall coverage of 20,9%. The area beyond the limits of national Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ), i.e. the High Seas and the Area and the Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) areas, include 19,9% covered by OSPAR MPAs. The lowest coverage of OSPAR MPAs is found in the EEZ area where 2,9% are covered by OSPAR MPAs.

[1] https://www.ospar.org/documents?v=46337

[2] The definition of OECMs will follow the definition agreed under the Convention on Biological Diversity

[3]. The percentage targets are regional targets and relate to the OSPAR maritime area

OSPAR Region II, the Greater North Sea, has an MPA coverage of 20,2%. The Celtic Seas (Region III) and the Wider Atlantic (Region V) have 20,0% and 17,7% area covered by OSPAR MPAs, respectively. The MPA coverage of the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast (Region IV) is at 6,0% and the Arctic Waters (Region I) show the lowest coverage with 2,0%.

The application of the Madrid Criteria to the OSPAR MPA network illustrates that whilst significant progress has been made in developing the network, it cannot yet be considered to be ecologically coherent.

Since the last Status Report on the OSPAR Network of MPAs in 2018, further work was done on developing an ecologically based assessment (see 2.6) to further explore the principle of MPA network connectivity, representation and replication for OSPAR threatened and/or declining species and habitats. However, additional work is still required to develop the way in which the OSPAR MPA network is assessed for ecological coherence.

The assessment against Madrid Criterion A (a proximity analysis of MPAs as a surrogate for the OSPAR MPA network principle of connectivity) suggests that the OSPAR MPA network is nearing being considered to be well distributed in OSPAR Regions II (North Sea) and III (Celtic Seas), but there remain significant gaps in OSPAR Regions I (Arctic). In OSPAR Region V (Wider Atlantic) gaps still persist in the southwest, south, north and east and a small gap further offshore in OSPAR Region IV (Bay of Biscay and The Iberian Coast). Future work should focus on addressing these geographical gaps where possible.

The assessment against Madrid Criterion B (percentage coverage of MPAs across the Dinter biogeographic provinces) suggests that the 10%-target has been exceeded for seven of the 19 provinces; six within the *Eastern Atlantic Temperate* sub-region, one within the *Atlantic deep-sea* region. A further one exceeds 9% total surface coverage (within the Eastern Atlantic Temperate sub-region) and another one exceeds 5% (within the Barents Sea province). Four provinces have no OSPAR MPAs and a further three have less than 1% surface coverage. These provinces are predominantly to the north of the OSPAR Maritime Area.

The assessment against Madrid Criterion C (protection of OSPAR Threatened and/or Declining species and habitats within OSPAR MPAs) shows that 28 of the 58 (14 of 54 in 2018) OSPAR Threatened and/or Declining habitats and species (where recommendations are in place) are protected within more than one MPA in the OSPAR Region(s) they are considered to be under threat/subject to decline. All OSPAR Threatened and/or Declining invertebrates, eight of the nine birds, one of the two reptiles, two of the four marine mammals, four of the 21 fish and nine of the 18 habitats are considered sufficiently protected according to the requirements of Madrid criterion C.

With respect to the management status, OSPAR has made progress. 8.8 out of 10 (88%) of the OSPAR MPAs have either full or partial management information in place, which is publicly documented, a 2% increase since the 2018 Status Report. In addition, there has been an improvement in the implementation of management measures considered necessary to achieve the conservation objectives of MPAs, with partial measures increasing from 77% in 2018 to 83% in 2021. Responses to monitoring programmes have shown a similar trend between 2018 and 2021. Progress towards achieving conservation objectives has also taken place since 2018, with an increase of 4% (18% in 2021) responding with a *yes* to this question. In 2021, Contracting Parties were asked to provide an estimation of their confidence in their response. 6% of OSPAR MPAs are considered to have high confidence scores in their responses to this question, 32% to have moderate and 19% to have low confidence scores. However, in 2021 a high proportion of 'unknown' responses (30% compared to 28%

in 2018) as to whether the protected features of OSPAR MPAs are moving towards their conservation objectives still remains, largely due to the lack of site-specific data on the ecological status of the protected features of the MPAs.

Future OSPAR work should focus on implementing the management measures considered necessary to achieve the conservation objectives of the protected features of the MPAs. In parallel, there is a need for long-term monitoring programmes to be established to evaluate the effectiveness of such management measures to conclude with greater confidence on whether the conservation objectives of the protected features of OSPAR MPAs are being achieved. In addition, work should progress on improving methods of evaluating the degree to which the OSPAR MPA network is well-managed to support a more sophisticated assessment as to whether or not the OSPAR MPA network is delivering a genuine conservation benefit to targeted habitats, species and ecological processes.

For OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ, there should be continued effort to further the collective arrangement and cooperate through e.g., Memorandums of Understanding with relevant competent management authorities, so that they can consider appropriate management actions to help deliver the conservation objectives for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ. Contracting Parties should continue to raise awareness of OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ with relevant stakeholders and interest groups and look to further our scientific understanding of these sites.

Récapitulatif

La Stratégie pour le milieu marin de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est (NEAES) 2030[4] est le moyen par lequel les 16 Parties contractantes d'OSPAR mettront en œuvre la Convention OSPAR jusqu'en 2030. Elle définit des objectifs collectifs pour relever le triple défi auquel l'océan est confronté : la perte de biodiversité, la pollution, y compris les déchets marins, et le changement climatique. Sa mise en œuvre fait partie de la contribution d'OSPAR à la réalisation de l'Agenda 2030 des Nations Unies pour le développement durable et de ses objectifs de développement durable. La stratégie fixe l'objectif des Parties contractantes d'OSPAR de développer davantage le réseau OSPAR d'aires marines protégées (AMP) dans l'Atlantique du Nord-Est et de s'assurer que :

- *D'ici à 2030, le réseau OSPAR d'aires marines protégées (AMP) et d'autres mesures efficaces de conservation par zone (OECM)[5] couvrent au moins 30 %[6] de la zone maritime OSPAR, et de s'assurer que le réseau est représentatif, écologiquement cohérent et géré efficacement pour atteindre ses résultats de conservation.*

Le présent rapport a pour objectif de résumer les informations soumises par les Parties contractantes OSPAR sur leurs AMP respectives désignées à la Commission OSPAR et d'évaluer, sur cette base, les progrès réalisés dans le sens de l'état général, de la gestion et de la cohérence écologique du réseau OSPAR d'AMP.

Depuis que les Parties contractantes ont commencé à proposer des AMP au réseau OSPAR en 2005, les 12 Parties contractantes riveraines de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est ont désigné des sites dans leurs eaux nationales à inclure dans le réseau OSPAR d'AMP. Toutes les Parties contractantes OSPAR ont désigné

[4] https://www.ospar.org/documents?d=46363

[5] La définition des OECM sera conforme à la définition convenue dans le cadre de la Convention sur la diversité biologique.

[6] Les objectifs en pourcentage sont des objectifs régionaux et concernent la zone maritime OSPAR

collectivement des AMP dans des zones situées au-delà de la juridiction nationale (ABNJ) de la zone maritime OSPAR.

Au 1er octobre 2021, le réseau OSPAR d'AMP se compose de 583 AMP, comprenant 8 AMP désignées collectivement dans des ABNJ. Ces sites couvrent une superficie totale de 1 490 552 km^2, à savoir 11 % de la zone maritime OSPAR. Par conséquent, en désignant plus de 10 % des eaux marines et côtières comme AMP, OSPAR a atteint l'objectif 11 d'Aichi sur la biodiversité de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la diversité biologique (CDB).

Depuis la publication, en 2018, du dernier rapport sur l'état du réseau, 87 AMP, couvrant une superficie de plus de 625 000 km^2 ont été ajoutées au réseau OSPAR d'AMP. Les nouvelles AMP ont été désignées par le Royaume-Uni (71 AMP), le Royaume du Danemark (6 AMP), et la Norvège (9 AMP). Une AMP supplémentaire - du courant Nord Atlantique et du bassin maritime d'Evlanov – a été désignée collectivement dans des ABNJ. Cette AMP couvre une superficie de 595 196 km^2. La superficie totale de la zone maritime OSPAR couverte par les AMP OSPAR est passée de 6,4 % en 2018 à 11 % en 2021.

A ce jour, la majorité des AMP OSPAR désignées se situent dans les eaux territoriales, leur superficie totale correspondant à 20,9 %. La zone située au-delà des limites des Zones économiques exclusives (ZEE), c'est-à-dire les zones de haute mer et du plateau continental étendu (PCE), comprend 19,9 % de zones désignées dans le cadre des AMP OSPAR. La couverture la plus faible d'AMP OSPAR se trouve dans des ZEE, 2,9 % correspondant à des AMP OSPAR désignées.

La Région II d'OSPAR, mer du Nord au sens large, a une couverture d'AMP de 20,2 %. Les mers celtiques (Région III) et l'Atlantique au large (Région V) ont une superficie couverte par les AMP OSPAR de 20,0 % et 17,7 %, respectivement. La couverture des AMP du Golfe de Gascogne et de la Côte ibérique (Région IV) est de 6,0 % et les eaux arctiques (Région I) présentent la couverture la plus faible avec 2,0 %.

L'application des critères de Madrid au réseau OSPAR d'AMP révèle que des progrès considérables ont été réalisés dans le développement du réseau, mais que celui-ci ne peut pas encore être considéré comme écologiquement cohérent.

Depuis le dernier rapport sur l'état du réseau OSPAR d'AMP, en 2018, le développement d'une évaluation à base écologique a fait l'objet de travaux supplémentaires (voir 2.6) afin d'étudier plus avant les principes de la connectivité, de la représentativité, et de la réplication du réseau d'AMP pour les espèces et habitats menacés et/ou en déclin OSPAR. Des travaux supplémentaires sont cependant nécessaires afin de développer la méthode d'évaluation de la cohérence écologique du réseau OSPAR d'AMP.

L'évaluation par rapport au critère de Madrid A (une analyse de proximité d'AMP à titre de substitut pour le principe de connectivité du réseau OSPAR d'AMP) suggère que l'on considère quasiment que le réseau est bien réparti dans les Régions OSPAR II (mer du Nord au sens large) et III (mers celtiques), mais que la Région OSPAR I (eaux arctiques) présente des lacunes importantes. Dans la Région OSPAR V (Atlantique au large), des lacunes persistent dans le sud-ouest, le sud, le nord et l'est, et la Région OSPAR IV (Golfe de Gascogne et côte ibérique) présente une petite lacune au large. Les travaux futurs devront se focaliser autant que possible sur la question de ces lacunes géographiques.

L'évaluation par rapport au critère de Madrid B (pourcentage de la couverture d'AMP dans l'ensemble des régions biogéographiques de Dinter) suggère que la cible de 10 % a été dépassée pour sept des 19 régions, dont six se situent dans la sous-région tempérée de l'Atlantique oriental, et l'une d'entre elles dans la région de haute mer de l'Atlantique. Une autre dépasse 9 % de couverture totale de la surface (dans la sous-région tempérée de l'Atlantique oriental), et une autre dépasse 5 % (dans la région de la mer de Barents). Quatre régions ne possèdent pas d'AMP OSPAR et trois autres ont une superficie inférieure à 1 %. Ces régions sont situées principalement au nord de la zone maritime OSPAR.

L'évaluation par rapport au critère de Madrid C (protection des espèces et habitats menacés et/ou en déclin OSPAR dans des AMP OSPAR) révèle que 28 des 58 (en 2018 il s'agissait de 14 des 54) espèces et habitats menacés et/ou en déclin OSPAR (faisant l'objet de recommandations existantes) sont protégés au sein de plusieurs AMP dans la (les) Région(s) OSPAR où l'on considère qu'ils sont menacés et/ou en déclin. On considère que tous les invertébrés OSPAR menacés et/ou en déclin, huit des neuf oiseaux, l'un des deux reptiles, deux des quatre mammifères marins, quatre des 21 poissons et neuf des 18 habitats sont suffisamment protégés conformément aux exigences du critère de Madrid C.

En ce qui concerne la gestion du réseau, des progrès ont été réalisés. On possède des informations, à la disposition du public, sur la gestion complète ou partielle de presque 8,8 AMP OSPAR sur 10 (88 %), ce qui représente une augmentation de 2 % depuis le rapport sur l'état du réseau de 2018. La mise en œuvre de mesures de gestion que l'on considère nécessaires à la réalisation des objectifs de conservation des AMP a également progressé, la mise en œuvre partielle de mesures de gestion étant passée de 77 % en 2018 à 83 % en 2021. Des réponses aux programmes de surveillance révèlent une tendance similaire entre 2018 et 2021. Des progrès dans le sens des objectifs de conservation ont également été réalisés depuis 2018, avec une augmentation de 4 % (18 % en 2021) répondant par l'affirmative à cette question. En 2021, il a été demandé aux Parties contractantes de fournir une estimation de leur confiance dans leur réponse. On considère que 6 % des AMP OSPAR ont un score de confiance élevé dans leurs réponses à cette question, 32 % un score de confiance modéré et 19 % un score de confiance faible. Cependant, en 2021, une proportion élevée de réponses « inconnues » (30 % contre 28 % en 2018) quant à savoir si les éléments protégés des AMP OSPAR progressent vers leurs objectifs de conservation demeure, ceci en grande partie en raison du manque de données spécifiques au site sur l'état écologique des éléments protégés des AMP.

Les futurs travaux devront se concentrer sur la mise en œuvre de mesures de gestion que l'on considère nécessaires à la réalisation des objectifs de conservation des caractéristiques protégées des AMP OSPAR. Parallèlement, il y a lieu de créer des programmes de surveillance à long terme permettant d'évaluer l'efficacité de ces mesures de gestion, afin de conclure avec une plus grande certitude si les objectifs de conservation des caractéristiques protégées des AMP OSPAR sont atteints. Il faudra de plus faire progresser les travaux permettant d'améliorer les méthodes d'évaluation de la mesure dans laquelle le réseau OSPAR d'AMP est bien géré. Il s'agit d'étayer une évaluation plus affinée permettant de déterminer si le réseau OSPAR d'AMP présente des avantages sérieux du point de vue de la conservation des habitats, espèces et processus écologiques ciblés.

Dans le cas des AMP OSPAR situées dans des ABNJ, il faudra poursuivre les efforts pour promouvoir les dispositions collectives et la coopération grâce à des mémorandums d'entente avec les autorités de gestion compétentes. Elles pourront ainsi envisager les mesures de gestion adéquates leur permettant de réaliser les objectifs de conservation des AMP OSPAR situées dans des ABNJ. Les Parties contractantes devront poursuivre la sensibilisation des parties prenantes pertinentes et des groupes de pression au réseau OSPAR d'AMP dans des ABNJ et s'efforcer d'améliorer nos connaissances scientifiques de ces sites.

Background

The OSPAR Convention Annex V on the Protection and Conservation of Ecosystems and Biological Diversity of the Maritime Area Article 2a sets out that Contracting Parties to the Convention shall take the necessary measures to protect and conserve the ecosystems and the biological diversity of the maritime area, and to restore, where practicable, marine areas which have been adversely affected.

The Sintra Ministerial Statement, adopted at the meeting of the OSPAR Commission in Sintra, Portugal (22-23 July 1998), included the commitment that the OSPAR Commission will promote the establishment of a network of MPAs to ensure the sustainable use, protection and conservation of marine biological diversity and its ecosystems.

This process has been enhanced by the Bremen Ministerial Statement, adopted at the first Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Helsinki and OSPAR Commissions in Bremen, Germany (25-26 June 2003), as it established the commitment to complete by 2010 a joint network of well-managed MPAs that, together with the Natura 2000 network, is ecologically coherent.

The aims of the OSPAR Network of MPAs have been set out as:

- *to protect, conserve and restore species, habitats and ecological processes which have been adversely affected by human activities;*
- *to prevent degradation of, and damage to, species, habitats and ecological processes, following the precautionary principle; and*
- *to protect and conserve areas that best represent the range of species, habitats and ecological processes in the maritime area.*

OSPAR Recommendation 2003/03 sets out that in the years subsequent to 2005, OSPAR Contracting Parties should report by 31 December to the OSPAR Commission on any OSPAR MPAs that they have selected (or deselected) and on any corresponding management plans that they have adopted or substantially amended in that year. In 2006, the OSPAR Biodiversity Committee (BDC) agreed that annual reports on the status of the OSPAR Network of MPAs should be prepared in the period up to 2010.

As the target had not been reached in 2010, the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in Bergen, Norway (20-24 September 2010) adopted a consolidated version of Recommendation 2003/03 (amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2010/02) including renewed targets, *i.e. to continue the establishment of the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas in the North-East Atlantic and to ensure that:*

a. *by 2012 it is ecologically coherent, includes sites representative of all biogeographic regions in the OSPAR Maritime Area, and is consistent with the CBD target for effectively conserved marine and coastal ecological regions;*

b. *by 2016 it is well managed (i.e. coherent management measures have been set up and are being implemented for such MPAs that have been designated up to 2010).*

OSPAR Contracting Parties therefore agreed to continue with the preparation of annual reports with a view to track progress as well as any shortcomings with regards to the targets that have been set by the OSPAR Commission for the OSPAR Network of MPAs.

At the 2013 OSPAR Commission meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden (24-28 June 2013) OSPAR Contracting Parties agreed that the Status Report of the OSPAR Network of MPAs will be produced every two years. The deadline for new nominations and for reporting was set to 1 October.

At the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in Cascais, Portugal (1 October 2021), Contracting Parties agreed to further expand the OSPAR network of MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) to *cover at least 30% of the whole OSPAR maritime area by 2030*, which is over 4 million km^2. The North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES) 2030 sets out *inter alia* OSPAR's strategic objective S5.01. which states that:

- *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.*

This document presents the 12th Status Report on the OSPAR Network of MPAs taking into account all MPAs that have either been nominated by Contracting Parties within their respective national waters or established collectively by the OSPAR Commission in ABNJ of the OSPAR maritime area until 1 October 2021.

Sources of data and information on OSPAR MPAs

The analysis of the OSPAR Network of MPAs is based upon information that has been provided by the Contracting Parties in the process of nominating MPAs to the OSPAR Commission and completing annual implementation reporting. In 2021 the annual data call included voluntary components, including reporting information on management status, OECMs and non-OSPAR MPAs.

Data for analyses were gathered from the OSPAR Database of MPAs which is co-administered by the French Agence des Aires Marines Protégées (AAMP) and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN).

All calculations were made with reference only to the OSPAR Maritime Area as defined in the OSPAR Convention, excluding overseas territories and territories of Contracting Parties in the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas.

All figures, tables and maps in this report provide information on the OSPAR Network of MPAs as of 1 October 2021.

1 Status of the OSPAR Network of MPAs

By 1 October 2021, the OSPAR Network of MPAs comprises 583 MPAs (Figure 1.1) including 572 MPAs situated within national waters of Contracting Parties and 11 MPAs situated in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs with different jurisdictional regimes[7]. In total, OSPAR MPAs cover an area of 1 490 552 km², which equals 11,0% of the OSPAR Maritime Area. This represents an increase by 626 215 km², or 4,6%, compared to 2018.

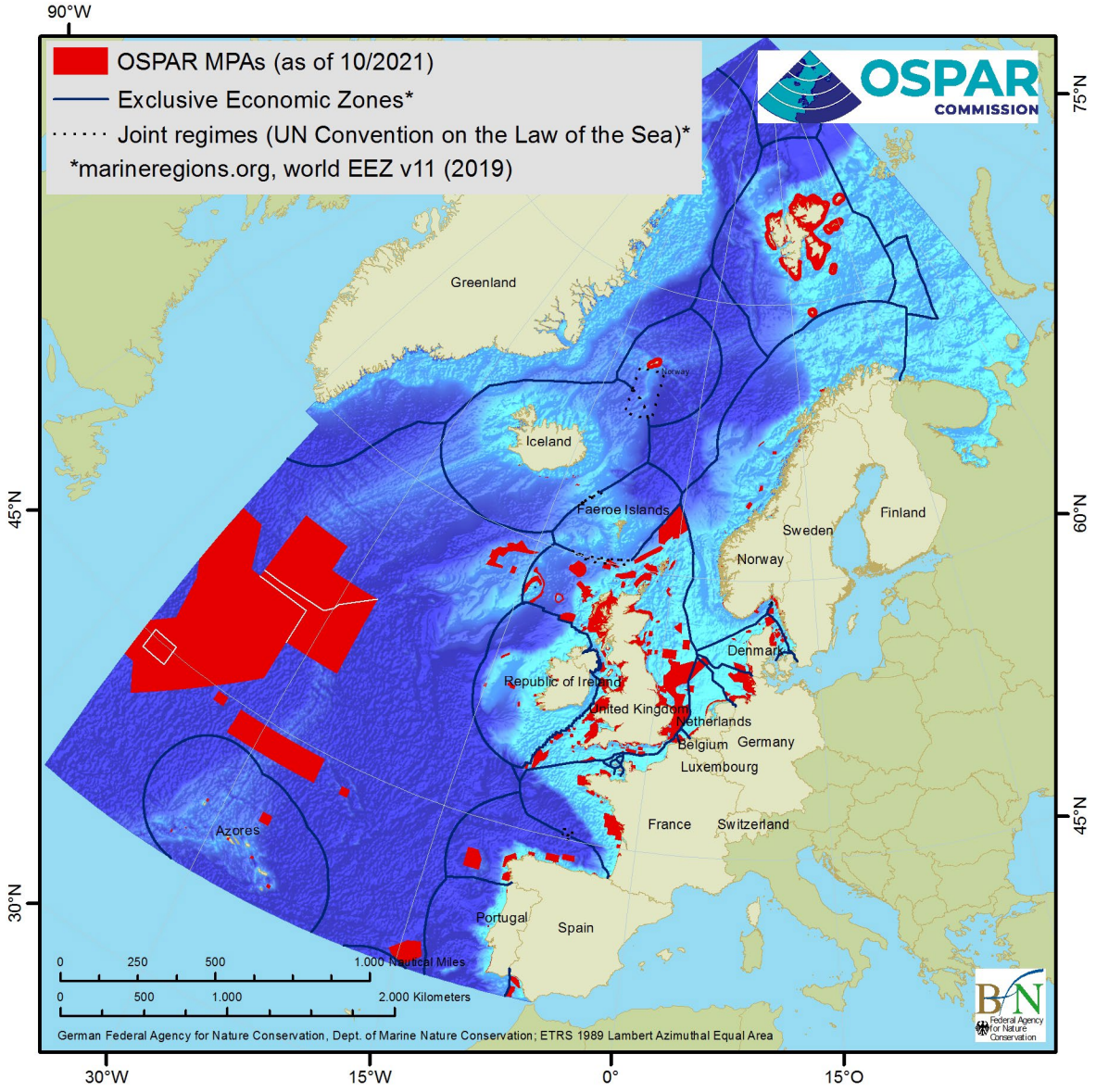

Figure 1.1. *OSPAR Network of MPAs (as of 1 October 2021)*[8].

[7] For further information on the jurisdictional regime of OSPAR MPAs situated in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs of Contracting Parties please see section 1.2.3 "Jurisdiction of OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs".

[8] The boundaries of Contracting Parties' EEZs have been obtained from the open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase. It is noted, that not all of these boundaries as shown in the map have been officially declared by Contracting Parties.

1.1 OSPAR MPAs under National Jurisdiction

1.1.1 Distribution of OSPAR MPAs in the national waters of Contracting Parties

From 2005 until 2021, OSPAR Contracting Parties have nominated a total of 572 OSPAR MPAs within their respective national waters[9], i.e., territorial waters and EEZs (Figure 1.2).

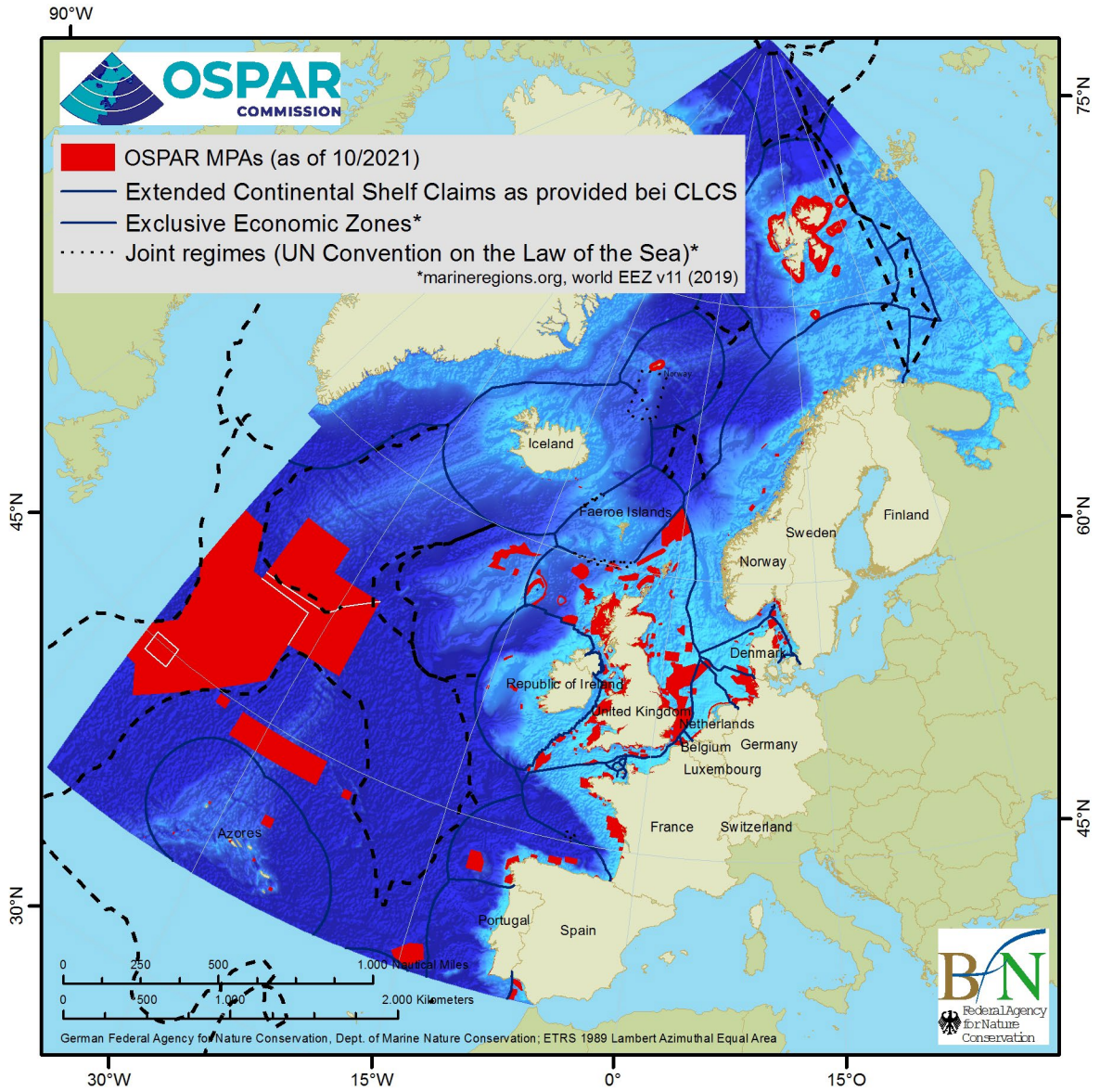

Figure 1.2. *OSPAR MPAs and boundaries of the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) and Extended Continental Shelves (as submitted to UN CLCS) of OSPAR Contracting Parties (as of 1 October 2021)[10].*

[9] Refer to Annex I for a list of all OSPAR MPAs nominated until 1 October 2018 and Annex II presenting the evolution of the
OSPAR Network of MPAs in the period of 2005-2018.

[10] The boundaries of Contracting Parties' EEZs have been obtained from the open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase. It is noted, that not all of these boundaries as shown in the map have been officially declared by Contracting Parties.

The contributions by Contracting Parties regarding the number of MPAs, their coverage and distribution in their national waters differ substantially. Table 1.1 shows the number of MPAs per Contracting Party and the area coverage.

Table 1.1. *Number and coverage of OSPAR MPAs in Territorial Waters (TW), the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs (beyond EEZ), i.e. the High Seas, the Area, and ECS areas (as of 1 October 2021)*[11]*.*

OSPAR Contracting Party	No. of OSPAR MPAs	MPA coverage [km²]			
		TW	EEZ	beyond EEZ	Total
Belgium	2	806	433	n.a.	1 239
Denmark	40	7 098	5 778	n.a.	12 876
France	39	15 822	6 280	n.a.	22 102
Germany	6	9 647	7 921	n.a.	17 595
Iceland	14	90	476	n.a.	566
Ireland	19	1 594	2 542	n.a.	4 135
Netherlands	5	2 434	5 937	n.a.	8 371
Norway	30	84 885	2 667	n.a.	87 551
Portugal	13[12]	1 556	4 656	22	6 234
Spain	15	8 311	19 300	n.a.	27 610
Sweden	10	1 114	1 371	n.a.	2 485
United Kingdom	382[13]	73 935	147 106	17 158	238 200
All Contracting Parties	8[14]	n.a.	n.a.	1 060 361	1 060 361
Total	**583**	**207 317**	**204 467**	**1 077 541**	**1 490 552**[15]

[11] n.a. = not applicable

[12] Portugal (PT) has nominated a total of 17 MPAs to OSPAR. Four of these MPAs, namely *Altair Seamount HS MPA*, *Antialtair Seamount HS MPA*, *Josephine Seamount HS MPA* and *Mid Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores HS MPA*, occur in an area subject to a submission by PT to the UN CLCS for an ECS. These 4 MPAs have been assigned to all Contracting Parties in terms of number and area coverage (category "beyond EEZ"). One of the 17 MPAs, namely *Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field*, occurs on the ECS of PT. This MPA has been assigned to Portugal in terms of number and area coverage (category "beyond EEZ"). The MPA that occurs beyond the EEZ of PT covers 22 km².

[13] The United Kingdom (UK) has nominated a total of 382 MPAs to OSPAR. Two of these MPAs, namely *Hatton Bank SAC* and *Hatton-Rockall Basin*, occur on the ECS of the UK. These 2 MPAs have been assigned to the UK in terms of number and area coverage (category "beyond EEZ"). One of the MPAs, namely *North West Rockall Bank SAC*, occurs partly within the EEZ and partly within the ECS of the UK. This MPA has been assigned to the UK in terms of number and area coverage (partly category "EEZ" and partly category "beyond EEZ"). MPAs that occur beyond the EEZ of the UK cover 17 158 km².

[14] Three OSPAR MPAs, namely *Hatton Bank SAC* (UK), *Hatton-Rockall Basin* (UK) and *Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field* (PT), occur on the ECS of a CP. These 3 MPAs have been assigned to the respective Contracting Party in terms of number and area coverage.

[15] Including 1 226 km² of "Joint Regime Areas" or condominia where Contracting Parties agreed to share equal dominium and exercise their rights jointly, without dividing it into 'national' maritime zones.

Further aspects regarding the distribution of OSPAR MPAs across the national waters (territorial waters and EEZ) of Contracting Parties are highlighted in Figure 1.3[16], illustrated against the 10% target outlined in Aichi Target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the new 30% target for 2030 as established in the OSPAR North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030. For each CP[17], the relative coverage (in %) of OSPAR MPAs in its territorial waters, the EEZ and overall in its national waters (blue/purple/green, respectively) is shown.

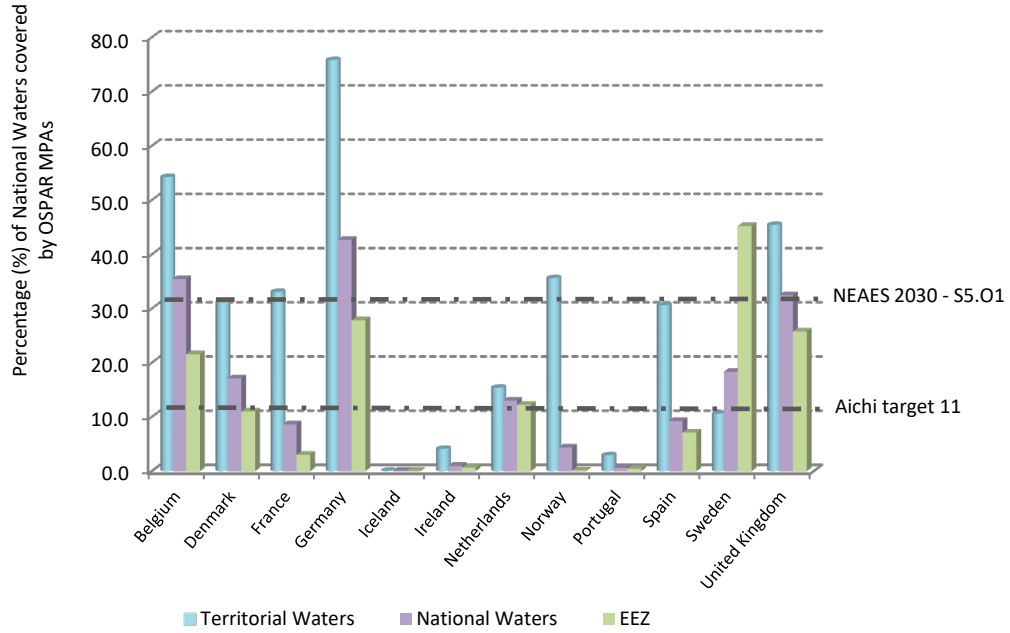

Figure 1.3. *MPA coverage in the national waters of Contracting Parties, comprising territorial waters and EEZ[18] as well as MPA coverage in territorial waters and EEZ separately (as of 1 October 2021).*

Overall, there is a good coverage of coastal waters with about 20,9%[19] (207 317 km²) of the territorial waters of OSPAR Contracting Parties being designated within OSPAR MPAs. This is mainly a result of extensive MPAs designated in OSPAR Regions II (Greater North Sea) and III (Celtic Seas) and around the Svalbard archipelago in Region I (Arctic Waters). In addition, 19,9% (1 077 541 km²) of the area beyond the limits of national EEZs, i.e., the High Seas, the Area and the ECS areas, are currently covered by OSPAR MPAs.

However, as illustrated above, there continue to be differences with respect to the overall distribution of OSPAR MPAs across the OSPAR Maritime Area, with a bias towards near-shore sites. Compared to

[16] The area calculations have been made with regards to the OSPAR Maritime Area only, *i.e.* without consideration of the overseas territories of Contracting Parties and marine territories of Contracting Parties in the Baltic (Denmark, Germany and Sweden) or the Mediterranean (France and Spain).

[17] The area calculations for Denmark have been made for the mainland only, *i.e.* without consideration of the territories of Greenland and the Faroes Islands.

[18] Note that results are based on the boundaries of the EEZ according to the open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase.

[19] For the calculation of the surface of TW and EEZ areas, the whole marine area of Portugal including Madeira and Azores as well as the Channel Island (UK) were included. Thus, the percentages are not directly comparable to all previous Status Reports.

territorial waters and areas beyond the limits of EEZs, far fewer MPAs have been designated in the Exclusive Economic Zones, covering 2,9% (204 467 km²) of all EEZs in the OSPAR Maritime Area.

1.1.2 Distribution of OSPAR MPAs across OSPAR Regions

The distribution of OSPAR MPAs across the five OSPAR Regions, i.e., Arctic Waters (Region I), Greater North Sea (Region II), Celtic Seas (Region III), Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast (Region IV) and Wider Atlantic (Region V), is shown in Figure 1.4, with details on each OSPAR Region provided in Figure 1.5a&b.

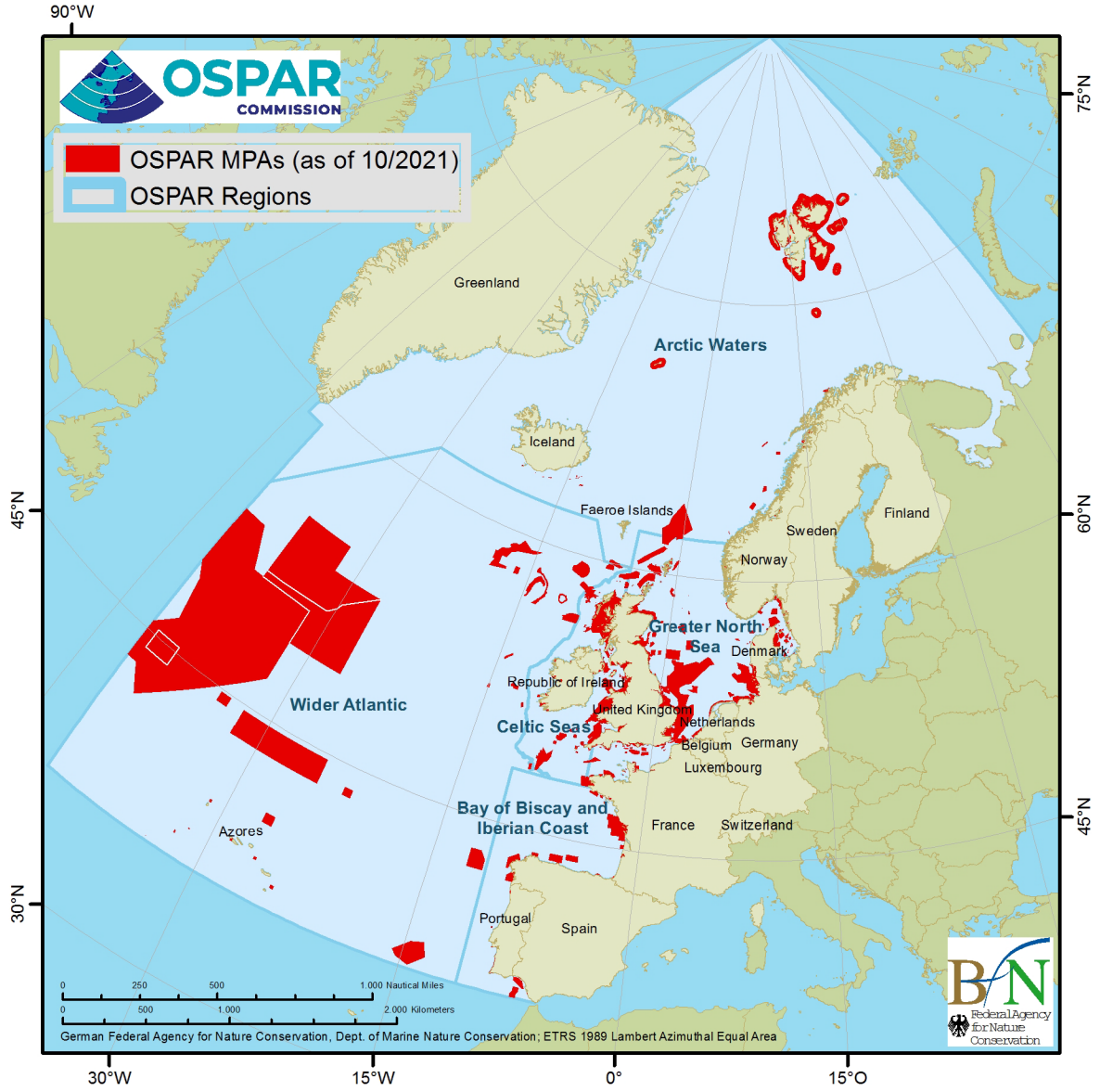

Figure 1.4. *Distribution of OSPAR MPAs across OSPAR Regions (as of 1 October 2021).*

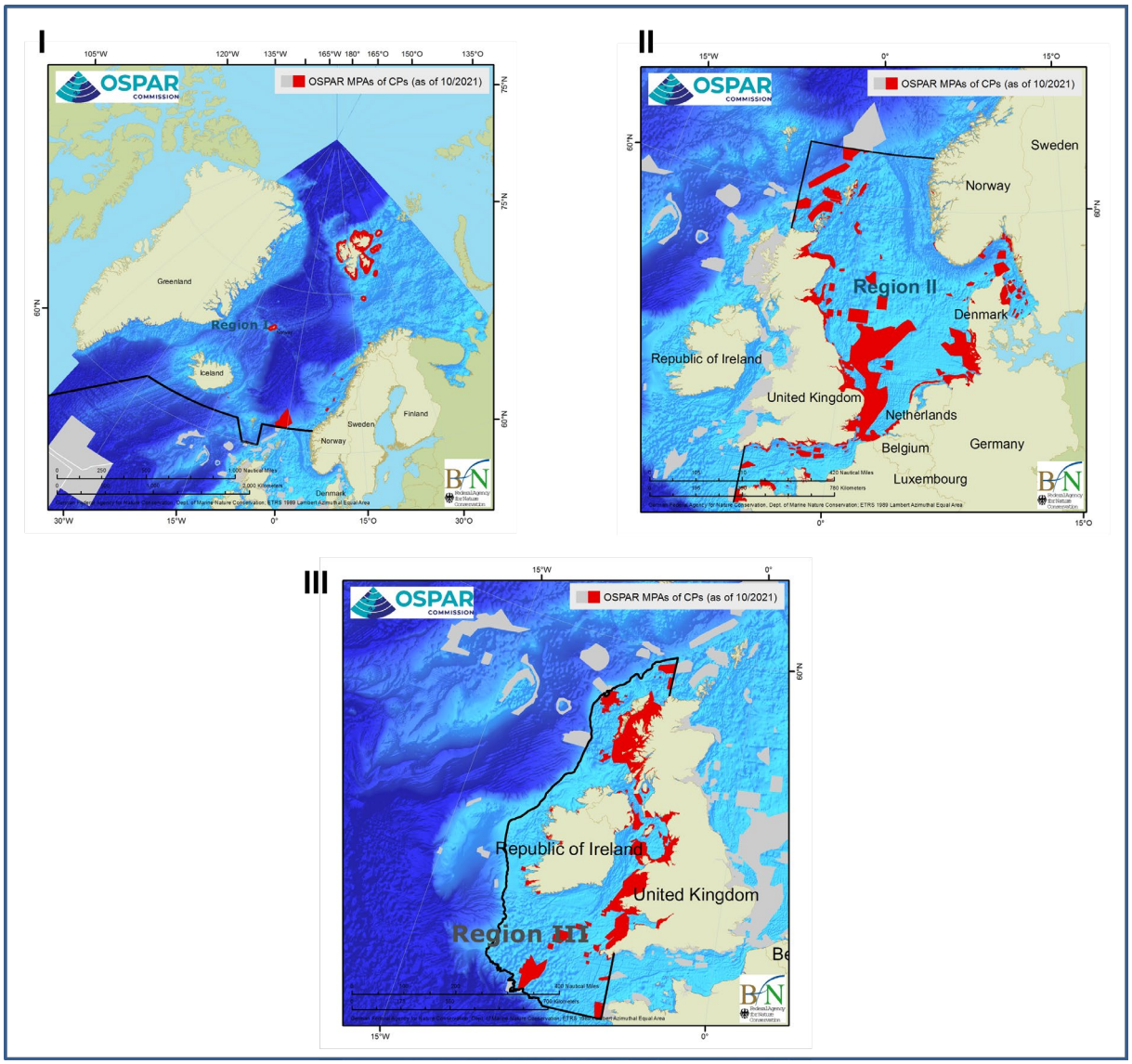

Figure 1.5a. *OSPAR MPAs across OSPAR Regions (I – Arctic Waters; II – Greater North Sea; III – Celtic Seas (as of 1 October 2021)).*

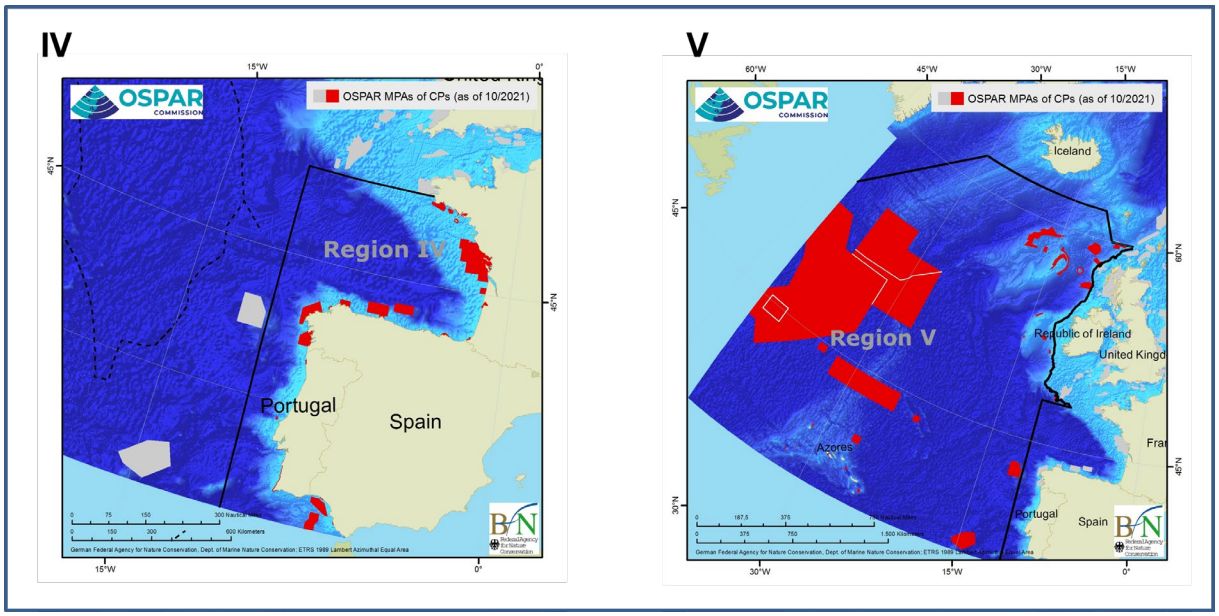

Figure 1.5b. *OSPAR MPAs across OSPAR Regions (IV – Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast; V – Wider Atlantic (as of 1 October 2021)).*

The spatial coverage by OSPAR MPAs differs substantially between the OSPAR Regions (Figure 1.6 and Table 1.2). The Greater North Sea (OSPAR Region II) has the most bordering Contracting Parties of all OSPAR Regions and all have contributed MPAs to the network. The MPAs nominated by Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, cover 20,2% (154 712 km^2) of the Greater North Sea.

In the Celtic Seas (OSPAR Region III) 20,0% (73 409 km^2) are protected by OSPAR MPAs, nominated by Ireland, the UK and France. In the Wider Atlantic (OSPAR Region V) 17,7% of the area is covered by OSPAR MPAs (1 122 282 km^2). This region comprises MPAs nominated by Portugal, Ireland, and the UK. While the coverage of this Region by MPAs within national jurisdiction remains low, the collective establishment by all OSPAR Contracting Parties of the eight MPAs in ABNJ in 2010, 2012 and 2021, as well as the three MPA nominations by Portugal and the United Kingdom in areas that are subject to their respective submission to the UN CLCS for an ECS have substantially increased the area coverage of the MPA network in this Region[20].

The three OSPAR Regions (II, III and V) currently achieve the CBD Aichi Target 11[21], i.e., to protect at least 10% of the coastal and marine areas by 2020. Only Regions II and III had achieved the target at the time of the 2018 Status Report on OSPAR MPAs, showing good progress being made for Region V - Wider Atlantic.

The Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast (OSPAR Region IV) encompass a number of MPAs nominated by its three bordering Contracting Parties of France, Portugal and Spain. Altogether, 6,0% (32 299 km^2) of this Region are covered by the OSPAR Network of MPAs.

The Arctic Waters (Region I) show the lowest MPA coverage with 2,0% (107 846 km^2) falling within OSPAR MPAs. This coverage is almost entirely due to the designation of two extensive sites around the

[20] Reservation of the Kingdom of Denmark: The area to which the UK nominations is sought to apply falls within the proposed outer limits of the Kingdom of Denmark in relation to the Faroe-Rockall Plateau, which consistent with paragraph 8 of Article 76 of UNCLOS and Article 4 of the Annex II thereto, have been submitted to the UN CLCS, and whose consideration is currently pending.

[21] Aichi Target 11 of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Strategic Plan 2011-2020 (CBD Decision X/2).

Svalbard archipelago, namely *Svalbard West*, *Svalbard East* (Norway), the MPA site *Jan Mayen* (Norway) and the MPA *North-East Faroe-Shetland Channel* (United Kingdom).

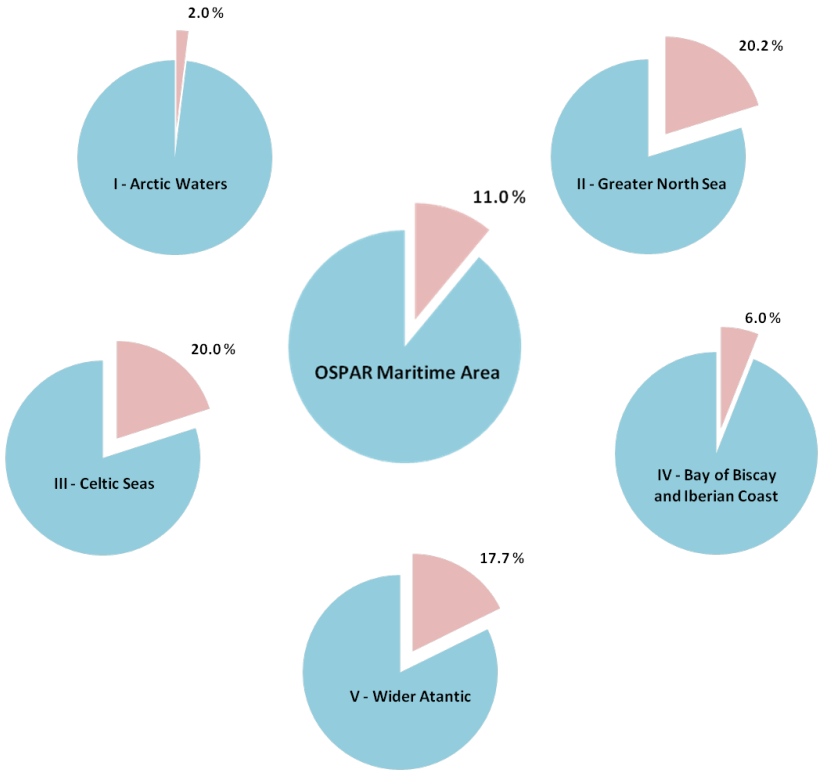

Figure 1.6. *Spatial coverage (%) by OSPAR MPAs of the five OSPAR Regions (as of 1 October 2021).*

Irrespective of apparent regional differences in the spatial coverage by MPAs, OSPAR has achieved the CBD Aichi Target 11 of designating 10% of marine waters as MPAs (Table 1.2), which was not met in 2018.

Table 1.2. *Absolute (km²) and the relative (%) coverage of the five OSPAR Regions by OSPAR MPAs (as of 1 October 2021)*

OSPAR Region		Total Area	Protected Area by OSPAR MPAs	
		[km²]	[km²]	[%]
I	Arctic Waters	5 529 716	107 846	**2,0**
II	Greater North Sea	766 624	154 712	**20, 2**
III	Celtic Seas	366 459	73 409	**20,0**
IV	Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast	539 153	32 299	**6,0**
V	Wider Atlantic	6 346 159	1 122 282	**17,7**
OSPAR Maritime Area		13 548 111	1 489 754	**11,0**

1.2 OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs

1.2.1 Background

The OSPAR Maritime Area encompasses extensive areas in the Wider Atlantic (OSPAR Region V) and the Arctic Waters (OSPAR Region I) that are beyond the limits of national Exclusive Economic Zones. This Area Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) covers approximately 40% of the OSPAR Maritime Area (see Annex III Figure 1). In the context of this report ABNJ encompasses the High Seas meaning the oceanic water column, the Area referring to the seafloor managed by UN International Seabed Authority, and submission by countries of continental shelf claim areas to the UN CLCS for an Extended Continental Shelf (ECS).

In recent years, the protection of the marine environment and biodiversity in ABNJ has attracted great attention at the global level, in particular in the context of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the legal framework established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). OSPAR has in this context assumed a pioneering role as a regional organisation to protect marine ecosystems and biodiversity in ABNJ and provided examples of an operational approach in designating and managing MPAs.

Being aware of the shared responsibilities and the need for a collaborative approach in ABNJ, OSPAR has aimed at strengthening mutual exchange and cooperation with the various relevant international competent authorities responsible for the management of specific human activities in ABNJ, including the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the International Seabed Authority (ISA), and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The adoption of the collective arrangement[22] by OSPAR (OSPAR Agreement 2014-09) and NEAFC on cooperation and coordination regarding selected areas in ABNJ in the North-East Atlantic in 2014 represents a significant step forward in this process (see also Chapter 2). The essential aim of the collective arrangement is to become a collective and multilateral forum composed of all competent entities addressing the management of human activities in ABNJ.

By the end of 2021 the OSPAR Network of MPAs comprised 11 MPAs situated in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs (see Figure 1.7). It should be noted that the twelfth MPA, *North-West Rockall SAC* (SAC - Special Area of Conservation), occurs partly within the EEZ and partly within the ECS of the UK. This MPA has been assigned to the UK national waters category in terms of number and area coverage and is only noted here for comprehensiveness.

The process of the establishment and nomination of MPAs in ABNJ is elaborated in the following sections as well as in Annex I and III.

[22] https://www.ospar.org/about/international-cooperation/collective-arrangement

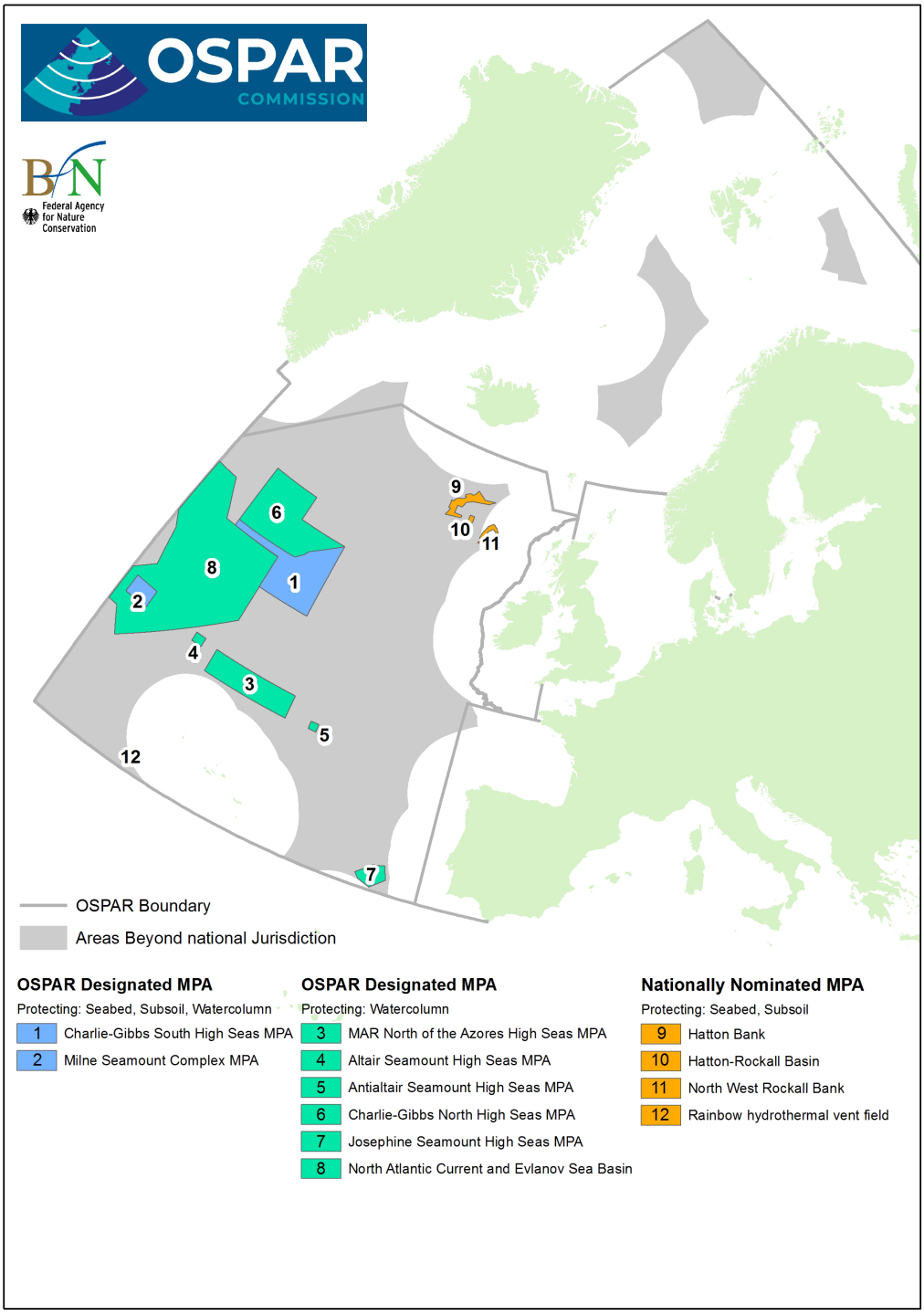

Figure 1.7. *OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs (as of 1 October 2021)*[23]*.The colour category is intended to visualise the jurisdictional groupings of ABJN MPAs as in section 1.2.3. It should*

[23] The boundaries of Contracting Parties' EEZs have been obtained from the open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase. It has to be noted that not all of these boundaries as shown in the map have been officially declared by Contracting Parties.

be noted that North-West Rockall SAC is mainly located in EEZ area and is included in the figure for the sake of comprehensiveness and clarity.

1.2.2 Establishment and nomination of OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs

A national OSPAR MPA nominated by Portugal in an area subject to a submission for an ECS

In 2006, and in response to a proposal previously prepared by WWF, Portugal formally nominated the *Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field* as an MPA to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. While this MPA had originally been considered to be situated in ABNJ, Portugal considered the site to be situated on its ECS, *i.e.,* the natural submerged prolongation of the landmasses of the Azores Archipelago. While the case is still pending, Portugal recognised its obligations under UNCLOS Article 192 to protect and preserve the marine environment, as well as the precautionary principle, and assumed responsibility for protecting the seabed and the subsoil even prior to the final conclusion of the UN CLCS on the ECS claims by Portugal. It has to be noted that this MPA encompasses only the seabed with no scientific case to extend the MPA to the water column.

OSPAR MPAs established collectively by all Contracting Parties in ABNJ

At the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in 2010 (20-24 September, Bergen/Norway) six proposals for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ were presented for adoption. The historical process of the elaboration of these proposals, including the collation and review of scientific information and data, the preparation of legal feasibility studies and consultations amongst Contracting Parties, is presented in Annex III. Taking into account the complex situation regarding the jurisdiction over these areas, the OSPAR Commission finally decided to collectively establish following MPAs in ABNJ of the North-East Atlantic:

- *Charlie-Gibbs South MPA* 146 032 km²
- *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores High Seas MPA* 93 570 km²
- *Milne Seamount Complex MPA* 20 914 km²
- *Josephine Seamount High Seas MPA* 19 363 km²
- *Altair Seamount High Seas MPA* 4 384 km²
- *Antialtair High Seas MPA* 2 807 km²

At the OSPAR Commission Meeting in 2012 (25-29 June 2012; Bonn/Germany) Contracting Parties further agreed to collectively establish the following MPA in the High Seas of the OSPAR Maritime Area:

- *Charlie-Gibbs North High Sea MPA* 178 094 km²

At the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in 2021 (1 October, Cascais/Portugal) Contracting Parties further agreed to collectively establish the following MPA in the ABNJ of the OSPAR Maritime Area:

- *North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Sea basin MPA*[24] 595 196 km²

The collectively designated MPAs in the ABNJ of the OSPAR Maritime Area are designated through a legally binding OSPAR Decision. For each MPA an OSPAR Recommendation outlines the management actions to be taken by Contracting Parties. The basis for the nomination is a technical nomination proforma which collates evidence against the agreed selection criteria outlined in the Guidelines for

[24] Decision 2021/1 on the establishment of the NACES MPA will come into force on 19 April 2022

the Identification and Selection of Marine Protected Areas in the OSPAR Maritime Area (Agreement 2003-17) and published as a Background Document. The nomination proforma undergoes the General consultation procedures for establishing Marine Protected Areas in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction of the OSPAR Maritime Area (Agreement 2019-09) before adoption. Table 1.3 provides a summary of the collectively designated ABNJ MPAs and their respective management documents.

Table 1.3. *Overview of the collectively designated OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ of the OSPAR Maritime Area proving hyperlinks to their respective management documents.*

OSPAR Marine Protected Area	OSPAR Decision on designation	OSPAR Recommendation on management	Nomination proforma/Background document
Milne Seamount Complex MPA	Decision 2010/01	Recommendation 2010/12	Publication 524
Charlie-Gibbs South MPA	Decision 2010/02	Recommendation 2010/13	Publication 523 (fracture-zone)
Altair Seamount High Seas MPA	Decision 2010/03	Recommendation 2010/14	Publication 549
Antialtair Seamount High Seas MPA	Decision 2010/04	Recommendation 2010/15	Publication 550
Josephine Seamount High Seas MPA	Decision 2010/05	Recommendation 2010/16	Publication 551
Mid-Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores High Seas MPA	Decision 2010/06	Recommendation 2010/17	Publication 552
Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas MPA	Decision 2012/01	Recommendation 2012/01	Publication 560
North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Sea basin MPA	Decision 2021/01	Recommendation 2021/01	Publication 771

National OSPAR MPAs nominated by the United Kingdom in areas subject to a submission for an ECS

In 2011, the United Kingdom nominated *North-West Rockall SAC* as an OSPAR MPA, of which parts (covering 181 km²) are extending beyond their EEZ into an area subject to a submission by the UK to the UN CLCS for an ECS. The seabed and subsoil of this site is protected by the UK, while the water column remains unprotected.

In 2012 and 2014, the United Kingdom nominated two more OSPAR MPAs (*Hatton Bank SAC* and *Hatton-Rockall Basin MPA*, respectively) entirely located in an area subject to a submission by the UK to the UN CLCS for an ECS[25]. The seabed and subsoil of these sites are protected by the UK, while the water column remains unprotected.

[25] Reservation of the Kingdom of Denmark: The area to which the UK nominations is sought to apply falls within the proposed outer limits of the Kingdom of Denmark in relation to the Faroe-Rockall Plateau, which consistent with paragraph 8 of Article 76 of UNCLOS and Article 4 of the Annex II thereto, have been submitted to the UN CLCS, and whose consideration is currently pending.

1.2.3 Jurisdiction of OSPAR MPAs in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs

The 11 OSPAR MPAs nominated up to 1 October 2021 in areas beyond the limits of national EEZs of Contracting Parties, i.e., the High Seas, the Area, and ECS areas, can be grouped into different categories with regard to their jurisdictional regime:

1) Charlie-Gibbs South MPA, ***Milne Seamount Complex MPA*** and ***North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Sea basin MPA***

These three MPAs are situated entirely in ABNJ. In the Charlie-Gibbs South MPA and the Milne Seamount Complex MPA the seabed, the subsoil and the water column are protected collectively by all OSPAR Contracting Parties. In the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Sea basin MPA the water column is collectively protected by all OSPAR Contracting Parties, while the seabed remains unprotected (but noting complementary protections under NEAFC described at 3.8). The OSPAR Ministerial Meeting 2021 also agreed a Roadmap for further development of the North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Sea basin Marine Protected Area (OSPAR Agreement 2021-08).

2) Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores High Seas MPA, Altair Seamount High Seas MPA, Antialtair High Seas MPA and ***Josephine Seamount Complex High Seas MPA***

These four MPAs are situated within an area subject to a submission by Portugal to the UN CLCS for an ECS. Portugal has expressed the intention to assume the responsibility to take measures for the protection of the seabed and the subsoil within these areas. Upon invitation by Portugal, the OSPAR Commission agreed to collectively protect the water column of these MPAs.

3) Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas MPA

This MPA is partly situated within an area subject to a submission by Iceland to the UN CLCS for an ECS. The water column is protected collectively by all Contracting Parties. The seabed and the subsoil remain unprotected.

4) Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field, Hatton Bank SAC and ***Hatton-Rockall Basin***

These MPAs are situated within areas subject to a submission by a CP to the UN CLCS for an ECS. The seabed and subsoil of these sites are protected by the respective CP, while the water column remains unprotected.

1.3 Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures

OSPAR MPAs are an important tool for protecting the North-East Atlantic and its biodiversity. Besides OSPAR MPAs, however, Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) may also contribute to the protection of marine biodiversity. In 2020 OSPAR agreed on the OECM definition as adopted by the UN Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, COP 14) in November 2018 which specifies an OECM as:

'*a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio–economic, and other locally relevant value'*[26]i.

Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures which meet these criteria can contribute to ecologically representative and well-connected MPA networks. They can protect important

[26] https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-08-en.pdf

ecosystems, support the recovery of threatened and/or declining species and habitats and enhance resilience against threats. Recognition of OECMs as a potential contribution to the protection of marine biodiversity further provides the opportunity to engage with important stakeholders that have previously not been involved. However, there are still outstanding issues with respect to *inter alia* the longevity of OECMs and how to assure their effectiveness in protecting marine biodiversity. It is important to note, that while (OSPAR) MPAs must have a primary conservation objective, this is not the case for OECMs. Nonetheless, to be considered as an OECM a management regime in a clearly defined area must be in place that ensures effective biodiversity conservation in the long-term.

In 2021 Contracting-Parties to OSPAR were invited to voluntarily provide information about OECMs in their national waters. However, most Contracting-Parties have not yet developed a final view on OECMs nationally and therefore did not report any OECMs in their national waters. The information provided in the following should thus be seen as a pilot assessment on OECMs in the OSPAR Maritime Area to identify and capture information on all possible existing spatial measures which could have conservation benefits. OECMs nominated by Contracting-Parties in their national waters include *inter alia* areas where seasonal restrictions on the use of active systems intended for underwater exploration activities, whale watching and specific measures on fisheries regulation are in place which are assumed to support conservation of e. g., killer whales. Other examples comprise areas of fisheries restrictions, including measures to protect blue ling, sandeels and horse mussel beds (see Table 1.4). Most of these OECMs were considered to be in place over a longer period but monitoring to ensure positive conservation outcomes for biodiversity were mostly missing. As a consequence, if and to what extend these areas contribute to the achievement of positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity remains largely unknown.

Despite uncertainties with respect to their contribution to the protection of biodiversity in the North-East Atlantic and different national approaches, OECMs may fulfil expectations regarding their role as a complementary area-based measure to the OSPAR MPA network by prohibition of human activities. In particular, in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) where management of various human activities is difficult due to limited legal mechanisms or processes for conserving marine biodiversity and governance gaps - even though OSPAR has a pioneering role as a regional organisation to protect marine ecosystems and biodiversity in ABNJ and provided good examples of an operational approach in designating and managing MPAs - OECMs may significantly support the effective *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity in this huge area which covers approximately 40% of the OSPAR Maritime Area. Therefore, continued effort should be made to further the Collective Arrangement with NEAFC and cooperate with other relevant competent management authorities to identify and assess potential OECMs in ABNJ.

Efforts are needed to thoroughly evaluate the potential role of OECMs for the conservation of marine biodiversity and future work should focus on developing a common understanding of the applicability of the OECM criteria to the specific situation in the North-East Atlantic. In addition, there is a need for ecological monitoring programmes to be established to ensure the contribution of such area-based measures to the long-term conservation of marine biodiversity of the OSPAR Maritime Area.

Table 1.4 Overview of OECMs nominated by Contracting Parties.

Contracting Party	Name of OECM	Feature(s) protected	Means of protection	Long-term outlook	Brief overall justification for OECM nomination
Spain	Critical Area for Orcas	*Orcinus orca*	Seasonal restriction on the use of active systems intended for underwater exploration or underground (both by means of probes, compressed air or controlled explosions and by means of underground drilling), seasonal restriction of whale watching and specific measures on fisheries regulation, monitoring of pollution sources and enhancement of research	Measures have been in place since May 2017 and they will be applicable indefinitely until conservation status of the species improves. Its results are to be assessed every 3 years.	These measures could also be beneficial for other species (*Phocoena phocoena* and *Caretta caretta* for example). This critical area overlaps partially with an OSPAR MPA/SPA for birds, named "Espacio Marino de la Bahía de Cádiz", this MPA is much smaller (36.13 Km2)
United Kingdom	Blue Ling West of Scotland	*Molva dypterygia*	From 1 March to 31 May each year, directed fishing for blue ling is prohibited. A by-catch of blue ling up to a threshold of 6 tonnes may be retained on board and landed.	It is thought that this measure is likely to persist in the longer-term.	The fisheries management measures in place are considered, in principle, to afford biodiversity conservation benefits to blue ling within the OECM area.
United Kingdom	Closed Area Sea Fisheries Order 2012 No. 2571	*Modiolus modiolus* beds	Fishing for sea fish using bottom towed fishing gear is prohibited.	Measures have been in place since 2012. It is thought that this measure is likely to persist in the longer-term.	The fisheries management measures in place are considered, in principle, to afford biodiversity conservation benefits to Modiolus modiolus beds within the OECM area.
United Kingdom	East Coast of Scotland (Sandeels) Closure	*Rissa tridactyla Ammodytes marinus Ammodytes tobianus*	Fishing for sandeel with any towed gear with a mesh size of less than 32 mm is prohibited. Fisheries for scientific investigation are allowed in order to monitor the sandeel stock in the area and the effects of the closure.	It is thought that this measure is likely to persist in the longer-term. No re-opening criteria have been established	The fisheries management measures in place are considered, in principle, to afford biodiversity conservation benefits to *Rissa tridactyla*, *Ammodytes marinus* and *Ammodytes tobianus* within the OECM area.
United Kingdom	Irish Sea Cod Box	*Gadus morhua*	From 14 February to 30 April each year, fishing with any demersal trawl, seine or similar towed net, any gillnet, entangling net or trammel net or any fishing gear incorporating hooks is prohibited. A derogation exists for demersal trawls provided such trawls are fitted with selective devices that have been assessed by STECF of the European Commission.	It is thought that this measure is likely to persist in the longer-term.	The fisheries management measures in place are considered, in principle, to afford biodiversity conservation benefits to cod within the OECM area.

Contracting Party	Name of OECM	Feature(s) protected	Means of protection	Long-term outlook	Brief overall justification for OECM nomination
United Kingdom	Rosemary Bank (Blue Ling)	*Molva dypterygia*	From 1 March to 31 May each year, directed fishing for blue ling is prohibited. A by-catch of blue ling up to a threshold of 6 tonnes may be retained on board and landed. Council Regulation (EU) 2019/1241: Annex VI (North Western Waters), Part C, Article 6 & Annex XII (NEAFC Regulatory Area)	It is thought that this measure is likely to persist in the longer-term.	The fisheries management measures in place are considered, in principle, to afford biodiversity conservation benefits to blue ling within the OECM area.
United Kingdom	West Rockall Mound	A6.1 Deep-sea rock and artificial hard substrata A6.2 Deep-sea mixed substrata A6.4 Deep-sea muddy sand A6.5 Deep-sea mud	Prohibited to conduct bottom trawling and fishing with static gear, including bottom set gillnets and bottom set longlines. Council Regulation (EU) 2019/1241: Annex XII (NEAFC Regulatory Area)	It is thought that this measure is likely to persist in the longer-term.	The fisheries management measures in place are considered, in principle, to afford biodiversity conservation benefits to a range of broadscale seabed habitats within the OECM area.

1.4 Socio-economic benefits of MPAs

MPAs are generally designated to safeguard biodiversity, maintain marine ecosystem health, supply ecosystem services, and consequently to provide benefits for the society as a whole. Understanding and assessing the benefits of MPAs and how they can be quantified may contribute to informing decision-making by monetising the added value provided by MPAs as well as to increasing public acceptance of MPAs. Several methods have already been developed to estimate the benefits of MPAs, each with its own limitations. However, detailed knowledge on the site-specific benefits is often missing since it is a challenging task to generate this information. Therefore, OSPAR has recently aimed to explore how to improve knowledge generation and started an exchange on method developments. A study on the potential benefits of MPAs and how they can be represented and used in socio-economic analyses[27], applying an eco-point approach, highlighted that the exact links between biodiversity and other benefits are yet poorly understood. In most cases sufficient data to perform cost-benefit analyses are lacking due to missing long-term ecological monitoring programmes. In addition, a lack of understanding about the pristine state of an area impedes valuating current area quality.

MPAs produce a variety of benefits through an increase in biodiversity, but the extent to which these benefits can be expected differ substantially between MPAs and are *inter alia* depending on MPA characteristics such as the level of protection and the presence of no-take areas which will most likely boost biodiversity. Connectivity of MPAs on the network level also needs to be considered to allow for a more accurate assessment of the importance of an MPA for a particular species or habitat and the benefits it provides. In summary, the high complexity of marine ecosystems and their diversity along with knowledge gaps on the current ecological status led to considerable uncertainties in quantifying benefits of MPAs and as a consequence, it was proposed to focus on the use of qualitative approaches for the time being. Nonetheless, efforts should be made to improve monitoring of MPAs to facilitate cost-benefit analyses of MPAs in the future.

27 Spaans (2020) Marine Protected Areas in the Europe, pp. 77; https://www.noordzeeloket.nl/publish/pages/184490/status_and_benefits_of_marine_protected_areas_in_europe_final.pdf

2 Ecological coherence of the OSPAR MPA network

2.1 Background

At the 2010 OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in Bergen, Norway, OSPAR Ministers committed to ensuring that by 2012[28] the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is ecologically coherent, includes sites representative of all biogeographic regions in the OSPAR Maritime Area, and is consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity target for effectively conserved marine and coastal ecological regions.

The 2013 assessment of ecological coherence[29] was undertaken based on the OSPAR MPA network as it stood at the end of 2012. This showed some positive signs but concluded that the network was not yet ecologically coherent, and that further network development was required.

OSPAR (2006)[30] recommends that an assessment of MPA ecological coherence should be centred around five key principles: **'features', 'representativity', 'connectivity', 'resilience' and 'management'** (Box 1). Please note that work on assessing management progress is reported in Chapter 3 of this report. Since the 2013 assessment, the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Protected Areas (ICG-MPA) have had in place a task group on ecological coherence (comprising representatives from UK, France, Germany, and the Netherlands) to further develop criteria to assess ecological coherence.

Box 1 – OSPAR principles for assessing the ecological coherence of MPA networks

Features – MPAs should be designated in areas that best represent the range of habitats, species and ecological processes in the OSPAR Maritime Area. Proportions of features that should be protected by the MPA network may be higher for particularly threatened and/or declining features.

Representativity – MPAs should protect examples of the same features across their known biogeographical extent to reflect known sub-types. EUNIS Level 3 habitats are stated as a potentially useful way of characterising the OSPAR Maritime Area for the purposes of including biogeographic variation in the network.

Connectivity – In the absence of dispersal data, connectivity may be approximated by ensuring the MPA network is well distributed geographically. Where scientific understanding is further developed, the MPA network should reflect locations where a specific path between identified places is known (e.g. critical areas of a life cycle for a given species).

Resilience – Replication of features in separate MPAs in each biogeographic area is desirable where possible. The appropriate size of a site should be determined by the purpose of the site and be sufficiently large enough to maintain the integrity of the feature(s) for which it is selected.

Management (reported in Chapter 3) – OSPAR MPAs should be managed to ensure the protection of the features for which they were selected and to support the functioning of an ecologically coherent network.

[28] OSPAR Recommendation 2010/02 amending 2003/03 on a network of Marine Protected Areas - http://www.ospar.org/documents?d=32867

[29] Johnson *et al* (2013) - http://www.ospar.org/documents?d=7346

[30] OSPAR Recommendation 2006/03 on developing an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas - http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/06-03e_Guidance%20ecol%20coherence%20MPA%20network.pdf

The 'Madrid Criteria' were developed by the ICG-MPA task group on ecological coherence as an evolution of the three initial spatial tests defined in 2008[31]. The Madrid Criteria were designed to reflect the key network principles outlined in OSPAR (2006) whilst acknowledging limitations of data concerning OSPAR MPAs and target species and habitats. Box 2 lists the Madrid Criteria used for the current assessment of ecological coherence and the underlying OSPAR network principle(s) to which each one relates.

Box 2 – The 'Madrid Criteria' for assessing the ecological coherence of the OSPAR MPA network

A: OSPAR MPAs are geographically well-distributed, with a maximum distance of up to 250 km for nearshore/coastline, 500 km for offshore and 1000 km for the high seas areas between MPAs – links to OSPAR (2006) network principle of **connectivity**.

B: OSPAR MPAs, in combination with other relevant spatial measures as deemed appropriate, cover at least 10% in area of all Dinter biogeographic provinces – links to OSPAR (2006) network principle of **representativity**.

C: OSPAR MPAs represent all EUNIS Level 3 habitat classes and OSPAR threatened and/or declining (OSPAR T&D) species and habitats for which MPAs are considered appropriate more than once in all relevant Dinter biogeographic provinces a given feature is present – links to OSPAR (2006) network principles of **features** and **resilience**.

2.2 Summary of results

Application of the Madrid Criteria to the OSPAR MPA network as it stood at the end of 2021 illustrates that progress has been made in developing the network, but it cannot yet be considered to be ecologically coherent across the OSPAR Maritime Area.

The assessment against Madrid Criterion A (a proximity analysis of MPAs as a surrogate for the OSPAR MPA network principle of connectivity) suggests that the OSPAR MPA network is a well distributed network in OSPAR Regions II (North Sea) and III (Celtic Seas); however, considerable gaps remain in OSPAR Region I (Arctic Waters) and moderate gaps remain in Region V (Wider Atlantic), there is a small gap further offshore in OSPAR Region IV (Bay of Biscay and The Iberian Coast). Future work should consider addressing these geographical gaps.

The assessment against Madrid Criterion B (percentage coverage of MPAs of at least 10% of all the Dinter biogeographic provinces) shows that the 10%-target has been exceeded for seven of the 19 provinces (an increase of three sub-regions in comparison with 2018). At the other end of the scale four provinces have no OSPAR MPAs and a further three have less than 1% surface coverage (instead of four in 2018). These provinces are predominantly to the north of the OSPAR Maritime Area.

The assessment against Madrid Criterion C (protection of OSPAR threatened and/or declining species and habitats within OSPAR MPAs) shows that 28 of the 58 OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitats and species (where OSPAR Recommendations are in place) are protected within more than one MPA in the OSPAR Region(s) where they are considered to be under threat/subject to decline. The 28

[31] OSPAR, 2008. Background document on three initial spatial tests used for assessing the ecological coherence of the OSPAR MPA network. OSPAR Commission, Publication number 2007/360. ISBN 978-1-905859-99-3

features which are considered sufficiently protected are 4 of 4 OSPAR threatened and/or declining invertebrates, 8 of 9 birds, 1 of 2 reptiles, 2 of 4 marine mammals, 4 of 21 fish and 9 of 18 habitats.

2.3 Criterion A: Geographical distribution of OSPAR MPAs

2.3.1 Proximity analysis of OSPAR MPAs

Madrid Criterion A shows how geographically well-distributed OSPAR MPAs are based on proximity analyses, with maximum distances set as no more than 250 km between nearshore/coastline OSPAR MPAs (within the territorial waters of Contracting Parties), 500 km for offshore OSPAR MPAs (within the Exclusive Economic Zones of Contracting Parties) and 1000 km for MPAs in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction within the OSPAR Maritime Area. These figures have been derived from previous work to assess the ecological coherence of the OSPAR MPA network undertaken in 2013[32].

This first criterion is intended as a proxy to the OSPAR MPA network principle of connectivity. In the absence of dispersal data, or information on critical areas for the life cycle of a given species, connectivity may be approximated by ensuring the MPA network is well distributed in space[33].

[32] Johnson *et al* (2013) - http://www.ospar.org/documents?d=7346

[33] OSPAR Recommendation 2006/03 on developing an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas - http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/06-03e_Guidance%20ecol%20coherence%20MPA%20network.pdf

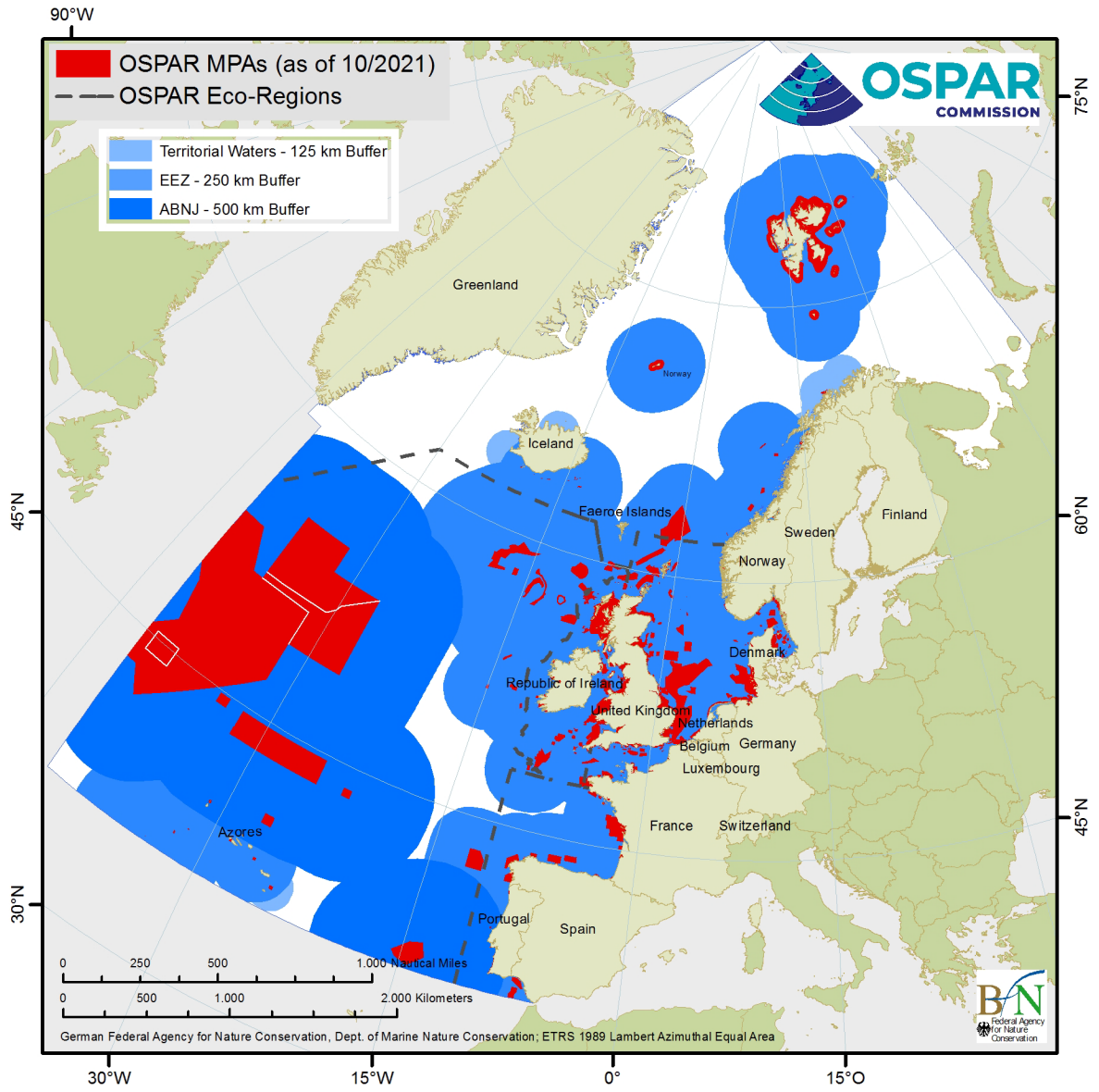

Figure 2.1. *Proximity analysis of OSPAR MPAs as a proxy for the OSPAR MPA network principle of connectivity. White areas indicate gaps in the MPA network according to Madrid Criterion A.*

Figure 2.1 presents the results of the application of Madrid Criterion A to the OSPAR MPA network as it stood at the end of 2021. Key observations from the information provided are that:

- In OSPAR Regions II (North Sea) and III (Celtic Seas) OSPAR MPAs are considered to be geographically well distributed.
- In OSPAR Region IV (Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast) only a small gap remains in the north-west of the Region.
- In OSPAR Region V (Wider Atlantic), OSPAR MPAs in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and the UK have contributed substantially to the network of MPAs. Gaps remain, however, in the south-west, south, north and east of the Region.
- In OSPAR Region I (Arctic Waters) there are considerable gaps remaining.

2.4 Criterion B: Coverage of OSPAR MPAs across biogeographic regions

Madrid Criterion B illustrates surface coverage of OSPAR MPAs across Dinter biogeographic provinces according to Dinter.[34] In contrast to the OSPAR Regions (I-V), the Dinter biogeographic provinces account for the ecological variations present in a geographical sense across the OSPAR Maritime Area. A map of the Dinter biogeographic provinces used in the assessment against Madrid Criteria B is provided in Figure 2.2.

The target under Madrid Criterion B is for 10% coverage across each Dinter biogeographic province. This has its foundations in the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Target 11, which calls for 10% of coastal and marine areas to be effectively conserved (although this target is not only related to MPA coverage). The results of the assessment against Madrid Criterion B are presented in Table 2.1.

It is important to note that the Dinter biogeographic classification is less detailed in the deep sea and therefore does not characterise the biogeographic features of OSPAR Region V (Wider Atlantic) and part of Region I (Arctic Waters). In addition, this analysis excludes the three (holo) pelagic regions because they fully overlap with the benthic regions.

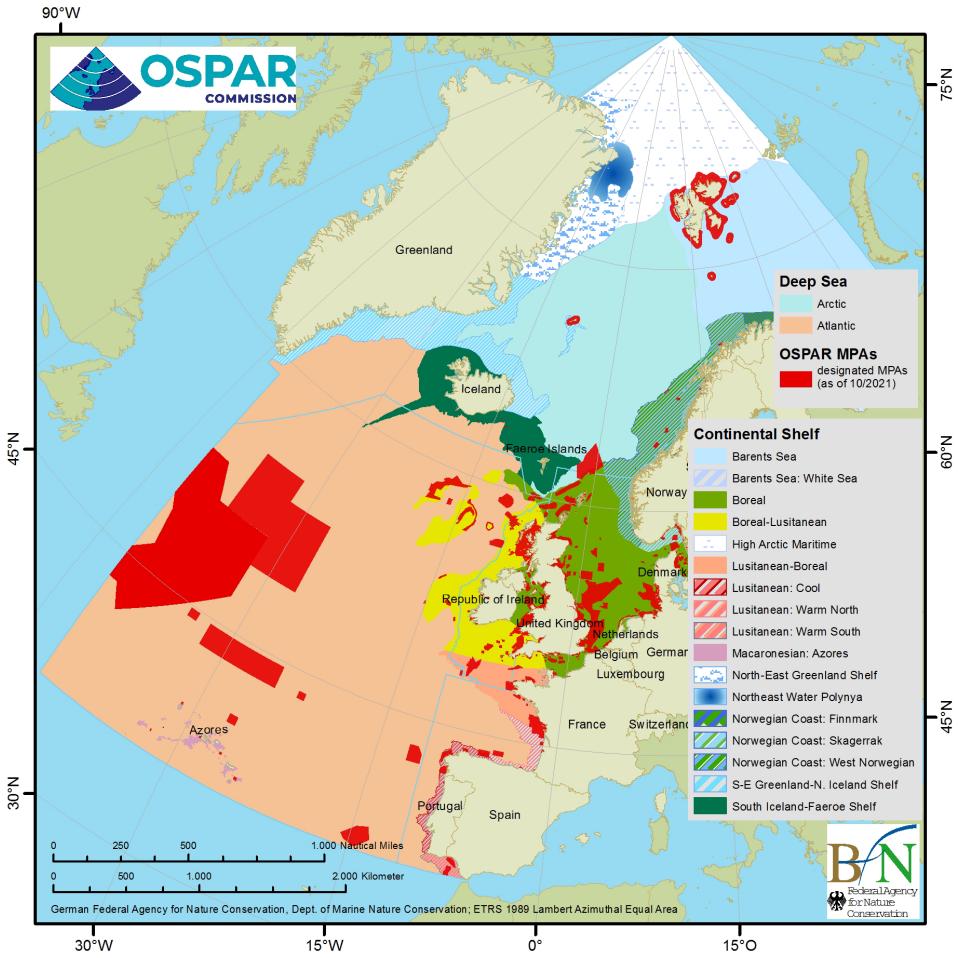

Figure 2.2. *Dinter biogeographic provinces and MPAs in the OSPAR Maritime Area (as of 1 October 2021).*

[34] Dinter, W. 2001. Biogeography of the OSPAR Maritime Area. German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Bonn. 167 pp

Table 2.1. *OSPAR MPA and OECM + non-OSPAR MPA total surface area coverage[35] on the continental shelf & continental slope and deep-sea Dinter biogeographic provinces and regions*

Region	Sub-region	Province	MPA Protected area (km²)	OECM and non-OSPAR MPA area (km²)	Total area (km²)	OSPAR MPA coverage (%)	MPA & OECM coverage (%)
		Continental shelf and continental slope					
Arctic		North-East Greenland Shelf	0	0	277 879	**0**	0
Arctic		North-East Water Polynya	0	0	71 845	**0**	0
Arctic		High Arctic Maritime	11 099	0	809 874	**1,4**	1.4
Arctic		Barents Sea	67 229	0	1 158 371	**5,8**	5.8
Arctic		Barents Sea : White Sea	0	0	86 372	**0**	0
Arctic		S-E Greenland-N. Iceland Shelf	2 970	0	425 600	**0,7**	0.7
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Boreal	171 595	24 740	710 185	**24,2**	27.6
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Boreal-Lusitanean	68 960	4 842	455 947	**15,1**	16.2
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Lusitanean-Boreal	25 221	0	151 202	**16,7**	16.7
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Lusitanean: Cool	8 352	0	49 715	**16,8**	16.8
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Lusitanean: Warm North	4 345	0	44 481	**9,8**	9.8
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Lusitanean: Warm South	4 895	0	24 081	**20,3**	20.3
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Macaronesian: Azores	812	0	22 545	**3,6**	3.6

[35] Area calculations Projection EPSG 3035 (ETRS89 / ETRS-LAEA)

Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Norwegian Coast: Finnmark	0	0	67 422	**0**	0.0
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Norwegian Coast: Skagerrak	3 325	0	23 397	**13,9**	13.9
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	Norwegian Coast: West Norway	3 537	0	322 339	**1,1**	1.1
Atlantic	East Atlantic Temperate	South Iceland-Faeroe Shelf	566	0	306 382	**0,2**	0.2
		Deep sea					
Arctic			20 772	0	2 235 011	**0,9**	0.9
Atlantic			1 096 852	9 141	6 995 730	**15,7**	15.8

Table 2.1 presents the results of the application of Madrid Criterion B to the OSPAR MPA network as it stood at the end of 2021. Key observations from the information provided are that:

- There are minor to moderate increases in the percentage coverage of Dinter Biogeographic Provinces/regions by comparison to the last assessment undertaken in 2018. A substantial increase from 7,2% to 15,7% was achieved for the *Atlantic deep-sea* region.
- The 10% coverage target has been met for seven of the 19 Dinter Biogeographic Provinces/regions in the OSPAR Maritime Area (six in 2018): six within the *Eastern Atlantic Temperate* sub-region, one within the *Atlantic deep-sea* region.
- A further one of the 19 Dinter Biogeographic Provinces/regions exceeds 9% in terms of surface coverage within the *Eastern Atlantic Temperate* sub-region and another one exceeds 5% coverage in the *Barents Sea* province.
- Four of the 19 OSPAR Dinter Biogeographic provinces/regions do not include any OSPAR MPAs (unchanged since 2018) and a further three (instead of four in 2018) have less than 1% surface coverage. These provinces/regions are predominantly in the north of the OSPAR Maritime Area.

2.4.1 Coverage of OECMs and non-OSPAR MPAs

In total, 7 OECMs and two non-OSPAR MPAs were nominated by Contracting Parties in their national waters. Table 2.1 and Figure 2.3 present the area covered by OECMs and non-OSPAR MPAs in the 19 Dinter Biogeographic Provinces/regions as nominated by Contracting Parties as it stood by the end of 2021. These areas may contribute to effective *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, even though they may be managed primarily for other reasons.

Key observations from the information provided are that by considering OECMs and non-OSPAR MPA as potential contributors to effective *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity there are minor to moderate increases in the coverage of three Dinter Biogeographic Provinces/regions (Boreal: 24,2% to 27,6%; Boreal-Lusitanean: 15,1% to 16,2% and Atlantic Deep sea Region: 15,7% to 15,8%).

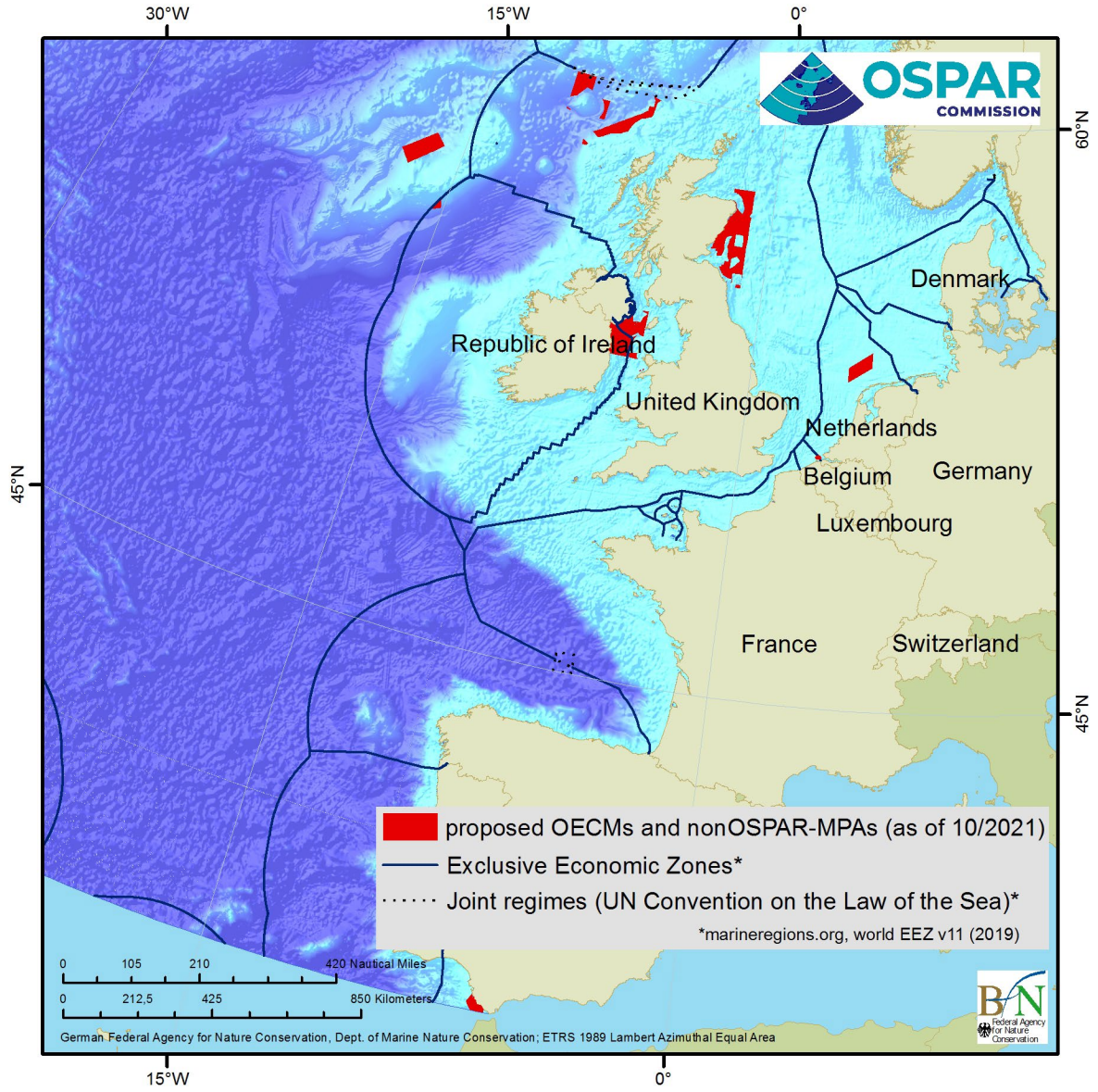

Figure 2.3: *Distribution of OECMs and non-OSPAR MPAs as nominated by OSPAR Contracting Parties (as of 1 October 2021).*

2.5 Criterion C: Representation and replication of marine habitats and species within OSPAR MPAs

Madrid Criterion C assesses the representation and replication of EUNIS Level 3 habitat classes and OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitats and species (where MPAs may be considered as part of the underlying Recommendation).

Madrid Criterion C reflects the OSPAR (2006)[36] network principles of 'Features' (representing the range of habitats, species, and ecological processes across the OSPAR Maritime Area), 'Representativity'

[36] OSPAR Recommendation 2006/03 on developing an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas - http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/06-03e_Guidance%20ecol%20coherence%20MPA%20network.pdf

(protecting features and EUNIS Level 3 habitats across their known geographic range), and 'Resilience' (protecting features in multiple MPAs).

At present the OSPAR MPA database is deficient in information regarding the protection of EUNIS Level 3 habitat type. There are also gaps regarding the protection of OSPAR threatened and/or declining features and it has been necessary to use data on OSPAR threatened and/or declining features considered to be present within MPAs as opposed to justifying the underlying designation. Therefore, a full assessment of Madrid Criterion C has not been possible. The indicative results presented in Tables 2.2 to 2.7 provide an overview of the protection of instances of each OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitat and species. This information also provides a connection to conservation measures reporting against the OSPAR Recommendations for threatened and/or declining habitats and species.

The results of the assessment against Madrid Criterion C are presented in Tables 2.2 to 2.7 per feature group (invertebrates, birds, reptiles, marine mammals, fish and habitats). The two features where recommendations are still pending (dog whelk (*Nucella lapillus*) and bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*)) have been excluded from the analysis as the potential suitability of MPAs as a tool to support their conservation has not been confirmed. The criterion is considered to be met when the feature is protected by more than one MPA in the OSPAR Region(s) for which they are listed by OSPAR as being under threat/subject to decline. Features are counted if an MPA covers it in an area where the feature occurs also if it is not under threat and/or in decline in that Region, in such cases the tables can list a value greater than zero and still conclude that protection is not in place.

Where a cell is greyed out, this indicates that the feature is not known to occur within that OSPAR Region. A bold number indicates the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline in that particular Region.

Table 2.2. *OSPAR threatened and/or declining invertebrate protection within MPAs across the OSPAR Regions.*

OSPAR T&D invertebrate species	**I – Arctic Waters**	**II - Greater North Sea**	**III - Celtic Seas**	**IV - Bay of Biscay and Iberian coasts**	**V - Wider Atlantic**	**Protection in place**
Arctica islandica **- Ocean quahog**	0	**17**	**22**	1		**Yes** – There is MPA replication in OSPAR Region II & III[37] where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline
Megabalanus azoricus**- Azorean barnacle**					**3**	**Yes** – There is MPA replication in OSPAR Region V where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline
Nucella lapillus **- Dog whelk** *Recommendation pending*	0	**9**	**15**	**8**	0	**None-applicable**
Ostrea edulis - **Flat oyster**	0	**13**	**10**	4		**Yes –** There is MPA replication in OSPAR Region II & III[38] where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline
Patella ulyssiponensis aspera - **Azorean limpet**					**3**	**Yes –** There is MPA replication in OSPAR Region V where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline

[37] The part of Region III eastwards of 5° West of the OSPAR Maritime Area.

[38] The part of Region III eastwards of 5° West of the OSPAR Maritime Area.

Table 2.3. *OSPAR threatened and/or declining bird protection within MPAs across the OSPAR Regions.*

OSPAR T&D bird species	I – Arctic Waters	II - Greater North Sea	III - Celtic Seas	IV - Bay of Biscay and Iberian coasts	V - Wider Atlantic	Protection in place
Larus fuscus fuscus, *Fuscus sub-species* **- Lesser black-backed gull**, Fuscus sub-species	**4**[39]					**Yes –** There is MPA protection in OSPAR Region I where it is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Pagophila eburnea **- Ivory gull**	**2**					**Yes –** There is MPA protection in OSPAR Region I where it is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Polysticta stelleri **- Steller's eider**	**2**					**Yes –** There is MPA protection in OSPAR Region I where it is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Puffinus assimilis baroli**- Macaronesian shearwater**					**5**	**Yes –** There is MPA replication in OSPAR Region V where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline
Puffinus mauretanicus**- Balearic shearwater**		**2**	**3**	**21**	**0**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Region V where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Rissa tridactyla **- Black-legged kittiwake**	**4**	**34**	**19**	18	0	**Yes –** There is MPA protection in OSPAR Region I, II and III[40] where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.

[39] No MPA specifies L.*fuscus fuscus* (only *L. fuscus*) as protected.

[40] The part of Region III eastwards of 5° West of the OSPAR Maritime Area.

***Sterna dougallii* - Roseate tern**		**7**	**5**	**5**	**5**	**Yes –** There is MPA replication in OSPAR Regions where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline
***Uria aalge* - Iberian guillemot** (synonyms: *Uria aalge albionis, Uria aalge ibericus*)				**17**		**Yes –** There is MPA replication in OSPAR Region IV where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline
***Uria lomvia* - Thick-billed murre**	**4**	1		1		**Yes –** There is MPA protection in OSPAR Region I where it is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.

Table 2.4. *OSPAR threatened and/or declining reptile protection within MPAs across the OSPAR Regions*

OSPAR T&D reptile species	I – Arctic Waters	II - Greater North Sea	III - Celtic Seas	IV - Bay of Biscay and Iberian coasts	V - Wider Atlantic	Protection in place
***Caretta caretta* - Loggerhead turtle**		0	0	**6**	**6**	**Yes –** There is MPA replication in all OSPAR Regions the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Dermochelys coriacea* - Leatherback turtle**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**12**	**8**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Regions I, II & III where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.

Table 2.5. *OSPAR threatened and/or declining mammal protection within MPAs across the OSPAR Regions.*

OSPAR T&D mammal species	I – Arctic Waters	II - Greater North Sea	III - Celtic Seas	IV - Bay of Biscay and Iberian coasts	V - Wider Atlantic	Protection in place
Balaena mysticetus **- Bowhead whale**	**2**					**Yes –** There is MPA protection in OSPAR Region I where it is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Balaenoptera musculus **- Blue whale**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**8**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Regions I, II, III and IV where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Eubalaena glacialis **- Northern right whale**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Regions I,II,III & IV where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Phocoena phocoena **- Harbour porpoise**	0	**34**	**23**	15	1	**Yes –** There is MPA replication in all OSPAR Regions the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.

Table 2.6. *OSPAR threatened and/or declining fish protection within MPAs across the OSPAR Regions.*

OSPAR T&D fish species	I – Arctic Waters	II - Greater North Sea	III - Celtic Seas	IV - Bay of Biscay and Iberian coasts	V - Wider Atlantic	Protection in place
Acipenser sturio **- Sturgeon**		**0**	[41]	**4**		**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Region II where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Alosa alosa **- Allis shad**		**8**	**5**	**12**		**Yes –** There is MPA replication in all OSPAR Regions the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Anguilla Anguilla **- European eel**	**0**	**11**	**12**	**8**	1	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Region I where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Centrophorus granulosus **- Gulper shark**				**1**	**8**	**No –** There is no MPA replication in OSPAR Region IV where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Centrophorus squamosus **- Leafscale gulper shark**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**9**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Regions I and III and no replication in OSPAR Region II and IV where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Centroscymnus coelolepis **- Portuguese dogfish**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**9**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Region I and no replication in OSPAR Region II, III and IV where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.

[41] The part of Region III eastwards of 5° West of the OSPAR Maritime Area.

***Cetorhinus maximus* - Basking shark**	**0**	**1**	**2**[42]	**3**	**3**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Region I where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Coregonus lavaretus oxyrinchus* - Houting**		**10**				**Yes –** There is MPA replication in OSPAR Region II where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline
***Dipturus batis* - Common Skate**	**0**	**3**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Regions I & V and no replication in OSPAR Region IV where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Gadus morhua* – Cod**	0	**14**	**1**	0	0	**No –** There is no MPA replication in OSPAR Region III where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Hippocampus guttulatus* - Long-snouted seahorse**		**4**	**4**	**7**	**2**	**Yes –** There is MPA replication in all OSPAR Regions the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Hippocampus hippocampus* - Short-snouted seahorse**		**12**	**1**	**5**	**0**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Regions V and no replication in OSPAR Region III where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Hoplostethus atlanticus* - Orange roughy**	**0**			1	**8**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Region I and no replication in OSPAR Region IV where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.

[42] In 2018, the UK on behalf of the Isle of Man nominated six Marine Nature Reserves that are considered to afford protection to Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*). Given that the Isle of Man has a relatively small marine area, and the mobile nature of Basking shark, it was decided that these six separate replicates should comprise one additional replicate for the protection of the feature for the purposes of this assessment.

***Lamna nasus* - Porbeagle**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Region I & IV and no replication in OSPAR Region V where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Petromyzon marinus* - Sea lamprey**	**0**	**16**	**9**	**6**		**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Region I where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Raja clavata* - Thornback ray**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**5**	**4**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Region I and no replication in OSPAR Region III the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Raja montagui* - Spotted Ray**		**3**	**1**	**3**	**0**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Region V and no replication in OSPAR Region III where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Rostroraja alba* - White skate**		**1**	**0**	**1**	0	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Regions III and V and no replication in OSPAR Region II and IV where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Salmo salar* – Salmon**	**2**	**7**	**4**[43]	**7**		**Yes –** There is MPA replication in all OSPAR Regions the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Squalus acanthias* - [North-East Atlantic] spurdog**	**0**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Region I and IV and no replication in OSPAR Regions III and V where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Squatina squatina* - Angel shark**		**0**	**1**	**0**		**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Regions II and IV and no replication in OSPAR Regions II,III and IV where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.

[43] In 2018, the UK on behalf of the Isle of Man nominated four Marine Nature Reserves that are considered to afford protection to Salmon (*Salmo salar*). Given that the Isle of Man has a relatively small marine area, it was decided that these four separate replicates should comprise one additional replicate for the protection of the feature for the purposes of this assessment.

***Thunnus thynnus* - Bluefin tuna** *Recommendation pending*				2	**5**	**None-applicable**

Table 2.7. *OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitat protection within MPAs across the OSPAR Regions.*

OSPAR T&D habitats	I – Arctic Waters	II - Greater North Sea	III - Celtic Seas	IV - Bay of Biscay and Iberian coasts	V - Wider Atlantic	Protection in place
Carbonate mounds	0			0	**1**	**No –** There is no MPA replication in OSPAR Region V where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Coral gardens	**2**	**2**	**0**	**4**	**12**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Region III where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Cymodocea **meadows**				**0**		**No –** There is no MPA protection in the OSPAR Region the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Deep-sea sponge aggregations	**0**	**5**	**0**	**2**	**7**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Regions I and III where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Haploops[44]		**3**				**Yes –** There is MPA replication in OSPAR Region II where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline
Intertidal mudflats	**2**	**21**	**23**	**11**		**Yes –** There is MPA replication in all OSPAR Regions the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Intertidal *Mytilus edulis* beds on mixed and sandy sediments		**14**	**11**	4		**Yes –** There is MPA replication in the OSPAR Regions the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Kelp Forests[45]	0	**0**	**0**	**0**	0	**None-applicable**
Littoral chalk communities		**9**	3			**Yes –** There is MPA replication in the OSPAR Region the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.

44 The MPAs listed are submitted, but no MPAs were present in the OSPAR database listing the Haploops habitat. Therefore assessment of replication was not complete.

45 No MPAs were present in the OSPAR database listing the Kelp forests habitat. Analysis of replication could therefore not be completed

***Lophelia pertusa* reefs**	**8**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**10**	**No –** There is no MPA replication in OSPAR Region III where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Maerl beds	0	12	**25**	5	0	**Yes –** There is MPA replication in the OSPAR Region the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Modiolus modiolus* beds**	**0**	**11**	**11**	**1**	**0**	**No –** There is no MPA replication in OSPAR Regions I, IV and V where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Oceanic ridges with hydrothermal vents/fields	0				**2**	**Yes –** There is MPA replication in the OSPAR Region the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Ostrea edulis* beds**		2	**2**	3		**Yes –** There is MPA replication in OSPAR Region III where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs**	0	**10**	**3**	5	0	**Yes –** There is MPA replication in the OSPAR Regions the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Seamounts	**0**			**1**	**12**	**No –** There is no MPA protection in OSPAR Region I and no replication in OSPAR Region IV where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	1	**16**	**17**	1	4	**Yes –** There is MPA replication in the OSPAR Regions the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
***Zostera* beds**	**1**	**27**	**34**	**13**		**No –** There is no MPA replication in OSPAR Region I where the feature is considered to be under threat/subject to decline.

Tables 2.2 to 2.7 present the results of the application of Madrid Criterion C to the OSPAR MPA network as it stood at 1 October 2021. Key observations are that:

- 28 of the 58 OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitats and species (where recommendations are in place) are protected within more than one MPA in the OSPAR Region(s) they are considered to be under threat/subject to decline.
- All OSPAR threatened and/or declining invertebrates where recommendations are in place are considered to be adequately represented and replicated within MPAs in the OSPAR Regions where they are considered to be under threat/subject to decline (Table 2.2).
- Eight of the nine bird species listed by OSPAR as threatened and/or declining are considered to be adequately represented and replicated within MPAs in the OSPAR Regions they are considered to be under threat/subject to decline. One species (*Puffinus mauretanicus)* lacks representation and replication in OSPAR Region V, where it is considered under threat/subject to decline (Table 2.3).
- Of the two species of turtle listed by OSPAR as threatened and/or declining, *Caretta caretta* is considered to be adequately represented and replicated within the OSPAR MPA network, but protection for *Dermochelys coriacea* is lacking in OSPAR Regions I, II and III (Table 2.4).
- Of the four species of marine mammals listed as threatened and/or declining, *Phocoena phocoena* and *Balaena mysticetus* are considered to be adequately represented and replicated by the OSPAR MPA network. Further consideration is required across all OSPAR Regions except for OSPAR Region V where protection of mammals is considered to be adequate (Table 2.5).
- Only four of the 21 species of fish listed by OSPAR as threatened and/or declining (with Recommendations in place) are considered to be adequately represented and replicated by the OSPAR MPA network. Attention is required across all OSPAR Regions to varying degrees. (Table 2.6).
- Nine of the 18 habitats listed by OSPAR as threatened and/or declining are considered to be adequately represented and replicated by the OSPAR MPA network. OSPAR Region I is notably under-represented. Cymodocea meadows and Carbonate mounds are not represented or protected at all (Table 2.7).

2.6 Ecologically based assessments

The approach using the Madrid Criteria A, B and C to assess the ecological coherence of the OSPAR MPA network using geographic indices (see Box 1 and 2) is a proximate approach in the absence of distribution data and information on the life history traits of features protected within the OSPAR MPA network.

Pilots performed in the last 3 years show the assessment of Criteria A and C can be ecologically and feature based using distribution data and ecological knowledge on life history and dispersal of mobile threatened and/or declining features[46],[47]. For the assessment of Criterion A distribution maps of occurrence data of a feature (see for instance Figure 2.4) can be assembled to identify the areas most in need of protection for a specific feature.

[46] Schellekens, T. and Vanagt T. Biological Assessment of Criterion C. eCOAST report 2019006-1

[47] Schellekens, T. and Vanagt T. Biological Assessment of Criterion A. eCOAST report 2019007-1

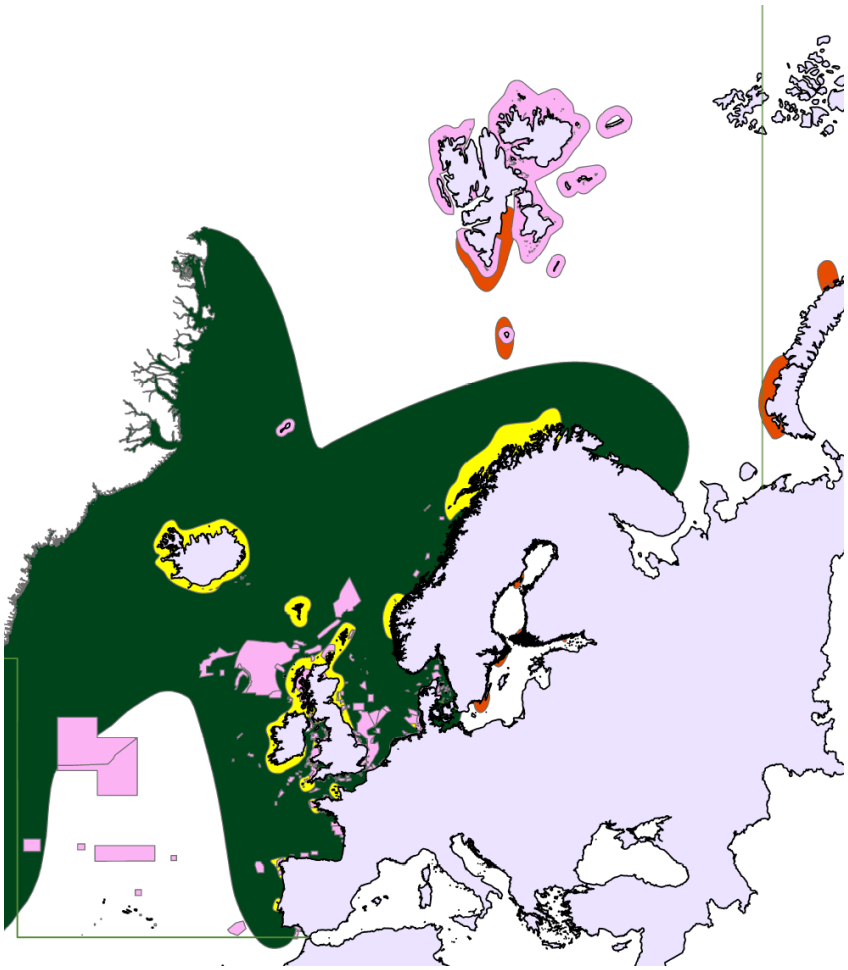

Figure 2.4: Distribution map of Uria aalge according to https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22694841/ 132577296 displaying resident areas (yellow), breeding areas (red) and vagrant areas (green). All OSPAR MPAs are displayed in pink.

Instead of assessing the MPA network's principles (Box 1) from the network as a whole, these principles can be assessed from the perspective of each feature separately. In the case of the assessment of connectivity one can assess the cover of MPAs protecting a feature against the distribution it displays. When multiple features are assessed this way, an image arises of where new MPAs could be installed to fill a gap or where an existing MPA could expand the number of features it aims to protect.

In the case of the assessment of Madrid Criterion C (Representation and Replication), one can assess whether the feature is protected during all essential life-history stages and MPAs serve all needed functions for the feature. The functions of MPAs for features can be inferred applying ecological knowledge of the feature. An MPA may either serve as a breeding or nursery area, it may be a (periodic) residence or an area along a migration route.

Necessary data and ecological knowledge are available from multiple sources for most mobile features to perform such an assessment of Criteria A and C which could replace the current assessment methods or be presented alongside it.

One remaining challenge within this methodology whenimplementing these ecologically based assessments of Madrid Criteria A and C is the realisation that all geographically explicit ecological data is deficient and hence issues remain concerning accuracy (spatial resolution, who collected the data; why and how, temporal correlation). The OSPAR Data and Information Management System (ODIMS) provides a single geo-referenced dataset (map) for distribution of threatened and/or declining features: https://odims.ospar.org/en/submissions/ospar_habitats_points_2015_01/. This map only

displays the recognised whereabouts of threatened and/or declining habitats. No geo-referenced dataset has been approved on ODIMS for mobile threatened and/or declining features for which the MPA network's principles are most relevant to follow.

Consensus on either acceptable levels of accuracy or acceptable/recognised websites to provide ecological distribution data is needed in order to decide on the applicability and possible role of ecologically based assessments in the following Status Assessment.

2.7 Conclusions and next steps

Application of the Madrid Criteria to the OSPAR MPA network illustrates that considerable progress has been made in developing the network since the 2018 assessment. However, the network cannot yet be considered to be ecologically coherent across the OSPAR Maritime Area (Table 2.8).

MPAs within OSPAR Regions II (Greater North Sea) and III (Celtic Seas) are considered to be geographically well distributed, but significant geographical gaps remain within the MPA network in OSPAR Regions I (Arctic Waters) and V (Wider Atlantic). The 10% coverage target has been met for seven of the 19 Dinter biogeographic provinces/regions in the case of the continental shelf and slope of the OSPAR Maritime Area (four in 2018), all of them within the Eastern Atlantic Temperate sub-region. At the other end of the scale, the OSPAR Dinter biogeographic provinces/regions that do not include any OSPAR MPAs or have less than 1% surface coverage are all in the north of the OSPAR Maritime Area. Twenty-eight of the 58 OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitats and species (where Recommendations are in place) are protected within more than one MPA in the OSPAR Region(s) where they are considered to be under threat/subject to decline. Work moving forward should focus on considering the nomination of further MPAs to OSPAR in Regions I and V and in the more northerly Dinter biogeographic provinces. In addition, further work is required to identify MPAs for OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitats and species where MPAs are an appropriate conservation measure.

Table 2.8. *Overview of OSPAR MPA network assessment against Madrid Criteria. Colours indicate progress against Madrid Criteria targets (terracotta-poor/low; yellow-moderate/medium; light blue-good/high).*

	Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV	Region V
A: OSPAR MPAs are geographically well-distributed, (connectivity)	Considerable gaps	Well distributed	Well distributed	Small gap	Moderate gaps
B: OSPAR MPAs, cover at least 10% in area of all Dinter biogeographic regions	Arctic and Atlantic temperate Dinter regions have low to moderate coverage (0-5.8%)	Boreal and Norwegian coast Dinter regions have a good coverage (13.9-24.2%)	Boreal and Boreal-Lusitanean regions have good coverage (15.1-24.2%)	Lusitanean Dinter regions have a good coverage (9.8-20.3%)	Atlantic Dinter regions have a moderate coverage (3.6-25.7%)
C_a: OSPAR MPAs represent all EUNIS Level 3 habitat classes	No information in database	No information in database	No information in database	No information in database	No information in database
C_b: OSPAR MPAs represent OSPAR listed features where threatened	37% 5/5 bird species 0/1 reptiles 1/3 mammals 1/11 fish 3/7 habitats	76% 3/3 invertebrates 3/3 birds 0/1 reptiles 1/3 mammals 13/19 fish 11/12 habitats	63% 3/3 invertebrate 3/3 birds 0/1 reptiles 1/3 mammals 8/17 fish 10/13 habitats	66% 1/1 invertebrates 3/3 birds 2/2 reptiles 0/2 mammals 10/18 fish 7/9 habitats	70% 2/2 invertebrates 2/3 birds 2/2 reptiles 2/2 mammals 8/13 fish 5/8 habitats

In addition, work is also required to improve the ecological and scientific robustness of the OSPAR eco-coherence assessment methodology. Specifically, the following work is recommended to improve the evidence base for future assessments:

- Updating the OSPAR MPA database:
    - with information on the protection of OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitats and species; and
    - with information on EUNIS Level 3 habitat protection
- Building a better understanding of EUNIS level 3 habitat distribution across the OSPAR Maritime Area;

- Assessing the quality of and apply ecological distribution data to assess the connectivity of MPAs of each threatened and/or declining feature and assess whether the MPA network is representative and resilient for each threatened/and or declining feature.

3 How well-managed are OSPAR MPAs?

3.1 Background

At the 2010 OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in Bergen, Norway, OSPAR Ministers committed to ensuring that by 2016 the OSPAR MPA network is well-managed; namely that coherent management measures have been set up and are being implemented to achieve the conservation objectives of the protected features of OSPAR MPAs. At the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting 2021 in Cascais, Portugal, Contracting Parties agreed to further develop the OSPAR network of MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) and OSPAR Ministers committed to ensuring that the OSPAR MPA network is effectively managed to achieve its conservation objectives.

The OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Protected Areas (ICG-MPA) developed a questionnaire-based approach to assess the degree to which OSPAR MPAs are considered to be well-managed. Whilst there is no formal agreement on what constitutes 'well managed' in terms of an MPA – the questionnaire poses four key questions that reflect progress around the typical implementation cycle of an MPA:

- **A – Is MPA management documented?** This question explores whether information concerning the management of an OSPAR MPA has been published. Management in this context is interpreted as establishing the conservation objectives for protected features, documenting known pressures and threats that could affect protected features, listing management actions to address known pressures and threats, and finally showing spatial information on the distribution of protected features within a given OSPAR MPA.
- **B – Are measures to achieve conservation objectives being implemented?** This question explores whether specific management actions have been identified and put into place by site managers by a legal mechanism or other effective means to address known pressures and threats.
- **C – Is monitoring in place to assess if measures are working?** This question explores whether specific monitoring focused on the ecological status of protected features of OSPAR MPAs has taken place, or as a minimum, having a means of monitoring the compliance of site users with implemented measures.
- **D – Is the MPA moving towards or has it reached its conservation objectives?** This question explores whether information collected on the ecological status of the protected features of OSPAR MPAs show the achievement, or indicate movement towards achieving, a site's conservation objectives.

As of reporting in 2021, a confidence assessment process has been integrated to the reporting to help supplement the degree of understanding underpinning the assessment.

The UK, on behalf of the *Ad Hoc* Task Group on Management, developed guidance for Contracting Parties on how to complete the management questionnaire for OSPAR MPAs to aid consistency in the approach undertaken across Contracting Parties, including the confidence assessment introduced in 2021.

Contracting Parties were asked to answer each question with a *Yes*, *Partial*, *No* or *Unknown* response and to provide additional information as supplementary comments to help explain the response for each of their OSPAR MPAs.

3.2 Results

This section sets out the results of the 2021 OSPAR management status assessment. Where appropriate, results are compared to reporting received in 2016 and 2018.

Response rate

In 2021, there were 581 OSPAR MPAs for which management status information was reported, including 85 new OSPAR MPA nominations submitted since 2018. Information responding to all four questions was received from Contracting Parties in October 2021 for 514 (91%). Partial information was received for 1 (<1%). No information was reported for the remaining 54 MPAs (representing 9% of the total). This equates to an increase of 9% on full management reporting since 2018, and an overall increase of 18% since reporting began in 2016.

Confidence reporting

For the 581 OSPAR MPAs, Contracting Parties provided *high* or *moderate* confidence scores for reporting management status for 38% of OSPAR MPAs. *Low* confidence scores were provided for 19% of the sites and another 20% were deemed n*ot applicable* for confidence scoring. There was a *no* response percentage of 23%.

Updates to existing OSPAR MPAs

Updated information was provided by Contracting Parties for 87% of OSPAR MPAs that were reported on for the 2018 data call. Overall, there has been some limited progression from the *no* or *unknown* response categories to the four questions towards *yes* and *partial* responses. The majority of updates however reflect changes or updates to the contextual information provided to support the interpretation of each response category, for example, new documentation made publicly available in the support of MPA management. In response to the 2021 data call, no new information has been provided for OSPAR MPAs in Finland, Iceland, Ireland, or Portugal, nor for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ. This analysis is not applicable to the land-locked countries of Luxemburg and Switzerland.

The next section of this chapter provides an overall summary of OSPAR MPA management status questions across the OSPAR Maritime Area. It reviews key trends since the initial data call in 2016, and the second data call in 2018. This is then followed by a more detailed review of the responses against each of the four questions. Comparisons have been drawn with the management status reporting in 2016 and 2018 to identify any key observations. A more detailed review of the confidence scores is then provided. This chapter closes with key steps regarding ways to progress the management of the OSPAR MPA network.

3.3 Summary

Figure 3.1 represents the '2021 OSPAR MPA Management Barometer': an indicator of the extent to which the OSPAR MPA network may be considered to be well-managed. This summary figure provides an overview of *yes* and *partial* responses to each of the four questions considered important in determining whether the OSPAR MPA network may be considered to be 'well-managed'.

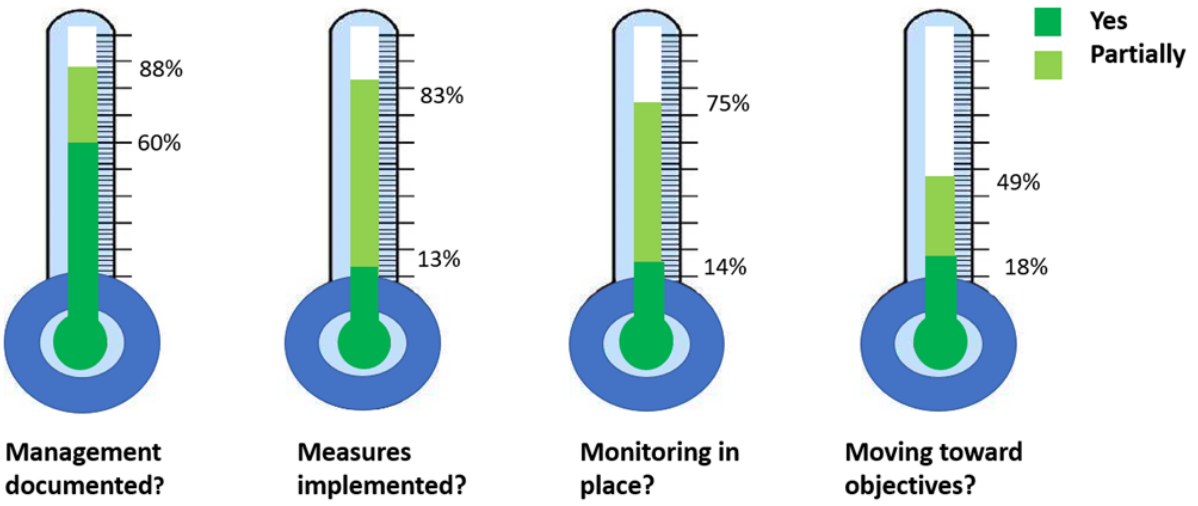

Figure 3.1. The 2021 OSPAR MPA Management Barometer.

Figure 3.1 shows that the publicly available documentation of management information is now either fully or partially in place for 88% of OSPAR MPAs; an increase of 2% since the 2018 assessment and an increase of 11% since the 2016 assessment (see Figure 3.2).

The percentage of MPAs that have full measures implemented remained similar between 2018 and 2021 reporting (14% and 13%, respectively) however there was a significant increase in *partial* measures (from 66% in 2016, 77% in 2018 and 83% in 2021. Responses to monitoring programmes have shown an increasing trend, 75% of MPAs now have either full or partial monitoring programmes, an increase of 6% since 2018, and an increase of 16% since 2016.

The movement towards achieving conservation objectives has also taken place in the interim reporting period, with an increase of 4% since 2018 responding with a *yes* to this question and an increase of 5% responding with an either *full* or *partial* response. However, in 2021, there are still high proportions of *unknown* responses (30%) to the achievement of conservation objectives (see Figure 3.6). This is due largely to the lack of site-specific data on the ecological status of the protected features of OSPAR MPAs.

Figure 3.2 provides an overview of the increase in *yes* and *partial* responses to each of the four questions over time. It is considered that the OSPAR MPA network has improved management status since 2016 and therefore is increasingly considered to be 'well-managed' (an increase from 36% to 48%, from 2016 to 2021, respectively).

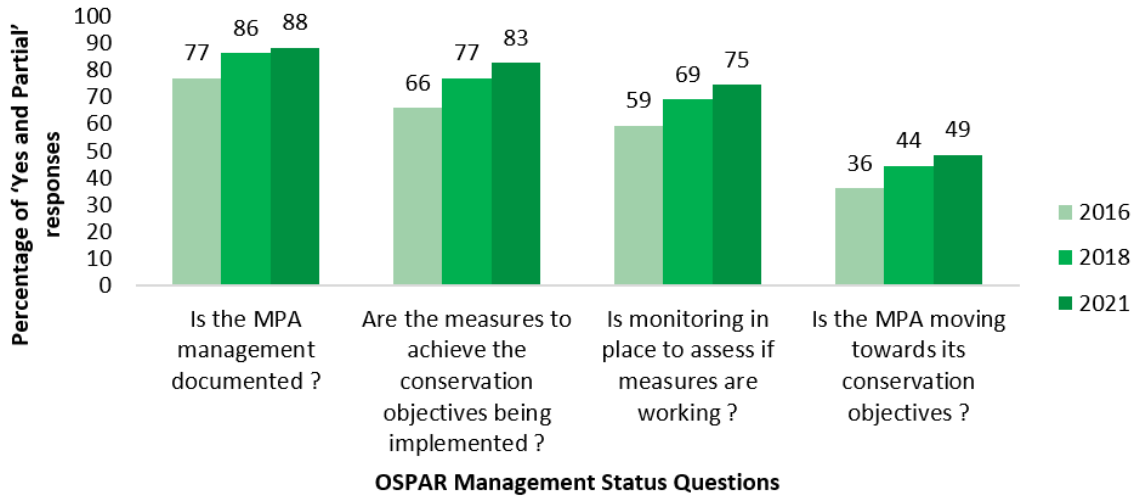

Figure 3.2. Increase in percentage (%) of *Yes* and *Partial* responses to the OSPAR MPA management status questions from 2016 to 2021.

To support a 'well-managed' OSPAR MPA network, work moving forward should continue to focus on the following:

- Improve the participation and response rates from the Contracting Parties, in particular to increase the reporting of confidence scores in the assessment;
- Implementation of management measures considered necessary to achieve the conservation objectives of the protected features of OSPAR MPAs;
- Establish and maintain long-term monitoring programmes to evaluate the effectiveness of such management measures to enable evidence-based assessments of feature condition and support greater confidence in the assessment of management statuses;
- Continue to improve methods of evaluating the degree to which the OSPAR MPA network is well-managed. This assessment should build on reliable ecological data to determine whether the OSPAR MPA network is delivering a genuine conservation benefit to targeted habitats, species and ecological processes. It should also build on the experience gained of undertaking previous assessments and where appropriate, guidance to Contracting Parties should be updated to usefully reflect lessons learned or changes in approach; and
- For OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ, there should be continued effort to further collective arrangements with competent management authorities such that all management recommendations for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ might be implemented. In addition, Contracting Parties should continue to raise awareness of OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ with relevant stakeholders and interest groups and look to further our scientific understanding of these sites.

3.4 Question 1: Is MPA management documented?

This question explores whether information concerning the management of an OSPAR MPA has been published. Documenting 'management' in the context of this question refers to the publication of the following information:

- Conservation objectives for the protected features of the site;
- Identifying known pressures and threats to achieving those conservation objectives;

- Listing the actions and measures that may need to be undertaken to address those known pressures and threats; and
- Showing spatial information on the location/distribution of protected features within the site.

If all of this information has been published, a *yes* response to this question can be given. If conservation objectives and known threats and pressures to achieving those conservation objectives have been published, a *partial* response can be given; anything less receives a *no* response. If the status of management information in the public domain is unknown, an *unknown* response is given. A *no response* is given where the information has not been reported to OSPAR.

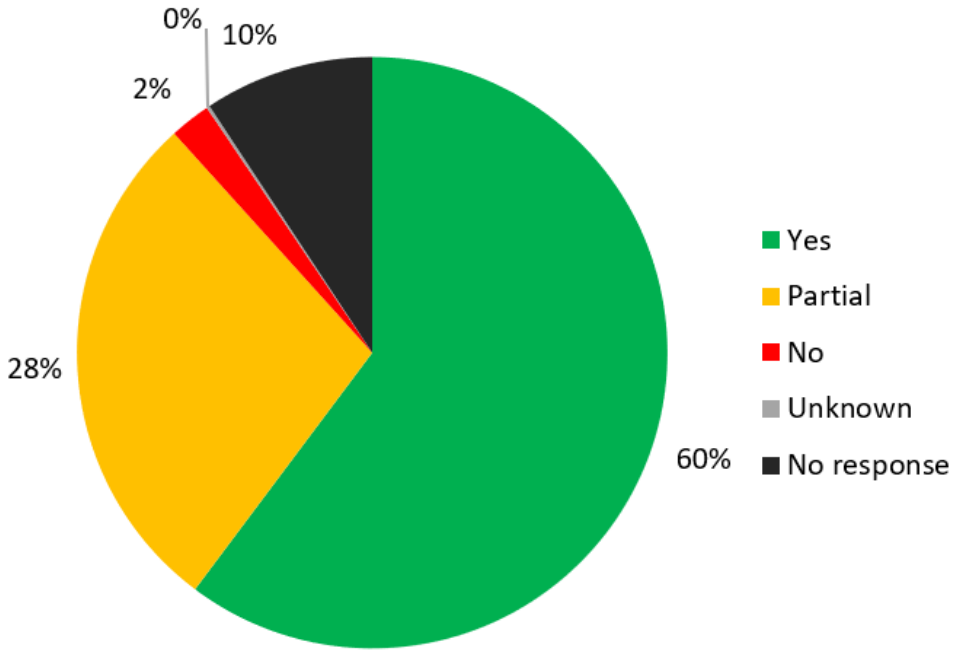

Figure 3.3. OSPAR 2021 data call results to the question: 'Is the MPA management documented?'

Figure 3.3 presents the results to the question 'Is the MPA management documented?' for the OSPAR MPAs where information was reported against the 2021 MPA management data call. Key observations for the 2021 reporting with reference to past reporting in 2016 and 2018 are as follows:

- The proportion of OSPAR MPAs for which management has been fully documented has increased by 2% since the 2018 assessment and 12% since the 2016 assessment; attributable to new OSPAR MPA nominations since 2019 that are further behind in the MPA management cycle (discounting these new nominations would result in an 8% increase since 2018).
- For the majority of the OSPAR MPAs (60%), management is fully documented and in the public domain; namely, information that includes protected feature conservation objectives, known threats and pressures assessed, actions identified that may be required to address known pressures and/or threats and information on the spatial extent of protected features within OSPAR MPAs.
- For those MPAs where a partial response was received (28%), the main reasons cited were that either conservation objectives are in the process of being revised or work is ongoing to identify the site-specific management actions that may be required to address the known threats and/or pressures to the protected features of OSPAR MPAs. There is an increase of 11% since the 2016 data call in a partial response to this question.

- For OSPAR MPAs where a *no* response was provided (2%), comments indicated that this was because management plans are still being developed and not yet publicly available. This has decreased by 2% since the 2018 data call.
- There were no *unknown* responses reported to this question in the 2016, 2018 and 2021 data calls.
- The number of OSPAR MPAs for which no responses were provided regarding the provision of management documentation has almost halved since 2016 (19% in 2016, 11% in 2018 and 10% in 2021).

3.5 Question 2: Are measures implemented?

This question explores whether the specific management actions identified by site managers to address known threats and pressures have been put into effect by a legal mechanism or other appropriate means.

If all specific management actions required to address known threats and pressures have been put into effect, a *yes* response to this question is given. If only some of the specific management actions required have been put in place, a *partial* response to this question applies. If none of the required specific management actions have been put in place, a *no* response applies. *Unknown* applies if the assessor is unsure of the status of management actions or if there are measures in place, but it is unclear whether they address known threats and pressures to the protected features of the site. A *no response* is given where no information has been reported.

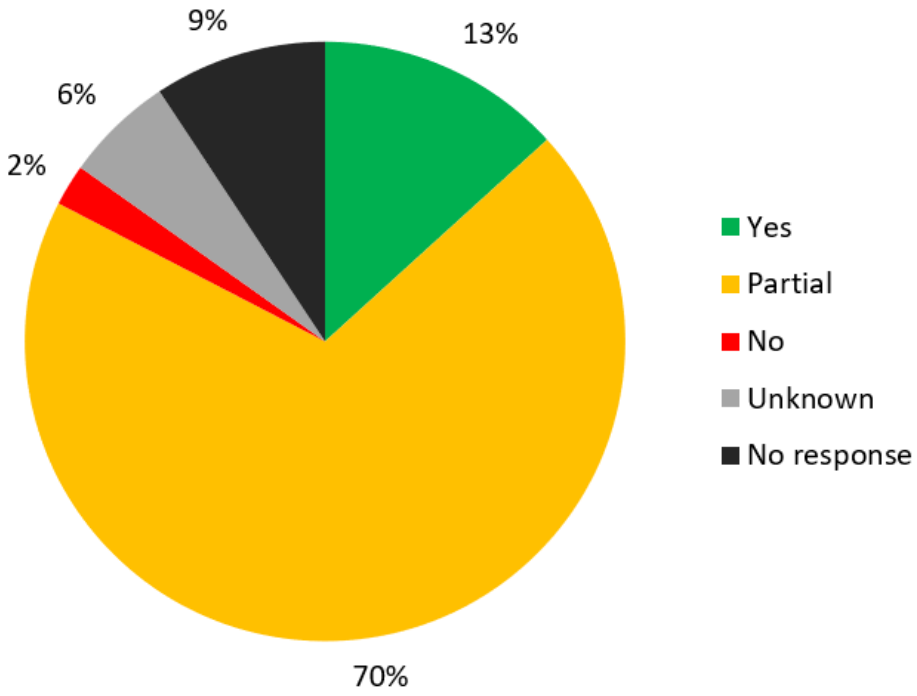

Figure 3.4. OSPAR 2021 data call results to the question: 'Are the measures to achieve the conservation objectives being implemented?'

Figure 3.4 presents the results to the question 'Are the measures to achieve the conservation objectives being implemented?' for the OSPAR MPAs where information was reported against the

2021 MPA management data call. Key observations for the 2021 report and references to the past reporting in 2016 and 2018 are as follows:

- 13% of the OSPAR MPAs are considered to have all the management measures in place considered necessary to achieve the conservation objectives of their protected features. This has declined slightly since 2018 reporting (1%), attributable to new OSPAR MPA nominations since 2019 that are further behind in the MPA management cycle.
- >69% of OSPAR MPAs have partially implemented management measures because work is ongoing to identify and implement measures for the management of non-licensable activities (particularly concerning fishing activities). This has increased since 2018 (63%), and since 2016 (54%), reflecting progression in the implementation of management measures.
- For the 2% of OSPAR MPAs for which a *no* response was provided, supporting comments suggest that some management plans are in the early stages, or that actions have been identified but not yet implemented. This has decreased since the data call in 2018 (7%).
- There were 6% of *unknown* responses reported to this question in 2021. Supporting comments suggest that the sites were yet to have assessments therefore specific mitigation measures were unknown. The *unknown* response had increased as there were no unknown responses in the 2018 or 2016 data calls.
- The number of OSPAR MPAs for which no information was provided by Contracting Parties has notably decreased over time (9% in 2021, 16% in 2018 and compared to 26% in 2016).

3.6 Question 3: Is monitoring taking place?

This question explores whether specific monitoring has taken place that concentrates on the ecological status of protected features of OSPAR MPAs. Whilst monitoring will ideally focus on ecological monitoring, this question also acknowledges the role that monitoring the compliance of site users with implemented measures can play in achieving a site's conservation objectives.

A *yes* response shows that a regularly implemented monitoring programme is in place that covers all the protected features of an OSPAR MPA. If a monitoring programme only focuses on some of the protected features of an OSPAR MPA or monitoring is only based on site user compliance with implemented measures then a *partial* response to this question is given. A *no* response applies when there is no ecological status nor compliance monitoring in place for a given OSPAR MPA. *Unknown* applies if the assessor is unsure on the status of monitoring for a given OSPAR MPA. A *no response* is given where no information has been reported.

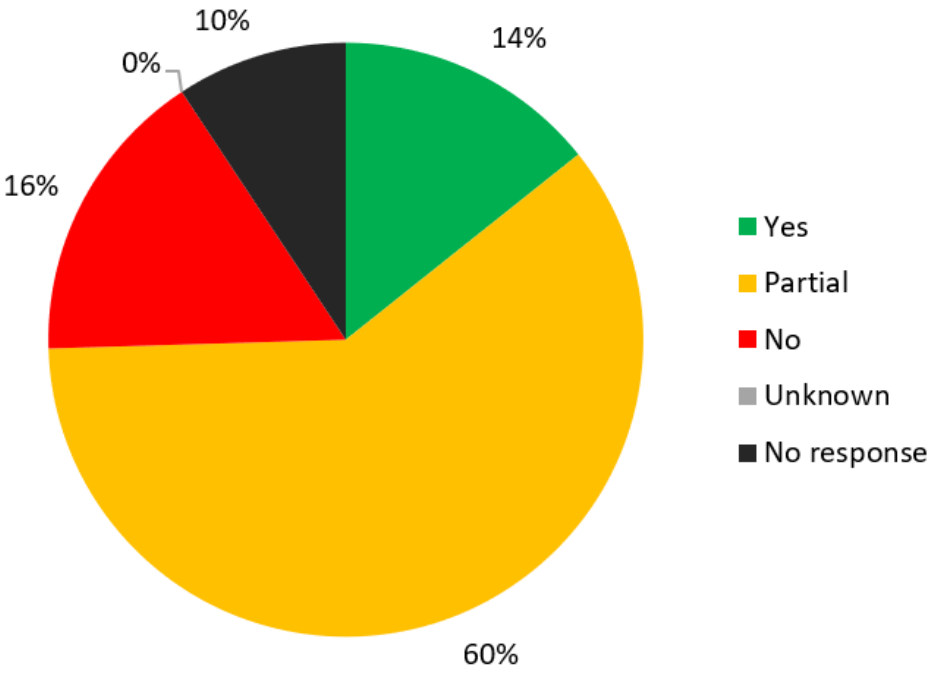

Figure 3.5. OSPAR 2021 data call results to the question: 'Is monitoring in place to assess if measures are working?'

Figure 3.5 presents the results to the question 'Is monitoring in place to assess if measures are working?' for the OSPAR MPAs where information was reported against the 2021 MPA management data call. Key observations for the 2021 report and references to the past reporting in 2016 and 2018 are as follows:

- For 14% of OSPAR MPAs, *yes* responses were received; suggesting long-term ecological monitoring programmes are in place. This has returned back to the 2016 data call result since decreasing in 2018 (11%). This fluctuation in response was likely a result of improvements in the guidance provided to Contracting Parties in reviewing their previous responses to this question.
- The proportion of OSPAR MPAs that received a *partial* response to whether monitoring is in place to assess whether management measures are working has increased by 2% to 60% in 2021. Whilst there are mechanisms in place to monitor the compliance of site users with implemented measures, there is often not a regularly implemented programme to assess the ecological status of all the protected features of OSPAR MPAs. However, many cases noted that baseline ecological condition monitoring surveys have taken place and the on-going ecological condition of some protected features is being monitored. A key message is that resource constraints are cited as a significant barrier to the implementation of regular ecological monitoring programmes.
- 16% of OSPAR MPAs were reported as not yet having any monitoring in place and this is relatively unchanged since 2016 (15%) and 2018 (14%). The reasons provided for there being no monitoring in place were: insufficient time to put monitoring in place for recently designated MPAs, no dedicated site condition monitoring or the fact that wider MPA monitoring strategies are being developed to address monitoring needs for sites.

- There were no *unknown* responses reported to this question based on the 2016, 2018 and 2021 data calls.
- The percentage of OSPAR MPAs for which responses were not provided has significantly decreased since 2016, with 9% of sites for which no responses were provided in 2021 compared to 17% in 2018 and 26% in 2016.

3.7 Question 4: Are MPAs moving towards or have they reached their conservation objectives?

This question explores whether information collected on the ecological status of the protected features of OSPAR MPAs shows progress towards achieving a site's conservation objectives.

If the condition of all protected features of a given OSPAR MPA are improving or they have achieved their conservation objectives, then a *yes* response is given. If some of the protected features of a given OSPAR MPA are improving in their condition or have achieved their conservation objectives whilst others remain static or are declining in their condition, a *partial* response is appropriate. If available data suggest no indication of improvement in the condition of protected features or that some protected features may be declining in condition, a *no* response is given. If there are no data available with which to make a judgement on the degree to which the conservation objectives of a given OSPAR MPA are being met then an *unknown* response is given. A *no response* is given where no information has been reported.

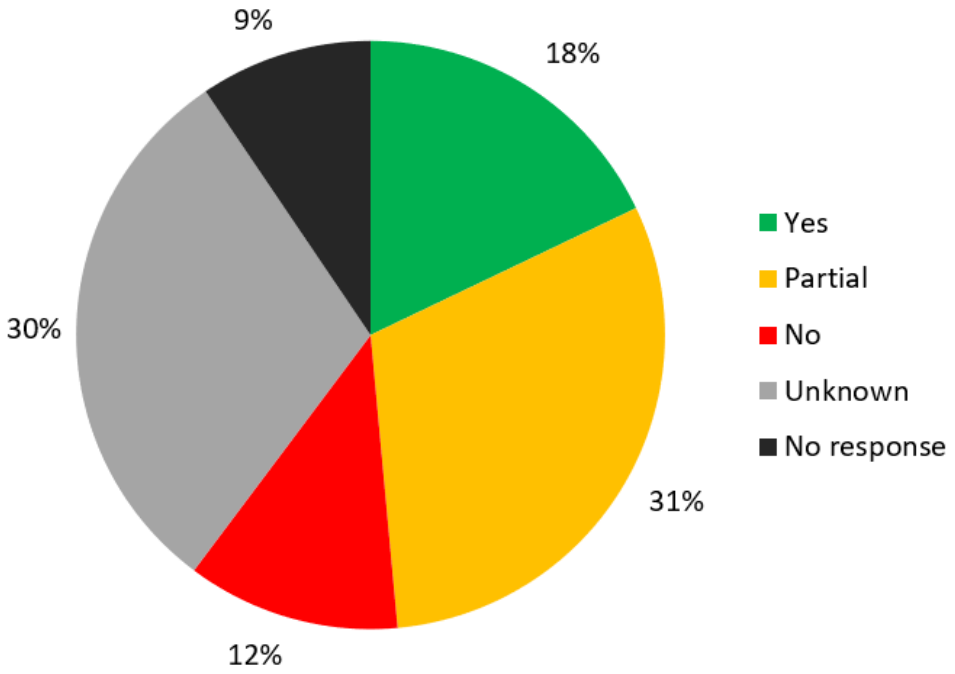

Figure 3.6. OSPAR 2021 data call results to the question: 'Is the MPA moving towards or has it reached its conservation objectives?'

Figure 3.6 presents the results to the question 'Is the MPA moving towards or has it reached its conservation objectives?' for the OSPAR MPAs reported against in the 2021 MPA management data

call. Key observations for the 2021 report and references to the past reporting in 2016 and 2018 are as follows:

- 18% of OSPAR MPAs are considered to have met their conservation objectives in 2021 compared to 11% in 2016 and 14% in 2018. Responses were either based on outputs of direct site condition monitoring information, assessments suggesting that the protected features of OSPAR MPAs are already in favourable condition, or that legal protection has been implemented against damaging activity in the sites.
- Nearly a third of OSPAR MPAs (31%) are considered to be partially achieving their conservation objectives in 2021, this has remained constant since 2018 reporting, and had increased since 2016 (25%). There are multiple reasons cited for a partial response:
    - Some of the protected features are considered to be meeting their conservation objectives, based on the analysis of feature condition monitoring and other types of indicators, whilst others are declining or remaining static in their condition.
    - Monitoring information has yet to be analysed for some of the protected features to make a judgement on the degree to which conservation objectives have been met.
    - There is no direct site condition monitoring information available but using information on the exposure of a feature to known pressures and/or threats as a proxy suggests all protected features of a given OSPAR MPA are likely to be meeting their conservation objectives.
- The proportion of OSPAR MPAs for which a *no* response was provided in 2021 (12%) has increased since 2018 (10%). Of the 12% of OSPAR MPAs for which a 'no' response was provided, comments indicated this was attributable to site condition monitoring information suggesting the conservation objectives of all protected features of a given OSPAR MPA are static or declining therefore not moving towards their conservation objectives.
- Nearly one third of the responses (30%) to this question suggested it was *unknown* as to whether the protected features of OSPAR MPAs are moving towards their conservation objectives which has decreased since 2018 and 2016 (28% and 27%, respectively). This conclusion is primarily attributed to no long-term ecological status information being available to make a judgement on the degree to which conservation objectives have been achieved. Other reasons include no site-specific feature assessments or recently designated sites not having any data available.
- The percentage of OSPAR MPAs for which responses were not provided by Contracting Parties to this question has significantly decreased since 2016, with 9% of sites for which no responses were provided in 2021 compared to 27% in 2016, (and 18% in 2018).

3.7.1 Confidence reporting

In 2021, a need to assess the confidence in Contacting Parties' responses to Question 4 was included. If there is sufficient monitoring data in place to determine the condition of the protected features, and whether they are achieving their conservation objectives, a *high* score is given. If there are some condition and/or compliance monitoring data available then a *moderate* score is appropriate. If there is no data available from condition or compliance monitoring, then a *low* score is given. A *unknown* or *not applicable* response is given then there is no suitable information available on which to base an assessment. A *no response* is given where no information has been reported.

For the 49% of responses which said *Yes* and *Partially* to Question 4 'Is the MPA moving towards or has it reached its conservation objectives?', a breakdown of the confidence scores is shown in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1. OSPAR 2021 data call results of confidence scores that accompany the response to Question 4. Showing the differences in the confidence scores reported for all responses to Question 4 and the subset of *Yes* and *Partial* responses.

Confidence Score	Percentage (%) of response	Percentage (%) of response for *Yes* and *Partial** only
High	6	10
Moderate	32	47
Low	19	26
Not Applicable	20	1
No Response	23	16

*answers to Question 4 of the OSPAR MPA management questionnaire

The 2021 data call was the first-time confidence scores were included in reporting management status of OSPAR MPAs (Table 3.1). Key observations are as follows:

- 6% of OSPAR MPAs are considered to have *high* confidence scores in their responses to the fourth question. Comments indicate that sites with *high* confidence in their reporting have one or more long-term monitoring programmes. 10% of the OSPAR MPAs that had *high* confidence scores and were moving towards, or had reached, their conservation objectives had been designated for over 15 years, suggesting time may be an important factor in the maturity of the OSPAR MPA network.
- Nearly one third of OSPAR MPAs (32%) are considered to have *moderate* confidence scores for 2021 reporting. These MPAs have some condition monitoring that occurs mainly at low frequencies. Nearly half of the responses for *yes* and *partial* (47%) had *moderate* confidence scores, reasons for this include no recent monitoring assessments within the last 3 – 12 years, which would have increased confidence in reporting against Question 4.
- The proportion of OSPAR MPAs for which a *low* confidence response was provided was 19% whereas 26% of the *yes* and *partial* responses to Question 4 had *low* confidence scores. Comments indicate that MPAs with *low* confidence scores are often overdue routine monitoring due to a lack of resource and/or used proxy information on exposure to human activities to which the protected features of MPAs are considered to be sensitive to as source data in response to the fourth question.
- 20% of the responses to this question suggested it was *not applicable* to score the confidence of each site's management status. Reasons for this included that no site-specific condition assessments had been undertaken or no official information on the monitoring of protected features; this was also the rationale for the 1% of responses that reported a *yes* and *partial* response to Question 4.
- The percentage of OSPAR MPAs for which responses were not reported by Contracting Parties to this question was 23% overall and 16% for the *yes* and *partial* responses.

3.8 Management of OSPAR MPAs in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

OSPAR Contracting Parties have a collective responsibility to report annually to the OSPAR Commission on any specific actions as specified in the MPAs respective Recommendations (see table 1.3) that have been undertaken to implement the management actions identified for the collectively designated MPAs in the Area Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) of the OSPAR Maritime Area. those sites.

The OSPAR Commission has been managing MPAs in ABNJ for 10 years. The Decisions designating the first OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ came into force on 12 April 2011, as did their accompanying Recommendations. Decision 2012/1 of the OSPAR Convention resulted in the designation of a further OSPAR MPA in ABNJ – Charlie Gibbs North, which came into force on 14 January 2013, together with Recommendation 2012/1 on the management of this MPA. In 2021, at the Ministerial Meeting of the OSPAR Commission, the North Atlantic and Evlanov Sea basin MPA was designated by Decision 2021/1 and Recommendation 2021/1 which will come into force on 19 April 2022.

Management actions that Contracting Parties to the OSPAR Convention have committed to undertaking and reporting on include for example the following:

- **Awareness raising -** *sharing information with relevant authorities, the general public and relevant organisations who may have a stake in a given OSPAR MPA in ABNJ*.

  Key activities include the creation of a website for the Charlie-Gibbs OSPAR MPA (Charlie-gibbs.org) and the integration of OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ into the navigational systems of relevant organisations (e.g., the military sector).

- **Information building** – *facilitating the collection and sharing of information on the protected features of OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ and activities taking place*.

  Key activities include analysis of fishing activities in MPAs in ABNJ based on Vessel Monitoring System data.

- **Marine science** – *promoting the application of best-practice in terms of scientific research within OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ*.

  Key activities include the production, distribution and promotion of an OSPAR Code of Conduct for Marine Research (OSPAR agreement 2008-1) for those undertaking scientific research in OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ.

- **New developments** – *ensuring the implementation of new activities in an OSPAR MPA in ABNJ is considered in terms of its effects on the protected features of the site.*

Annual implementation reporting by Contracting Parties have provided updates on these action types and more specific actions that Contracting Parties have taken. Over the past decade Contracting Parties have engaged in their capacity as Contracting Parties in other international organisations to promote protective actions in the OSPAR ABNJ MPAs and have also presented the OSPAR work as an operational example at UN Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (UN BBNJ). Contracting Parties have collected information about human activities that are ongoing in the ABNJ MPAs, for example identifying vessels under their flag that have passed through the MPAs. Contracting Parties have published articles to describe the ABNJ MPAs and to disseminate information about management actions in their ministries and institutes.

The OSPAR Commission works within the mandate of the OSPAR Convention and works collaboratively with other competent authorities managing specific human activities. The OSPAR Convention Annex V Article 4 states that no measures concerning the management of fisheries shall be adopted.

Consequently, the OSPAR Commission has sought to collaborate with the competent authorities such the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) (Memorandum of Understanding Agreement 2008-04) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The OSPAR Commission has also sought to work collaboratively with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) (Memorandum of Understanding Agreement 2010-09) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) (Agreement of Cooperation Agreement 1999-15).

The 'Collective Arrangement between competent international organisations on cooperation and coordination regarding selected areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction in the North-East Atlantic' (collective arrangement, OSPAR Agreement 2014-09) adopted by the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) in 2014 is a formal agreement between legally competent authorities managing human activities in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) in the North-East Atlantic. The collective arrangement has been developed as a multilateral forum for dialogue and information exchange. The foremost objective of the collective arrangement is to facilitate cooperation and coordination on area-based management between legally competent authorities, promoting the exchange of information on each other's activities and achievements and taking into consideration all conservation and management measures taken in relation to the North-East Atlantic. In addition to keeping under review a joint record of areas subject to specific measures and informing each other of any modification of existing measures or any new measures or decisions, the competent authorities have an opportunity to discuss subjects of common interest and concern. Regular meetings under the collective arrangement are organised to achieve these aims. Organisations that have not adopted the agreement are regularly invited as guests to participate in the discussions. The dialogue and information exchange through the collective arrangement has resulted in the management of fishing activities in several OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ as NEAFC has implemented fishing closure measures, including measures to protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (Figure 3.7).

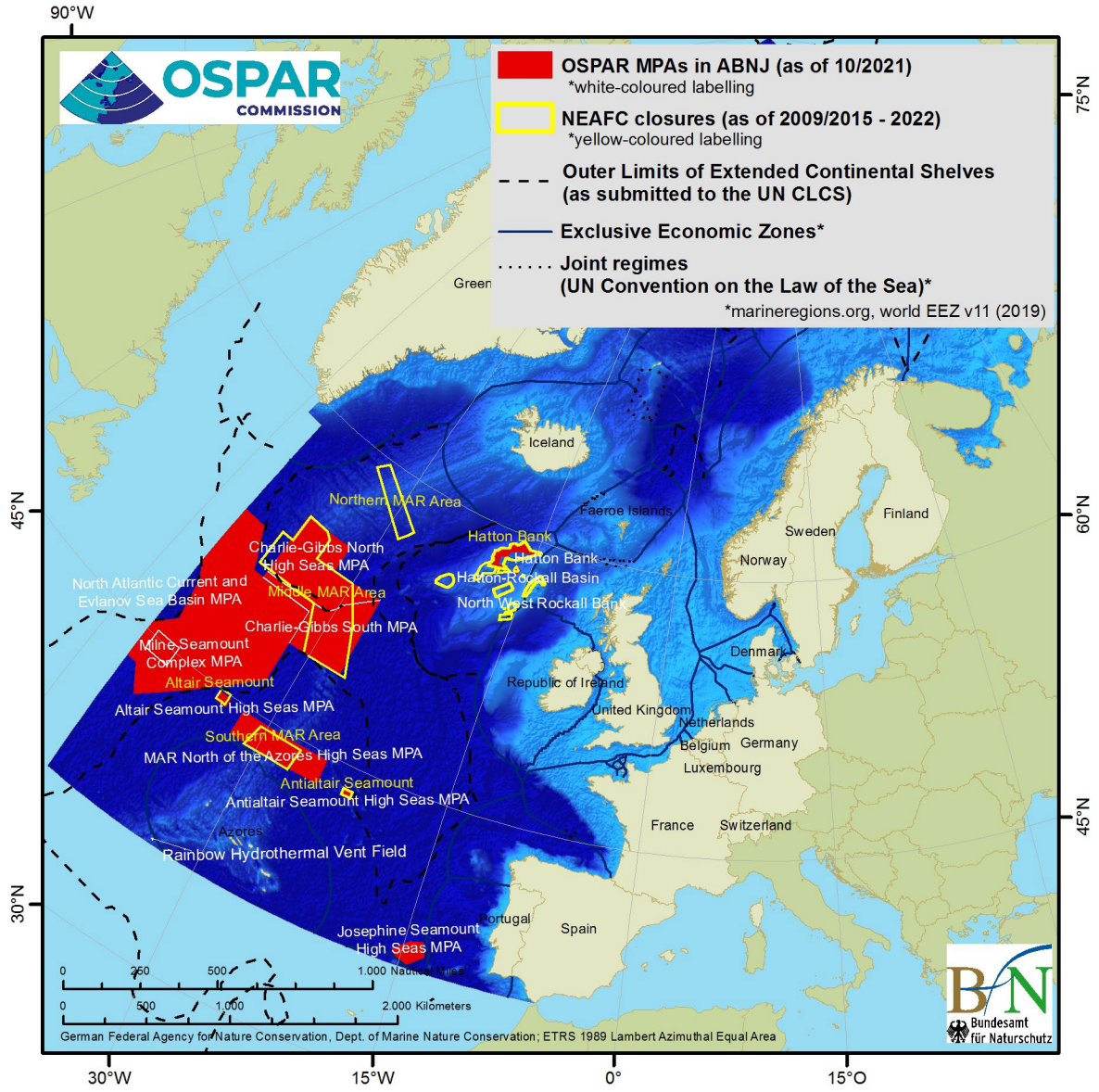

Figure 3.7. OSPAR MPAs in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and NEAFC fishery closure areas.

3.9 Conclusions and next steps

The results of the 2021 assessment of the management status of OSPAR MPAs show that whilst there is progress on taking management action and implementing measures to achieve conservation objectives, such actions are largely only partially completed across the OSPAR Maritime Area; a similar picture emerged for the implementation of site condition monitoring for OSPAR MPAs. Consequently, the predominant response to whether OSPAR MPAs are moving towards achieving their conservation objectives is either 'partial' or 'unknown' and only 18% are moving towards or have achieved their conservation objectives.

Overall, there has been an increase in the completion of reporting across Contracting Parties, with a lower percentage of 'no response' to all of the management status questions. Full management information was received from Contracting Parties for 91% of OSPAR MPAs. This equated to an increase of 9% and 18% since 2018 and 2016, respectively. The trend of improved management can be shown through positive signs such as increased *partial* or *yes* responses to all management status

questions since the 2016 and 2018 assessments (Figure 3.2). However, in 2021, there still remains a high proportion of *unknown* responses (30%) to the achievement of conservation objectives because site-specific data on the ecological status of the protected features of OSPAR MPAs were not available.

As of reporting in 2021, the confidence assessment process had been integrated to the reporting to help supplement the degree of understanding underpinning the assessment. Most of the OSPAR MPAs that had *high* confidence scores (6%) had been designated for over 15 years. This provides further emphasis that long-term monitoring studies are needed to understand whether an MPA is moving towards its conservation objectives. However, there was a high proportion of *no response* (23%) to the confidence scoring, with little rationale provided.

Work moving forward should focus on the implementation of all management measures which Contracting Parties feel are required to achieve the conservation objectives of the protected features of OSPAR MPAs within national jurisdiction. In parallel, long-term monitoring studies should also be established to evaluate the effectiveness of such management measures in order to state with greater confidence whether the conservation objectives of the protected features of OSPAR MPAs have been achieved.

For OSPAR MPAs in ABNJs, efforts should continue to further collective arrangements with competent management authorities, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Seabed Authority (ISA), such that all management recommendations for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJs will be implemented. In addition, Contracting Parties should continue to raise awareness of OSPAR MPAs in ABNJs with relevant stakeholders and interest groups and look to further our scientific understanding of these sites.

Annex I – List of OSPAR MPAs

(as of 1 October 2021)

CP	WDPAID	OSPAR MPA	Year of Reporting	Jur.	Area (km²)
ABNJ/High Seas	555512236	Antialtair Seamount High Seas MPA	2010	ABNJ	2807
	555512237	Altair Seamount High Seas MPA	2010	ABNJ	4 384
	555512238	Josephine Seamount High Seas MPA	2010	ABNJ	19 365
	555512239	Milne Seamount Complex MPA	2010	ABNJ	20 914
	555512240	MAR North of the Azores High Seas MPA	2010	ABNJ	93 572
	555512241	Charlie-Gibbs South High Seas MPA	2010	ABNJ	146 029
	555557228	Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas MPA	2012	ABNJ	178 094
		North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Sea basin MPA	2021	ABNJ	595 196
Belgium	555557150	SBZ3	2012	TW	57
	555557219	Vlaamse Banken , SBZ 1 and SBZ2	2012	TW	749
	555557219	Vlaamse Banken , SBZ 1 and SBZ2	2012	EEZ	433
Denmark	555556910	Agger Tange, Nissum Bredning, Skibsted Fjord og Agerø	2009	TW	166
	555556912	Ålborg Bugt, østlige del	2009	TW	1 542
	555556913	Ålborg Bugt, Randers Fjord og Mariager Fjord	2009	TW	617
	555556916	Anholt og havet nord for	2007	TW	112
	555556980	Ebbeløkkerev	2009	TW	1
	555556991	Farvandet nord for Anholt	2007	TW	348
	555557007	Gilleleje Flak og Tragten	2009	TW	26
	555557011	Gule Rev	2009	TW	44
	555557018	Havet og kysten mellem Hundested og Rørvig	2009	TW	14
	555557019	Havet omkring Nordre Rønner	2007	TW	186
	555557022	Herthas Flak	2007	TW	14
	555557023	Hesselø med omliggende stenrev	2007	TW	20
	555557024	Hirsholmene, havet vest herfor og Ellinge Å's udløb	2009	TW	91
	555557050	Knudegrund	2007	TW	8
	555557051	Kobberhage kystarealer	2009	TW	6
	555557055	Læsø Trindel og Tønneberg Banke	2007	TW	79
	555557056	Læsø, sydlige del	2007	TW	260

	555557070	Løgstør Bredning, Vejlerne og Bulbjerg	2009	TW	0.03
	555557071	Lønstrup Rødgrund	2007	TW	93
	555557077	Lysegrund	2007	TW	32
	555557100	Nissum Fjord	2009	TW	0.04
	555557139	Ringkøbing Fjord og Nymindestrømmen	2009	TW	0.07
	555557148	Sandbanker ud for Thorsminde	2007	TW	64
	555557149	Sandbanker ud for Thyborøn	2007	TW	64
	555557152	Schultz og Hastens Grund samt Briseis Flak	2007	TW	49
	555557161	Skagens Gren og Skagerrak	2009	TW	1 285
	555557181	Strandenge pä Læsø og havet syd herfor	2007	TW	628
	555557193	Sydlige Nordsø	2007	TW	36
	555557207	Thyborøn Stenvolde	2009	TW	37
	555557218	Vadehavet med Ribe Å, Tved Å og Varde Å vest for Varde	2009	TW	1 137
	555641546	Havstrategiomraade A	2021	TW	167
	555690820	Havstrategiomraade B	2021	TW	4
	555690821	Havstrategiomraade C	2021	TW	9
	555690827	Havstrategiomraade F	2021	TW	79
	555556912	Ålborg Bugt, østlige del	2009	EEZ	239
	555556991	Farvandet nord for Anholt	2007	EEZ	2
	555557007	Gilleleje Flak og Tragten	2009	EEZ	22
	555557011	Gule Rev	2009	EEZ	429
	555557023	Hesselø med omliggende stenrev	2007	EEZ	21
	555557042	Jyske Rev, Lillefiskerbanke	2009	EEZ	242
	555557047	Kims Top og den Kinesiske Mur	2007	EEZ	262
	555557055	Læsø Trindel og Tønneberg Banke	2007	EEZ	8
	555557056	Læsø, sydlige del	2007	EEZ	105
	555557152	Schultz og Hastens Grund samt Briseis Flak	2007	EEZ	160
	555557161	Skagens Gren og Skagerrak	2009	EEZ	1 412
	555557178	Store Middelgrund	2009	EEZ	21
	555557179	Store Rev	2009	EEZ	109
	555557193	Sydlige Nordsø	2007	EEZ	2 437
	555557207	Thyborøn Stenvolde	2009	EEZ	42
	555690823	Havstrategiomraade D	2021	EEZ	63
	555690826	Havstrategiomraade E	2021	EEZ	77
	555690827	Havstrategiomraade F	2021	EEZ	191

France	555544124	Iroise	2008	TW	3 431
	555544125	Baie de Somme	2006	TW	34
	555544126	Estuaire de la Seine	2007	TW	120
	555544127	Domaine de Beauguillot	2006	TW	5
	555544128	Baie de Saint-Brieuc	2006	TW	11
	555544129	Sept-Îles	2007	TW	4
	555544130	Moëze-Oléron	2007	TW	64
	555544131	Banc d'Arguin	2006	TW	25
	555544132	Baie de l'Aiguillon	2006	TW	25
	555556909	Abers - côtes des Légendes	2012	TW	227
	555556918	Archipel des Glénan	2012	TW	587
	555556920	Au droit de l'étang d'Hourtin-Carcans	2012	TW	501
	555556922	Baie de Morlaix	2012	TW	266
	555556923	Baie de Seine occidentale	2012	TW	454
	555556925	Bancs des Flandres	2012	TW	906
	555556926	Bassin d'Arcachon et Cap Ferret	2012	TW	227
	555556931	Belle Île en mer	2012	TW	174
	555556956	Côte Basque rocheuse et extension au Large	2012	TW	78
	555556957	Côte de Granit rose - Sept-Îles	2012	TW	721
	555556958	Côte de Granit rose - Sept-Îles	2012	TW	695
	555556989	Falaise du Bessin Occidental	2012	TW	13
	555557009	Golfe du Morbihan, côte Ouest de Rhuys	2012	TW	206
	555557033	Îles de Groix	2012	TW	284
	555557062	Littoral Cauchois	2012	TW	46
	555557079	Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin - Baie des Veys	2012	TW	287
	555557082	Massif dunaire Gavres-Quiberon et zones humides associées	2012	TW	68
	555557117	Panache de la Gironde	2012	TW	565
	555557118	Panache de la Gironde et plateau rocheux de Cordouan	2012	TW	565
	555557122	Pertuis charentais	2012	TW	3 177
	555557123	Pertuis charentais - Rochebonne	2012	TW	3 228
	555557125	Plateau rocheux de l'île d'Yeu	2012	TW	120
	555557129	Portion du littoral sableux de la côte Aquitaine	2012	TW	501
	555557135	Récifs et marais arrière-littoraux du Cap Lévi à la Pointe de Saire	2012	TW	154
	555557141	Roches de Penmarc'h	2012	TW	458

	555557153	Secteur de l'île d'Yeu	2012	TW	1 752
	555557196	Tatihou - Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue	2012	TW	8
	555557212	Trégor Goëlo	2012	TW	910
	555557229	Estuaire de la Seine	2012	TW	85
	555557232	Trégor Goëlo	2012	TW	912
	555556920	Au droit de l'étang d'Hourtin-Carcans	2012	EEZ	5
	555556925	Bancs des Flandres	2012	EEZ	216
	555557117	Panache de la Gironde	2012	EEZ	388
	555557118	Panache de la Gironde et plateau rocheux de Cordouan	2012	EEZ	388
	555557122	Pertuis charentais	2012	EEZ	1 385
	555557123	Pertuis charentais - Rochebonne	2012	EEZ	4 967
	555557129	Portion du littoral sableux de la côte Aquitaine	2012	EEZ	5
	555557153	Secteur de l'île d'Yeu	2012	EEZ	704

Germany	555557099	Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer	2006	TW	3 458
	555557145	S-H Seabird Protection Area	2005	TW	1 619
	555557146	S-H Wadden sea National Park	2005	TW	4 602
	555556937	Borkum-Riffgrund	2008	EEZ	625
	555556969	Doggerbank	2008	EEZ	1 696
	555557194	Sylt.Aussenr.-Oestl.Dt.Bucht	2008	EEZ	5 600

Iceland	555556983	Eldey	2012	TW	14
	555557031	Hverastrytur i Eyjafirdi	2008	TW	0
	555557032	Hverastrytur i Eyjafirdi, north of Arnanesnöfum	2008	TW	1
	555557137	Reynisdjup, coral reef	2008	TW	9
	555557190	Surtsey	2012	TW	66
	555557025	Hornarfjardardjup, coral reef 1	2008	EEZ	8
	555557026	Hornarfjardardjup, coral reef 2	2008	EEZ	37
	555557159	Skaftardjup, coral reef 1	2008	EEZ	7
	555557160	Skaftardjup, coral reef 2	2008	EEZ	22
	555586883	Lónsdjóp	2014	EEZ	77
	555586884	Lónsdjóp-Papagrunn landgrunnskantur	2014	EEZ	78
	555586885	Papagrunn	2014	EEZ	17
	555586886	Rósagarður	2014	EEZ	164
	555586887	Skeiðarárdjóp	2014	EEZ	65

Ireland	555556924	Ballyness Bay	2009	TW	12
	555556936	Blasket Islands	2009	TW	227
	555556962	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay)	2009	TW	49
	555556975	Dundalk Bay	2009	TW	52
	555557005	Galway Bay Complex	2009	TW	144
	555557044	Kenmare River	2010	TW	433
	555557045	Kilkieran Bay and Islands	2010	TW	213
	555557048	Kingstown Bay	2009	TW	1
	555557078	Malahide Estuary	2009	TW	8
	555557096	Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex	2009	TW	141
	555557097	Mulroy Bay	2009	TW	32
	555557106	North Dublin Bay	2010	TW	15
	555557140	Roaringwater Bay and Islands	2009	TW	143
	555557210	Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West To Cloghane	2009	TW	116
	555557211	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand	2009	TW	8
	555556930	Belgica Mound Province	2009	EEZ	411
	555557027	Hovland Mound Province	2009	EEZ	1 086
	555557103	North-West Porcupine Bank	2009	EEZ	715
	555557168	South-West Porcupine Bank	2009	EEZ	329

Netherlands	555557101	Noordzeekustzone	2009	TW	1 416
	555557220	Vlakte van de Raan	2009	TW	199
	555557221	Voordelta	2009	TW	819
	555557049	Klaverbank	2009	EEZ	1 240
	555557231	Doggerbank	2009	EEZ	4 698

Norway	156009	Jomfruland	2018	TW	117
	183284	Raet	2018	TW	608
	555556934	Bjørnøya	2009	TW	2 786
	555556940	Breisunddjupet	2012	TW	44
	555557041	Jan Mayen	2012	TW	4 242
	555557052	Korallen	2012	TW	4
	555557155	Selligrunnen	2005	TW	1
	555557185	Sularevet	2005	TW	12
	555557191	Svalbard East	2009	TW	55 331
	555557192	Svalbard West	2009	TW	20 022
	555557227	Ytre Hvaler	2010	TW	340

	555560032	Færder	2018	TW	340
	555592852	Saltstraumen	2013	TW	25
	555592853	Tauterryggen	2013	TW	44
	555592854	Framvaren	2013	TW	6
	555625764	Gaulosen	2016	TW	11
	555625765	Jærkysten	2016	TW	143
	555625766	Rødberg	2016	TW	14
	555702524	Rystraumen	2020	TW	18
	555702525	Rossfjordstraumen	2020	TW	11
	555702526	Ytre Karlsøy	2020	TW	410
	555702527	Nordfjorden	2020	TW	12
	555702528	Karlsøyfjorden	2020	TW	163
	555702529	Innervisten	2020	TW	5
	555702530	Kaldvägfjorden og Innhavet	2020	TW	92
	555702531	Skarnsundet	2020	TW	18
	555702532	Lurefjorden og Lindäsosane	2020	TW	69
	555556934	Bjørnøya	2009	EEZ	20
	555556940	Breisunddjupet	2012	EEZ	21
	555557040	Iverryggen	2005	EEZ	623
	555557041	Jan Mayen	2012	EEZ	77
	555557142	Røstrevet	2005	EEZ	331
	555557185	Sularevet	2005	EEZ	981
	555557191	Svalbard East	2009	EEZ	115
	555557192	Svalbard West	2009	EEZ	53
	555557208	Trænarevet	2012	EEZ	445

Portugal	555556955	Corvo Island	2006	TW	257
	555556986	Faial-Pico Channel	2006	TW	240
	555557000	Formigas Bank	2006	TW	524
	555599535	Berlengas	2015	TW	96
	555599536	Lagoas de Santo Andre e Sancha (area maritima)	2015	TW	21
	555599537	Arrabida (area maritima)	2015	TW	53
	555599538	Litoral Norte (area maritima)	2015	TW	74
	555599539	Sudoeste Alentejano e Costa Vicentina (area maritima)	2015	TW	290
	555556963	D. João de Castro seamount	2006	EEZ	354
	555557074	Lucky Strike hydrothermal vent	2006	EEZ	191

	555557084	Menez Gwen hydrothermal vent field	2006	EEZ	95
	555557154	Sedlo Seamount	2007	EEZ	4 016
	555557131	Rainbow hydrothermal vent field	2006	ABNJ	22

Spain	555557037	Islas Atlanticas	2008	TW	85
	555583112	Espacio marino de la Ria de Mundaka-Cabo de Ogoño	2014	TW	175
	555583113	Espacio marino de los Islotes de Portios - Isla Conejera - Isla de Mouro	2014	TW	15
	555583114	Espacio marino de Cabo Peñas	2014	TW	320
	555583115	Espacio marino de Punta de Candelaira - Ria de Ortigueira - Estaca de Bares	2014	TW	771
	555583116	Espacio marino de la Costa de Ferrolterra - Valdoviño	2014	TW	68
	555583117	Espacio marino de la Costa da Morte	2014	TW	2 627
	555583119	Espacio marino de las Rias Baixas de Galicia	2014	TW	1 713
	555583120	Golfo de Cadiz	2014	TW	1 477
	555583121	Espacio marino del Tinto y del Odiel	2014	TW	49
	555583122	Espacio marino de la Bahia de Cadiz	2014	TW	36
	555593029	Sistema de cañones submarinos de Avilés	2016	TW	1 247
	555556982	El Cachucho	2021	EEZ	2 619
	555583117	Espacio marino de la Costa da Morte	2014	EEZ	533
	555583118	Banco de Galicia	2016	EEZ	10 227
	555583119	Espacio marino de las Rias Baixas de Galicia	2014	EEZ	507
	555583120	Golfo de Cadiz	2014	EEZ	840
	555593028	Volcanes del fango del Golfo de Cádiz	2016	EEZ	2 433
	555593029	Sistema de cañones submarinos de Avilés	2016	EEZ	2 141

Sweden	555556939	Bratten	2012	TW	48
	555556997	Fladen	2006	TW	96
	555557012	Gullmarsfjorden	2006	TW	114
	555557020	Havstensfjord	2012	TW	19
	555557053	Kosterfjorden-Väderöfjorden	2006	TW	592
	555557054	Kungsbackafjorden	2006	TW	79
	555557059	Lilla Middelgrund	2006	TW	89
	555557094	Morups bank	2010	TW	6
	555557102	Nordre älvs estuarium	2006	TW	71
	555556939	Bratten	2012	EEZ	1 160
	555556997	Fladen	2006	EEZ	8

	555557059	Lilla Middelgrund	2006	EEZ	89
	555557177	Stora Middelgrund och Röde bank	2008	EEZ	114
United Kingdom	555556911	Ailsa Craig	2011	TW	27
	555556914	Alde Ore and Butley Estuaries	2005	TW	11
	555556915	Alde-Ore Estuary	2011	TW	11
	555556919	Ascrib, Isay and Dunvegan	2005	TW	26
	555556921	Bae Caerfyrddin / Carmarthen Bay	2011	TW	334
	555556928	Belfast Lough Open Water	2011	TW	56
	555556929	Belfast Lough	2011	TW	3
	555556932	Benfleet and Southend Marshes	2011	TW	20
	555556933	Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast	2005	TW	650
	555556935	Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4)	2011	TW	26
	555556941	Breydon Water	2011	TW	5
	555556942	Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast	2011	TW	53
	555556943	Burry Inlet	2011	TW	48
	555556944	Calf of Eday	2011	TW	25
	555556945	Canna and Sanday	2011	TW	54
	555556946	Cape Wrath	2011	TW	58
	555556947	Cardigan Bay / Bae Ceredigion	2005	TW	952
	555556948	Carlingford Lough	2011	TW	5
	555556949	Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries / Bae Caerfyrddin ac Aberoedd	2005	TW	632
	555556950	Chesil and the Fleet	2005	TW	12
	555556951	Chesil Beach and The Fleet	2018	TW	5
	555556952	Chichester and Langstone Harbours	2011	TW	51
	555556953	Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2)	2011	TW	12
	555556954	Copinsay	2011	TW	35
	555556960	Cromarty Firth	2011	TW	36
	555556961	Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3)	2019	TW	7
	555556965	Deben Estuary	2011	TW	8
	555556966	Dee Estuary / Aber Dyfrdwy	2008	TW	135
	555556967	Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1)	2011	TW	25
	555556971	Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet	2011	TW	54
	555556972	Dornoch Firth and Morrich More	2005	TW	69
	555556973	Drigg Coast	2005	TW	7
	555556976	East Caithness Cliffs	2011	TW	114

	555556977	East Mingulay	2012	TW	115
	555556979	East Sanday Coast	2011	TW	13
	555556981	Eileanan agus Sgeiran Lios mór	2005	TW	11
	555556984	Essex Estuaries	2005	TW	383
	555556985	Exe Estuary	2011	TW	19
	555556987	Fair Isle	2011	TW	63
	555556988	Fal and Helford	2005	TW	62
	555556990	Faray and Holm of Faray	2005	TW	7
	555556992	Fetlar	2011	TW	144
	555556993	Firth of Forth	2011	TW	61
	555556994	Firth of Lorn	2005	TW	210
	555556995	Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary	2011	TW	66
	555556996	Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary	2005	TW	151
	555556998	Flamborough Head	2019	TW	62
	555556999	Flannan Isles	2011	TW	58
	555557001	Forth Islands	2011	TW	97
	555557002	Foula	2011	TW	67
	555557003	Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5)	2011	TW	97
	555557004	Fowlsheugh	2011	TW	13
	555557006	Gibraltar Point	2011	TW	2
	555557008	Glannau Môn: Cors heli / Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh	2005	TW	9
	555557010	Gruinart Flats, Islay	2011	TW	10
	555557014	Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton	2011	TW	598
	555557015	Hamford Water	2017	TW	26
	555557016	Handa	2011	TW	29
	555557021	Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field	2011	TW	52
	555557028	Hoy	2011	TW	88
	555557029	Humber Estuary	2008	TW	336
	555557030	Humber Estuary	2011	TW	337
	555557034	Inner Clyde Estuary	2011	TW	17
	555557035	Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge	2011	TW	345
	555557036	Inner Moray Firth	2011	TW	21
	555557038	Isle of May	2005	TW	3
	555557039	Isles of Scilly Complex	2005	TW	267
	555557043	Kenfig / Cynffig	2005	TW	3
	555557046	Killough Bay	2011	TW	1

	555557057	Land's End and Cape Bank	2011	TW	302
	555557058	Larne Lough	2011	TW	3
	555557060	Limestone Coast of South West Wales / Arfordir Calchfaen de Orllewin Cymru	2005	TW	2
	555557061	Lindisfarne	2011	TW	31
	555557063	Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl	2011	TW	1 702
	555557063	Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl	2018	TW	2 226
	555557064	Lizard Point	2011	TW	140
	555557065	Loch Creran	2005	TW	12
	555557066	Loch Laxford	2005	TW	12
	555557067	Loch Moidart and Loch Shiel Woods	2005	TW	3
	555557068	Loch nam Madadh	2005	TW	19
	555557069	Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs	2005	TW	24
	555557072	Lough Foyle	2011	TW	21
	555557073	Luce Bay and Sands	2005	TW	479
	555557075	Lundy	2005	TW	31
	555557076	Lyme Bay and Torbay	2011	TW	313
	555557080	Margate and Long Sands	2011	TW	511
	555557081	Marwick Head	2011	TW	5
	555557083	Medway Estuary and Marshes	2011	TW	33
	555557085	Mersey Estuary	2011	TW	40
	555557086	Mingulay and Berneray	2011	TW	69
	555557087	Móine Mhór	2005	TW	3
	555557088	Monach Islands	2005	TW	33
	555557089	Montrose Basin	2011	TW	8
	555557090	Moray and Nairn Coast	2011	TW	16
	555557091	Moray Firth	2005	TW	1 514
	555557092	Morecambe Bay	2005	TW	552
	555557095	Mousa	2005	TW	5
	555557098	Murlough	2005	TW	112
	555557104	North Caithness Cliffs	2011	TW	141
	555557105	North Colonsay and Western Cliffs	2011	TW	24
	555557107	North Norfolk Coast	2011	TW	37
	555557109	North Rona and Sula Sgeir	2011	TW	67
	555557110	North Rona	2005	TW	5
	555557111	North Uist Machair and Islands	2011	TW	10
	555557113	Noss	2011	TW	30

	555557114	Outer Ards	2011	TW	11
	555557115	Outer Thames Estuary	2011	TW	2 955
	555557116	Pagham Harbour	2011	TW	3
	555557119	Papa Stour	2005	TW	21
	555557120	Pembrokeshire Marine / Sir Benfro Forol	2005	TW	1 251
	555557121	Pen Llyn a`r Sarnau / Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau	2005	TW	1 442
	555557126	Plymouth Sound and Estuaries	2005	TW	57
	555557127	Pobie Bank Reef	2012	TW	333
	555557128	Poole Harbour	2018	TW	42
	555557130	Portsmouth Harbour	2011	TW	12
	555557132	Ramsey Bay	2018	TW	97
	555557133	Rathlin Island	2005	TW	31
	555557134	Rathlin Island	2011	TW	31
	555557136	Red Bay	2011	TW	10
	555557138	Ribble and Alt Estuaries	2011	TW	97
	555557143	Rousay	2011	TW	49
	555557144	Rum	2011	TW	360
	555557147	Sanday	2005	TW	110
	555557156	Severn Estuary	2011	TW	223
	555557157	Severn Estuary / Môr Hafren	2008	TW	722
	555557158	Shell Flat and Lune Deep	2011	TW	106
	555557162	Skerries and Causeway	2012	TW	109
	555557163	Solan Bank Reef	2012	TW	11
	555557164	Solent and Southampton Water	2011	TW	33
	555557165	Solent Maritime	2005	TW	94
	555557166	Solway Firth	2005	TW	424
	555557167	Sound of Arisaig (Loch Ailort to Loch Ceann Traigh)	2005	TW	46
	555557169	South-East Islay Skerries	2005	TW	15
	555557170	South Uist Machair and Lochs	2011	TW	3
	555557171	South Wight Maritime	2005	TW	196
	555557172	St Abb`s Head to Fast Castle	2011	TW	16
	555557173	St Kilda	2011	TW	281
	555557174	St Kilda	2005	TW	245
	555557176	Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone	2011	TW	341
	555557180	Stour and Orwell Estuaries	2011	TW	31
	555557182	Strangford Lough	2005	TW	149

	555557183	Strangford Lough	2011	TW	147
	555557184	Studland to Portland	2012	TW	332
	555557186	Sule Skerry and Sule Stack	2011	TW	39
	555557187	Sullom Voe	2005	TW	27
	555557188	Sumburgh Head	2011	TW	24
	555557189	Sunart	2005	TW	55
	555557195	Tamar Estuaries Complex	2011	TW	16
	555557197	Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast	2020	TW	110
	555557198	Thames Estuary and Marshes	2011	TW	27
	555557199	Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay	2011	TW	13
	555557200	Thanet Coast	2005	TW	28
	555557201	The Dee Estuary	2011	TW	111
	555557202	The Maidens	2012	TW	75
	555557203	The Shiant Isles	2011	TW	68
	555557204	The Swale	2011	TW	29
	555557205	The Wash and North Norfolk Coast	2005	TW	1 043
	555557206	The Wash	2011	TW	589
	555557209	Traeth Lafan / Lavan Sands, Conway Bay	2011	TW	27
	555557214	Treshnish Isles	2005	TW	19
	555557215	Troup, Pennan and Lion`s Heads	2011	TW	33
	555557216	Tweed Estuary	2005	TW	2
	555557217	Solway Firth	2021	TW	1 302
	555557222	West Westray	2011	TW	34
	555557225	Y Fenai a Bae Conwy / Menai Strait and Conwy Bay	2005	TW	265
	555557226	Yell Sound Coast	2005	TW	8
	555583005	Aln Estuary	2014	TW	0
	555583006	Beachy Head West	2014	TW	24
	555583007	Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuaries	2014	TW	279
	555583008	Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges	2014	TW	38
	555583009	Cumbria Coast	2019	TW	22
	555583010	Folkestone Pomerania	2014	TW	34
	555583011	Fylde	2014	TW	261
	555583012	Isles of Scilly	2014	TW	58
	555583013	Kingmere	2014	TW	48
	555583014	Lundy	2014	TW	31
	555583015	Medway Estuary	2019	TW	61

	555583016	Padstow Bay and Surrounds	2014	TW	90
	555583017	Pagham Harbour	2014	TW	3
	555583018	Poole Rocks	2014	TW	4
	555583019	Skerries Bank and Surrounds	2014	TW	250
	555583020	Tamar Estuary	2014	TW	15
	555583021	Thanet Coast	2014	TW	64
	555583022	The Manacles	2014	TW	3
	555583023	Torbay	2014	TW	20
	555583024	Upper Fowey and Pont Pill	2014	TW	2
	555583025	Whitsand and Looe Bay	2014	TW	52
	555583026	South Dorset	2014	TW	134
	555583032	Clyde Sea Sill	2014	TW	712
	555583033	East Caithness Cliffs	2014	TW	114
	555583034	Fetlar to Haroldswick	2014	TW	215
	555583035	Loch Creran	2014	TW	12
	555583036	Loch Sunart	2014	TW	49
	555583037	Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura	2014	TW	741
	555583038	Loch Sween	2014	TW	41
	555583039	Lochs Duich, Long and Aish	2014	TW	37
	555583040	Monach Isles	2014	TW	62
	555583041	Mousa to Boddam	2014	TW	13
	555583042	Noss Head	2014	TW	8
	555583043	Papa Westray	2014	TW	33
	555583044	Small Isles	2014	TW	803
	555583045	South Arran	2014	TW	280
	555583046	Upper Loch Fyne and Loch Goil	2014	TW	88
	555583047	Wester Ross	2014	TW	599
	555583048	Wyre and Rousay Sounds	2014	TW	16
	555583049	Firth of Forth Banks Complex	2014	TW	6
	555583050	North-west Orkney	2014	TW	1 298
	555583062	Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore	2014	TW	20
	555583063	Loch Roag Lagoons	2014	TW	0
	555583064	The Vadills	2014	TW	1
	555583065	Sound of Barra	2014	TW	125
	555593952	Glannau Aberdaron and Ynys Enlli / Aberdaron Coast and Bardsey Island	2015	TW	335
	555593953	Grassholm	2015	TW	17

	555622017	Allonby Bay	2016	TW	39
	555622018	Bideford to Foreland Point	2016	TW	104
	555622019	Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds	2016	TW	320
	555622020	Coquet to St Mary's	2016	TW	192
	555622021	Dover to Deal	2016	TW	10
	555622022	Dover to Folkestone	2016	TW	20
	555622023	Farnes East	2016	TW	356
	555622026	Hartland Point to Tintagel	2016	TW	304
	555622027	Holderness Inshore	2016	TW	309
	555622028	Mounts Bay	2016	TW	12
	555622029	Newquay and The Gannel	2016	TW	9
	555622031	Offshore Overfalls	2016	TW	140
	555622032	Runnel Stone (Land's End)	2016	TW	20
	555622033	Runswick Bay	2016	TW	68
	555622034	The Needles	2016	TW	11
	555622035	The Swale Estuary	2016	TW	53
	555622036	Utopia	2016	TW	3
	555622037	West of Walney	2016	TW	308
	555624860	North Anglesey Marine / Gogledd Mon Forol	2017	TW	1 270
	555624861	West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol	2017	TW	5 487
	555624862	Anglesey Terns / Morwenoliaid Ynys Mon	2017	TW	1 018
	555624863	Northern Cardigan Bay / Gogledd Bae Ceredigion	2017	TW	827
	555624864	Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire / Sgomer, Sgogwm a Moroedd Penfro	2017	TW	740
	555624865	Loch Carron	2017	TW	16
	555624866	Inner Hebrides and the Minches	2017	TW	13 801
	555624867	Carlingford Lough	2017	TW	3
	555624868	Outer Belfast Lough	2017	TW	3
	555624869	Rathlin	2017	TW	91
	555624870	Waterfoot	2017	TW	1
	555624871	Bristol Channel Approaches / Dynesfeydd Mor Hafren	2017	TW	4 367
	555624872	Southern North Sea	2017	TW	2 776
	555624873	Northumberland Marine	2017	TW	886
	555624875	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary	2017	TW	610
	555624876	North Channel	2017	TW	1 315

	555625738	Les Minquiers	2018	TW	40
	555625739	Les Ecrehous	2018	TW	15
	555625740	Jersey Coast	2018	TW	87
	555637372	Bae Cemlyn/ Cemlyn Bay	2018	TW	0
	555637373	Coquet Island	2018	TW	0
	555637374	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay	2018	TW	395
	555637375	Dyfi Estuary / Aber Dyfi	2018	TW	17
	555637376	Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay	2018	TW	259
	555637377	Farne Islands	2018	TW	1
	555637378	Greater Wash	2018	TW	969
	555637378	Greater Wash	2018	TW	1 052
	555637378	Greater Wash	2018	TW	1 277
	555637380	Loch of Stenness	2018	TW	8
	555637381	Minsmere-Walberswick	2018	TW	3
	555637382	North Norfolk Coast	2018	TW	32
	555637383	Northumbria Coast	2018	TW	10
	555637384	Obain Loch Euphoirt	2018	TW	3
	555637385	Orfordness-Shingle Street	2018	TW	9
	555637386	Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons	2018	TW	0
	555637387	South Uist Machair	2018	TW	34
	555637388	Baie ny Carrickey	2018	TW	11
	555637389	Douglas Bay	2019	TW	5
	555637390	Langness	2018	TW	89
	555637391	Laxey Bay	2018	TW	4
	555637392	Little Ness	2019	TW	10
	555637393	Niarbyl Bay	2018	TW	6
	555637394	Port Erin Bay	2018	TW	4
	555637396	Calf and Wart Bank	2018	TW	20
	555637397	West Coast	2018	TW	185
	555645340	Rum	2019	TW	2
	555645341	Taynish and Knapdale Woods	2019	TW	0
	555645342	Durness	2019	TW	1
	555645343	Hascosay	2019	TW	0
	555645344	Glen Beasdale	2019	TW	0
	555645345	Inverpolly	2019	TW	0
	555645346	Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills	2019	TW	1
	555645347	Mull Oakwoods	2019	TW	0

	555645348	Ardvar and Loch a' Mhuilinn Woodlands	2019	TW	0
	555645349	Tayvallich Juniper and Coast	2019	TW	2
	555645350	Papa Stour	2019	TW	0
	555645351	Sléibhtean agus Cladach Thiriodh (Tiree Wetlands and Coast)	2019	TW	7
	555645352	Flamborough and Filey Coast	2019	TW	76
	555645353	Albert Field	2019	TW	164
	555645354	Axe Estuary	2019	TW	0
	555645355	Beachy Head East	2019	TW	195
	555645356	Bembridge	2019	TW	75
	555645357	Berwick to St Mary's	2019	TW	634
	555645358	Camel Estuary	2019	TW	2
	555645359	Dart Estuary	2019	TW	5
	555645360	Devon Avon Estuary	2019	TW	2
	555645361	Erme Estuary	2019	TW	1
	555645362	Foreland	2019	TW	131
	555645363	Goodwin Sands	2019	TW	276
	555645364	Helford Estuary	2019	TW	6
	555645365	Morte Platform	2019	TW	25
	555645366	North West of Lundy	2019	TW	160
	555645367	Otter Estuary	2019	TW	0
	555645368	Purbeck Coast	2019	TW	282
	555645369	Ribble Estuary	2019	TW	15
	555645370	Selsey Bill and the Hounds	2019	TW	16
	555645371	Solway Firth	2019	TW	44
	555645372	South of Portland	2019	TW	17
	555645373	Southbourne Rough	2019	TW	5
	555645374	Studland Bay	2019	TW	4
	555645375	Swanscombe	2019	TW	3
	555645376	Wyre-Lune	2019	TW	92
	555645377	Yarmouth to Cowes	2019	TW	16
	555645378	Cape Bank	2019	TW	330
	555645379	East of Start Point	2019	TW	6
	555645380	Holderness Offshore	2019	TW	392
	555645381	Inner Bank	2019	TW	154
	555645383	Orford Inshore	2019	TW	52
	555645384	South of the Isles of Scilly	2019	TW	125

	555645385	South West Approaches to the Bristol Channel	2019	TW	82
	555645388	Queenie Corner	2019	TW	144
	555703682	Braunton Burrows	2020	TW	4
	555703683	Solent and Dorset Coast	2020	TW	890
	555703684	Isles of Scilly	2021	TW	129
	555703685	North-east Lewis	2021	TW	908
	555703686	Sea of the Hebrides	2021	TW	10 002
	555703687	Shiant East Bank	2021	TW	252
	555703688	Southern Trench	2021	TW	2 373
	555703690	Bluemull and Colgrave Sounds	2021	TW	38
	555703691	Coll and Tiree	2021	TW	794
	555703692	East Mainland Coast Shetland	2021	TW	233
	555703693	Moray Firth	2021	TW	1 763
	555703695	Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex	2021	TW	2 365
	555703697	Seas off Foula	2021	TW	1 415
	555703698	Seas off St Kilda	2021	TW	1 192
	555703699	Sound of Gigha	2021	TW	363
	555703700	West Coast of the Outer Hebrides	2021	TW	1 319
	555703701	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch	2021	TW	63
	555556964	Darwin Mounds	2008	Joint Regime	20
	555557224	Wyville Thomson Ridge	2011	Joint Regime	1 173
	555557224	Wyville Thomson Ridge	2011	Joint Regime	33
	555556917	Anton Dohrn Seamount	2012	EEZ	1 429
	555556927	Bassurelle sandbank	2011	EEZ	67
	555556938	Braemar Pockmarks	2018	EEZ	11
	555556959	Croker Carbonate Slabs	2012	EEZ	66
	555556959	Croker Carbonate Slabs	2018	EEZ	3
	555556959	Croker Carbonate Slabs	2018	EEZ	113
	555556964	Darwin Mounds	2008	EEZ	1 360
	555556968	Dogger Bank	2011	EEZ	12 337
	555556978	East Rockall Bank	2012	EEZ	3 698
	555557013	Haig Fras	2008	EEZ	476
	555557014	Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton	2011	EEZ	871
	555557035	Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge	2011	EEZ	501

	555557057	Land's End and Cape Bank	2011	EEZ	0
	555557063	Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl	2011	EEZ	2
	555557063	Liverpool Bay / Bae Lerpwl	2018	EEZ	303
	555557080	Margate and Long Sands	2011	EEZ	137
	555557108	North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef	2011	EEZ	3 609
	555557112	North West Rockall Bank	2011	EEZ	4 190
	555557115	Outer Thames Estuary	2011	EEZ	839
	555557120	Pembrokeshire Marine / Sir Benfro Forol	2005	EEZ	120
	555557124	Pisces Reef Complex	2012	EEZ	9
	555557127	Pobie Bank Reef	2012	EEZ	633
	555557151	Scanner Pockmark	2018	EEZ	7
	555557163	Solan Bank Reef	2012	EEZ	846
	555557175	Stanton Banks	2008	EEZ	818
	555557223	Wight-Barfleur Reef	2012	EEZ	1 374
	555557224	Wyville Thomson Ridge	2011	EEZ	534
	555583026	South Dorset	2014	EEZ	59
	555583027	East of Haig Fras	2014	EEZ	400
	555583028	North East of Farnes Deep	2014	EEZ	492
	555583029	South West Deeps (West)	2014	EEZ	1 827
	555583030	Swallow Sand	2014	EEZ	4 748
	555583031	The Canyons	2014	EEZ	661
	555583049	Firth of Forth Banks Complex	2014	EEZ	2 125
	555583050	North-west Orkney	2014	EEZ	3 073
	555583051	Central Fladen	2014	EEZ	925
	555583052	East of Gannet & Montrose Fields	2014	EEZ	1 840
	555583053	Faroe-Shetland Sponge Belt	2014	EEZ	5 271
	555583054	Geikie Slide and Hebridean Slope	2014	EEZ	2 218
	555583056	North-east Faroe-Shetland Channel	2014	EEZ	23 667
	555583057	Norwegian Boundary Sediment Plain	2014	EEZ	164
	555583058	Rosemary Bank Seamount	2014	EEZ	6 937
	555583059	The Barra Fan and Hebrides Terrace Seamount	2014	EEZ	4 388
	555583060	Turbot Bank	2014	EEZ	251
	555583061	West Shetland Shelf	2014	EEZ	4 095
	555593954	North-West of Jones Bank	2016	EEZ	398
	555622023	Farnes East	2016	EEZ	589
	555622024	Fulmar	2016	EEZ	2 437
	555622025	Greater Haig Fras	2016	EEZ	0

	555622025	Greater Haig Fras	2016	EEZ	2 041
	555622030	Offshore Brighton	2016	EEZ	862
	555622031	Offshore Overfalls	2016	EEZ	455
	555622037	West of Walney	2016	EEZ	80
	555622038	Western Channel	2016	EEZ	1 614
	555624860	North Anglesey Marine / Gogledd Mon Forol	2017	EEZ	1 979
	555624861	West Wales Marine / Gorllewin Cymru Forol	2017	EEZ	1 883
	555624864	Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire / Sgomer, Sgogwm a Moroedd Penfro	2017	EEZ	923
	555624871	Bristol Channel Approaches / Dynesfeydd Mor Hafren	2017	EEZ	1 481
	555624872	Southern North Sea	2017	EEZ	34 175
	555624876	North Channel	2017	EEZ	289
	555625738	Les Minquiers	2018	EEZ	7
	555637378	Greater Wash	2018	EEZ	237
	555637379	Irish Sea Front	2018	EEZ	180
	555645353	Albert Field	2019	EEZ	28
	555645362	Foreland	2019	EEZ	112
	555645363	Goodwin Sands	2019	EEZ	1
	555645366	North West of Lundy	2019	EEZ	13
	555645378	Cape Bank	2019	EEZ	144
	555645379	East of Start Point	2019	EEZ	109
	555645380	Holderness Offshore	2019	EEZ	784
	555645381	Inner Bank	2019	EEZ	45
	555645382	Kentish Knock East	2019	EEZ	96
	555645383	Orford Inshore	2019	EEZ	20
	555645384	South of the Isles of Scilly	2019	EEZ	7
	555645385	South West Approaches to the Bristol Channel	2019	EEZ	1 046
	555645386	Markham's Triangle	2019	EEZ	200
	555645387	North-East of Haig Fras	2019	EEZ	464
	555645388	Queenie Corner	2019	EEZ	2
	555645389	South of Celtic Deep	2019	EEZ	278
	555645390	South Rigg	2019	EEZ	141
	555645391	South West Deeps (East)	2019	EEZ	4 655
	555645392	West of Copeland	2019	EEZ	158
	555645393	West of Wight-Barfleur	2019	EEZ	113
	555645393	West of Wight-Barfleur	2019	EEZ	25

	555703686	Sea of the Hebrides	2021	EEZ	38
	555703688	Southern Trench	2021	EEZ	25
	555703695	Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex	2021	EEZ	357
	555703697	Seas off Foula	2021	EEZ	2 000
	555703698	Seas off St Kilda	2021	EEZ	2 791
	555557017	Hatton Bank	2012	ABNJ	15 722
	555557112	North West Rockall Bank	2011	ABNJ	179
	555583055	Hatton-Rockall Basin	2014	ABNJ	1 257

Annex II – Evolution of the OSPAR Network of MPAs

Summary of the gradual development of the OSPAR Network of MPAs as result of the selection and nomination of sites by Contracting Parties in the time period 2005 – 1 October 2021.

17th Reporting Period of new MPAs (2 October 2020 – 1 October 2021)

Norway submitted nine new OSPAR MPAs, the **Kingdom of Denmark** six new OSPAR MPAs and the **United Kingdom** further 15 OSPAR MPAs. Concerning national MPAs, **Spain** made an amendment to the OSPAR MPA "Cachucho" and the United Kingdom to the OSPAR MPA "Solway Firth" [previously named "Upper Solway Flats and Marches"] both with respect to enlarging the MPA by changing its boundaries. With regard to the "Solway Firth" MPA changes also include additional protected features.

16th Reporting Period of new MPAs (2 October 2019 – 1 October 2020)

The **United Kingdom** nominated two sites as new OSPAR MPAs.

15th Reporting Period of new MPAs (2 October 2018 – 1 October 2019)

The **United Kingdom** nominated 54 sites as new OSPAR MPAs, covering more than 9,000 km^2.

14th Reporting Period of new MPAs (2 October 2017 – 1 October 2018)

Norway submitted three new OSPAR MPAs and the **United Kingdom** further 28 OSPAR MPAs. Concerning national MPAs, **Germany** made an amendment to the OSPAR MPA "LOWER SAXONY WADDEN SEA" with respect to enlarging the MPA by changing its boundaries. There were no changes with respect to other issues, like protected features, etc.

13th Reporting Period of new MPAs (2 October 2016 – 1 October 2017)

Norway submitted three new OSPAR MPAs and the **United Kingdom** submitted its eighth tranche of UK MPAs supplements the UK's previous submissions in 2005, 2008, 2011, 2012 and 2014-2016. The tranche comprises the marine area of fifteen marine protected areas that were established in 2016 and 2017 (four SPAs, six candidate SACs, four Marine Conservation Zones and one Nature Conservation MPA) and two amendments to the boundaries of SPAs previously nominated as OSPAR MPAs.

12th Reporting Period of new MPAs (2 October 2015 – 1 October 2016)

The **United Kingdom** submitted its seventh tranche of marine sites as a further contribution to the OSPAR Network of Marine Protected Areas. This tranche comprised the marine area of 23 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) that were designated in 2016, as well as the re-submission of 10 existing Marine Conservation Zones submitted to OSPAR in 2014 as further features were added to these sites in 2016. In addition, **Spain** submitted two new OSPAR MPAs and amended the boundary of one of its previously submitted MPAs, Banco de Galicia. In total, the area of the OSPAR Network of MPAs increased by over 18,000 km^2.

11th Reporting Period of new MPAs (2 October 2014 – 1 October 2015)

The **United Kingdom** submitted its sixth tranche of marine sites to the OSPAR MPA network of supplementing the UK's previous submissions in 2005, 2008, 2011, 2012 and 2014. The tranche comprised two SPAs and an amendment to an existing OSPAR MPA - Haig Fras SAC that had its site boundary amended in 2015. **Norway** nominated three additional MPAs as components to the OSPAR Network of MPAs and **Portugal** another five. Collectively, these 10 new MPAs cover an area of over 600 km^2.

10th Reporting Period of new MPAs (2 October 2013 – 1 October 2014)

The **United Kingdom** submitted its fifth tranche of sites to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. A total of 61 sites have been reported to the OSPAR Commission, comprising of three additional SACs and one SPA designated under the EC Habitats Directive and EC Birds Directive, as well as 27 MCZs and 30 NCMPAs designated under UK legislation. Altogether, these sites have a total area of 71,153 km^2. **Spain** has nominated a total of 11 SPAs designated under the EC Birds Directive to the OSPAR Commission. These sites protect 17,843 km^2 of Spanish waters. **Iceland** has nominated five MPAs as components to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. Collectively, these MPAs cover an area of about 401 km^2.

9th Reporting Period of new MPAs (1 January 2013 – 1 October 2013)

No new OSPAR MPAs were nominated in the 9th Reporting Period.

8th Reporting Period of new MPAs (1 January 2012 – 31 December 2012)

At the meeting of the OSPAR Commission in 2012 (25-29 June 2012, Bonn/Germany), Contracting Parties agreed to establish the *Charlie-Gibbs North High Seas MPA* with the goal of protecting and conserving the biodiversity and ecosystems of the waters superjacent to the seabed in the northern part of the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone. The seabed in the area is subject to a submission by Iceland to the UN CLCS. With the nomination of two MPAs by **Belgium**, all twelve OSPAR Contracting Parties have contributed to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. **France** submitted 30 MPAs (8 SPAs and 22 SACs) and the **United Kingdom** submitted its fourth tranche of sites (1 Nature Reserve and 12 SACs) to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. **Norway** nominated four MPAs and **Iceland** two.

7th Reporting Period of new MPAs (1 January 2011 – 31 December 2011)

The **United Kingdom** has submitted its third tranche of sites to the OSPAR Network of MPAs, supplementing UK's previous submissions in 2005 and 2008. A total of 117 sites, 14 SACs and 93 SPAs designated by the United Kingdom under the EC Habitats Directive and EC Birds Directive, that are relevant to the OSPAR Convention have been reported to the OSPAR Commission. The sites have been identified by reference to the OSPAR MPA identification guidelines (OSPAR 2003 Annex 10 Ref A-4.44b(i)). Information on marine habitats and species of interest for each site as well as information on management within these OSPAR MPAs has been provided for inclusion in the OSPAR MPA database.

6th Reporting Period of new MPAs (1 June 2010 – 31 December 2010)

MPA nominations in 2010 – Part II

In the context of the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting 2010 (20-24 September, Bergen/Norway) OSPAR Contracting Parties have agreed to collectively establish six MPAs in ABNJ of the North-East Atlantic. These areas, *i.e. Charlie-Gibbs South MPA*, *Milne Seamount Complex MPA*, *Josephine Seamount High Seas MPA*, *Altair Seamount High*

Seas MPA, *Antialtair High Seas MPA*, and the *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores High Seas MPA*, collectively cover about 285.000 km² within OSPAR Region V.

Portugal has at the same time announced the intention to designate and protect the sea floor and sub-sea floor within the areas of the *Josephine Seamount High Seas MPA*, *Altair Seamount High Seas MPA*, *Antialtair High Seas MPA*, and the *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores High Seas MPA*, as components of the OSPAR Network of MPAs. These areas are subject to the submission of Portugal to the UN CLCS regarding the establishment of the outer limits of the Portuguese continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, in accordance with Article 76 and Annex II of UNCLOS. In accordance with Articles 76 and 77(3) of UNCLOS, the sovereign rights and the jurisdiction of Portugal are referred to the seabed and subsoil of the areas indicated in the Portuguese submission to the UN CLCS. With its submission Portugal also committed itself to the conservation of living resources and biodiversity in the continental shelf. This duty is concurrent with the protection and conservation of a set of OSPAR priority habitats: seamounts, cold water coral reefs, cold water coral gardens and sponge aggregations.

Denmark has rectified the information presented in the previous Status Report (Publication Number 493/2010) with regards to the MPAs nominated to OSPAR in 2009. The information has been revised accordingly in the relevant section below and taken into account in the analysis of the OSPAR Network of MPAs in the main sections of this report.

5th Reporting Period of new MPAs (1 January 2009 – 31 May 2010)

MPA nominations in 2010 – Part I

Sweden has contributed Natura 2000 sites to be included in the OSPAR Network of MPAs, collectively covering 726 km².

On the west coast bordering Norway, Sweden has established the *Koster-Väderö Archipelago* MPA, covering 606 km² of territorial waters. The area is encompassing the Koster archipelago and the Väderö Islands and the 65 km long and up to 250 m deep Koster-Väderö Trough. Due to the influence by the Atlantic the area hosts a high diversity of biotopes and species. Of the 6000 marine species that have been identified in Kosterhavet, about 200 are found nowhere else in Sweden. In particular there are very rich deep hard bottom habitats with the only known live *Lophelia* reef in Sweden at a depth of 80 m. Also kelp forests, maërl beds and soft corals are found within the MPA. Together with the OSPAR MPA *Ytre Hvaler* nominated by Norway, the area covers an entire ecosystem (see also information below on the MPA nominations by Norway in 2010).

With a view to protect and conserve a coastal bank area representative for the Swedish West coast in the Kattegat, the *Morups bank* MPA (5.67 km²) has been established. This relatively small bank is characterised by rock and stones with rich algae vegetation and rich fauna of polychaete worms, particularly at depths of 20 – 30 meters.

With a view to protect representative offshore banks in the eastern Kattegat, Sweden has nominated *Stora Middelgrund and Röde Bank* (114 km²). These banks still seem to have a rather intact ecological structure, providing potentially important seed areas for a variety of invertebrates associated with hard bottoms and kelp beds, as well as for fishes.

Norway has nominated the *Ytre Hvaler National Park* as an OSPAR MPA, covering 340 km² of the Hvaler-Fredrikstad archipelago, situated in the coastal areas of south eastern Norway. It hosts a rich diversity of species both on land and in the sea while being a popular recreational area. The national park includes terrestrial areas, but for the purpose of designating this area as an OSPAR MPA only the marine part of the national park has been included. The national park borders up to the *Kosterhavet Marine National Park* in Sweden. These national parks were established in close collaboration between the Norwegian and Swedish regional governments. The management of the sites will also be coordinated between Norway and Sweden. Due to the close relationship

between the two areas they are now nominated to the OSPAR Network of MPAs as a jointly managed transboundary MPA. For practical reasons separate nomination proformas have been elaborated for the areas from each of the two Contracting Parties (see information above on the MPA nominations by Sweden in 2010). Two MPAs previously nominated by Norway, *i. e. Tisler* and *Fjellknausene* are now encompassed in the *Ytre Hvaler National Park*. These two areas therefore have been withdrawn from the OSPAR Network of MPAs as independent components, as they are now covered by the new Ytre Hvaler MPA.

MPA nominations in 2009

Ireland has selected 19 Natura 2000 sites as a contribution to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. For a list of these sites, please see Annex I. The sites have been designated to protect particularly the following species and habitats that OSPAR has identified as being threatened or in decline: intertidal mudflats, *Lophelia pertus*a reefs, maërl beds, *Zostera* beds and Harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*). The total area covered by these sites is 4,136 km², of which 1,593 km² are in Irish territorial waters and 2,543 km² in the EEZ. The sites are located to the north, south, east and west of Ireland and offshore on the edge of Ireland's inner Continental Shelf and contribute to the network coverage in the Celtic Seas (OSPAR Region III). While no formal management plans have yet been prepared or implemented, management measures are already taken in these sites.

Denmark has decided to nominate all their marine Natura 2000 sites, which so far have not been reported to the OSPAR Commission, as components to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. Altogether 30 new sites have been nominated, while another four sites nominated in 2007 have been expanded. It should be noted that in the course of expanding previously nominated MPAs, names have been changed for two sites, with one of these now encompassing three individual sites nominated in 2007.

The **Netherlands** has nominated five Natura 2000 sites as components of the OSPAR Network of MPAs, together covering approximately 8,400 km² in the Greater North Sea (OSPAR Region II). Three of these sites are situated in the Dutch territorial waters, namely the *Noordzeekustzone* (*ca*. 1400 km²), the *Voordelta* (ca. 900 km²), and the *Vlakte van de Raan* (226 km²). Two sites have been nominated in the Dutch EEZ, namely the *Doggerbank* (4718 km²), and the *Klaverbank* (1,238 km²). All these areas will be designated according to Dutch legislation of the Nature Conservation Act and the Flora and Fauna Act in 2010. The management plan for the *Voordelta* has been finalised and is currently being implemented. Management plans for the other MPAs will be set at the latest three years after their designation in 2010.

Norway has nominated three sites covering a total area of 78,411 km² in the territorial waters around the Svalbard archipelago. The three areas, namely *Svalbard West* (20,033 km²), *Svalbard East* (55,573 km²) and *Bjørnøya* (2,805 km²) consist of the marine parts of four existing nature reserves and seven national parks within the archipelago. They are grouped into three OSPAR MPAs based on an evaluation of geography, biology and legal status of existing environmental protection measures. The major part of these sites is situated within the Barents Sea. The northern parts extend into the High Arctic maritime province. Each of the four nature reserves and seven national parks, from which the three OSPAR MPAs originate, is established by separate national regulations. The degree of protection and restrictions varies between the ten areas. Svalbard and the sea territory out to 12 nm are protected through the Svalbard Environmental Act. Svalbard falls within the perimeter of the Barents Sea management plan. In addition, separate management plans for each of the national parks and nature reserves are, or will be, elaborated. The nomination of these three MPAs by Norway has not only substantially increased the coverage of the OSPAR Network of MPAs in the Arctic Waters (OSPAR Region I) but also more than doubled the total coverage of the network.

4th Reporting Period of new MPAs (1 January 2008 – 31 December 2008)

France has nominated *La Mer d'Iroise*, off the coast of western Brittany, as a component to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. This site is situated in the coastal waters with a total area of 3,431.75 km² extending across the

boundaries of OSPAR Region II, the Greater North Sea (1758.43 km²) and OSPAR Region III, the Celtic Seas (1673.32 km²). It has not yet been reported as a Natura 2000 area. No information on management has been reported.

Germany has nominated an additional set of six MPAs[48] to the OSPAR Network of MPAs of which three sites are located in the EEZ, namely the *Dogger Bank* (1,700 km²), the *Borkum Reef Ground* (625 km²) and the *Sylt Outer Reef – Eastern German Bight* (5,600 km²); while the other three sites are situated in territorial waters, namely the *Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park and adjacent Coastal Areas* (4,524,55 km²), the *Steingrund* (174,50 km²), and *Helgoland mit Helgoländer Felssockel* (55,09 km²). All of these sites have previously been established as Natura 2000 areas (SCI, SPA) and are located within OSPAR Region II, the Greater North Sea. The total area protected has in 2008 increased by 4,723 km². For the *Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park and adjacent Coastal Areas* for which (sectoral) national and an overall trilateral management plan(s) exist; for the OSPAR MPA *Helgoland mit Helgoländer Felssockel* and the SPA within the OSPAR MPA *Sylt Outer Reef – Eastern German Bight* ordinances according to national law are implemented. Management plans for the remaining sites are being prepared.

Iceland has nominated its first set of seven MPAs as components to the OSPAR Network of MPAs, of which four sites are located in the EEZ: namely *Hornafjarðardjúp Coral Reef 1* (7.89 km²), *Hornafjarðardjúp Coral Reef 2* (31.27 km²), *Skaftárdjúp Coral Reef 1* (7.36 km²), and *Skaftárdjúp Coral Reef 2* (22.31 km²), while the other three sites are situated in the coastal waters, namely *Eyjafjörður Hydrothermal Vents 1* (0.12 km²), *Eyjafjörður Hydrothermal Vents 2* (0.56 km²), and *Reynisdjúp Coral Reef* (9.45 km²). All of these MPAs are within OSPAR Region I, the Arctic, and together cover an area of about 78.96 km². No information on management has been reported.

Spain has nominated *El Cachucho* (2,349.66 km²), also known as the *Le Danois Bank*, to the OSPAR Network of MPAs. This site is situated in Spain's EEZ about 65 km off the northern coast of the Iberian Peninsula in the Cantabrian Sea. It is located within OSPAR Region IV, the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast. This MPA has also been proposed as a site of Special Community Importance (SCI) for the European Network Natura 2000. The relevant authorities are in the process of establishing natural resources and fishing management plans for the area.

The **United Kingdom** has nominated a set of eight additional SACs as components to the OSPAR Network of MPAs, all of which have become Natura 2000 sites since 2005. This includes five offshore/EEZ SACs, namely *Braemar Pockmarks* (5.18 km²; OSPAR Region II), *Scanner Pockmarks* (3.35 km²; OSPAR Region II), *Haig Fras* (481.34 km²; OSPAR Region III), *Stanton Banks* (817.87 km²; III) and *Darwin Mounds* (1377.26 km²; OSPAR Region V) and three inshore/coastal waters SACs, namely *Severn Estuary* (721.96 km²; OSPAR Region III), *Dee Estuary* (134.47 km²; OSPAR Region III) and *Humber Estuary* (336.40 km²; OSPAR Region II). For all of these MPAs, management measures, arising from requirements of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, are being developed and taken forward.

3rd Reporting Period of new MPAs (1 January 2007 – 31 December 2007)

In the 2007 reporting period, new MPAs nominated by Denmark, Spain and Portugal increased the number of sites from 87 to 106 with an area increase from 26,619 km² to 38,178 km². At the same time, the United Kingdom withdrew one site previously nominated and recalculated its total area coverage by MPAs.

[48] It has to be noted that the MPA *Sylt Outer Reef – Eastern German Bight* incorporates and thus supersedes the *SPA Eastern German Bight*, which was nominated to OSPAR during 2005. This (old) smaller site now lies inside the newly designated larger OSPAR MPA, and therefore OSPAR was invited to remove the former from the OSPAR MPA list and database. A similar situation applies with regard to the MPAs nominated in coastal waters. They are either within (*Steingrund*) or extend (*Helgoland mit Helgoländer Felssockel)* the previously nominated *Seabird Protection Area Helgoland* or extend the *Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park* (*Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park and adjacent Coastal Areas*).

Denmark reported its first OSPAR MPAs, 18 sites totalling 5,398.66 km². Seven of the 18 sites are within their EEZ. All of these MPAs are Natura 2000 sites with the same boundaries. Please refer to Annex I with regards to their names and further details.

Spain likewise reported its first OSPAR MPA, a conglomerate of four sites under the name *Islas Atlanticas de Galicia*, totalling 85.42 km² in territorial waters. This MPA is a Natura 2000 site, with similar boundaries, but somewhat larger (85.24 km² vs. 71.38 km²).

Portugal reported its eighth and at the same time largest site, the *Sedlo Seamount* with an area of 4,012.53 km², increasing the total area being protected to 5,698.25 km². This MPA is situated within the Portuguese EEZ, but it is not a Natura 2000 site at all. As noted in the 2006 Status Report, of the EU Member States, only Portugal Azores has nominated sites that are not wholly Natura 2000 sites, which was an important development. Of the eight Portuguese sites, four are not Natura 2000 at all, and the remaining four are larger and more extensive than the smaller Natura 2000 sites contained within them.

The **United Kingdom** submitted updated GIS files and provided area calculations for all of its sites, except for its three Northern Ireland MPAs. One site was withdrawn, due to its negligible marine area, reducing the total number of UK sites to 55.

2nd Reporting Period of new MPAs (10 April 2006 – 31 December 2006)

In the 2006 reporting period, new MPAs nominated by Portugal increased the number of sites from 81 to 87, and the total network area increased from 25,426 km^2 to 26,619 km^2.

Portugal reported six additional areas as components of the OSPAR Network of MPAs. These MPAs are situated in the waters surrounding the Azores, of which two sites (*Faial-Pico channel*, *Corvo Island*) are in territorial waters, three in the EEZ (*D. João de Castro Seamount*, *Lucky Strike Hydrothermal Vent Field*, *Menez Gwen Hydrothermal Vent Field*), and one on the ECS (*Rainbow Hydrothermal Vent Field*). This amounts to 497.42 km² in territorial waters, 640.88 km² in Portugal's EEZ, and 22.15 km² on the ECS, totalling 1,160.45 km². Only Portugal has nominated an MPA on the continental shelf beyond the EEZ.

It should be noted that due to the extension of the first year's reporting deadline, most of the MPAs in the initial report were actually put forward in the period between January and April 2006. This meant that the second reporting period was less than a calendar year.

1st Reporting Period of new MPAs (2005 - 9 April 2006)

The 2005 MPA nominations are summarized below in the order they were received.

Portugal: One site, *Formigas/Dollabarat Bank*, within the waters of the Azores, was reported to MASH 2005. It was the first OSPAR MPA nomination. It is a nature reserve with a delimited area of 525.27 km², extending to below 1500 m in depth. Of that, 36.28 km² is also a Natura 2000 site, down to the 200 m isobath.

Norway: Six sites were reported in December 2005. The six sites are: *Selligrunnen* (Nature Reserve), *Røstrevet*, *Sularevet*, *Iverryggen*, *Tisler*, and *Fjellknausene*, the latter five of which have fisheries closures to bottom-tending gear. The six in total cover an area of about 1,905.39 km².

Germany: Two extensive sites were reported in January 2006, and two more in April 2006. The sites are: *Helgoland Seabird Protected Area* (a Natura 2000 SPA), *Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea* (National Park and Natura 2000 SCI), *SPA-Eastern German Bight* (Natura 2000 SPA), and *Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park* (Natura 2000 SPA and SAC). The sites comprise a total of 11,922.78 km². In all, more than 90% of German coastal waters are also OSPAR MPAs, with large sections of the EEZ waters included as well.

Sweden

Six sites were reported in January 2006: *Koster-Väderö Archipelago* (some enhanced protections including fisheries restrictions), *Gullmarn Fjord* (also with enhanced protections), *Nordre Älv Estuary* (fisheries closures), *Kungsbacka Fjord* (nature reserve), *Fladen*, and *Lilla Middelgrund*. The six sites overlap Natura 2000 sites, and cover a total of 971.77 km². *Fladen* and *Lilla Middelgrund* both have portions extending into the EEZ (37.62 km² and 159.21 km², respectively).

UK: Fifty-six sites were reported as OSPAR MPAs in January 2006. All sites are also Natura SACs. Please refer to Annex I with regards to their names and details.

France: Eight sites were reported in March 2006: *Réserve Naturelle Nationale de la Baie de Somme*, *Réserve Naturelle de l'Estuaire de la Seine*, *Réserve Naturelle Nationale du Domaine de Beauguillot*, *Réserve Naturelle de la Baie de l'Aiguillon*, *Réserve Naturelle de la baie de Saint Brieuc*, *Archipel des Sept îles*, *Réserve Naturelle de Moëze-Oléron*, and *Réserve Naturelle du Banc d'Arguin*. They together cover an area of about 274.53 km².

Annex III – Historical process of the elaboration of proposals for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ/in the High Seas

Designation of OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ/in the High Seas requires collective agreement and action by the OSPAR Commission. Any proposal for an OSPAR MPA in ABNJ/in the High Seas needs to be considered and eventually agreed by all OSPAR Contracting Parties.

In 2003, a map of the OSPAR Maritime Area has been prepared as a spatial planning tool indicating those areas that do not fall under the jurisdiction of any CP and thus would be considered ABNJ (Figure 1). At that time, ABNJ have been determined by the boundaries of the EEZ of Contracting Parties at 200 nautical miles from the shoreline.

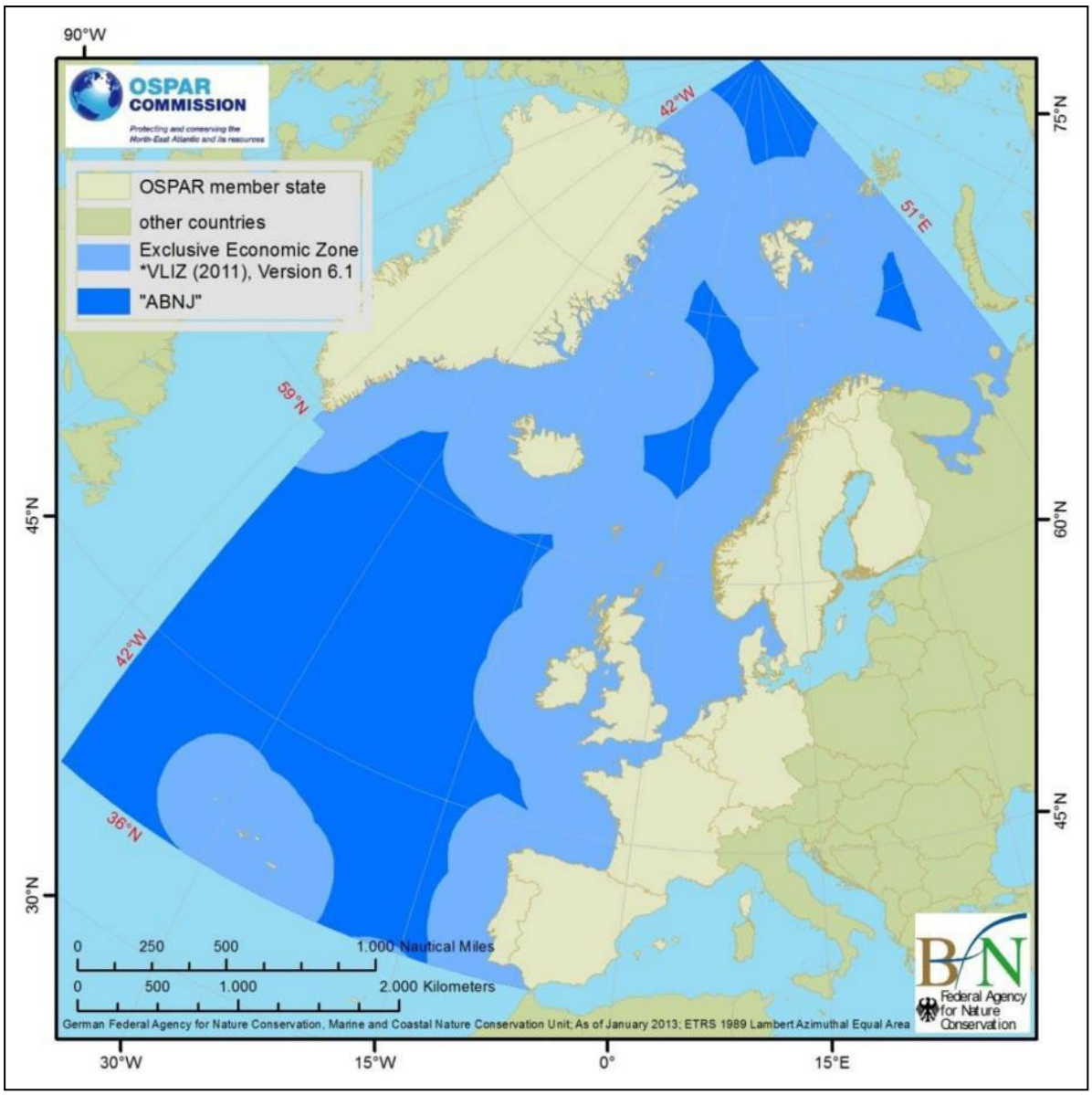

Figure 1. *ABNJ in the OSPAR Maritime Area as defined in 2003*[49].

[49] It has to be noted that since 2003 a number of OSPAR Contracting Parties have made submissions to the UN CLCS for an ECS. These submissions have substantially changed the legal situation in the OSPAR Maritime Area (see Figure 3).

Over the years, a number of proposals for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ have been elaborated. The proposals were originally prepared by the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) and the University of York[50], subsequently reviewed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in 2008 (ICES Advice 2008 Book 1), and gradually finalized by the relevant OSPAR bodies, namely ICG-MPA, BDC, and the Working Group on Marine Protected Areas, Species and Habitats (MASH). As a result, following marine areas have been identified as potential OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ (see Figure 2):

- *Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone/Mid-Atlantic Ridge*
- *Reykjanes Ridge*
- *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores*
- *Milne Seamount Complex*
- *Altair Seamount*
- *Antialtair Seamount*
- *Josephine Seamount Complex*

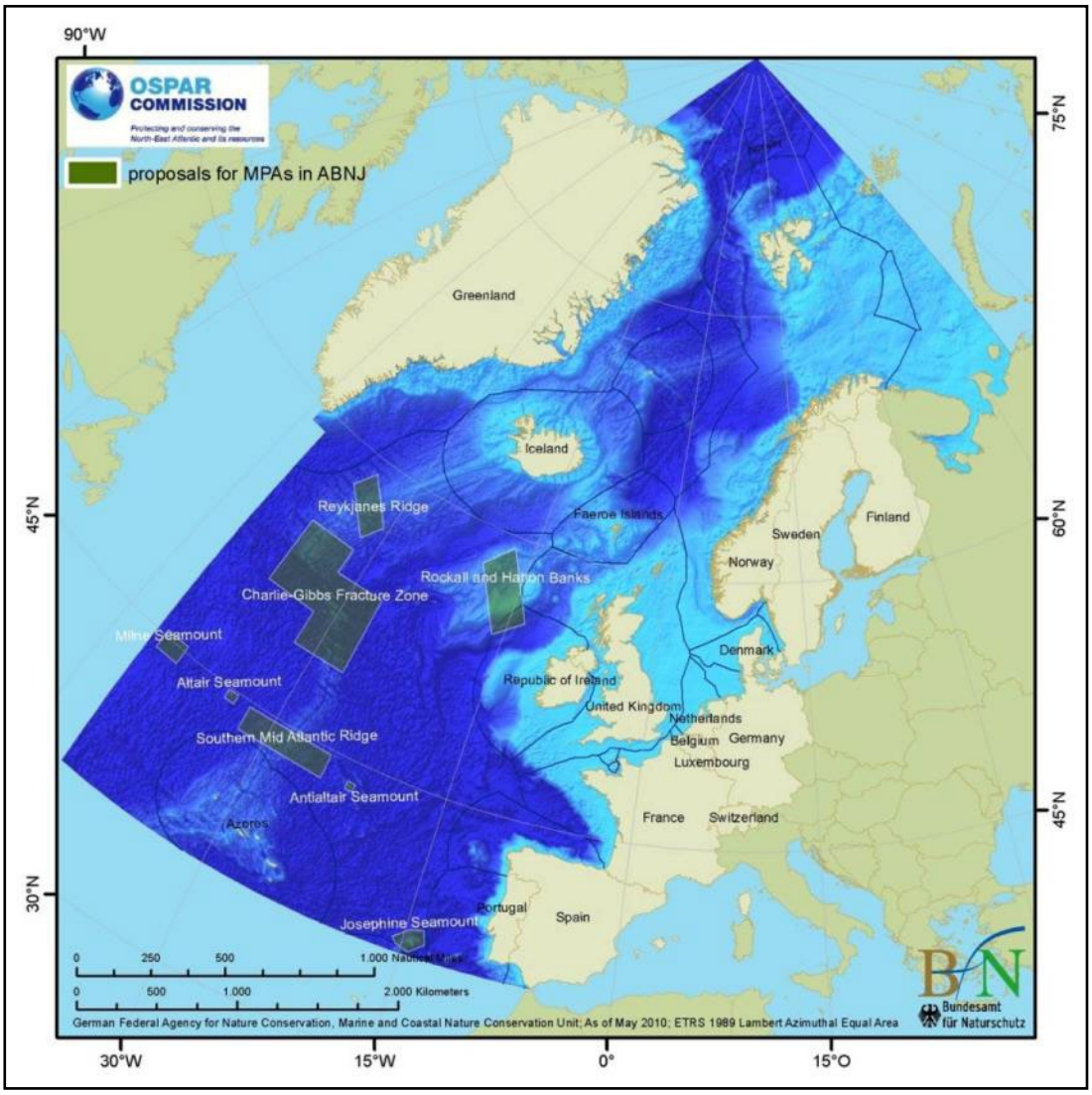

Figure 2. *Marine areas proposed as OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ in 2008.*

[50] The University of York has elaborated these proposals under a contract (2008-2010) provided by the BfN.

Table 3. *Milestones in the elaboration of proposals for OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ until 2010.*

2006	
MASH Working Group March 2007	1st presentation of the nomination proforma for the *Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone* as a potential MPA in ABNJ
2008	
OSPAR Commission June 2008	*Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone* approved *in principle* as a potential MPA in ABNJ.
MASH Working Group October 2008	1st presentation of nomination proformas for *Reykjanes Ridge*, *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores*, *Milne Seamount Complex*, *Altair Seamount*, *Antialtair Seamount*, and *Josephine Seamount Complex* as potential OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ.
	The *Rockall and Hatton Banks* proposal was set aside following concerns brought forward by the UK and Ireland, that the seabed within the proposed area was expected to be subject to submissions for an ECS by a number of States, namely the UK, Ireland, Iceland and Denmark (on behalf of the Faeroe Islands) and that it was not possible to say at this stage which of these four states (if any) may eventually assume sovereign rights over the continental shelf in the proposed area. Furthermore, the proposed sites for *Rockall & Hatton Banks* intruded into Irelands' national EEZ.
2009	
NEAFC Annual Meeting April 2009	NEAFC decided to close five areas on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge to bottom fisheries with a view to protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in ABNJ of the North-East Atlantic (see Figure 3). Pursuant to the competence of NEAFC, this implies that fishing activities by vessels flying the flags of NEAFC Contracting Parties or Co-Operating Non-Contracting Parties, with fishing gear which is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations, are prohibited within these areas. As shown in Figure 3, these areas largely overlapped with four of the proposed OSPAR MPAs (*i.e. Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone*, *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores*, *Altair Seamount*, *Antialtair Seamount*), while the area closure by NEAFC on the *Reykjanes Ridge* was situated next to the proposed MPA by OSPAR. No area has been closed to bottom fisheries by NEAFC in the proposed OSPAR MPAs *Milne Seamount Complex* and *Josephine Seamount Complex*.
OSPAR Commission June 2009	General and specific conservation objectives for the *Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone* agreed upon.
	Reykjanes Ridge, *Mid-Atlantic Ridge north of the Azores*, *Milne Seamount Complex*, *Altair Seamount*, *Antialtair Seamount*, and *Josephine Seamount Complex* approved *in principle*[51] as potential MPAs in ABNJ; general and specific conservation objectives for all these areas agreed upon.
OSPAR Contracting Parties Any time	A number of OSPAR Contracting Parties made submissions to the UN CLCS for an ECS, pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of UNCLOS of 10 December 1982[52]. As a consequence, apart from the *Milne Seamount Complex* all other areas proposed as OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ

[51] Until the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in September 2010 the approval of these MPAs was subject to study reservations from some Contracting Parties.

[52] Visit UN CLCS for details of the submissions made in 2009 by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ireland, Iceland, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, and Spain.

	have entirely or partly been encompassed by areas subject to submissions for an ECS (see Figure 3).

A number of OSPAR Contracting Parties have already made submissions to the UN CLCS for an ECS. These submissions have substantially changed the legal situation in the OSPAR Maritime Area (see Figure 3).

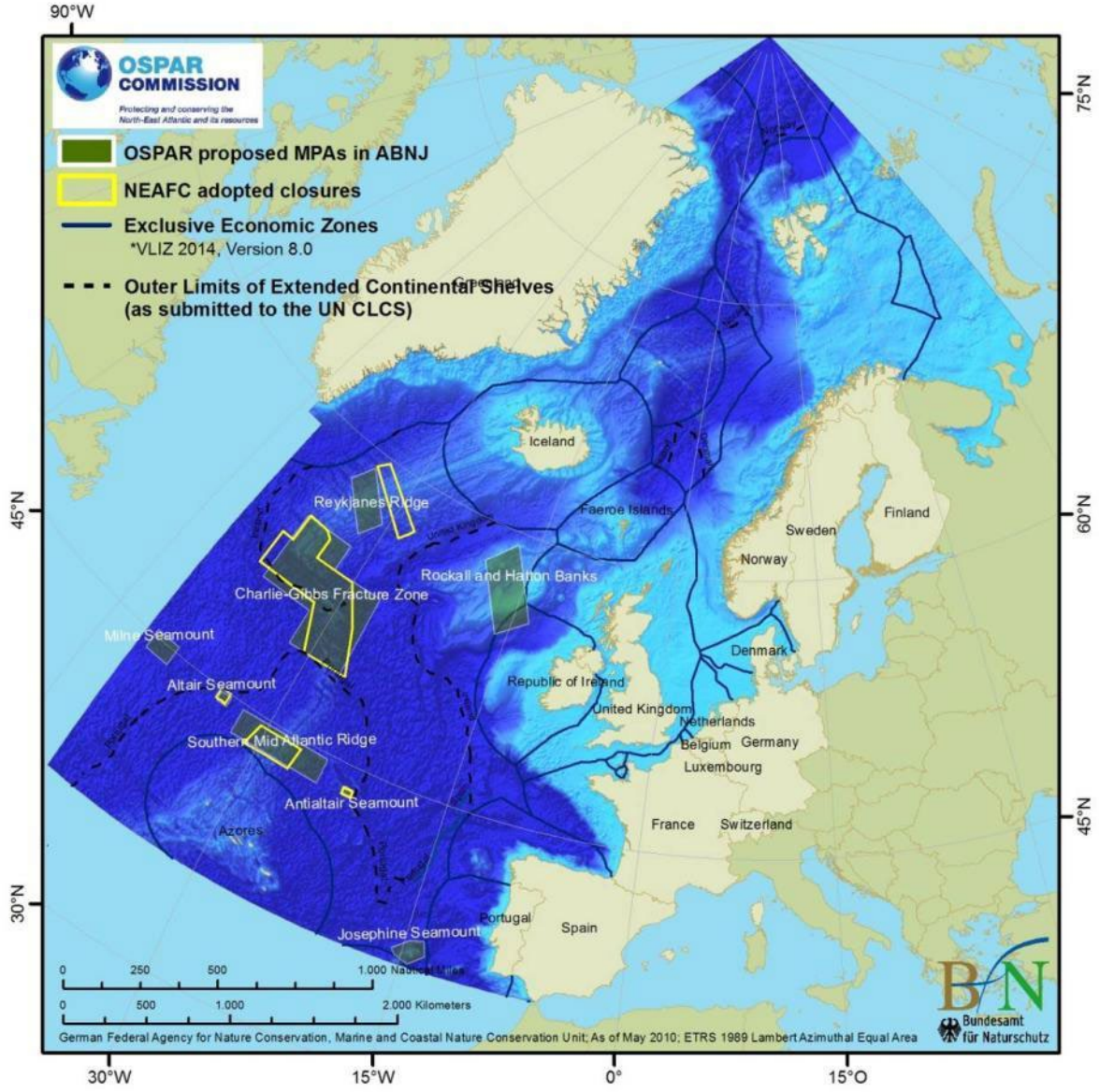

Figure 3. *Submissions of OSPAR Contracting Parties to the UN CLCS for an ECS affected the legal situation within the proposed OSPAR MPAs in ABNJ (as of May 2010)* [53].

[53] The boundaries of Contracting Parties' EEZs have been obtained from the open source VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase. It is noted, that not all of these boundaries as shown in the map have been officially declared by Contracting Parties.

Annex IV – List of Abbreviations

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
BDC	OSPAR Biodiversity Committee
BfN	German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
CBD	Convention of Biological Diversity
CP	Contracting Party
ECS	Extended Continental Shelf
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
HELCOM	The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas/
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICG-MPA	OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Protected Areas
IMO	International Maritime Organization
ISA	International Seabed Authority
IWC	International Whaling Commission
MASH	OSPAR Working Group on Marine Protected Areas, Species and Habitats
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NAMMCO	North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
NCMPA	Nature Conservation MPA
NEAFC	North-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OECM	Other effective area-base conservation measure
OSPAR Convention	Convention for the Protection of the marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
UN CLCS	United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
VMEs	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems
WDPAID	World Database of Protected Areas ID
WWF	World Wide Fund For Nature

[i] https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-08-en.pdf

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Our vision is a clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic Ocean, which is productive, used sustainably and resilient to climate change and ocean acidification.

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