



**OSPAR**  
**COMMISSION**

*Protecting and conserving  
the North-East Atlantic  
and its resources*

## OSPAR Commission: Protecting the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic



Luisa Rodriguez Lucas, Deputy Secretary OSPAR  
3<sup>rd</sup> European Maritime Day Stakeholder Conference  
21 May 2010. Gijón, Spain

# North-East Atlantic Environment Summit

Ministerial Meeting of  
the OSPAR Commission

Bergen, Norway,  
20–24 September 2010

OSPAR's vision is of a clean,  
healthy and biologically  
diverse North-East Atlantic  
used sustainably

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## From Bergen to views for the future

- Quality Status Report 2010
- Revised Strategies
- Mechanism to implement the Marine Strategy Framework Directive within the North-East Atlantic
- Efforts to protect biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)
- Implementing the Ecosystem Approach

# OSPAR Convention



The Oslo  
Convention  
(1972)

The Paris  
Convention  
(1974)

The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the  
North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention, 1992)

Administered by an intergovernmental organisation:  
The OSPAR Commission

# OSPAR Commission

## 16 Contracting Parties

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



## OSPAR Maritime Area and Regions:

Region I: Arctic Waters

Region II: Greater North Sea

Region III: Celtic Seas

Region IV: Bay of Biscay/Iberian Coast

Region V: Wider Atlantic

# OSPAR Convention

## Main Objectives

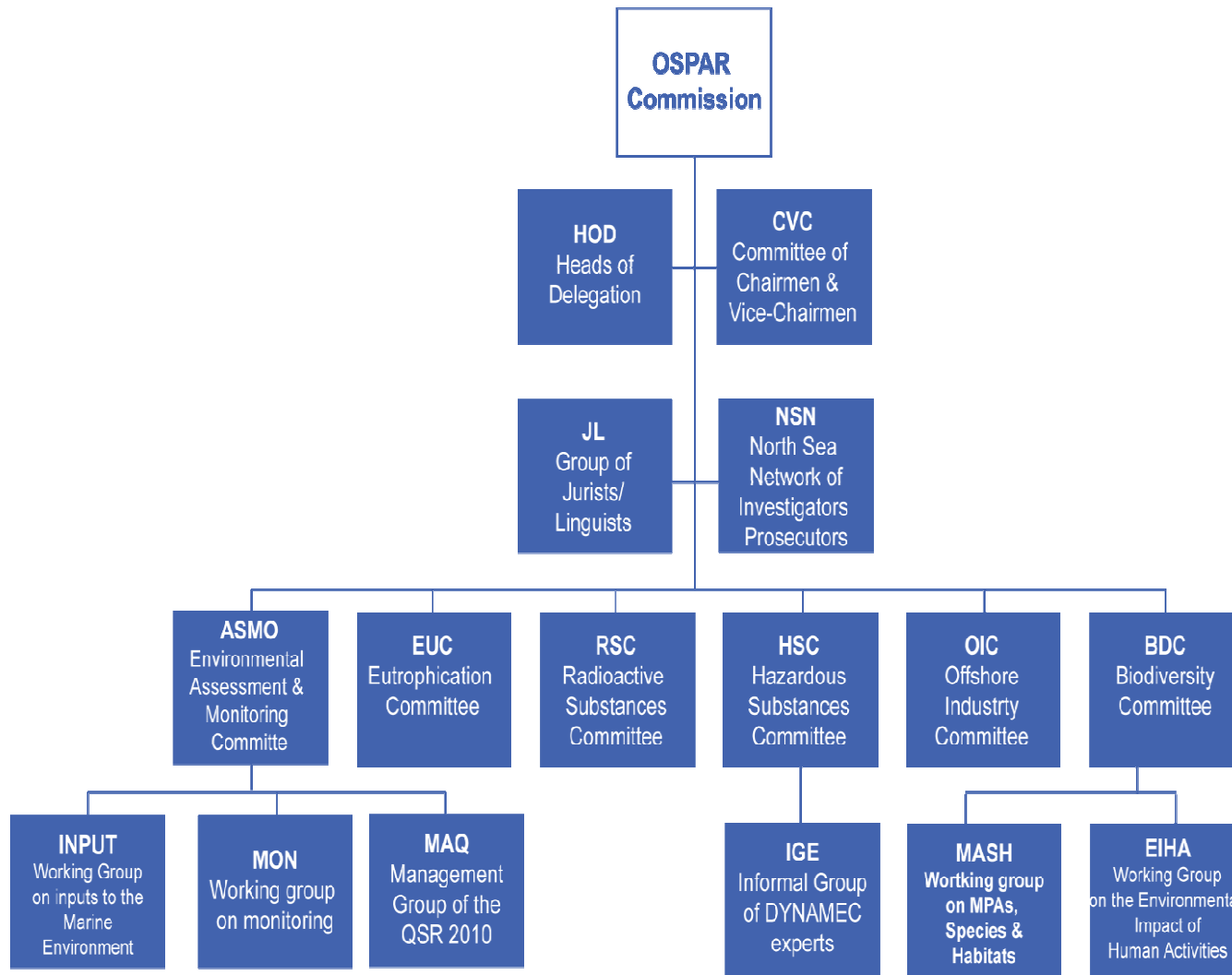
The Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, take all possible steps to **prevent and eliminate pollution** and shall take the necessary measures to **protect the maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities** so as to safeguard human health and to conserve marine ecosystems and, when practicable, restore marine areas which have been adversely affected” (Article 1.a)

## Guiding Principles

- Ecosystem Approach
- Precautionary Principle
- Polluter Pays principle
- Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP)



# How does OSPAR work?



- Decisions, Recommendations and other Agreements
- Implementation Reporting
- Monitoring and Assessment
- Lead country approach
- Active involvement of observers (NGOs, IGOs)

# OSPAR Strategies

## 5 Thematic Strategies

- Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- Offshore Industry
- Hazardous Substances
- Eutrophication
- Radioactive Substances

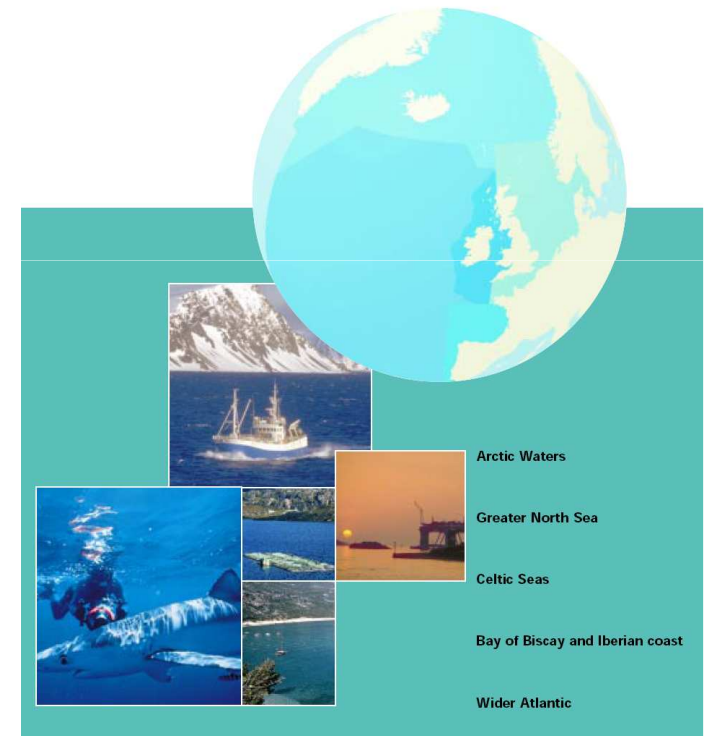
## 6<sup>th</sup> Strategy

- Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP) to assess quality status and progress in implementing the Strategies.



[Go back to opening screen](#)

Quality Status Report 2000





# What is a Quality Status Report?

QSRs are statements on the health status of the sea, including:

- analysis of the hydrodynamics, chemistry, habitats and biota
- the impact of humans over space and time against this background of natural variability
- the cumulative and relative impact of all the human pressures on the marine environment.
- evaluation of the effectiveness of the measures taken
- identification of priorities for action
- basis for further implementing the ecosystem approach

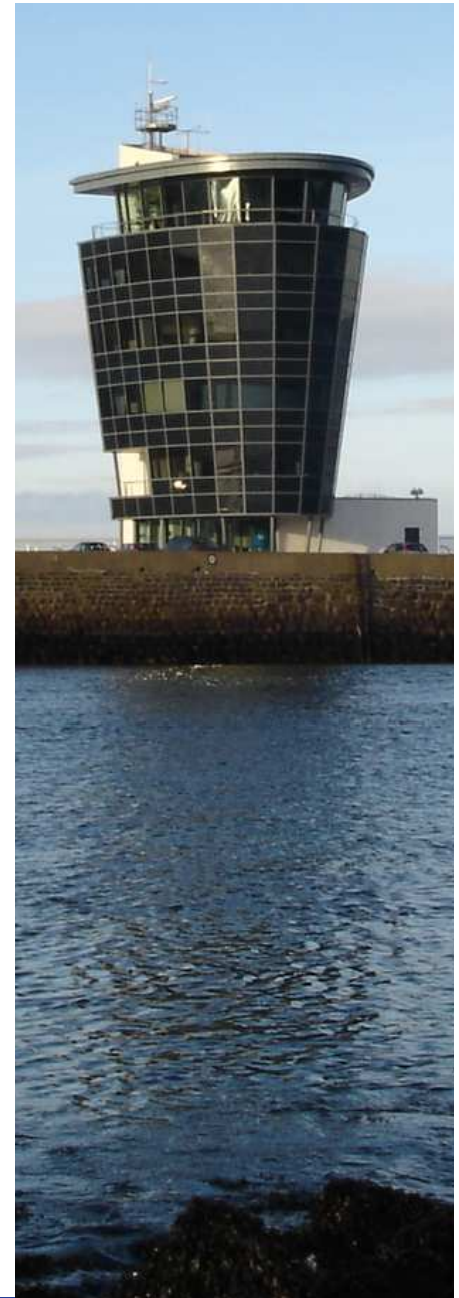


# QSR 2010 contents

- Key findings
- Introduction
- North East-Atlantic
- Climate change
- Eutrophication
- Hazardous substances
- Radioactive substances
- Offshore oil and gas industry
- Use of living marine Resources
- Other human uses and impacts
- Protection and Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- Towards ecosystem assessment
- Regional summaries











Thematic Chapters



# Making the POINT: Thematic Chapter Summary Tables with 'Action Needed'

## Delivering OSPAR Strategy objectives for eutrophication

→ LEGEND: BACK-COVER FOLD-OUT

OSPAR Region	No eutrophication by 2010	Change in status <sup>1</sup>	Key factors and pressures	Outlook for pressures	Action needed
Region I	No problems *	← → *	Atmospheric nitrogen inputs Aquaculture	↑	 OSPAR
Region II	Many problems ***	← → ***	Agriculture Sewage effluents Atmospheric nitrogen inputs	← →	 OSPAR  EU, UNECE, IMO
Region III	Some problems ***	← → ***	Agriculture Sewage effluents Atmospheric nitrogen inputs	← →	 OSPAR  EU, UNECE, IMO
Region IV	Some problems ***	← → ***	Agriculture Sewage effluents Atmospheric nitrogen inputs	← →	 OSPAR  EU, UNECE, IMO
Region V	No problems *	← → *	Atmospheric nitrogen inputs	↑	 OSPAR

<sup>1</sup>2001-2005 relative to 1990-2000.



- Thank you!
- Questions?  
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