

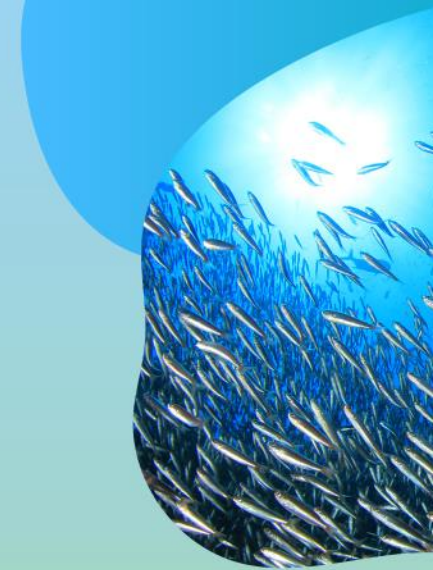


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RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS



State of Play on Marine Protected Areas in the Atlantic and Arctic Sea Basin

**Debbie Hembury
Deputy Secretary, OSPAR Commission**



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QUALITY STATUS REPORT 2023



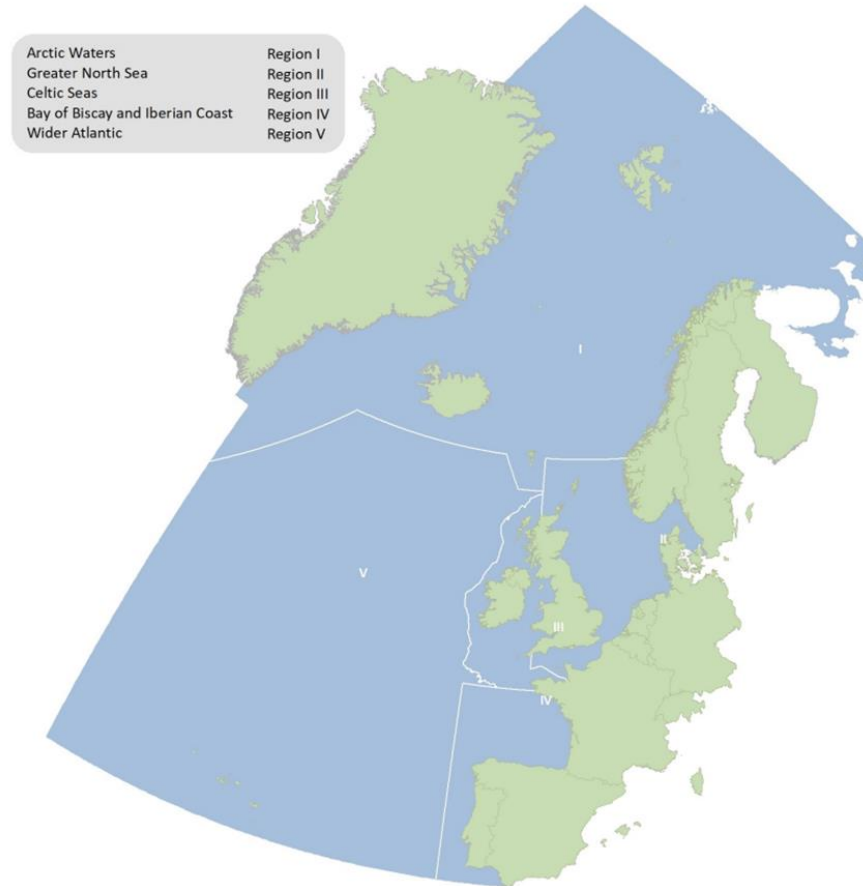
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State of Play on Marine Protected Areas in the Atlantic and Arctic Sea Basin

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Deputy Secretary, Biodiversity, OSPAR Commission

- Regional Sea Convention for the North-East Atlantic
- 16 Contracting Parties
- Collaboration and coordination on marine issues within the NE Atlantic region and beyond
 - Contracting Parties, OSPAR Observers, international organisations, regional organisations, civil society, private sector, research institutes, experts
 - 65 Observer organisations
 - MoUs with other competent regional and global bodies



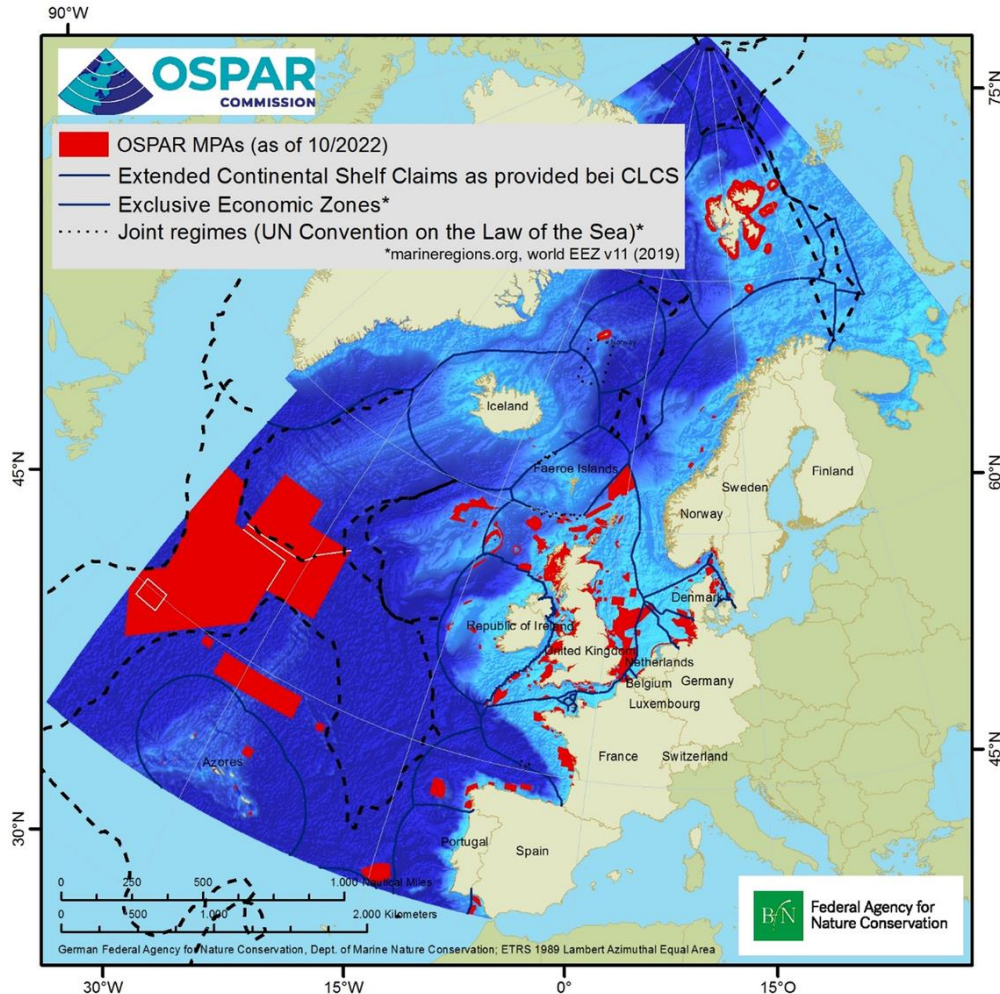
Credit: OSPAR Commission



OSPAR's 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



OSPAR's Marine Protected Areas

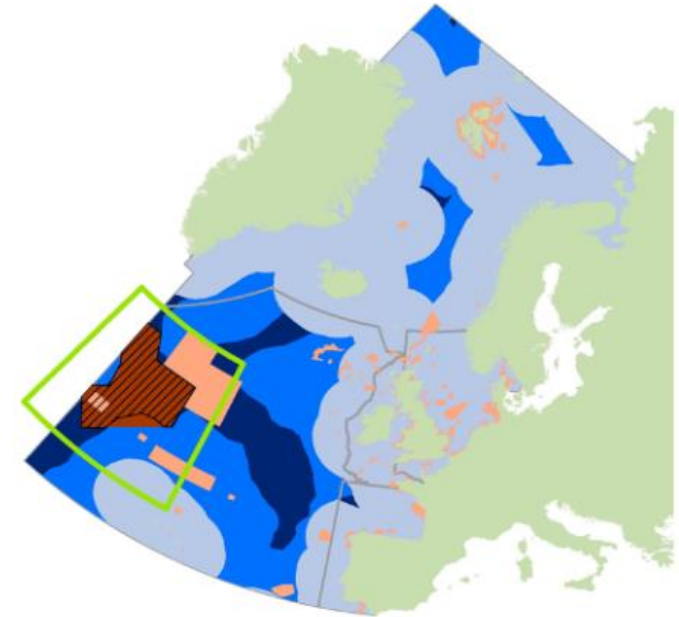


- By 2022, 592 MPAs have been nominated to the OSPAR Network of MPAs, representing **10.9% of the OSPAR Maritime Area**.
- Of the 592 OSPAR MPAs, twelve have been designated in ABNJ. They cover 1 055 043 km², representing **19.5% of OSPAR's Maritime Area beyond national jurisdiction**.

Sea Area	Coverage of MPAs
Territorial waters	21%
Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)	2.9%
Beyond the limits of EEZ	19.5%

OSPAR Region	Coverage of MPAs
Arctic Waters: Region I	2%
The Greater North Sea: Region II	20.3%
Celtic Seas: Region III	20%
Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast: Region IV	6%
Wider Atlantic: Region V	17.4%

- North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Sea Basin (NACES) MPA - within OSPAR Region V (Wider Atlantic), fully in ABNJ
- Covers both the water column and the seabed, ocean floor and subsoil thereof
- Covers nearly 600 000 km², increasing coverage of MPAs in Region V from 8.9% to 17.4%
- Protects seabirds and additional OSPAR listed features
- Agreed in 2021 and entered into force in 2022
- The MPA extension to the seabed, ocean floor and subsoil thereof agreed in June 2023 and will come into force in 2024

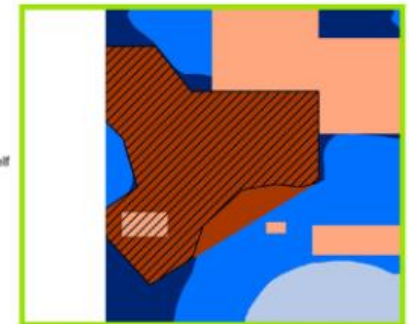


0 625 1250 km

Legend

- Existing OSPAR MPAs
- NACES MPA - Seafloor
- NACES MPA - Water column
- OSPAR Boundary
- Submissions on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
- Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
- Exclusive Economic Zones

Coordinate Reference System:
 Top: Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area: EPSG 3035
 Inset: WGS84: EPSG 4326



0 250 500 km
 Inset map from the above frame

Multilateral cooperation

- Political will/mandate
- Building trust; stakeholder engagement and consultation
- Understanding context, e.g. varying size (GDP & EEZ)
- Shared understanding, e.g. interpretations of social and environmental values
- Understand national agendas amongst the Parties (conservation, food, defense, energy, transportation)

Science-policy alignment

- Consider and work with timing constraints
- Shared understanding of uncertainty and scientific evidence
- The use of language and terminology – 11 languages

Governance

- Consider interested organisations with different competencies
- Binding only on OSPAR Parties



Credit: BirdLife



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Focus of future work on MPAs

Identify additional areas of ecological importance and continue to expand the network

Developing management measures

Assessing the eco-coherence of the OSPAR network

Building climate adaptation and resilience in to MPA designation and management

Credit: BirdLife



Credit: ©Shutterstock

The **Arctic Outcomes Working Group** was established in 2022 to deliver the OSPAR Commission's **2022-2025 Arctic Outcomes Roadmap**

This Roadmap sets out the steps considered necessary to **support the OSPAR Commission's commitment to protect the Arctic marine environment in the OSPAR Maritime Area**



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Thank you!

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