



The Ecosystem Approach to Management of Arctic

Ecosystems:

Status of implementation

23-25 August 2016

Fairbanks Alaska

Highlighting the work of the OSPAR Commission

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Deputy Secretary
OSPAR Commission



**OSPAR
COMMISSION**

OSPAR Convention – 1992

Convention for the protection of the marine environment
of the North East Atlantic

Main Objectives and obligation to:

- **Prevent and eliminate pollution**
- **Protect the OSPAR maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities**
- **Safeguard human health and conserve marine ecosystems**
- **When practicable, restore marine areas**

Guiding Principles:

- **Ecosystem Approach – the overarching concept and basis for OSPAR's work**
- **Precautionary Principle**
- **Polluter Pays principle**
- **Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices**



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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

The North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy

Part I: Implementing the Ecosystem Approach

Part II: Thematic Strategies:

Biological Diversity and Ecosystems

Eutrophication

Hazardous Substances

Offshore Oil and Gas Industry

Radioactive Substances

The Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme

How OSPAR works in practice

Annual meeting schedule of Contracting Parties and observers facilitated by the Secretariat

All Committees have agreed strategies

Permanent subsidiary bodies have Terms of Reference

Importance of:

- lead country approach
- intersessional work
- national workshops

OSPAR Rules of Procedure

Programmes and measures can be adopted under OSPAR in the form of:

**Decisions
Recommendations
other agreements**



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OSPAR Commission

**Heads of
Delegation**

**Chairs and Vice-
Chairs**

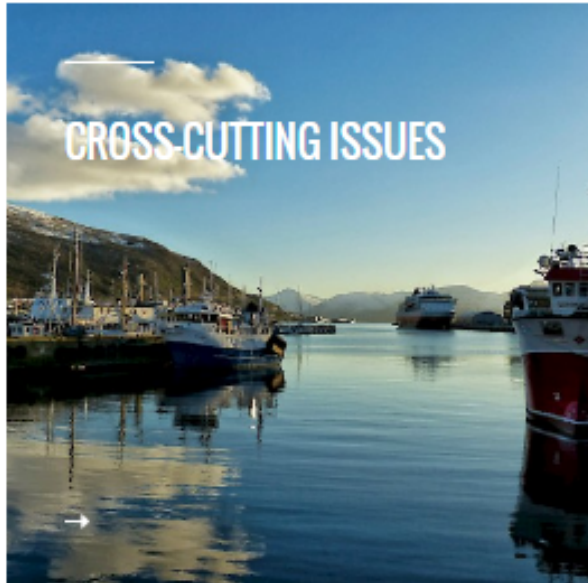
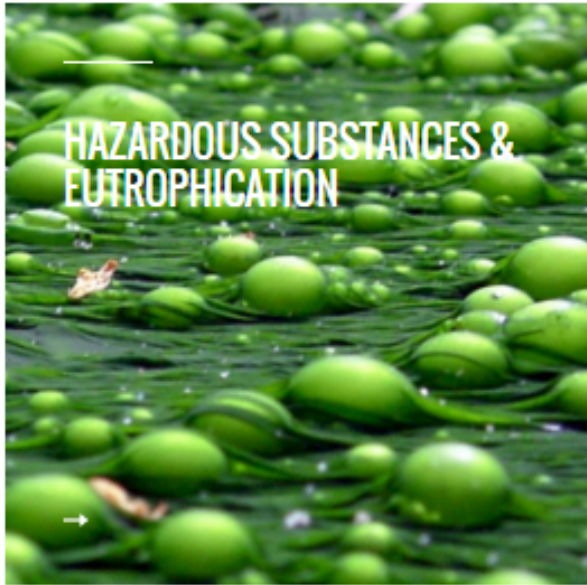
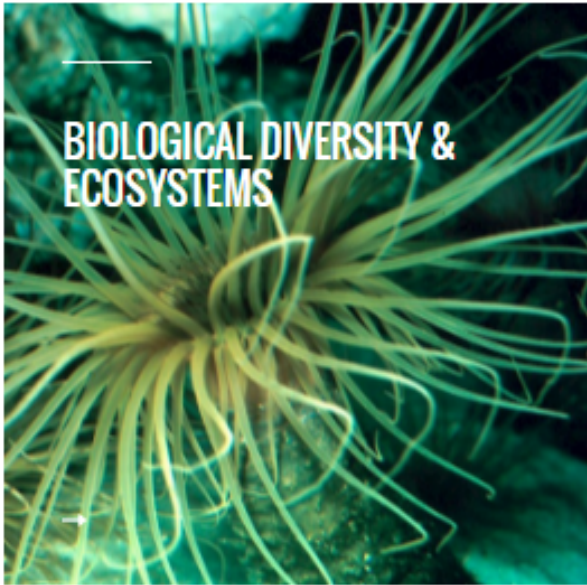
**Coordination
Group**

Jurists Linguists



Applying an Ecosystem Approach to Managing Human Activities







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Human activities – These interact!

Fisheries (no OSPAR measures)
Shipping
Dumping and Dredging
Offshore renewable energy
Oil and gas exploration
Coastal defence and other structures
Cables and pipelines
Artificial reefs
Land reclamation
Sand and gravel extraction
Tourism
Mariculture
Marine litter
Underwater noise
Dumped munitions



OSPAR recognises that to achieve its commitment to an ecosystem approach, to cooperate with other organisations;

Bilateral arrangements, MoUs, other formal frameworks;

The collective arrangement, First step has been agreement between OSPAR and NEAFC

Cooperation with international organisations

NEAFC – Fisheries

NASCO - Salmon

IMO - Shipping

ISA - Seabed

Abidjan Convention –

Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region

HELCOM – Baltic Sea

Barcelona Convention - Mediterranean

Black Sea Convention

ICES

EEA - European Environment Agency

EMSA - European Maritime Safety Agency

Enhancing cooperation between OSPAR Committees and Arctic Council Working Groups

- AMAP & HASEC
- CAFF/PAME & BDC
- PAME & OIC
- RSC & EPPR
- EIHA
- NSN

