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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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
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
OSPAR Commission

- Heads of Delegation
- Chairs and Vice-Chairs
- Coordination Group
- Jurists Linguists
Applying an Ecosystem Approach to Managing Human Activities
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