



OSPAR
QUALITY STATUS REPORT 2023



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OSPAR's Quality Status Reports in a changing world

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Ilse van de Velde (IenW/DGWB) and Lisette Enserink (RWS)



THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC OCEAN

Key findings from OSPAR's
Quality Status Report 2023



Protecting and conserving the
North-East Atlantic and its resources



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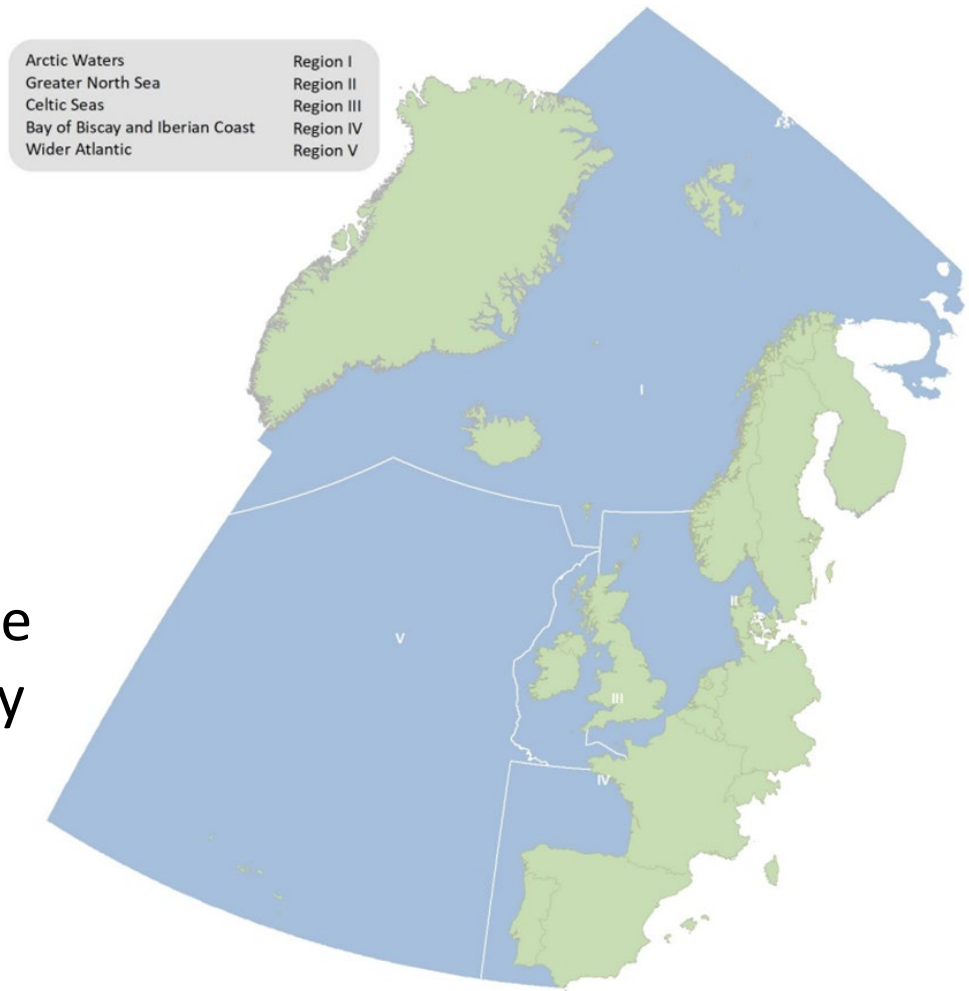
What is OSPAR?

Regional Sea Convention for the
North-East Atlantic

16 Contracting Parties

Mandate to protect and conserve
while using resources sustainably

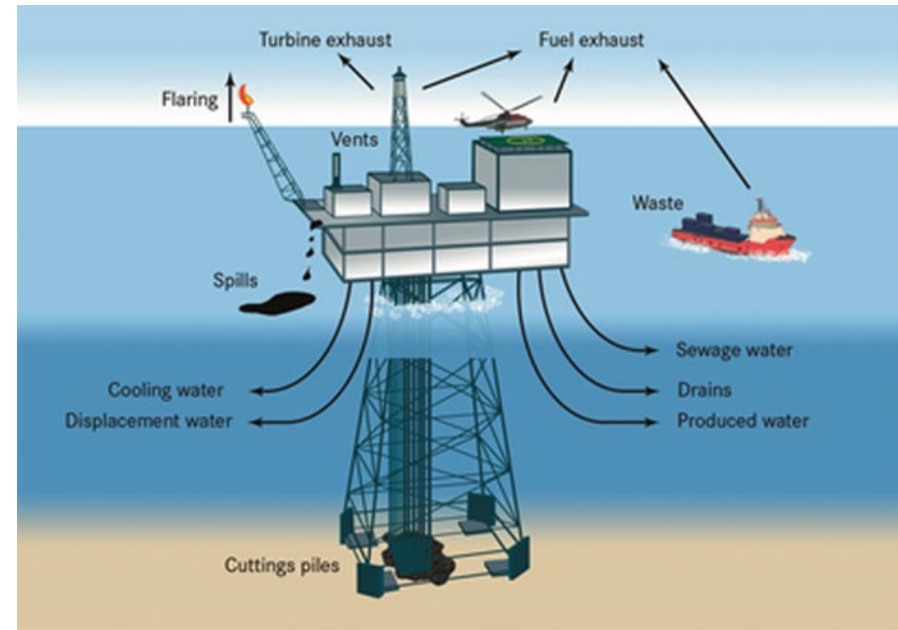
Collaboration and coordination





Key findings: human activities

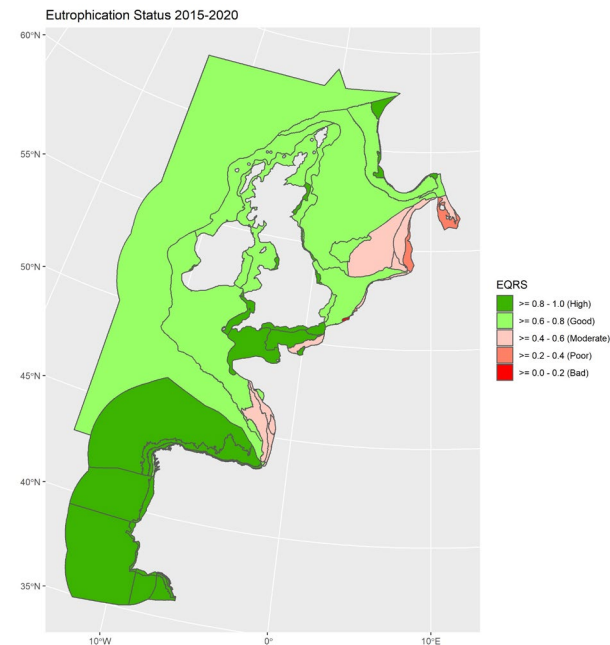
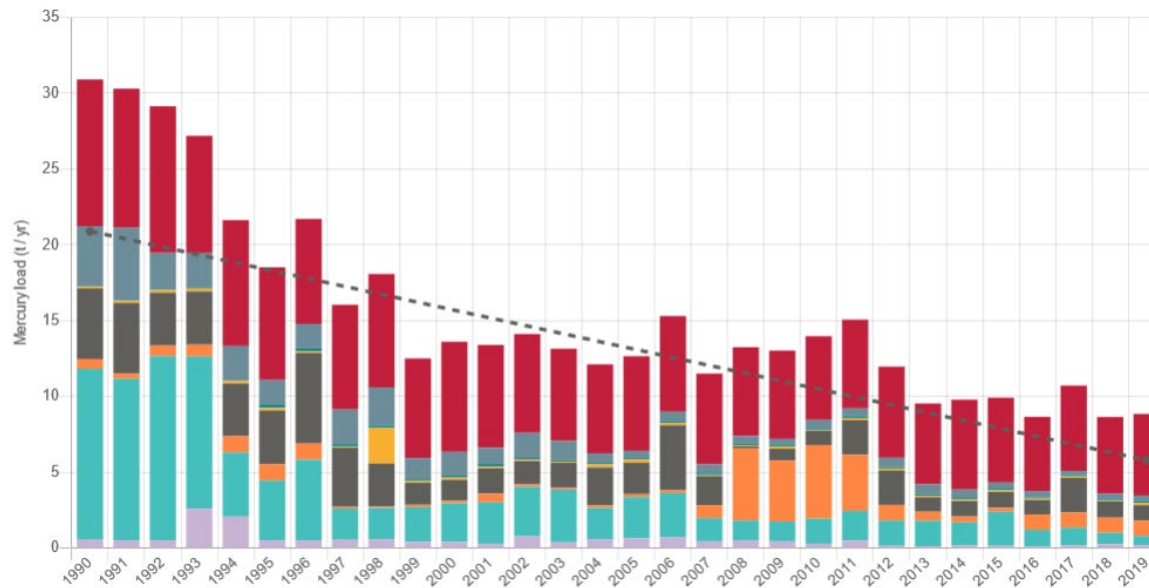
- Negative impacts from oil & gas continue to decrease
- Pollution by radioactive substances prevented
- Introductions of Non-indigenous species have decreased





Key findings: human activities

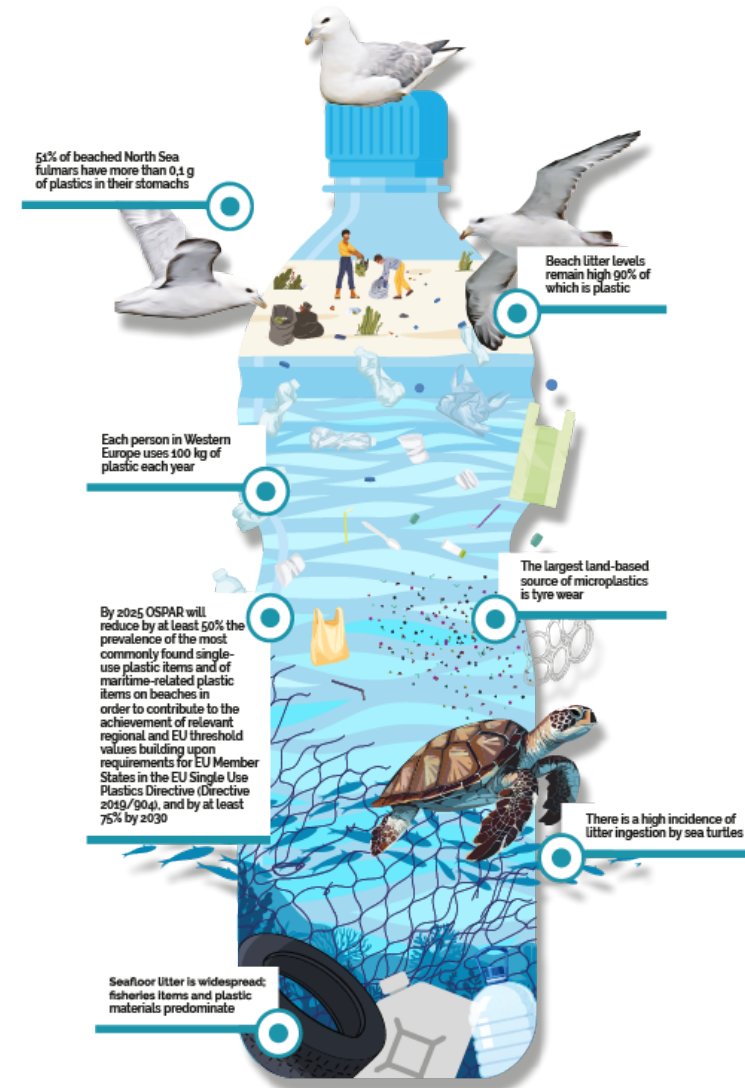
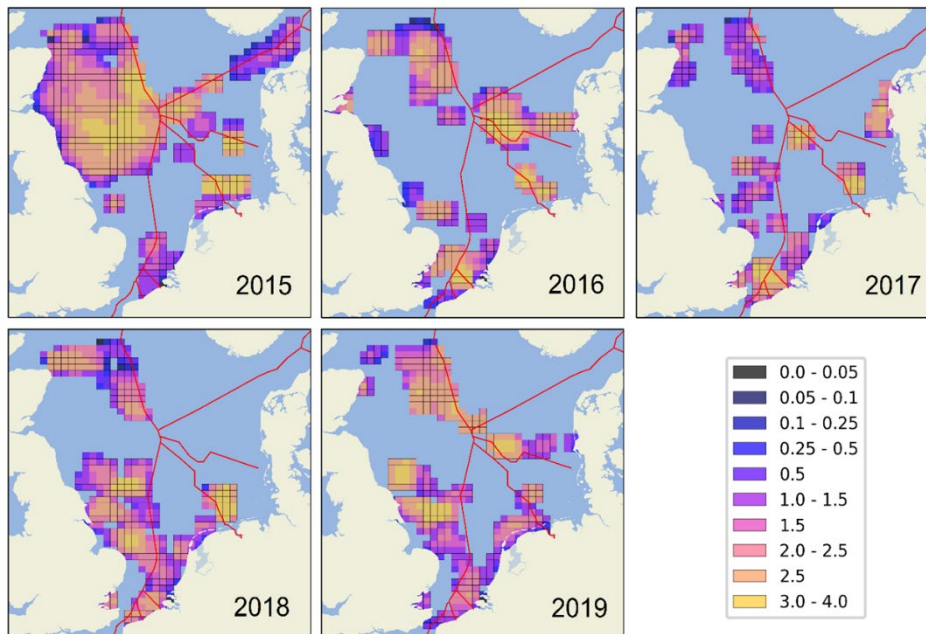
- Hazardous substances are cause for concern
- Eutrophication persists





Key findings: human activities

- Noise pollution remains a threat
- Marine litter levels remain high





Key findings: Biodiversity

- Marine birds are still in trouble
- Many marine mammals remain at risk, even while some species are recovering
- Despite improvements in some fish populations, many are not in good status
- Benthic habitats continue to be damaged
- Pelagic habitats not in good status
- The state of marine food webs is of great concern

MARINE BIRDS ARE NOT IN GOOD STATUS

KEY:



BIRD SPECIES GROUP

GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

NOT GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

NOT ASSESSED

PRESSURES AFFECTING BIRDS IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC MARINE PROTECTED AREA

- Prey depletion
- Extraction of, or mortality/injury to, marine birds
- Disturbance of species
- Input or spread of Non-Indigenous Species
- Input of litter
- Availability of prey affected by climate change
- Overfishing of prey species
- Accidental catch in fishing gear
- Marine litter ingestion and entanglement
- Invasive predatory mammals in breeding colonies
- Habitat loss and degradation

V. WIDER ATLANTIC



OVERALL STATUS: NOT ASSESSED IN THIS REPORT

IV. BAY OF BISCAY & IBERIAN COAST



OVERALL STATUS: NOT GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

I. ARCTIC WATERS



OVERALL STATUS: NOT GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

II. GREATER NORTH SEA



OVERALL STATUS: NOT GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

III. CELTIC SEAS



OVERALL STATUS: NOT GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

THE STATE OF PELAGIC HABITATS

PELAGIC HABITAT



KEY:



III. CELTIC SEAS



VARIABLE SALINITY HABITATS



COASTAL HABITATS



SHELF HABITATS

IV. BAY OF BISCAY & IBERIAN COAST



VARIABLE SALINITY HABITATS



COASTAL HABITATS



SHELF HABITATS



OCEANIC / BEYOND SHELF HABITATS

II. GREATER NORTH SEA



VARIABLE SALINITY HABITATS



COASTAL HABITATS



SHELF HABITATS

PRESSURES AFFECTING PELAGIC HABITATS IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

- Changes in nutrients
- Input of organic matter
- Increased sea temperatures
- Acidification
- Changes in upwelling intensity
- Open ocean stratification



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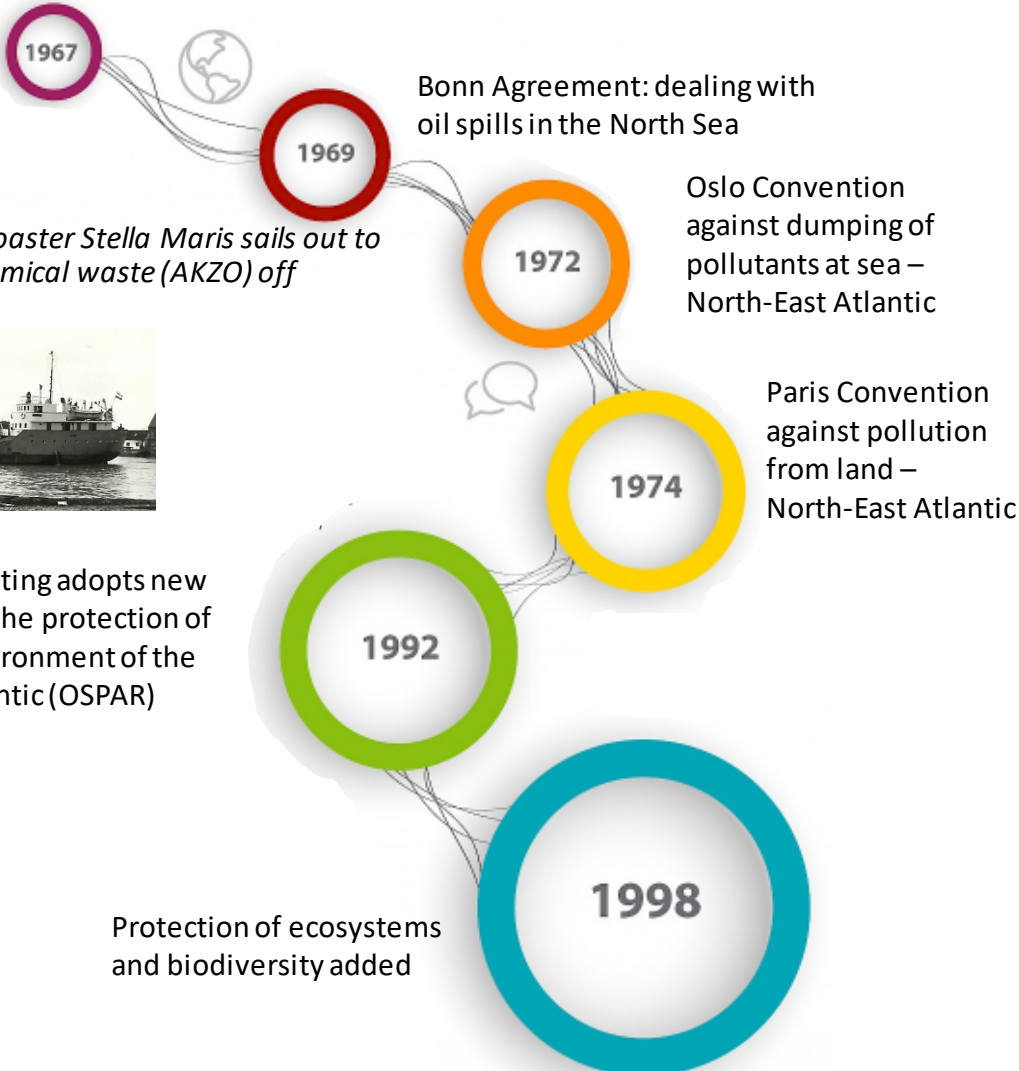
*Cornwall, March 1967:
supertanker Torrey
Canyon loses
117.000 t crude oil*

*Rotterdam, July 1971: coaster Stella Maris sails out to
dump 600 tonnes of chemical waste (AKZO) off
Norwegian coast*



Ministerial meeting adopts new
convention for the protection of
the marine environment of the
North-East Atlantic (OSPAR)

OSPAR timeline



The story of... OSPAR's Quality Status Reports



Five Regional reports and first OSPAR wide assessment:

- **Climate change:** 1200 words
- **Fisheries impacts:** 1600 words
- **Litter:** 1000
- **Biodiversity:** 2800
- Total: 114 pages



OSPAR wide assessment:

- **Climate change:** chapter
- **Fisheries impacts:** chapter + 2 supporting assessments + 2 EcoQOs
- **Litter:** section + 1 supporting assessment
- **Biodiversity:** chapter on MPAs and threatened and declining species + 2 EcoQOs

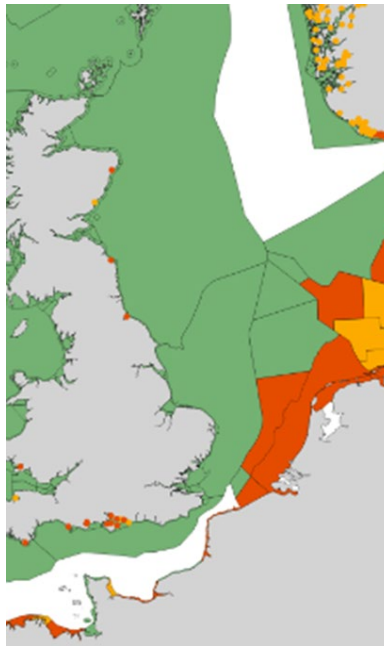


OSPAR wide assessment:

- **Climate change:** one chapter + thematic assessment + 1 supporting assessment
- **Fisheries impacts:** Fish thematic assessment + 7 indicators + 17 supporting assessments
- **Litter:** 1 section + thematic assessment + 3 indicators + 2 supporting assessments
- **Biodiversity:** 1 chapter + 5 thematic assessments + 23 indicators + 25 supporting assessments

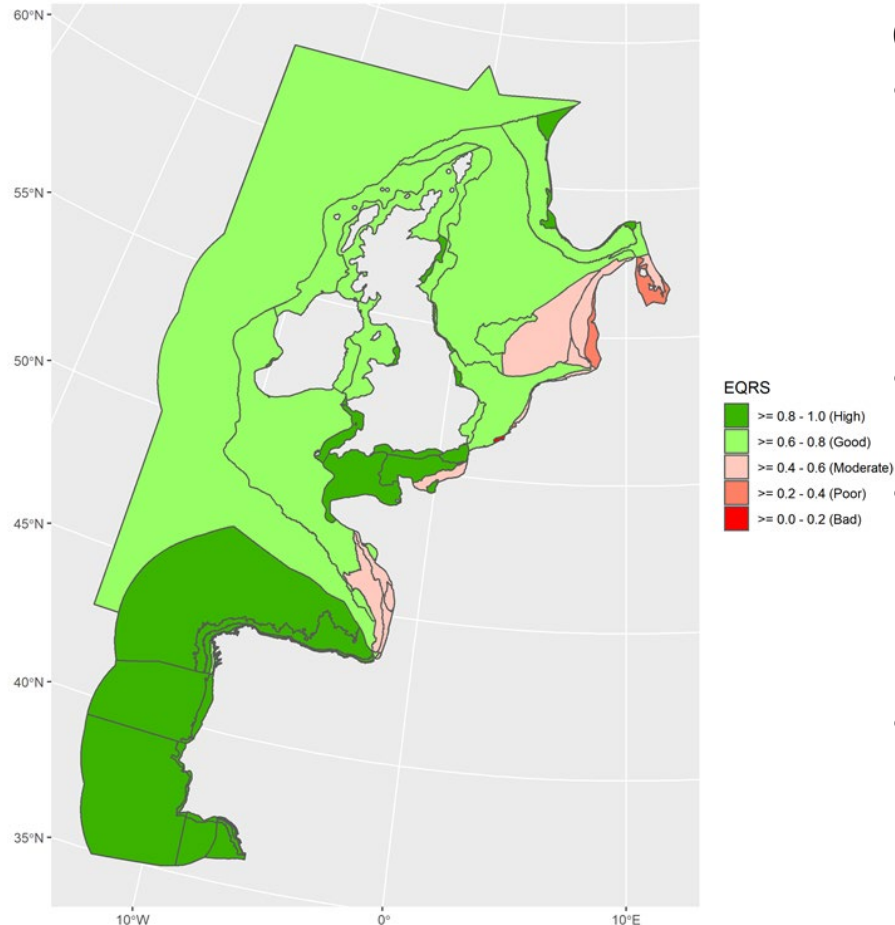


Improving our assessments - eutrophication



National
assessments
until 2017

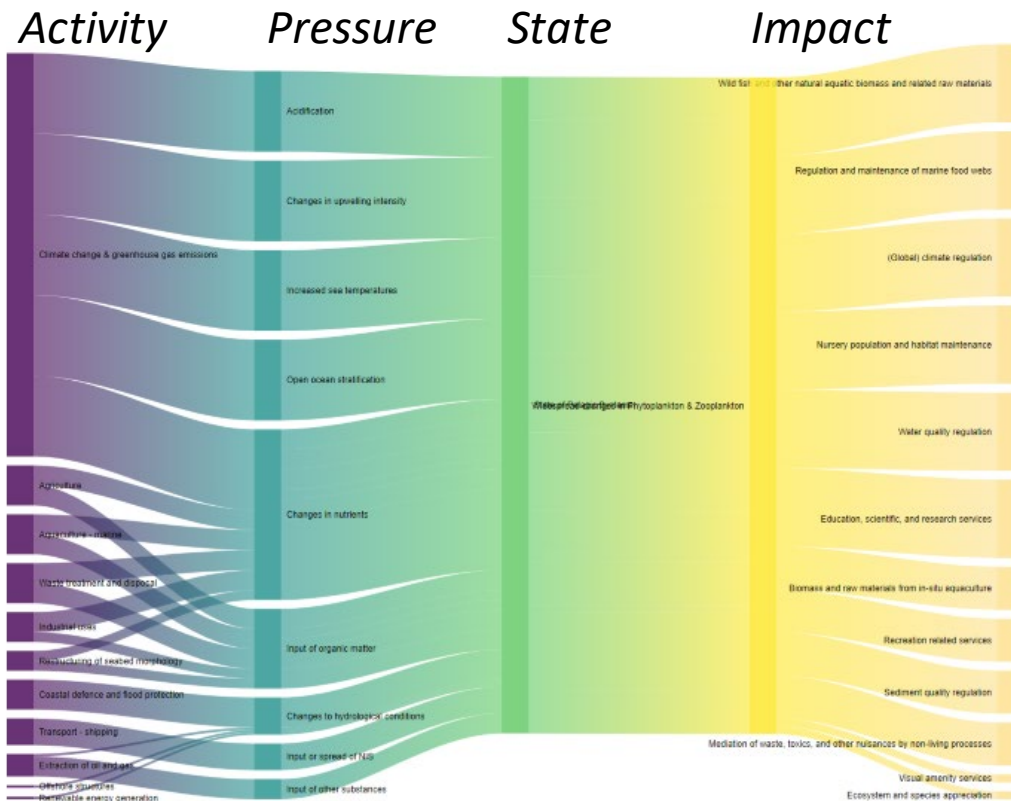
Eutrophication Status 2015-2020



QSR 2023

- coherent assessment outcomes across country borders
- ***common basis for joint measures***
- ecologically relevant assessment areas
- incorporation of chlorophyll-*a* satellite data next to *in situ* data
- more precise description of assessment procedure

Tackling cumulative impacts



- Ranking pressures according to impacts on ecosystem components since QSR 2000
- QSR 2023: Sankey diagram, example pelagic habitats
- New: impacts on ecosystem services, to close the DAPSIR cycle
- Need for better pressure - state - impact relationships



Remaining science needs

OSPAR science agenda update:

- all QSR 2023 knowledge gaps and priorities based on OSPAR's strategic objectives (North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030)
- available in 2024

Get inspired:

www.ospar.org/work-areas/cross-cutting-issues/science-agenda



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

OSPAR Science Agenda 2018 Update

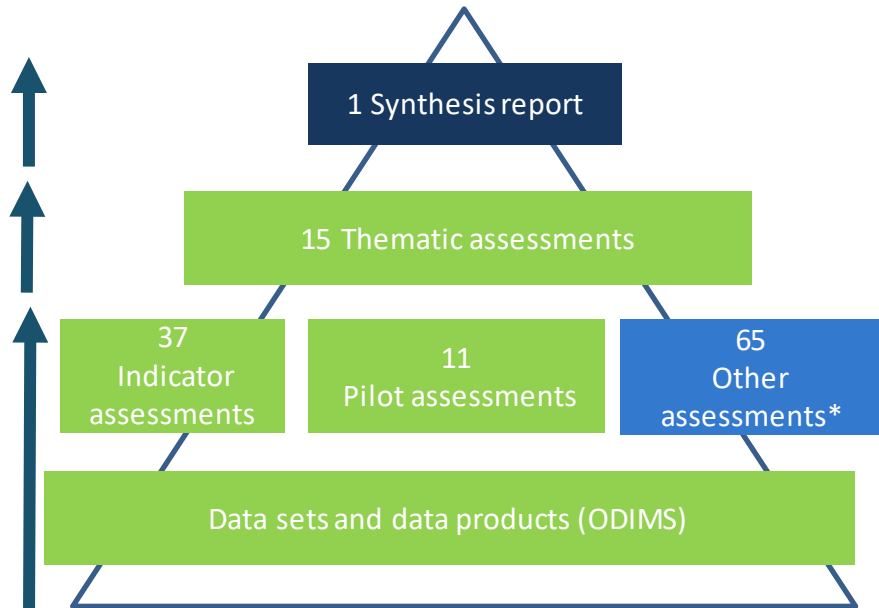


Monitoring and Assessment Series

2019



From QSR to MSFD assessment



*3rd party and OSPAR non indicator assessments



Target audience

Policy makers & General public

Experts and administrations



Mariene Strategie (deel 1)

Actualisatie van huidige milieutoestand, goede milieutoestand, milieudoelen en indicatoren.

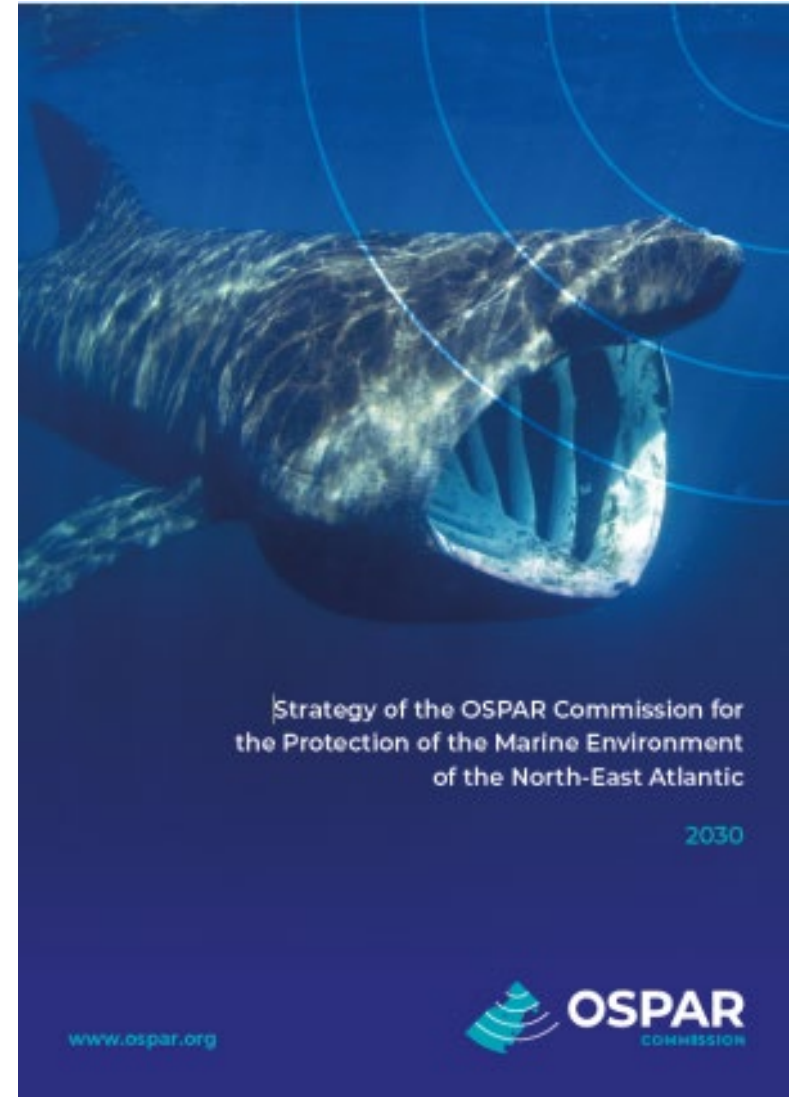
2024-2030





Looking ahead

- Achieving the strategic objectives of the OSPAR strategy 2030 + implementation of the actions
- Implementation NL marine strategy with focus on environmental target and measures





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More info on
the OSPAR website:

www.ospar.org



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