



OSPAR Commission
The Aspect
12 Finsbury Square
London, EC2A 1AS

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs

By email

15 June 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Response by the OSPAR Commission to the request pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/248 of 30 December 2022, entitled “Oceans and Law of the Sea”, for an OSPAR contribution to the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly

The following is the contribution by the OSPAR Commission to the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/748, as requested in a letter from Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under Secretary-General in charge of the Office of Legal Affairs, dated 21 March 2023.

Introduction

The OSPAR Convention is the legal instrument guiding international cooperation on the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic (NEA). The activities and work under the Convention aim to protect and improve the quality of the NEA and ensure the sustainable use of its resources.

OSPAR started with the Oslo and Paris Conventions of 1972 and 1974 respectively, aimed at reducing marine dumping at sea, and 2 years later it integrated land-based sources of pollution and offshore activities. The Oslo and Paris Conventions were later unified and updated to become the OSPAR Convention

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State of the North-East Atlantic

The key OSPAR deliverable this year is its Quality Status Report (QSR) 2023. This holistic, once in a decade, assessment provides the scientific knowledge and evidence that will be used to better inform and guide the development of actions to achieve OSPAR's vision of a

The QSR addresses all aspects of marine biodiversity from fish to birds and whales and the pelagic and benthic habitats they rely on. It looks at the intensity of human activities and the pressures that result from



information and traditional knowledge. The goal of this work is to identify and develop proposals for possible OSPAR measures and actions to enhance protection of the Arctic marine environment in the OSPAR Maritime Area.

I confirm that the full text of this report can be made available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

Kind regards

Dominic Pattinson

Executive Secretary