

Overview of OSPAR's activities with relevance to the ocean affairs and UN Law of the Sea 2012 – 2013

Executive Summary

The OSPAR Convention is the legal instrument guiding international cooperation on the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. Work under the Convention is managed by the OSPAR Commission, made up of representatives of fifteen Governments and the European Commission, representing the European Union.

OSPAR is continuing work to reduce pollution and protect biodiversity focused on the bio-geographic and ecosystem characteristics of its region. Progress includes further development of Recommendations for the protection and conservation of species and habitats that are listed as threatened and/or declining in the OSPAR maritime area. In addition, OSPAR has carried out a regional Economic and Social Analysis and developed, jointly with the Helsinki Commission, Guidelines related to the granting of exemptions to the Ballast Water Management Convention to ensure a consistent approach and protection of the marine environment.

OSPAR continues to implement its work related to the establishment of a network of Marine Protected Areas across the OSPAR maritime area. OSPAR has worked cl

Cooperation with coastal African States

OSPAR is continuing to develop its relationship with the Abidjan Convention; The Convention for the Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region. Current activity is focused on developing a functional MOU to enhance exchange of experience, including mutual observership at commission meetings.