assessments of the marine environment. These products are holistic, like the Quality Status Report, the last launched in 2010, the next to be produced in 2023) presenting overall assessments of the marine environment alongside with an evaluation of the effectiveness of measures taken, trends and proposals for new measures. There are interim evaluations, like the Intermediate Assessment launched in 2017. Some OSPAR Committees (OIC and RSC) produce annual assessments of their activities and achievements. All assessments are available to the scientific community and the general public and linked to data and maps.

OSPAR streamlines its scientific priorities through the establishment of a science agenda which identifies knowledge gaps through the application of a set of criteria to determine the need for effective measures, including reducing adverse impacts on the marine environment.

OSPAR functions as a data hub and manages all datastreams through the online OSPAR Data and Information Management System (ODIMS). The system was further developed to enhance OSPARs capacity to manage an increasing number of datastreams and to make sure that all of the data used by OSPAR are available via an online tool supporting repeatable, accessible and transparent periodic assessments and reports. OSPAR data work is guided by the OSPAR data and information management strategy, the key elements and actions of which are outlined on the OSPAR webpage titled 'data and information', under 'cross-cutting issues'[1].

Since its launching in 2016, ODIMS has successfully ingested over 334 individual datasets including spatial and tabulated data, as well as corresponding supplementary information where required. There are 89 individual submissions supporting the Intermediate Assessment 2017 alone, with 25 interactive maps directly embedded into the OSPAR Assessment Portal (OAP) (https://oap.ospar.org).

The Ecosystem approach is the OSPAR's guiding principle. Part of an ecosystem approach is to assess cumulative effects of multiple human activities in a specified marine area. This assessment is done by addressing the causes, pathways of exposure and consequences of these effects on ecosystem components of the North-East Atlantic.

Cumulative effects assessment cuts across the work of all OSPAR committees and expert groups. OSPAR counts with a specific group of experts developing studies to understand how the indicators and datasets can be combined to better assess cumulative effects from the various human activities impacting the marine environment and has identified an effective methodology.

Climate change and ocean acidification are cross-cutting subjects throughout five thematic OSPAR Strategies. OSPAR started to monitor the level of ocean acidification by studying the spatial and temporal changes in ocean biogeochemistry in its maritime area in order to detect and interpret how ecosystems respond to these perturbations. Monitoring and assessment outputs on ocean acidification are key to develop an understanding and projections of ecosystem behaviour and responses.

The last OSPAR interim assessment launched in 2017 has identified ocean acidification as a key pressure to the North-East Atlantic marine environment. OSPAR decided to create a group of experts who started their work already in 2019, by building on existing information to develop a new measurable indicator to be used for the next holistic assessment in 2023, the next OSPAR Quality Status Report.

As OSPAR is in the process of assessing progress against its decadal objectives, it is also defining future directions for the new Strategy 2020-2030 and it is expected that the objective of contributing to ensure

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resilience in a changing environment will become a strategic objective under new OSPAR Strategy 2020-2030.

OSPAR has its own scientific processes and applies an ecosystem and integrated approach to oceans. Through the data collection on the different activities, regular assessments and monitoring activities, With regard to marine assessments, work has been done to revise the economic analysis of the use of the marine environment. Since the quantitative data only became available after the Intermediate Assessment was launched in 2017, the economic chapter was revised in 2018 for the update of the Intermediate Assessment.

Following the results of a constructive OSPAR Governance workshop in March 2018 on the need to improve OSPAR's Governance, in parallel with the consideration of new environmental objectives for the decade 2020-2030, OSPAR developed a reflection towards enhancing its performance as a Regional Sea Convention and improving its internal governance, including its financial sustainability in face of its ambitious agenda and end products.

as described in the nomination proforma also underwent peer review by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES). Continued work will focus on finalising the nomination proforma, and initiate the work to support a final designation and develop measures which will contribute towards achieving the conservation objectives of protecting seabirds foraging at the site.

Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee (EIHA)

assessments, for eutrophication and hazardous substances. New assessments are also planned such as ocean acidification, fish disease, integrated biological effects, and PCBs in marine mammal blubber.

The eutrophication experts are preparing for their next thematic assessment, harmonising with the eutrophication indicator assessments, and they are trialling a new online tool that semi-automates the eutrophication assessment process. Meanwhile, the new online hazardous substances assessment application is now launched (https://ocean.ices.dk/oat/) and in future the annual assessments will be presented in this application.

Close collaboration with external organisations is important for HASEC. For example AMAP[2] continues to work closely with the hazardous substances experts and in June 2019 a joint AMAP-OSPAR-ICES[3] workshop took place on harmonisation of trend analyses, funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Through AMAP there will be more Region I data for the QSR 2023 and assessment products from the statistical analysis will be available for a variety of uses

Offshore Industry Committee (OIC)

In 2019 the Offshore Industry Committee has finished the assessment of the impacts of disturbance of cuttings piles related to decommissioning for publication. Progress has been made on the assessment of impacts of discharges of oil and chemicals in produced water on the marine environment. The assessment of impacts of decommissioned pipelines on the marine environment and on other users of the sea was finalised at OIC 2019, in order to fulfil OIC's obligations to the NEAES 2010-2020.

This year several recommendations have been amended: Recommendation 2010/3 on a Harmonised Offshore Chemical Notification Format (HOCNF), to monitor the use and discharge of plastic and microplastic substances