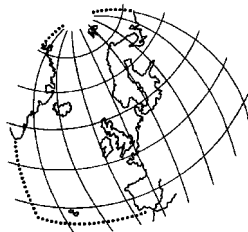


**Initial OSPAR List of Threatened and/or
Declining Species and Habitats**



**OSPAR Commission
2003**

The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the “OSPAR Convention”) was opened for signature at the Ministerial Meeting of the former Oslo and Paris Commissions in Paris on 22 September 1992. The Convention entered into force on 25 March 1998. It has been ratified by Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom and approved by the European Community and Spain.

La Convention pour la protection du milieu marin de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est, dite Convention OSPAR, a été ouverte à la signature à la réunion ministérielle des anciennes Commissions d'Oslo et de Paris, à Paris le 22 septembre 1992. La Convention est entrée en vigueur le 25 mars 1998. La Convention a été ratifiée par l'Allemagne, la Belgique, le Danemark, la Finlande, la France, l'Irlande, l'Islande, le Luxembourg, la Norvège, les Pays-Bas, le Portugal, le Royaume-Uni de Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord, la Suède et la Suisse et approuvée par la Communauté européenne et l'Espagne.

© OSPAR Commission, 2003. Permission may be granted by the publishers for the report to be wholly or partly reproduced in publications provided that the source of the extract is clearly indicated.

© Commission OSPAR, 2003. La reproduction de tout ou partie de ce rapport dans une publication peut être autorisée par l'Editeur, sous réserve que l'origine de l'extrait soit clairement mentionnée.

ISBN 1-904426-12-3

contents

Introduction	4
Part I : Species	6
Part II - Habitats	8

INTRODUCTION

Paragraph 2.2 of the OSPAR Strategy on the Protection and Conservation of the Ecosystems and Biological Diversity of the Maritime Area provides that the OSPAR Commission will assess which species and habitats need to be protected. This work is to guide the setting of priorities by the OSPAR Commission for its activities in implementing Annex V to the Convention ("On the Protection and Conservation of the Ecosystems and Biological Diversity of the Maritime Area").

The strategy further provides that the OSPAR Commission shall undertake the following actions to provide the basis for that assessment:

- a. development of criteria for the selection of such species, habitats and ecological processes (the Texel/Faial Criteria for the identification of species and habitats in need of protection have been adopted by OSPAR 2003 for this purpose);
- b. to the extent necessary, compilation of lists of species and habitats, including the development of lists of threatened or declining species and threatened habitats, based upon:
 - (i) the criteria developed under subparagraph (a) above;
 - (ii) inventories of species and habitats in the maritime area;
 - (iii) relevant lists developed by other international forums.

This initial list of threatened and/or declining species and habitats has been developed to fulfil these commitments. It is based upon nominations by Contracting Parties and observers to the Commission of species and habitats that they considered to be priorities for protection. The evidence in support of those nominations has been collectively examined by the OSPAR Commission and its subordinate bodies, with the assistance of an OSPAR workshop hosted by the Netherlands in Leiden in September 2001. The data used has been reviewed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), in order to give assurance that its quality is suitable for the purpose for which it has been used¹. The information used has been compiled into a justification report, which is being published separately.

The purpose of the list is to guide the OSPAR Commission in setting priorities for its further work on the conservation and protection of marine biodiversity. The inclusion of a species or of a type of habitat on this list has no other significance.

Fish species affected by fishing in this initial list are marked with an asterisk (*). These species are subject to management by an international or national fisheries authority or body. The OSPAR Commission has no competence to adopt programmes or measures on questions relating to the management of fisheries. Where the OSPAR Commission considers that action is desirable in relation to such a question, it is to draw that question to the attention of the authority or international body competent for that question. The inclusion of species affected by fishing in this list must be read in this context.

In order to avoid duplication of work, other international agreements (in particular, EC Directives (including the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna and the Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of birds) and measures under the Berne Convention, the Bonn Convention (including its regional agreements) and the Ramsar Convention, amongst other relevant instruments) should also be taken into account by Contracting Parties to the extent that they are bound by them or committed to them.

¹ The assessments of that data by the OSPAR Commission and by ICES differ in respect of *Polysticta stelleri*, *Puffinus assimilis baroli*, *Thunnus thynnus* and Oceanic ridges with hydrothermal vents/fields. The justification for the OSPAR assessment of these species and habitats is set out in the justification report.

The OSPAR Biodiversity and Ecosystems Strategy makes clear that it may be necessary to consider separate populations of species for the purposes of the strategy on the same basis as whole species. This list therefore specifies certain populations of species where separate treatment is justified, because the different populations are subject to differing pressures. Where this is done, there is no implication that other populations of the same species may be threatened and/or declining.

The OSPAR Commission wishes to consider any information that could improve the basis for the judgements that have been made in drawing up this list.

This initial OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats will be subject to further development. Species and habitats will be added to or removed from the list, in the light of changes to their conservation status and to the threats they face and in the light of the latest scientific assessments, according to the Texel/Faial criteria.

The footnotes form an integral part of the list.

PART I : SPECIES

SCIENTIFIC NAME	Common name		OSPAR Regions ² where the species occurs	OSPAR Regions ² where the species is under threat and/or in decline
	English	French		
INVERTEBRATES				
<i>Arctica islandica</i> (Linnæus, 1767)	Ocean quahog	<i>praire d'Islande</i>	I, II, III, IV	II
<i>Megabalanus azoricus</i> (Pilsbry, 1916)	Azorean barnacle	<i>balane des Azores</i>	V	All where it occurs
<i>Nucella lapillus</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Dog whelk	<i>pourpre</i>	All	II, III, IV
<i>Ostrea edulis</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Flat oyster	<i>huitre plate</i>	I, II, III, IV	II
<i>Patella ulyssiponensis aspera</i> (Röding, 1798)	Azorean limpet	<i>patelle des Azores</i>	V	All where it occurs
BIRDS				
<i>Larus fuscus fuscus</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Lesser black-backed gull	<i>goéland brun</i>	I	All where it occurs
<i>Polysticta stelleri</i> (Pallas, 1769)	Steller's eider	<i>eider de Steller</i>	I	All where it occurs
<i>Puffinus assimilis baroli</i> (auct.incert.)	Little shearwater	<i>puffin obscur</i>	V	All where it occurs
<i>Sterna dougallii</i> (Montagu, 1813)	Roseate tern	<i>sterne de dougall</i>	II, III, IV, V	All where it occurs
<i>Uria aalge</i> (Pontoppidan, 1763) – Iberian population (synonyms: <i>Uria aalge albionis</i> , <i>Uria aalge ibericus</i>)	Iberian guillemot	<i>guillemot marmette</i>	IV	All where it occurs
FISH				
* <i>Acipenser sturio</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Sturgeon	<i>esturgeon commun</i>	II, IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Alosa alosa</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Allis shad	<i>alose vraie</i>	II, III, IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> (Gunnerus, 1763)	Basking shark	<i>requin pèlerin</i>	All	All where it occurs
<i>Coregonus lavaretus oxyrinchus</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Houting	<i>corégone oxyringue</i>	II	All where it occurs

² The OSPAR Regions are:

- I - the Arctic:** the OSPAR maritime area north of latitude 62°N, but also including Iceland and the Færoes;
- II - the Greater North Sea:** the North Sea, the English Channel, the Skagerrak and the Kattegat to the limits of the OSPAR maritime area, bounded on the north by latitude 62°N, on the west by longitude 5°W and the east coast of Great Britain, and on the south by latitude 48°N;
- III - the Celtic Seas:** the area bounded by, on the east, longitude 5°W and the west coast of Great Britain and on the west by the 200 metre isobath (depth contour) to the west of 6°W along the west coasts of Scotland and Ireland;
- IV - the Bay of Biscay/Golfe de Gascogne and Iberian coasts:** the area south of latitude 48°N, east of 11°W and north of latitude 36°N (the southern boundary of the OSPAR maritime area);
- V - the Wider Atlantic:** the remainder of the OSPAR maritime area.

* <i>Dipturus batis</i> (Linnæus, 1758) (synonym: <i>Raja batis</i>)	Common Skate	<i>pocheteau gris</i>	All	All where it occurs
* <i>Raja montagui</i> (Fowler, 1910) (synonym: <i>Dipturus montagui</i>)	Spotted Ray	<i>raie douce</i>	II, III, IV, V	All where it occurs
* <i>Gadus morhua</i> (Linnæus, 1758)– populations in the OSPAR regions II and III ³	Cod	<i>Cabillaud (morue)</i>	All	II, III
* <i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i> (Collett, 1889)	Orange roughy	<i>hoplostète orange</i>	I, V	All where it occurs
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Sea lamprey	<i>lamproie marine</i>	I, II, III, IV	All where it occurs
* <i>Salmo salar</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Salmon	<i>saumon de l'Atlantique</i>	I, II, III, IV	All where it occurs ⁴
* <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Bluefin tuna	<i>thon rouge</i>	V	All where it occurs ⁵
REPTILES				
<i>Caretta caretta</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Loggerhead turtle	<i>caouanne</i>	IV, V	All where it occurs
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> (Vandelli, 1761)	Leatherback turtle	<i>tortue luth</i>	All	All where it occurs
MAMMALS				
<i>Balaena mysticetus</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Bowhead whale	<i>baleine franche boréale</i>	I	All where it occurs
<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Blue whale	<i>baleine bleue</i>	All	All where it occurs
<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i> (Müller, 1776)	Northern right whale	<i>baleine franche noire</i>	All	All where it occurs
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Linnæus, 1758)	Harbour porpoise	<i>marsouin</i>	All	II, III

³ That is, the populations/stocks referred to in ICES advice as the North Sea and Skagerrak cod stock, Kattegat cod stock, Cod west of Scotland, Cod in the Irish Sea, Cod in the Irish Channel and Celtic Sea.

⁴ In accordance with the comments of ICES in its review, the varying states of the numerous different stocks have to be taken into account.

⁵ The main threat is the high rate of catch of juvenile fish of the species (SCRS Report, page 59).

PART II - HABITATS

DESCRIPTION	OSPAR Regions where the habitat occurs	OSPAR Regions where such habitats are under threat and/or in decline
HABITATS		
Carbonate mounds	I, V	V ⁶
Deep-sea sponge aggregations	I, III, IV, V	V ⁷
Oceanic ridges with hydrothermal vents/fields	I, V	V
Intertidal mudflats	I, II, III, IV	All where they occur
Littoral chalk communities	II	All where they occur
<i>Lophelia pertusa</i> reefs	All	All where they occur
<i>Ostrea edulis</i> beds	II, III, IV	All where they occur
Seamounts	I, IV, V	All where they occur ⁸
Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	I, II, III, IV	II, III
<i>Zostera</i> beds	I, II, III, IV	All where they occur

⁶ To be confirmed in the light of further survey work being undertaken by Ireland.

⁷ A search for further evidence will be made.

⁸ A search for further evidence will be made.