

Assessing progress towards international MPA network commitments across the North-east Atlantic

Summary

The Oslo-Paris (OSPAR) Convention for the protection of the marine environment across the North-east Atlantic has a target to create an ecologically coherent and well-managed Marine Protected Area (MPA) networks.

Work involved

JNCC have spear-headed task groups of experts from a range of contracting parties to the OSPAR Convention to develop and implement methodologies to identify progress towards ecologically coherent and well-managed networks of MPAs across the North-east Atlantic.

In doing so, JNCC have undertaken global reviews of best-practice examples in how to assess if a network is ecologically coherent and if MPAs are managed effectively. In doing so we have developed extensive knowledge of MPA assessment approaches and the concept of 'ecological coherence'. We have also led teams of international specialists to pilot and implement MPA network assessment methodologies, and played a leading role in the collation of information and data from across the North-east Atlantic to assess if MPAs are well managed.

Key Outcome

A revised approach to reporting on the status of the OSPAR MPA network (OSPAR 2017 MPA Status Report in prep) and a major contribution to the [OSPAR 2017 Intermediate Assessment](#).

Future Work

JNCC continues to play a leading role in discussions with partners from across the North-east Atlantic to further develop methodologies to undertake MPA assessments that are scientifically robust.

Identified research priorities

- Further research on the network principle 'connectivity', and how this can be assessed with greater confidence at wider spatial scales.
- Identification of appropriate metrics to monitor to support reporting against the achievement of conservation objectives for the protected habitats and species of MPAs.

Further information

[This webpage](#) provides a more detailed overview of JNCC's UK-level and international work on MPAs (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4549>).

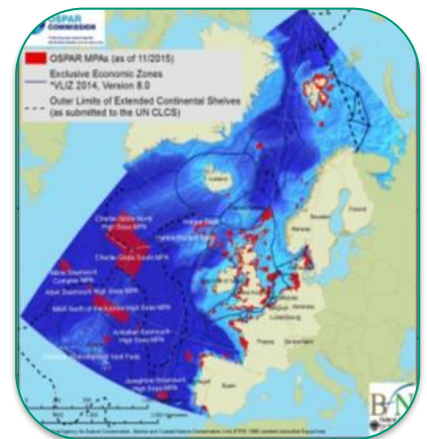
Country: North-east Atlantic

Main Driver: OSPAR Convention

Period of work: 2012 - Present

Contact point: Pete Chaniotis
(pete.chaniotis@jncc.gov.uk)

Partnership: OSPAR Contracting Parties



OSPAR MPA network (Oct 2016)



© JNCC



© JNCC