

MARINE LITTER

International response: the example of the OSPAR Commission



**OSPAR
COMMISSION**

*Protecting and conserving the
North-East Atlantic and its resources*

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OSPAR Marine Litter Regional Action Plan Project Coordinator



Cedre Information Day

05/03/2019



MARINE LITTER

- Originates from many sources
- Wide spectrum of impacts:
 - Environmental
 - Economic
 - Safety
 - Health
 - Cultural
- Very slow rate of degradation
- Continuously growing quantity of the litter and debris disposed
- Gradual increase in marine litter found at sea and on the shores



MARINE LITTER

- Concerns are increasing
- Deficiencies in the implementation of regulations
- Enforcement of existing international, regional, national regulations and standards
- Lack of awareness among main stakeholders and the general public
- Integrated approach
- Involvement of all stakeholders
- International, regional, national, local levels
- Individual behaviour and consumption choices can make a difference



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The Torrey Canyon

1967

Oil spill
incident

The Bonn Agreement

1969

Maritime disasters
Chronic ship pollution

Oslo Convention

1972

Dumping harmful substances
Ships and aircrafts

Paris Convention

1974

Marine pollution
Land-based sources

OSPAR Convention

1992



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1992

OSLO and PARIS

OSLO PARIS

CONVENTION



OSPAR COMMISSION

*Protecting and conserving the
North-East Atlantic and its resources*

OSPAR Is the mechanism by which **15 Governments**
and the **EU** cooperate to protect the marine
environment of the **North-East Atlantic**.



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FR





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**62 observer organisations play an essential role
in the OSPAR Commission.**

The observers not only take part in the various meetings of the
OSPAR Commission but also contribute actively to its work and
to shaping policy development



CH





Region I: Arctic Waters

Region II: Greater North Sea.

Region III: Celtic Seas

Region IV: Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast.

Region V: Wider Atlantic





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Region V: Wider Atlantic





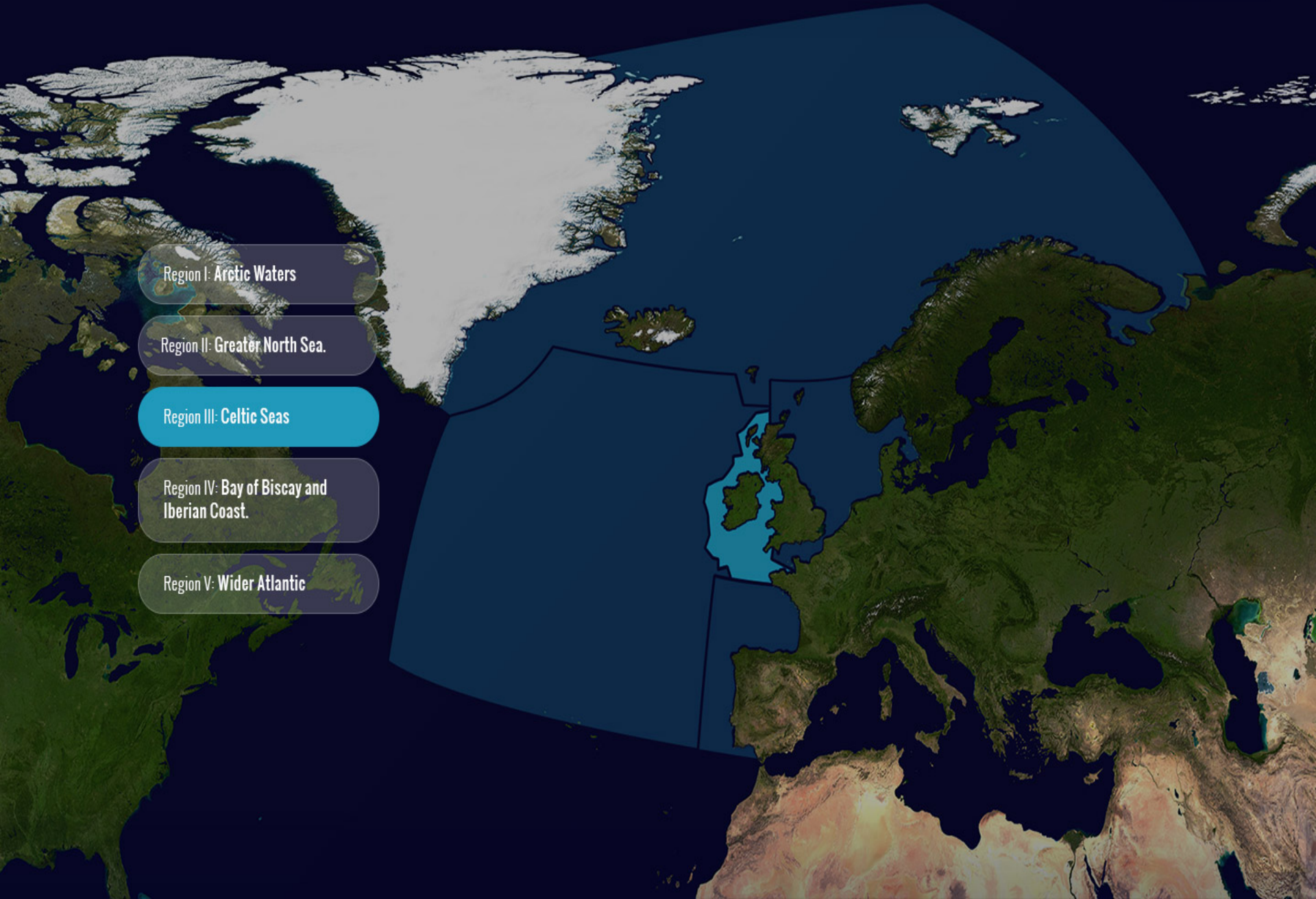
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Region IV: Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast.

Region V: Wider Atlantic





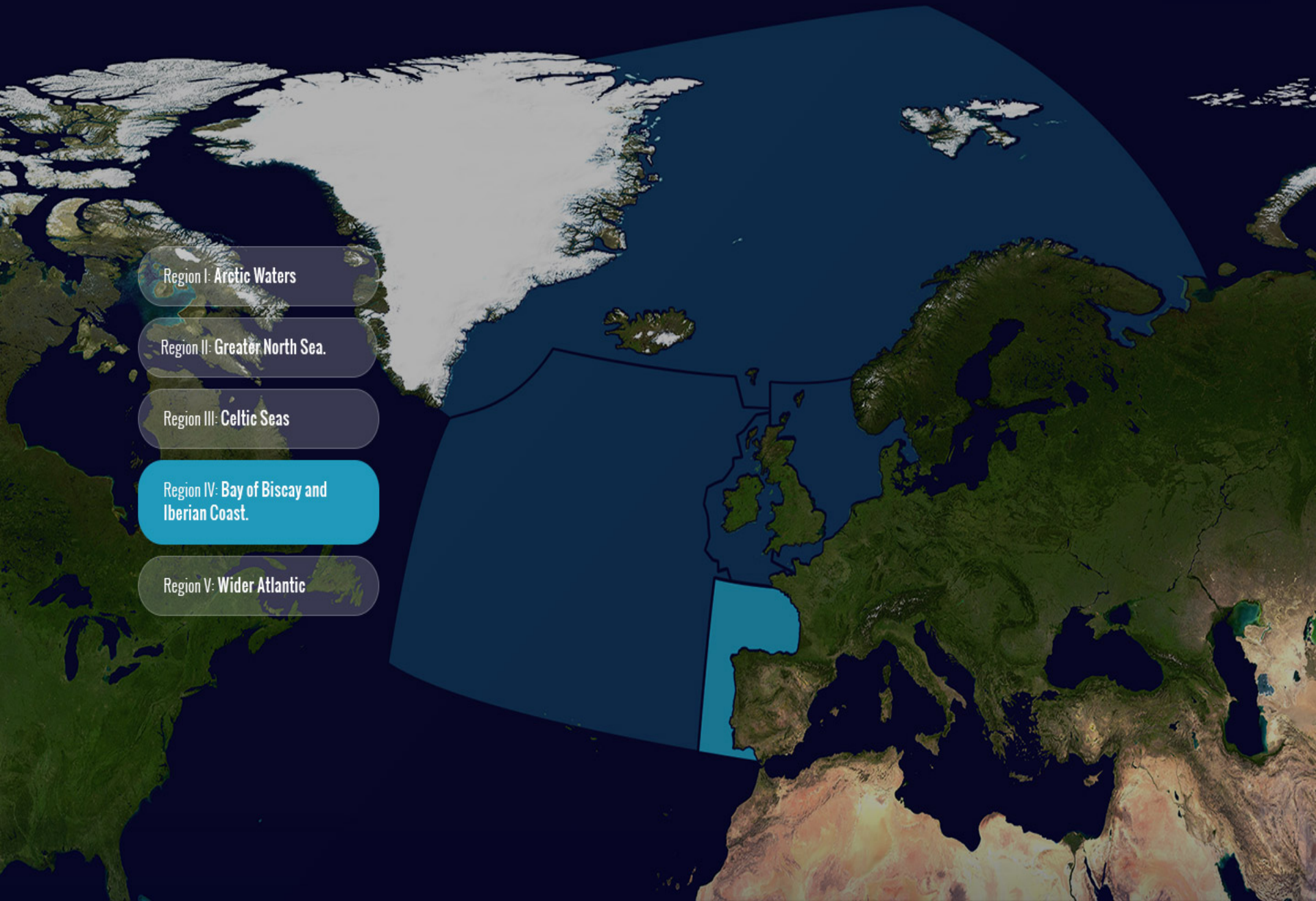
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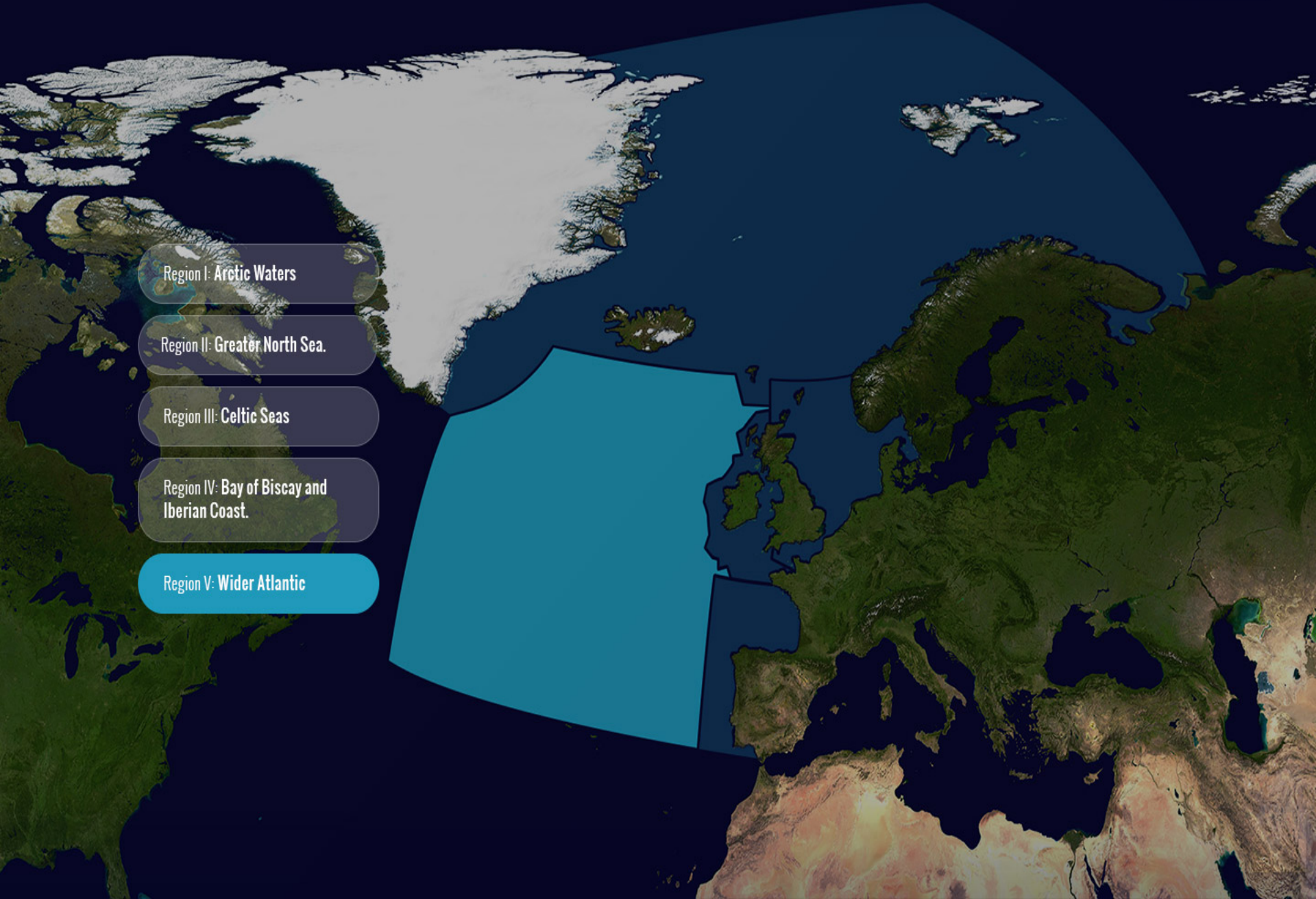
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Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic

Objectives

- Prevent and eliminate pollution
- Protecting the marine area from the adverse effects of human activities
- Safeguarding human health
- Conservation of marine ecosystems
- Recovery of marine areas where possible

Guiding principles:

Ecosystem approach

Precautionary principle

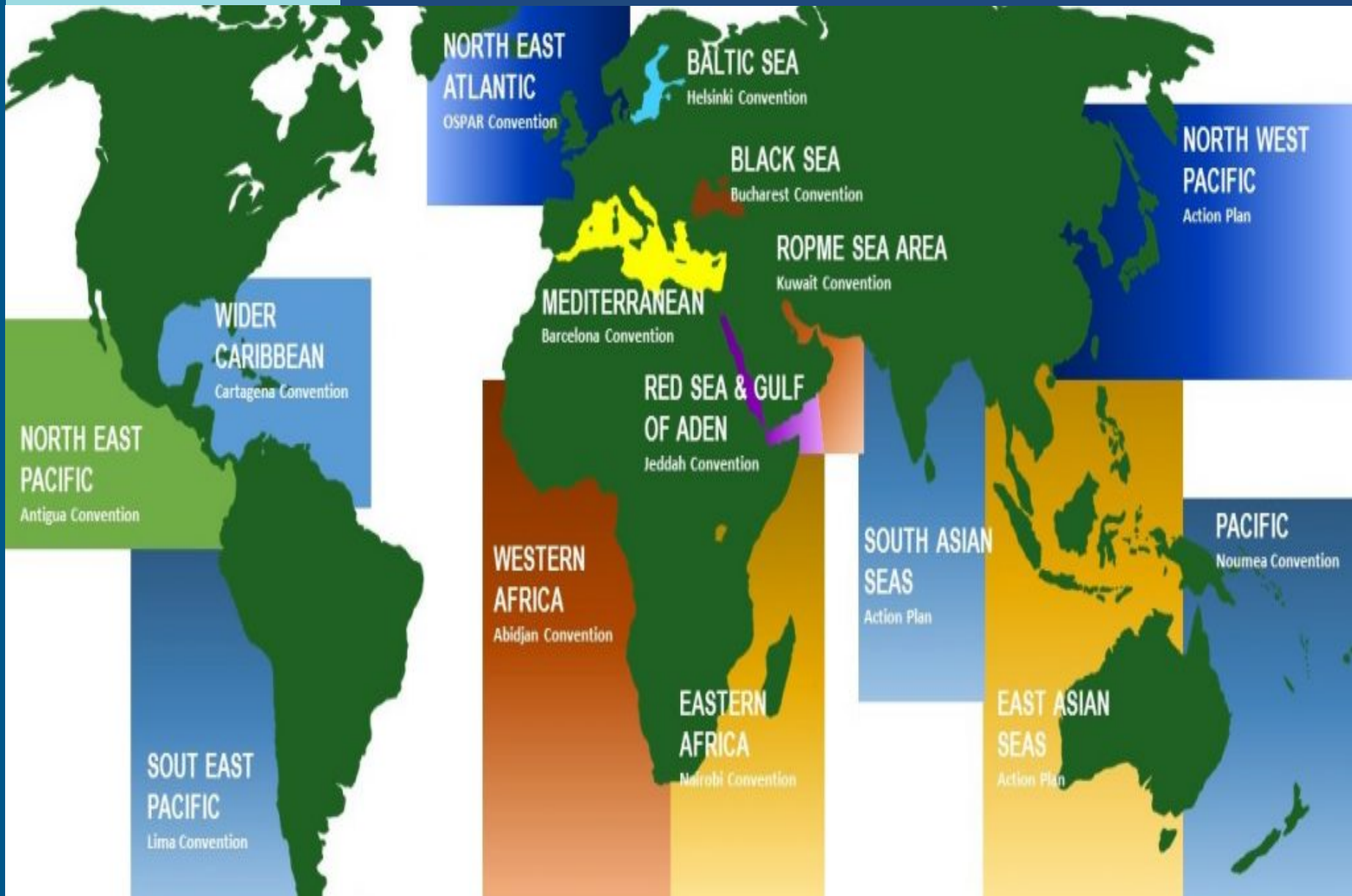
Polluter-pays principle

Best Available Techniques

Best Environmental Practices



International cooperation





**OSPAR
COMMISSION**

International cooperation

UN
environment



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>
<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>
<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<p>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</p>



- Outreach
- Integrated approach – combat and further institutionalize marine litter
- Coordination, information exchange, data provision, MoU's
- Support for external initiatives



OSPAR Work Areas



OSPAR Commission

NSN
North Sea Network
of Investigators and
prosecutors

Bonn Agreement

Agreement for cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances

OTSOPA

Working Group on Operational, Technical and Scientific Questions concerning Counter Pollution Activities

JTG-Ballast

Joint Helcom / Ospar Task Group on Ballast Water Management Convention Exemptions

CoG

Coordination Group – meet twice a year (spring and autumn)

ICG-MSFD

Meeting of the Intersessional Correspondence Group for the Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

ICG-MAQ

Intersessional correspondence group to manage preparation and publication of the Intermediate Assessment 2017 and the QSR21

ICG-ESA

Intersessional Correspondence Group on Economic and Social Analysis

HoD

Heads of Delegation – meet once a year (spring)

JL

Group of Jurists and Linguists

CVC

Committee of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

Committees

HASEC

Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication

OIC

Offshore Industry

RSC

Radioactive Substances

BDC

Biodiversity

EIHA

Environmental Impacts of Human Activities

Current Working Groups and ICGs (September 2017)

MIME

Working Group on Monitoring and on Trends and Effects of Substances in the Marine Environment

INPUT

Working Group on Inputs to the Marine Environment

ICG-EUT

Intersessional Correspondence Group on Eutrophication

ICG-EMO

Intersessional Correspondence Group on Eutrophication Modelling

ICG-DDOI

Intersessional Correspondence Group Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations

ICG-RBA

Intersessional Correspondence Group Risk Based Approach to the management of produced water discharges from offshore installations

ICG-CTZ

Intersessional Correspondence Group to refine and revise the methods for assessing "additional concentrations in the marine environment above historic levels are close to zero"

ICG-MOD

Intersessional Correspondence Group on the modelling of additional concentrations of NORM in seawater from discharges of produced water from the offshore oil and gas sector

ICG-BAT

Intersessional Correspondence Group to review PARCOM Recommendation 91/4 on Radioactive Discharges, and the reporting mechanism to ensure that they are fit for purpose

ICG-COBAM

Intersessional Correspondence Group on the Coordination of Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring

ICG-MPA

Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Protected Areas

ICG-ML

Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter

ICG-C

Intersessional Correspondence Group on Cumulative Effects

ICG-NOISE

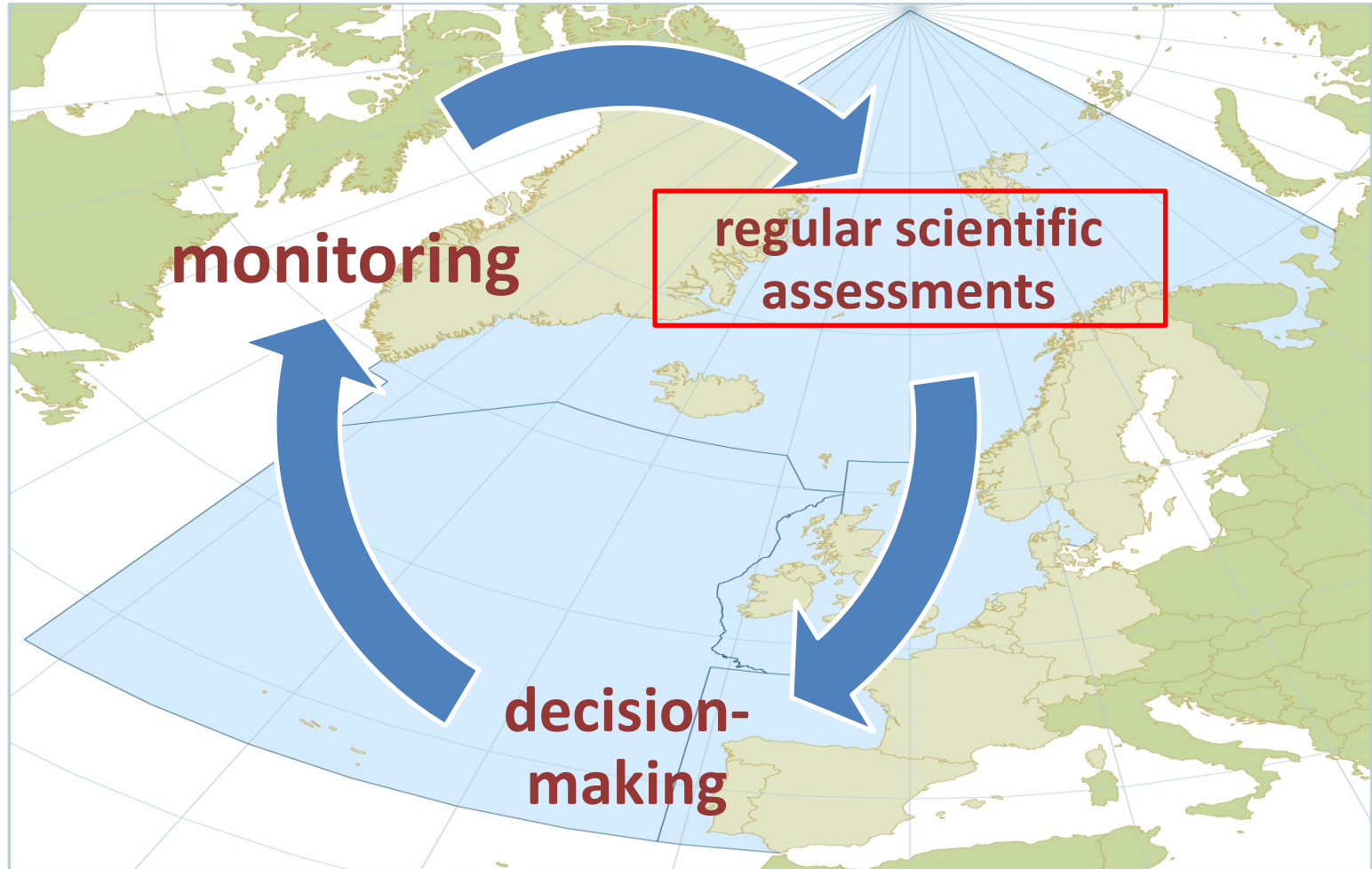
Intersessional Correspondence Group on Underwater Noise

ICG-TREND

Intersessional Correspondence Group on a trend assessment of annual data on dumping and placement of waste and other matter at sea

ICG-POSH (BDC and EIHA)

Intersessional Correspondence Group on the implementation follow up of measures for the protection and conservation of species and habitats

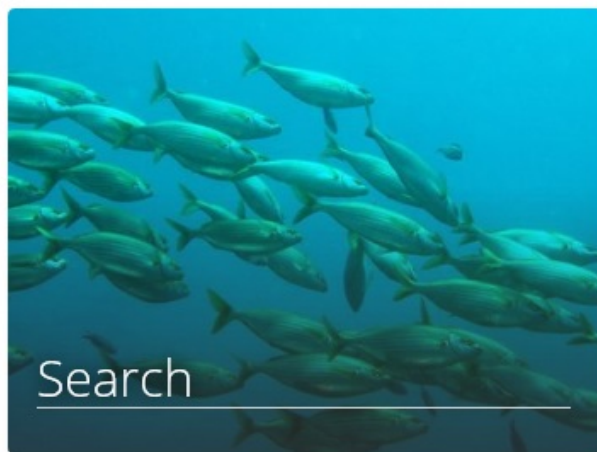
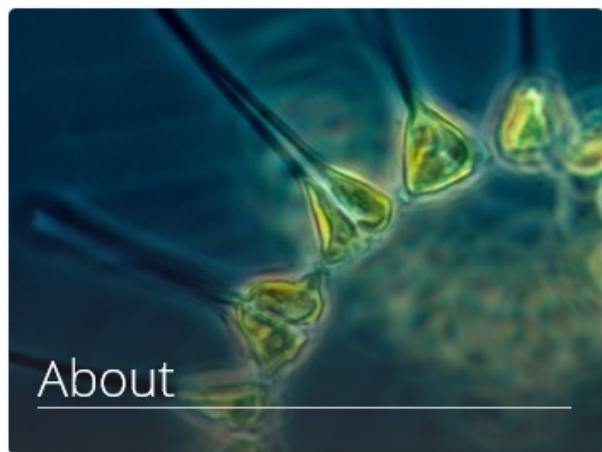




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OSPAR's Assessment Portal





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Produced...

OSPAR's Intermediate Assessment 2017

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Intermediate Assessment 2017



Key Messages and Highlights



Introduction to the Intermediate Assessment 2017




Climate and Ocean Acidification




Socio-Economics



Pressures from Human Activities



Biodiversity Status

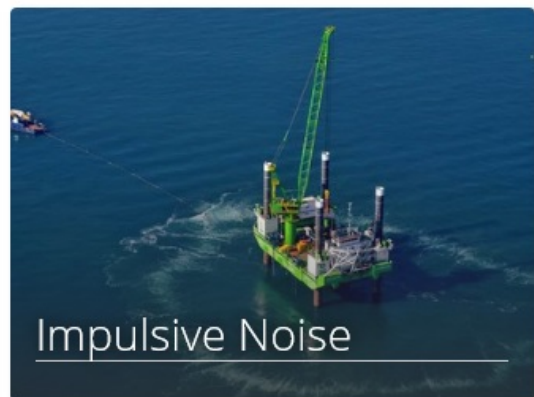


Ecosystem Assessment Outlook



Acknowledgements

Pressures from Human Activities



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INTERSESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON MARINE LITTER

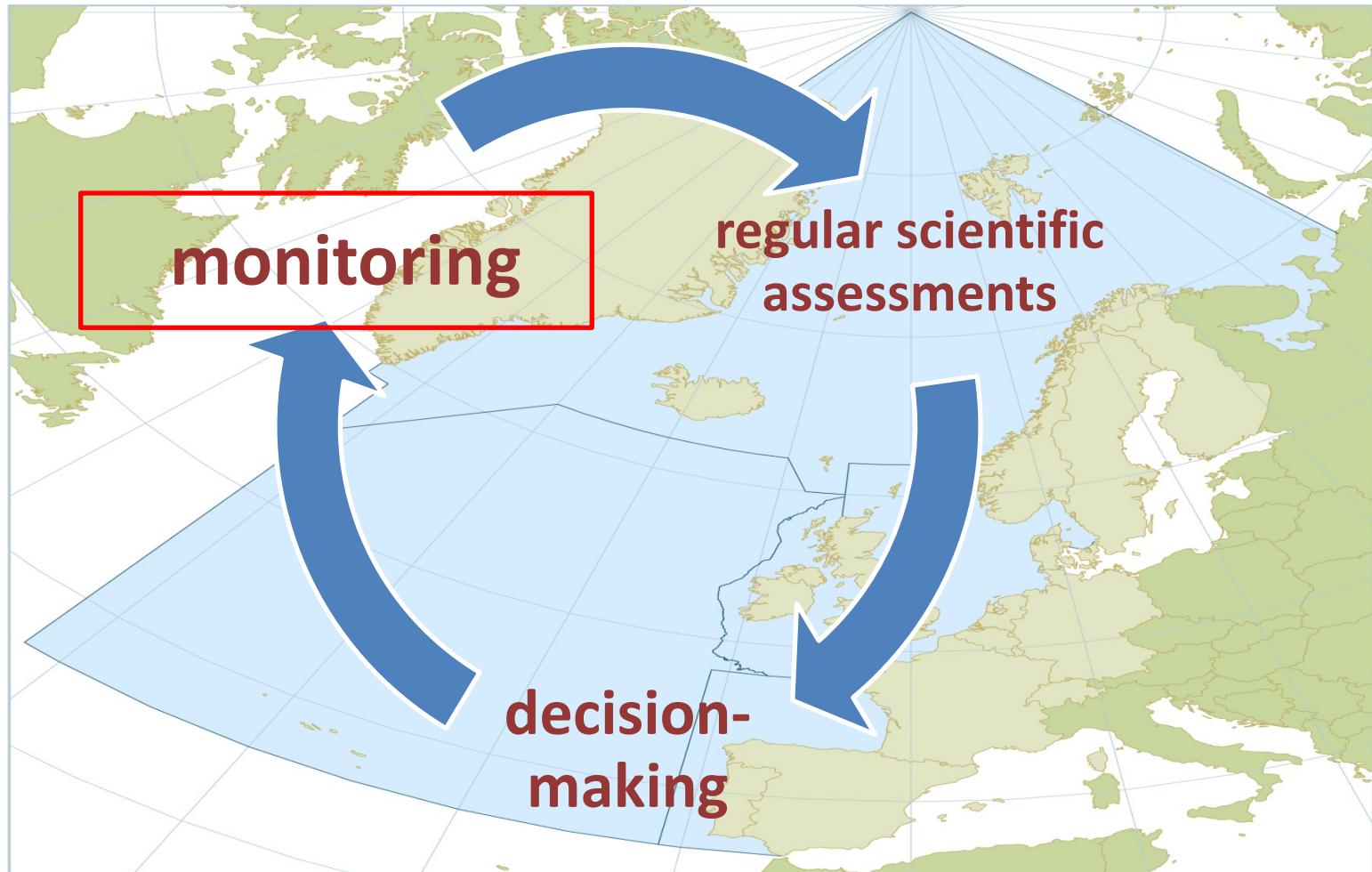
➤ First line of OSPAR action towards marine litter





INTERSESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON MARINE LITTER

- 2 annual meetings
- Example of integrated approach:
 - Countries administrations
 - Specialists, Research institutions, Universities, etc.
 - NGO's
 - Industry representatives
- Discussion and blending - ideas, problems, work streams, etc.
- Indicators and monitoring schemes
- Background documents, assessments, etc.
- Stakeholders dialog processes
- Basis for Decisions, Recommendations and Measures





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INTERSESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON MARINE LITTER

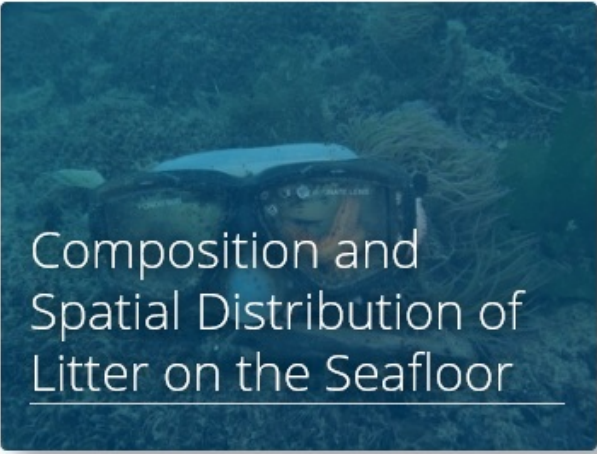
- First line of OSPAR action towards marine litter
- Monitoring Programmes




Marine Litter



Beach Litter -
Abundance,
Composition and
Trends

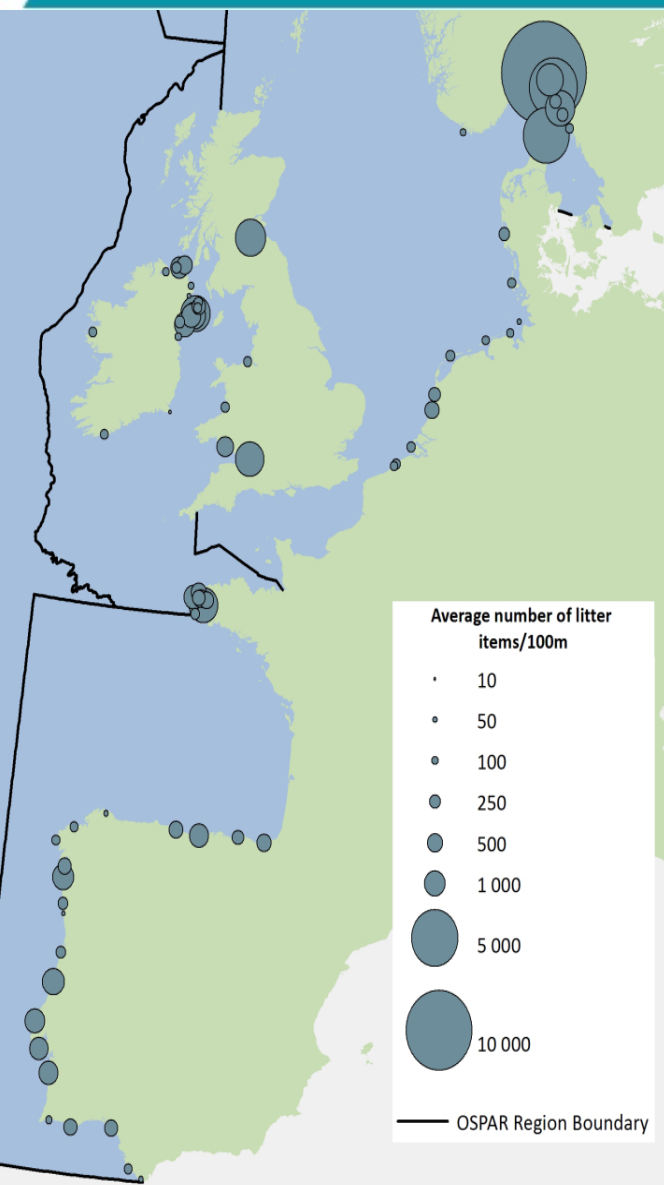


Composition and
Spatial Distribution of
Litter on the Seafloor



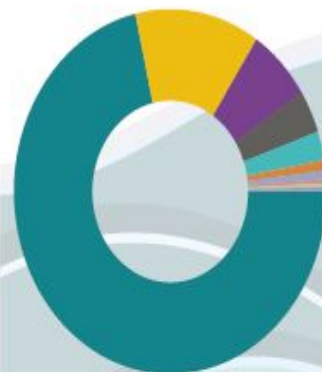
Plastic Particles in
Fulmar Stomachs in
the North Sea

Beach Litter - Abundance, Composition and Trends

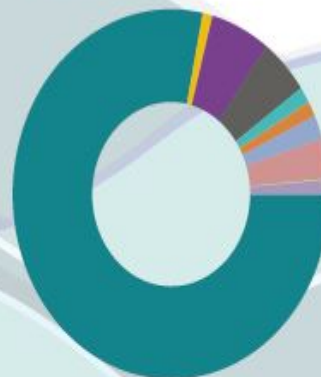


Marine litter composition by material

Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast



Celtic Seas



Southern North Sea



Arctic Waters



Northern North Sea



- plastic/polystyrene
- sanitary
- wood
- cloth/textile
- medical waste
- paper/cardboard
- metal
- glass
- rubber
- ceramic/pottery

Plastics / Polystyrene: 88,6% total

Figure 1: Average number of litter items per 100m for the period 2014-2015

Conclusions

- Litter pollution is common on the coastlines of the NE Atlantic
- Plastic fragments, packaging, nets and ropes - most frequent items
- Considered harmful to biodiversity (entanglement, ingestion, injury)
- Problem for the marine environment in the OSPAR Maritime Area
- Socio-economic harm (lost revenue, costs of beach litter cleaning)

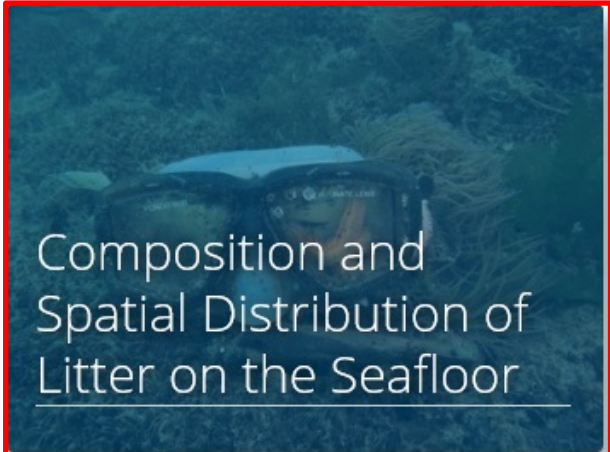
Conclusions

- Commitment to “substantially reduce marine litter in the OSPAR Maritime Area to levels where properties and quantities of marine litter do not cause harm to the coastal and marine environment”
- Not yet achieved


Marine Litter



Beach Litter -
Abundance,
Composition and
Trends



Composition and
Spatial Distribution of
Litter on the Seafloor



Plastic Particles in
Fulmar Stomachs in
the North Sea

Composition and Spatial Distribution of Litter on the Seafloor

- Seafloor litter is influenced by anthropogenic inputs, rivers, predominant winds and currents
- Transboundary problem
- Severe threat to biodiversity:
 - Benthic habitat destruction
 - Ghost fishing
 - Reduced Photosynthesis
 - Vector for Non-Indigenous Species
- Methodology:
 - Data from trawling fleet
 - More survey stations or longer datasets are needed

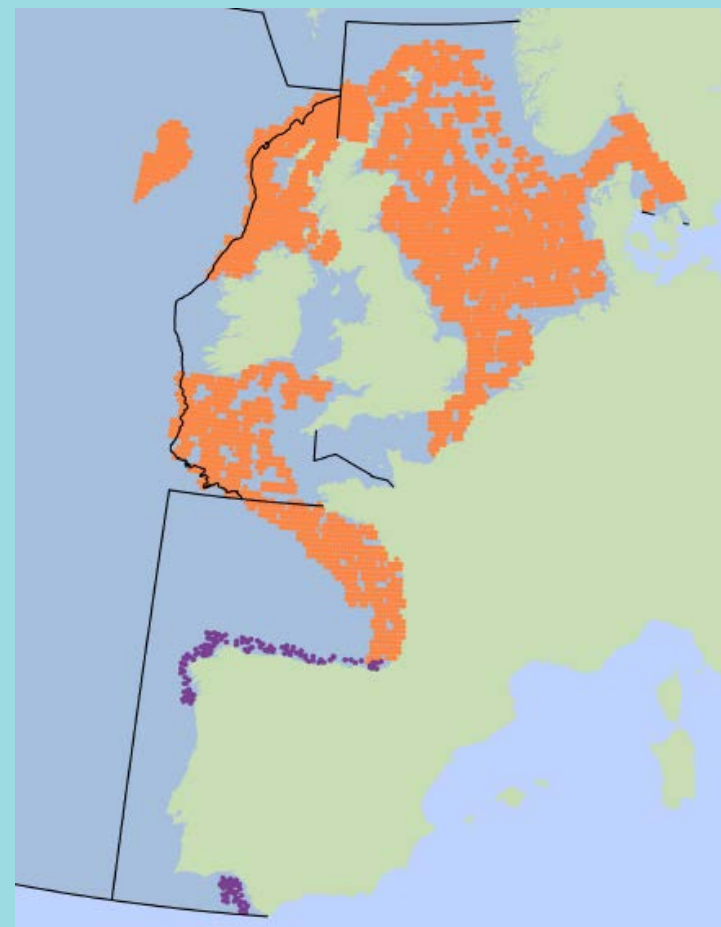


Figure 1: Stations used for assessing seafloor litter. Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas and the Eastern Bay of Biscay (GOV; orange) and the Iberian Coast and Gulf of Cadiz (BAK; purple) haul locations

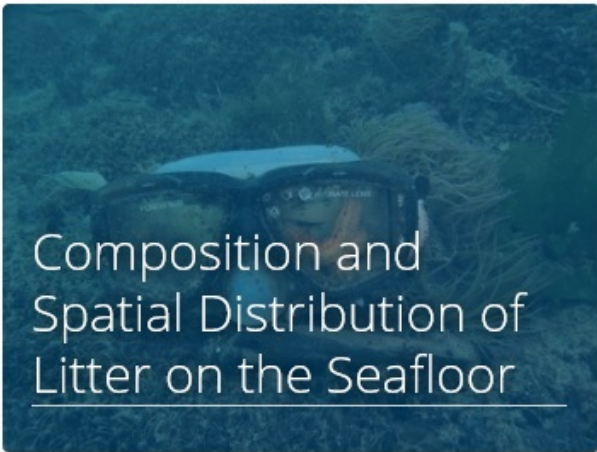
Conclusions

- Litter is widespread on the seafloor across the areas assessed
- Plastic the predominant material
- Floating and sinking litter:
 - follow different pathways
 - gather in different hotspots
 - do not necessarily overlap
- Problems must be tackled with specific measures and approaches!


Marine Litter



Beach Litter -
Abundance,
Composition and
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Composition and
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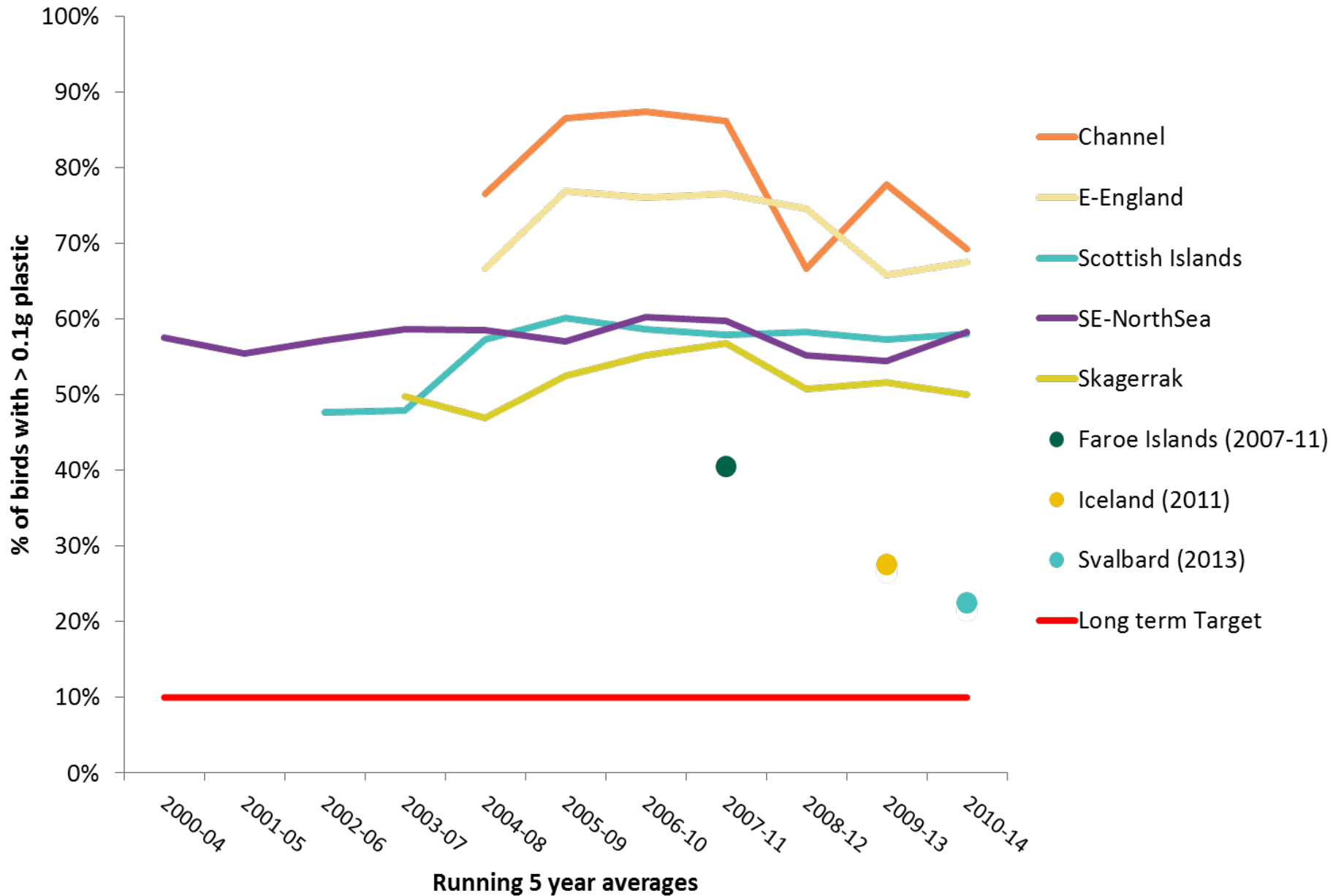
Plastic Particles in
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Plastic Particles in Fulmar Stomachs in the North Sea

- *Fulmarus glacialis*:
 - Pelagic seabird (*Procelariiform*)
 - Only comes to land to breed
 - Feeds exclusively at sea
 - Reflects the presence of plastic in the birds environment
- Monitoring methods:
 - Stomach content analysis
 - Dead beached birds
- Long-term objective:
 - <10% with 0.1g of plastic ingested

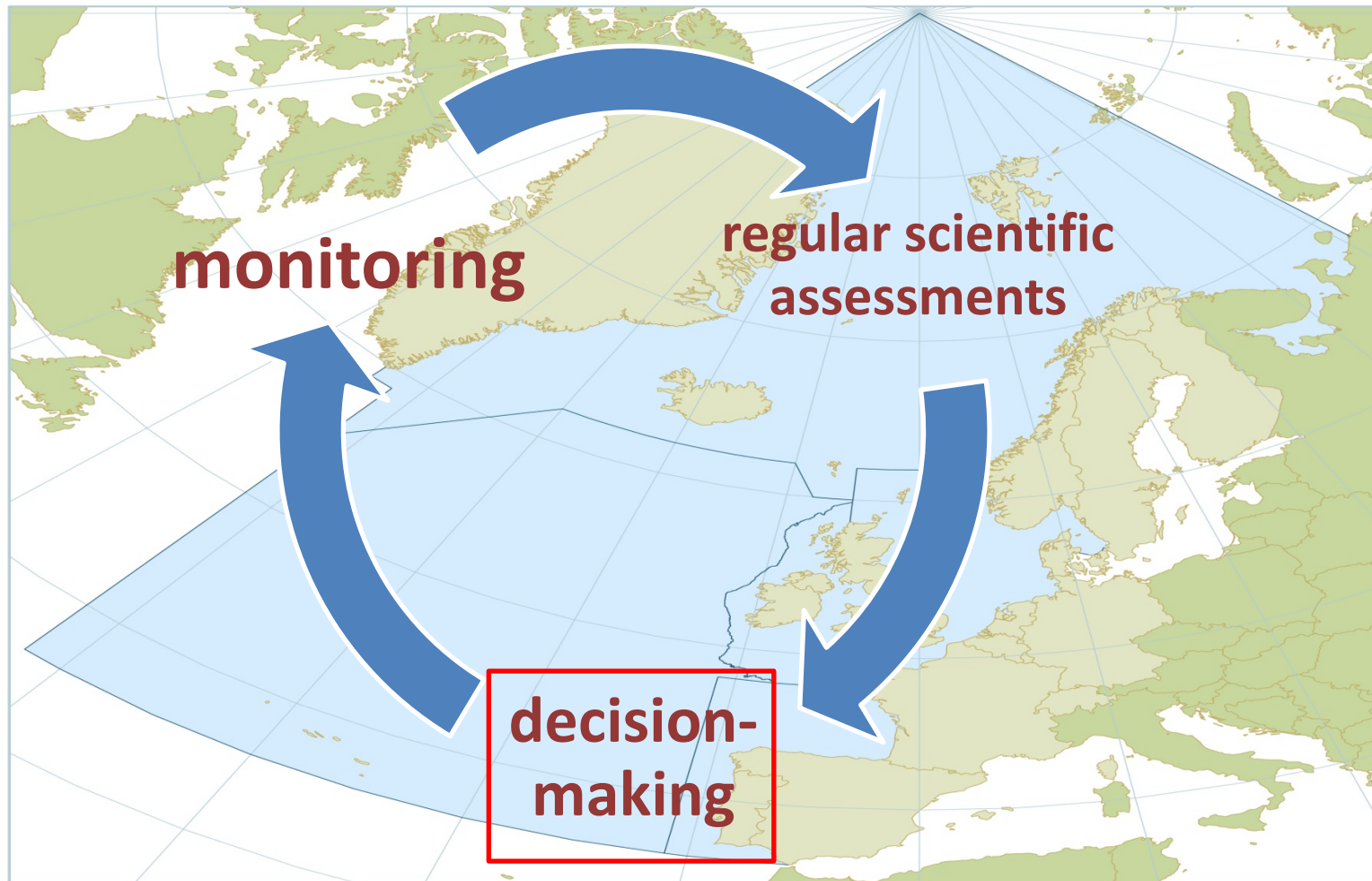


Plastic Particles in Fulmar Stomachs in the North Sea



Conclusions

- 93% of the birds with ingested plastic
- 60% exceeds 0.1 g limit of plastic in stomach
- Reflects the presence of plastic in the birds environment
- Fulmar populations in the North Sea are currently in decline
- Ingestion of plastic litter is a potential threat (sub-lethal effects of reduced body condition and health)
- Long-term goal is still distant





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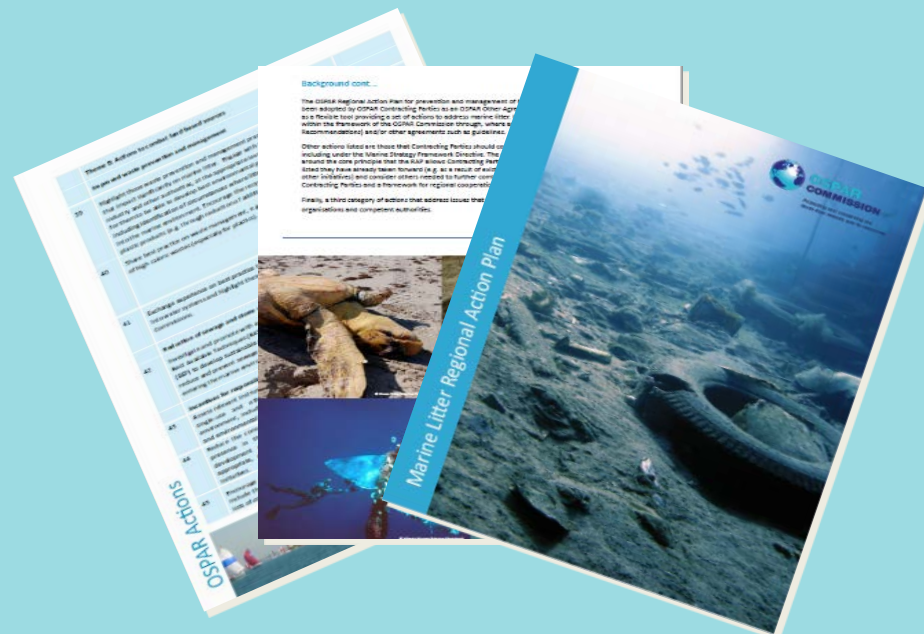
- First line of OSPAR action towards marine litter
- Monitoring Programmes
- Marine Litter Regional Action Plan (RAP-ML)





Marine Litter Regional Action Plan (RAP-ML)

- 2014-2021 (right after IA2017 results)
- 4 Sections:
 - General requirements
 - Actions to be implemented
 - Monitoring and assessment
 - Implementation and reporting
- 55 Actions:
 - OSPAR common actions
 - Actions to engage with other competent bodies
 - National actions implemented by Contracting Parties



- 4 major action themes:
 - Combat and prevent sea-based sources
 - Combat and prevent land-based sources
 - Removal
 - Education & Outreach



Marine Litter Regional Action Plan (RAP-ML)

- Port Reception Facilities
- Fines for littering at sea
- Fishing for Litter
- Waste from Fishing industry
- Floating Litter hotspots
- Abandoned, Lost and Discarded Fishing gear
- Improved waste management
- Sewage/storm water run-off
- Reduction of single use items
- Removal of microplastics
- Redesign harmful products
- Zero pellet loss
- Education and outreach





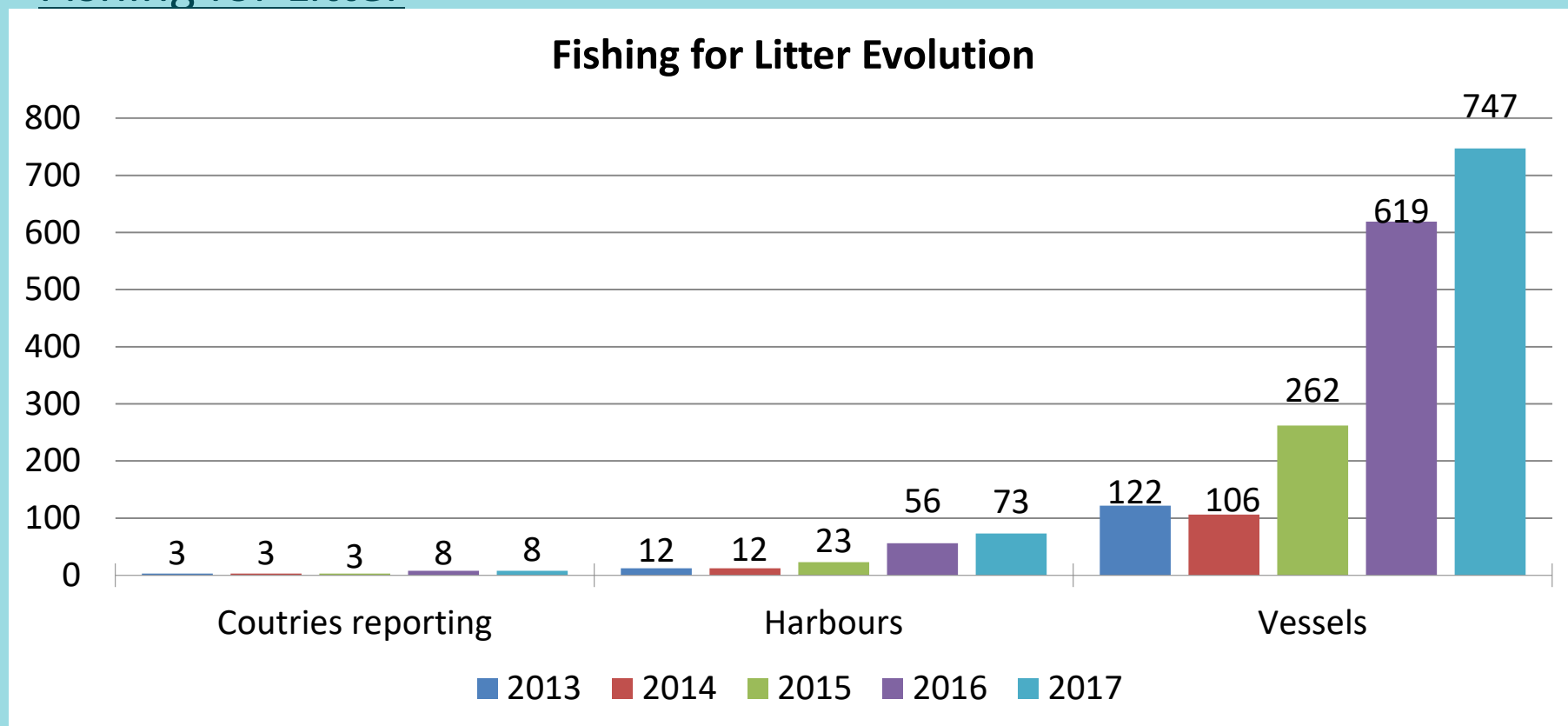
Marine Litter Regional Action Plan (RAP-ML)

- Fishing for Litter
- **Action 43** - Strengthen the existing OSPAR recommendation 2010/19 on the **reduction of marine litter through** implementation of **fishing for litter initiatives**, including by reviewing the option that any vessel involved in the scheme can **land non-operational waste** at participating harbours in OSPAR countries.
- Measure approved in 2013
- Actively engaging with ports, harbours and vessels
- Land non-operational waste
- Aggregate the data and report annually



Marine Litter Regional Action Plan (RAP-ML)

- Fishing for Litter



2017: >700 tonnes of litter removed from the marine environment!!!



Marine Litter Regional Action Plan (RAP-ML)

- Microplastics
- **Action 46** - Evaluate all **products** and processes that include **primary microplastics** and act, if appropriate, to **reduce their impact** on the marine environment.
- **Action 47** - **Engage** with all appropriate **sectors** (manufacturing, retail etc.) to explore the possibility of a **voluntary agreement to phase out the use of microplastics as a component in personal care and cosmetic products**. Should a voluntary agreement prove not to be sufficient, prepare a proposal for OSPAR to call on the EU to introduce appropriate measures to achieve a 100% phasing out of microplastics in personal care and cosmetic products.
- **Action 52** - Promote **initiatives and exchange of best practice aiming at zero pellet loss** along the whole plastics manufacturing chain from production to transport.



Marine Litter Regional Action Plan (RAP-ML)

- Microplastics
- **Since 2014**
- Evidence base - Assessment of land-based inputs of microplastics
- Background document on pre-production pellets
- Dialogue with CosmeticsEurope and PlasticsEurope and call on EU to ban MP in cosmetics
- Assistance in development of EU Plastics Strategy in a circular economy
- **Planned/Ongoing:**
- Stakeholder dialogue on pellets with plastic production chain
- Follow up on EU approach to tackle through chemical regulation (REACH)



Marine Litter Regional Action Plan (RAP-ML)

- Evaluation of progress
- North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy
- 2020-2030
- Most of CP's have the vast majority of the national actions "*Ongoing*" or "*Fully Implemented*"
- Nearly half of the common actions are "*Ongoing*" or "*Fully Implemented*"
- RAP implemented until 2021
- Reviewed and updated
- Ongoing process
- Confidence on the outcomes of 2023 Quality Status Report





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THE UK
PLASTICS
FACT



**TOGETHER
WE
CAN**

**TOGETHER
BRANDS
RETAILERS
MANUFACTURERS
PRODUCERS
RECYCLERS
NGOS
GOVERNMENTS
LOCAL AUTHORITIES
CAN**

And we will!!!

- **REGIONAL SEA CONVENTIONS**
- **INTERNACIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**
- **RESEARCHERS**
- **CITIZENS**

MARINE LITTER

International response: the example of the OSPAR Commission



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Thank you for your patience! 😊

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