

OSPAR Intermediate Assessment 2017

Summary

OSPAR's Intermediate Assessment 2017 (IA2017) describes the human pressures on the North-East Atlantic, their effects and the implications for biodiversity. The IA 2017 included the development and assessment of 41 indicators covering the status of marine habitats and species and the magnitude of pressures, such as contaminants, litter, underwater noise, non-indigenous species and fisheries.

Work involved

JNCC led the development of new approaches to biodiversity status assessments through close collaboration with experts from other countries in the NE Atlantic.

JNCC undertook the IA2017 assessments of seals and marine birds, and of the impact of human activities on benthic habitats and the impact of fishing bycatch on cetaceans. Our experts also contributed to other biodiversity status assessments, the impacts of underwater noise and an assessment of the effectiveness of marine protected areas.

Key outcomes

The OSPAR Intermediate Assessment 2017 will enable the UK and other countries bordering the NE Atlantic to monitor progress and prioritise actions that need to be taken to achieve Good Environmental Status in Europe's oceans and seas. EU member states can use the results of the IA2017 to meet obligations under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Future work

Further development of indicators and methods to improve confidence in the assessments, in time for OSPAR's Quality Status Report in 2023. This includes filling knowledge gaps, improving geographical coverage and ensuring sufficient data collection and data flows.

Identified research priorities

Address knowledge gaps identified in the IA2017. These include establishing links between marine biodiversity state and pressures from human activities.

Further information

OSPAR (2017). Intermediate Assessment 2017.

Available at: <https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/intermediate-assessment-2017>

Country: UK

Period of work: 2012-2017

Partnership: OSPAR Contracting Parties



North-East Atlantic OSPAR Region



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Abundance has dropped for more than a quarter of assessed marine bird species since 1992



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Harbour and grey seal populations generally stable or increasing