

OSPAR

Official reference	Convention for the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic	
Official website	www.ospar.org	
Relevant dates	Document	22/09/1992
	Entry into force	25/03/1998
	Ratification by Belgium	11/05/1995
	Ratification by Flanders	19/04/1995
Policy level	International	
Type of instrument	Convention	
Geographical reach	The North East Atlantic (5 regions: the Arctic, the North Sea, the Celtic Seas, the Bay of Biscay and Iberian waters, and the Wider Atlantic)	
(Legal) coverage in the BNS	Internal waters, territorial sea, exclusive economic zone	
International contact point	OSPAR Commission	
Competent authorities in Belgium	Federal authorities; FPS Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment; DG Environment; Agency Marine Environment	
Federal ratification	Wet van 11 mei 1995 houdende goedkeuring van het Verdrag inzake de bescherming van het marien milieu van de Noordoostelijke Atlantische Oceaan, Bijlagen I, II, III en IV, en de Aanhangsels 1 en 2, gedaan te Parijs op 22 september 1992	
Flemish ratification	Decreet van 19 april 1995 houdende goedkeuring van het Verdrag inzake de bescherming van het mariene milieu van de Noordoostelijke Atlantische Oceaan, en van de bijlagen, opgemaakt in Parijs op 22 september 1992	

// abstract:

The OSPAR Convention combines and updates the 'Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft' (1972 Oslo Convention) and the 'Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources' (1974 Paris Convention). In its 'North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2010-2020', the OSPAR Commission aims to protect marine areas against the harmful effects of human activities, and thereby tries to protect human health and marine ecosystems as well as to restore damaged marine areas. The implementation of the ecosystem approach in the context of the management of human activities is a central aim of the convention. The OSPAR Commission developed and implemented a series of five thematic strategies, in order to focus on the most important identified threats to the marine environment. These strategies relate to biodiversity and ecosystems, eutrophication, hazardous substances, offshore oil and gas industry, and radioactive substances. A sixth strategy is the 'Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme' (JAMP) offering a framework for the development of OSPAR's monitoring and assessment programmes. In 2014 the OSPAR Commission adopted a renewed Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP) for the period 2014-2021 focusing on the development of new general assessments of the quality status of the marine environment. OSPAR monitoring needs to meet relevant assessment requirements such as the *Marine Strategy Framework Directive* (2008/56/EC; p.85) criteria. Although climate change does not have a separate strategy, the relevance of climate change and the required mitigation and adaptation with regard to the marine environment are extensively discussed in the Quality Status Report of 2010.