



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/38
21 September 2012

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Eleventh meeting
Hyderabad, India, 8-19 October 2012
Item 10.1 of the provisional agenda*

**PROGRESS ON REFINING DESCRIPTIONS OF AREAS MEETING EBSA CRITERIA IN THE
NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC**

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its sixteenth meeting (paragraph 3 of SBSTTA recommendations XVI/4 B), recognized that there is an ongoing scientific and technical process with respect to the areas in the North-East Atlantic described in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5/Add.1, and requested the Executive Secretary to include the revised results of the regional workshop for the North-East Atlantic, in accordance with paragraph 36 of decision X/29, and accompanying process, to the extent that these revised results describe areas that are geographically included in those set out in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5, before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in the summary report, in the same format and details, prepared by the Subsidiary Body at its sixteenth meeting, pursuant to paragraph 42 of decision X/29.
2. By means of a letter of 30 July 2012, the Executive Secretary of the OSPAR Commission and the Secretary of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) informed the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity that the organizations had not concluded their work regarding the description of areas meeting the scientific criteria for EBSAs, and confirmed that this work would not be concluded in time for described areas to be included in the reports to be submitted to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in line with the above SBSTTA recommendation. However, the executive heads of the OSPAR and NEAFC secretariats noted that work on this matter in the two organizations would continue towards the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a clear commitment to basing any conclusion on the best available scientific information.
3. As requested by the NEAFC and OSPAR secretariats, further information is provided in this information document. The progress report is circulated, together with the cover letter signed by the executive secretaries of OSPAR Commission and NEAFC, in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/11/1.



Dr Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
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30 July 2012

Continued work of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the OSPAR Commission (OSPAR) regarding the description of potential Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the North-East Atlantic

Dear Dr Dias

Reference is made to our previous correspondence on this matter, including our letters of 14 December 2011, 15 February 2012 and 26 March 2012.

As you know, NEAFC and OSPAR, together with the CBD Secretariat, held a North-East Atlantic Regional EBSA Workshop in September 2011. The report of the Workshop and a peer review by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) have been sent to CBD and were discussed at SBSTTA 16, where it was appropriately decided not to take forward information on the areas proposed as meeting the CBD EBSA criteria to the CBD COP 11.

In sending the report and the peer review to CBD, we stressed that the North-East Atlantic Workshop was a scientific exercise that did not address policy issues. We furthermore noted that the report had not been endorsed by either of our Commissions as it would be the subject of further scrutiny and internal processes and that neither Commission had finalised its work or made decisions in this regard. On the basis of the work to be carried out, both NEAFC and OSPAR will consider refining the descriptions of areas identified as meeting the CBD EBSA scientific criteria and presenting these to CBD SBSTTA for consideration regarding inclusion in the CBD Repository as appropriate.

With this letter, we are reiterating that NEAFC and OSPAR have not concluded their work regarding the description of areas meeting CBD scientific criteria for EBSAs, and confirming that this work will not be concluded in time for selected areas to be nominated before the CBD COP 11. While it was appropriate for SBSTTA 16 to discuss the Workshop report and the peer review, the issue of proposed areas meeting the CBD EBSA scientific criteria in the North-East Atlantic is not presently at a stage where it would be appropriate to present it to the CBD COP.

However, the work continues in both NEAFC and OSPAR, and the two organisations expect to continue to work together on this issue, complementing each other's work and having joint efforts, as appropriate. The issue of taking forward and further refining descriptions of areas meeting the CBD criteria for EBSAs in the North-East Atlantic was discussed at the Annual Meeting of OSPAR in June this year where several relevant conclusions were reached, as described in the information document from OSPAR that is enclosed with this letter (Annex 1). This issue, including the outcomes of the OSPAR meeting, will be discussed this year in NEAFC's Permanent Committee on Management and Science in October and at the NEAFC Annual Meeting in November.

Although there will be no conclusions regarding proposed areas meeting the CBD EBSA scientific criteria in the North-East Atlantic in time for CBD COP 11, you have our assurances that the relevant work will continue towards CBD COP 12, with a clear commitment to basing any conclusion on the best available scientific information.

Yours sincerely



David Johnson
Executive Secretary
OSPAR Commission



Stefán Ásmundsson
Secretary
NEAFC

Cc Ms Jihyun Lee

Document submitted by the OSPAR Commission

Progress Report on Descriptions of areas of the North-East Atlantic meeting scientific criteria for Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) outlining a proposed way forward

This document summarises the current situation regarding the description of areas meeting EBSA scientific criteria in the North-East Atlantic as part of a joint process initiated by the OSPAR Commission (OSPAR) and the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) with the support of the CBD Secretariat.

Background

1. A Joint OSPAR/NEAFC/CBD Regional Workshop to describe areas meeting EBSA scientific criteria in the North-East Atlantic was held in Hyères, France on 8-9 September 2011. Terms of reference for the Workshop restricted consideration to the OSPAR Maritime Area beyond 200 nautical miles. The Workshop was the first of its kind responding to the CBD COP10 Decision X/29. The scientific and technical process identified and proposed descriptions of ten areas, several of which were extensive.
2. The North-East Atlantic Workshop report was forwarded to CBD Secretariat for presentation to SBSTTA 16 (30 April – 5 May 2012) on progress so far together with a separate summary document setting out brief descriptions of the ten areas (Annex 1). An independent peer review of the report was also conducted by two experts nominated by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES).
3. CBD Secretariat presented the Workshop report and ICES peer review to SBSTTA 16 as Information Papers (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5/ADD1 respectively). The CBD Secretariat also combined the North-East Atlantic summary document with the summary outcomes of other Regional Workshops, resulting in a list of locations meeting the EBSA criteria, as a substantive paper for consideration and approval by SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/5/ADD1).
4. During SBSTTA 16 there was considerable discussion on the fate of the North-East Atlantic Workshop outcomes and their status as compared with the outcomes of other Workshops. In consequence, those areas that were described in the Joint OSPAR/NEAFC/CBD Regional Workshop for the North-East Atlantic were removed from document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/5/ADD1 in the course of SBSTTA 16. Instead, after complex negotiations, SBSTTA 16 *recognized that there is an ongoing scientific and technical process with respect to the areas in the North-East Atlantic, and requested the CBD Executive Secretary to include the revised results of the regional workshop for the North-East Atlantic, in accordance with paragraph 36 of decision X/29, and accompanying process, to the extent that these revised results describe areas that are geographically included in those set out in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/5, before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the summary report, in the same format and details, prepared by the Subsidiary Body at its sixteenth meeting, pursuant to paragraph 42 of decision X/29 (§ 3. of Section B in SBSTTA 16 Recommendation XVI/4).*

Subsequent discussion within OSPAR

5. Relevant issues relating to the process to describe areas that meet the scientific criteria for the

identification of ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs) under the CBD were introduced to Contracting Parties to OSPAR at their annual meeting on 25-29 June 2012 (OSPAR 2012). A briefing was held in the margins of the meeting, to support the discussion and provide an opportunity to inform delegates in more detail of the discussion at CBD SBSTTA 16.

6. Options were presented to OSPAR 2012 to consider how OSPAR would wish to take this work forward and, further to discussion, OSPAR concluded that it would not be possible to undertake a thorough scientific review and revision of the ten areas described by the Joint OSPAR/NEAFC/CBD Regional Workshop for the North-East Atlantic prior to CBD COP 11. It was, however, considered important to underline that Contracting Parties continue to support the EBSA process and that they recognise the importance of consolidating a sound and credible scientific process for the further description of areas that meet CBD EBSA scientific criteria.

7. For that reason during OSPAR 2012 a sessional drafting group was convened in order to elaborate the forward process to CBD COP 12 in 2014, on the basis of continuing to focus on the OSPAR Maritime Area beyond 200 nautical miles. Contracting Parties expressed clearly their preference that if possible the onward process should continue to be undertaken as a joint endeavour with NEAFC, and as such the draft documents developed during OSPAR 2012 should form the basis of consultation with NEAFC to establish how a joint process could be achieved.

8. The drafting group developed:

- a. a draft road map, elaborating further work that would be required and the timings of these steps in order to be in a position to submit information more accurately describing areas in the OSPAR Maritime Area beyond 200 nm that meet the CBD EBSA scientific criteria to CBD COP 12 in 2014 (Annex 2). As part of this road map, the drafting group also developed:
- b. a draft text for a joint OSPAR/ NEAFC¹ request to ICES for 2013, this is a multi-step process ensuring the engagement of ICES through to the finalisation of the scientific case; and
- c. a draft terms of reference for a joint OSPAR/NEAFC/ ICES Scientific Workshop to review and refine the description of areas meeting the CBD EBSA scientific criteria in the OSPAR Maritime Area beyond 200 nm in the North-East Atlantic.

9. In discussion it was noted that a number of outstanding issues (financial and conceptual) would remain until such time as NEAFC can be consulted on their wish to go forward in partnership with OSPAR. OSPAR noted that the CBD EBSA process is a scientific and technical exercise and that it is important to separate it from legal and political considerations. However, Contracting Parties noted that several of the areas in question overlay, in part at least, continental shelf, or areas of continental shelf that are subject to submissions to the Commission on the Limits to the Continental Shelf (CLCS). Some of the States concerned made it clear that they wished it to remain their prerogative whether or not descriptions of potential EBSAs in these areas were submitted to CBD.

10. On this basis, OSPAR Contracting Parties agreed that they were content to progress with the exercise as set out in the roadmap. However, an opportunity was needed within the process for Contracting Parties to evaluate the quality of the science, consult internally and then decide how details of the area concerned should be forwarded to CBD. As a result Contracting Parties incorporated into the road map an opportunity to have a policy discussion at Heads of Delegation level, after the results of the workshop are available, in order to consider how to proceed with the submission of areas meeting the CBD EBSA scientific criteria that overlay areas of continental shelf subject to submission to the CLCS.

Conclusions

¹ Pending consultation with NEAFC and any decision made by the Contracting Parties to NEAFC at their Annual Meeting (November, 2012).

11. In conclusion OSPAR 2012 agreed:
- a. to endorse the road map, the request to ICES and terms of reference for a follow-up workshop as a draft and as the basis for consultation with NEAFC and further joint development;
 - b. to instruct the Chair of OSPAR to write to inform the NEAFC Chair of progress at the OSPAR 2012 meeting with regards to the description of areas meeting CBD EBSA scientific criteria in the OSPAR maritime area beyond 200 nm and welcoming continued collaboration on this work;
 - c. to instruct the OSPAR Secretariat to follow up the exchange of letters between Chairs to contact the NEAFC Secretariat to make arrangements to initiate the work of the Steering Committee (as described in §14 of the Road Map at Annex 2) and to establish whether there is mutual agreement to continue to progress this work as a joint effort;
 - d. to request that, once it has been established, the joint Steering Committee finalise the request to ICES if possible as a joint request from NEAFC and OSPAR, deciding on whether ICES advice is required or rather a technical review is sufficient and agreeing the relevant administrative and financial arrangements;
 - e. to invite Contracting Parties to consider hosting of the workshop;
 - f. to request that Contracting Parties liaise domestically with their NEAFC and CBD counterparts.
12. CBP COP11 is kindly requested to note progress towards describing EBSAs for the North-East Atlantic on the basis of the initial results of the Hyères workshop including specifically the intention to maintain this initiative as far as possible as an inclusive exercise in partnership between OSPAR and NEAFC with the continuing support of CBD Secretariat; the proposal to request ICES advice on scientific and technical outcomes; and the firm commitment to work towards concrete proposals for CBD COP12.

<p style="text-align: center;">Locations to be considered and Brief Description of areas meeting CBD scientific criteria</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ranking of EBSA Scientific Criteria</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Relevance H: High; M: Medium; L:Low; -:not relevant</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1: Uniqueness or rarity • C2: Special importance for life-history stages of species • C3: Importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats • C4: Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity, or slow recovery • C5: Biological productivity • C6: Biological diversity • C7: Naturalness 						
	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
<p>1. Reykjanes Ridge south of Iceland EEZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Northernmost part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (bordering Iceland and Greenland EEZs, extending eastwards to the abyssal plains) • Reykjanes Ridge is part of the major topographic feature in the Atlantic Ocean, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. It is an important feature in the hydrography and circulation of the area, playing an important role in the open ocean ecosystem, and also provides a hard-bottom substrate for the colonization of benthic communities. Sharp gradients in environmental conditions have allowed colonization of benthic fauna from very remote regions. There is evidence from recent surveys of several vulnerable species and groups of animals, including <i>Lophelia pertusa</i>, deep-sea sponge communities, deep-sea fish communities and several shark and ray species. There are also surveys showing whales and birds in the area. There has been fishing in the area over the years, but it remains largely unquantified. This site meets several of the criteria for an EBSA and although there are extended continental shelf submissions in the area it warrants designation. 	M	M	H	H	H	M	

<p>2. Charlie Gibbs Fracture Zone and Sub-Polar Frontal Zone of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Central part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, between Iceland and the Azores • The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is not only the major topographic feature of the Atlantic Ocean within the OSPAR maritime area, but it is also an important benthic habitat and is integral to the circulation of the Atlantic Ocean. The area is important for cold water corals, demersal (benthopelagic) fish fauna, and pelagic productivity. Several areas along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge have been protected with either bottom fishing closures (as Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems) and/or have been designated as OSPAR High Seas Marine Protected Areas in the last few years. Much of the data that has informed these decisions came from the MAR-ECO research project. This information is used again within this proposal to show that the productive frontal region around the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone warrants recognition as an EBSA. 	?	?	M	H	H	H	
<p>3. Mid-Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: North of the Azores encompassing a section of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge together with two neighbouring seamounts (Altair and Antialtair) • The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is not only the major topographic feature of the Atlantic Ocean within the OSPAR Maritime Area, but it is also an important benthic habitat and is central to the circulation of the Atlantic Ocean, influencing the pelagic environment and its biology. Several areas along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge have been protected with either bottom fishing closures (as Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems [VME]) and/or have been designated as OSPAR High Seas Marine Protected Areas in the last few years. Much of the data that has informed these decisions came from the MAR-ECO research project. This information is used again within this proposal to show that the Mid-Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores warrants recognition as an EBSA. In general terms the box selected is distinct in terms of biodiversity and, thus, biogeography from two other northern EBSA proposed for the MAR at northern latitudes. It comprises three OSPAR Marine Protected Areas, partly coincident with NEAFC VME, and the recently discovered deep-sea hydrothermal vent Moytirra. Biological features highlighted include the taxonomic structure of the bathyal benthic fauna particularly echinoderms, sponges and anthozoa; a high density of migrating mesopelagic assemblages; cold water corals; and large deep-water fish. The area is also considered as important for foraging of Corys Shearwater (<i>Calonectris diomedea borealis</i>). 	H	M	H	M	M	M	

<p>4. The Hatton and Rockall Banks and the Hatton-Rockall Basin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: North-East Atlantic continental margin south of the Greenland to Scotland ridges • The Hatton and Rockall Banks, and associated slopes, represent unique offshore bathyal habitats (200 to 3000 m) and constitute a most prominent feature of the NE Atlantic continental margin south of the Greenland to Scotland ridges. The banks and slopes have an high habitat heterogeneity and support a wide range of benthic and pelagic faunas. Seabed communities include cold-water coral formations, rocky reefs, carbonate mounds, polygonal fault systems, sponge aggregations, steep and gentle sedimented slopes. Pelagic communities comprise those inhabiting bathy-, meso- and epi-pelagic zones, including zooplankton, fish, cetaceans, turtles and seabirds. The area is subject to significant fishing impact, including bottom trawling, long-lining, and mid-water fisheries. 	M	M	H	H	M	H	
<p>5. Around Pedro Nunes and Hugo de Lacerda Seamounts – IBA MA04</p> <p>Location : coordinates are as follows: A - 41°16'N, 15°31'W B - 41°16'N, 14°54'W C - 40°24'N, 15°31'W D - 40°24'N, 14°54'W</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This site is around 485 km away from Berlengas and 890 km from Desertas. It has been identified as a pelagic feeding and resting area for Cory's Shearwater. Its presence may be explained by the presence of seamounts. This area includes two seamounts - Pedro Nunes and Hugo de Lacerda - which act as natural boosters of the likely increased richness of this site. Besides, there are four other significant seamounts in the surrounding area. 	M	H	M	M	?	?	
<p>6. North east Azores-Biscay Rise – IBA MA03</p> <p>Location: coordinates are as follows: A - 43°50'N, 18°20'W B - 43°50'N, 17°23'W C - 42°08'N, 18°20'W D - 42°08'N, 17°23'W</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This site is around 740 km away from the Berlengas islands and 1,080 km from Deserta Grande. It has been identified as a pelagic feeding and resting area for Cory's Shearwater. Its presence may be explained by upwellings that are thought to occur in the area. This large area is located at an elevation of the seabed (Azores - Biscaya) which may be the cause for an upwelling phenomenon in this area, increasing its productivity. This effect appears to be confirmed through the satellite pictures obtained for this location and period, both SST and CHL. 	M	H	M	M	?	?	

<p>7. Evlanov Seamount Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Max Lat 50.078, Min Lon -34.072, Max Lon -39.807, Min Lat 45.102 • This site to the North West of the Azores EEZ and west of the mid-Atlantic ridge has been identified for a number of seabird species which satellite tracking data shows use the area. Different species use the site at different times of year, for the primary species considered here the period of importance runs from April to November. 7 out of the 8 species considered have been found here. A wide range of supporting information is available for this site from published sources. The site covers an area of 146,635 km², with depths ranging from 4686 m to 3110 m and averaging at 4326m. Chlorophyll a concentration ranges from 0.22 mg m⁻³ to 0.79 mg m⁻³, averaging at 0.37 mg m⁻³, while Sea surface temperature ranges from 12.22°C to 18.41°C, averaging at 15.44°C (IOC et al., 2003, Feldman and McClain, 2011). 	M	H	H	M	?	M	
<p>8. North-West of Azores EEZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Max Lat 44.348, Min Lon -30.83, Max Lon -36.538, Min Lat 39.8 • This site borders the Azores EEZ on the North-western corner, it has been identified for a number of seabird species which satellite tracking data shows use the area. Different species use the site at different times of year, for the primary species considered here the period of importance runs from April to November. 7 out of the 8 species considered have been found here. A wide range of supporting information is available for this site from published sources. This site includes part of the MAR North of the Azores High seas MPA. In addition it includes the Important Bird Area MA01 (Ramirez et al 2008). The site covers an area of 91,243km², with depths ranging from 4569 m to 2692 m and averaging at 4326 m. Chlorophyll a concentration ranges from 0.15 mg m⁻³ to 0.35 mg m⁻³, averaging at 0.21 mg m⁻³, while Sea surface temperature ranges from 17.08°C to 21.51°C, averaging at 19.37°C (IOC et al., 2003, Feldman and McClain, 2011). 	M	H	H	M	?	M	
<p>9. The Arctic front – Greenland/Norwegian Seas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Arctic front and its adjacent waters • The area proposed as EBSA reflects the meridional, interannual and seasonal variability of the Arctic front with adjacent Atlantic waters to the east (warm side) and Arctic waters up to the marginal ice zone to the west. The frontal processes are the power machine for the ecosystem, generating seasonally a huge biomass production on all trophic levels, but best visualized by the large schools of feeding pelagic fish. 	?	H	H	?	H	H	

10. The Arctic Ice Habitat – multiyear ice, seasonal ice and marginal ice zone 1

- Location: Central Arctic Basin extending to the North Pole and the southern limit of of the summer sea ice extent and marginal ice zone (including on the shelf of East Greenland)
- The permanently ice covered waters of the high Arctic provide a range of globally unique habitats associated with the variety of ice conditions. Multi-year sea ice only exists in the Arctic and although the projections of changing ice conditions due to climate change project a considerable loss of sea ice, in particular multiyear ice, the Eurasian Central Arctic high seas are likely to at least keep the ice longer than many other regions in the Arctic basin. Ice is a crucial habitat and source of particular foodweb dynamics, the loss of which will affect also a number of mammalian and avian predatory species. The particularly pronounced physical changes of Arctic ice conditions as already observed and expected for the coming decades, will require careful ecological monitoring and eventually measures to maintain or restore the resilience of the Arctic populations to quickly changing environmental conditions.

H	H	H	?	?	?	
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OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic

Meeting of the OSPAR Commission

Bonn: 25-29 June 2012

Further work on the description of areas meeting the CBD EBSA scientific criteria in the OSPAR maritime area beyond 200 nm: Draft Roadmap II 2012-2014

Action	Responsibility	Date
Commission an in depth ICES review of workshop outcomes (10 EBSA descriptions) to come to initial views as to the additional work that would be required, and any additional science	OSPAR in Consultation with NEAFC ²	31 July 2012
Joint ² Progress report to CBD COP 11 subject to HOD written procedure	OSPAR Secretariat in conjunction with the NEAFC Secretariat ²	To be submitted to the SCBD by the 6 August 2012 in time for October 2012
Review and refinement of the description of areas meeting the CBD EBSA scientific criteria ³ for the identification of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) in the North-East Atlantic, resulting from the Hyères Workshop	ICES	Until 1 December 2012
Refine description of areas meeting the CBD EBSA scientific criteria	Original authors/ Experts (TBC)	[1 December 2012 – 28 February 2013]
Consider ICES advice and provide feedback to BDC 2013	ICG-MPA	January/February 2013
Joint ² OSPAR/NEAFC/ICES workshop to further elaborate EBSA descriptions incorporating OSPAR High Seas MPAs	OSPAR NEAFC Error! Reference source not found. ICES	<u>tentative:</u> 18-22 March 2013 [alternative: 11-15 March 2013]
Provisional consultation on institutional issues on the basis of the workshop outcomes	OSPAR HOD, Observers	Early April 2013

² Pending consultation with NEAFC

³ CBD Decision IX/20 Annex 1

[ICES to conclude on revised descriptions of areas meeting CBD EBSA scientific criteria] ⁴	[ICES]	[Until end of April 2013]
Review conclusions of Joint OSPAR/NEAFC/ICES workshop	BDC HOD Via written procedure or special meeting	1 st half of May 2013
Endorse outcomes	OSPAR 2013	June 2013
Endorse outcomes	PECMAS 2013	June 2013
Endorse outcomes	NEAFC 2013	November 2013
Joint ² submission to CBD SBSTTA 17/18	OSPAR/NEAFC ²	In time for document deadline, early 2014
Joint ² Submission to CBD COP 12	OSPAR /NEAFC ²	September/October 2014 (document deadline early August)

Provisional List of MPAs expected to be nominated to the OSPAR Network by Contracting Parties by 31 December 2012.

The Interim 2012 Status report presents the progress achieved by the OSPAR Commission towards establishing a coherent and well-managed network of marine protected areas as at 31 July 2012. However, the work to develop the OSPAR MPA Network continues and should therefore be taken into account where possible. Five Contracting Parties have provisionally indicated that they will be nominating a total of 49 additional MPAs to the OSPAR Network by 31 December 2012 as shown in Table 1 below. On the basis of the provisional information provided to date, it is anticipated that the area under protection by the end of this year will be increased by at least 27,062 km² from 654,898 km² to 681,959 km². In percentage terms this would increase the area under protection to over 5% of the total OSPAR Maritime Area by the end of this year.

Table 1.

Contracting Party	MPA area	Territorial sea area Km²	EEZ area Km²	TOTAL
Belgium (BE)	Vlaamse Banken	725.1	456.2	
Belgium (BE)	SBZ3	56.8		
France (FR)	Details TBC (total 32 sites)			
Portugal (PT)	Banco Gorringe			
Sweden (SE)	Bratten	51.1	1,153.5	
Sweden (SE)	Havstenfjorden	16.6		
United Kingdom (UK)	Pisces Reef Complex SAC		8.5	
United Kingdom (UK)	Wight-Barfleur Reef SAC		1,373.4	
United Kingdom (UK)	Croker Carbonate Slabs SAC		65.9	
United Kingdom (UK)	Studland to Portland SAC	331.8		
United Kingdom (UK)	Skerries & Causeway SAC	108.6		
United Kingdom (UK)	The Maidens SAC	74.6		
United Kingdom (UK)	Sound of Barra SAC			
United Kingdom (UK)	Pobie Bank Reef SAC		965.8	
United Kingdom (UK)	Solan Bank Reef SAC		855.9	
United Kingdom (UK)	Anton Dohrn Seamount SAC		1,428.6	
United Kingdom (UK)	East Rockall Bank SAC		3,694.9	
United Kingdom (UK)	Hatton Bank SAC		15,694.3	
<i>Sub total</i>		1,364.6	25,697.1	
Total				27,061.7km²

