



Sintra + 3 = ? WWF's Essentials for OSPAR 2001

briefing

In 2000, at the 3rd OSPAR Commission Meeting in Copenhagen, WWF welcomed the publication of the Quality Status Report (QSR), as well as the useful update of the OSPAR List of Chemicals for Priority Action and the imminent entry into force of Annex V on the Protection and Conservation of Ecosystems and Biological Diversity.

In 2001, WWF...

Recalls that arising from the Sintra Statement and the new OSPAR Strategies with regard to Hazardous and/or Radioactive Substances, Eutrophication, and Ecosystems & Biological Diversity as adopted in 1998, a number of pressing deadlines for urgent follow-up tasks are now imminent, such as:

- developing by **2003** the most necessary programmes and measures to achieve the purposes of Annex V;
- drawing up programmes and measures by **2003** for the control of discharges, emissions and losses of the substances on the initial OSPAR List of Chemicals for Priority Action;
- developing environmental quality criteria for the protection of the marine environment from adverse effects of radioactive substances and reporting on progress by the year **2003**; and
- applying the Common Procedure to complete the identification and characterisation of the eutrophication status of all parts of the maritime area by **2003**.

**Meeting of the
OSPAR Commission
Valencia
Spain
25 - 29 June 2001**

In addition, the obligation arises from the adoption, by OSPAR 1999 in Hull, of the new Strategy on Environmental Goals and Management Mechanisms for Offshore Activities to:

- establish by **2003** environmental goals in respect of prevention and elimination of pollution from offshore sources (e.g. produced water as negotiated at OSPAR 2001).

For information, contact:

Stephan Lutter
WWF North-East Atlantic Programme
Am Güthpol 11 · D-28757 Bremen · Germany
Tel: +49 421 65846-22 · Fax: +49 421 65846-12
E-mail: lutter@wwfneap.org

Recalls the commitment arising from the Offshore Strategy to „as soon as possible after the entry into force of Annex V to the OSPAR Convention ... establish environmental goals in respect of the protection and conservation of the maritime area against adverse effects of offshore activities other than pollution“.

Recalls the Sintra Ministerial commitments to „move towards the target of cessation of discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances by the year 2020“ and to „promote the establishment of a network of marine protected areas to ensure the sustainable use and protection and conservation of marine biological diversity and its ecosystems“. Progress on implementation of those essential Ministerial commitments adopted in Sintra 1998 now already seems to be 'lagging behind schedule'.

Looks forward to soon seeing Annex V being ratified by the majority if not all Parties to OSPAR.

New WWF briefings launched at OSPAR 2001

- How to Make the Market of Hazardous Substances More Transparent?

- Lilla Middelgrund – A Potential Marine Protected Area

- The Darwin Mounds – A Potential Marine Protected Area

- The Formigas Bank – A Potential Marine Protected Area

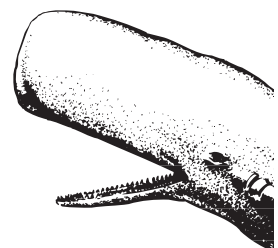
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At OSPAR 2001, as a matter of priority, Contracting Parties must address the following issues:

Hazardous Substances

While WWF recognises the progress made in terms of elaborating the draft OSPAR Background Documents on the first (1998) tranche of chemicals for priority action, there is reason for concern that the envisaged programmes and measures to phase out the use of and/or eliminate these dangerous marine pollutants might be jeopardized and delayed beyond 2003 by the tendency to further clarify international competency matters. WWF urgently calls on OSPAR 2001:

- To pave the way for fast and effective international co-operation on the control and reduction of discharges, emissions and losses of priority chemicals in discussing and adopting the related correspondences between OSPAR and the EC and finalising the Strategic Document on Co-operation between OSPAR and the European Community.



- To agree on publishing the OSPAR List of Substances of Possible Concern as an incentive for decision makers, stakeholders and the private sector to take voluntary pollution prevention action ahead of necessary regulatory measures.

- Not to postpone action on substances of potential concern any further for which industry has not submitted sufficient or any data. In line with § 5.6 of the Hazardous Substances Strategy OSPAR should call on manufacturers and holders of chemical databases to provide good quality information on all chemicals suspected to have PTB and/or POP-like properties in order to facilitate the further development of the OSPAR List of Chemicals for Priority Action.

WWF's submissions to OSPAR 2001

OSPAR 01/04/13-E Strategies for Making the European Market of Hazardous Substances More Transparent - A Report on European Importers and Producers of Chemical Substances Suspected to have a PTB Profile.

OSPAR 01/06/04-E From Assessment to Management - Time for an Ecosystem Approach to the OSPAR Regions.

OSPAR 01/06/05-E The Status of Natural Resources on the High Seas - Time for Conservation Action.

OSPAR 01/06/06-E(L) The Status of Wild Atlantic Salmon - Call to Action.

OSPAR 01/10/2-E(L) Comments on the Draft Strategic Document on Co-operation between OSPAR and the European Community - **joint submission with Seas At Risk.**

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Ecosystems and Biodiversity

WWF welcomes the progress made at technical level in terms of preparing lists of species and habitats under threat or immediate decline and/or testing the draft criteria for marine protected areas. With regard to further political progress, WWF is hoping for a change of heart:

- Following the adoption of an intergovernmental Programme for the Development of a System of Marine Protected Areas in the OSPAR-Maritime Area in 2000, it is the appropriate time for Contracting Parties to submit a list of candidate MPAs with a view to having this list further refined for approval by Ministers at OSPAR MMC 2003.

- In the light of revised legal interpretation suggesting that the EU Habitat and Birds Directives apply throughout the 200 nautical-miles-zone (EEZ) where Member States have exercised their sovereign rights in this area, EU Member States within the OSPAR Convention should undertake a concerted effort to, by end 2001, accordingly update the lists of sites in their waters suitable for designation.

- International law should not necessarily be an obstacle or impediment to the establishment of high-seas MPAs (HSMPAs). OSPAR should continue identifying areas and resources in the high-seas zone of its maritime area (beyond

the 200 nm limit) that are in need of protection or management measures. OSPAR is hoped to soon develop a system which affords limited interim protection to particularly threatened areas whilst an agreement between States is being negotiated at the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNICPOLOS).

- Due to the recommendations made with regard to fisheries in the QSR 2000 and recent developments at EU level, e.g. the Biodiversity Action Plan for Fisheries and the upcoming review of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), there is a need to more thoroughly analyse the issues on which OSPAR could cooperate with the EC in line with the provisions of Article 4.1 of Annex V to the Convention. This should be an important part of the discussions on the draft Strategic Document on Co-operation between OSPAR and the European Community.

From the Quality Status Report 2000 towards an Ecosystem Approach for the OSPAR Regions I-V

In the light of the obligation arising from Annex V, Article 3 § 1b (iv) "to aim for the application of an integrated ecosystem approach", WWF calls on OSPAR Contracting Parties to adopt an integrated and multi-disciplinary ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities in the OSPAR Maritime Area. This will involve planning and implementation of policies and field programmes across relatively large areas of appropriate size, in order to maintain the widest possible range of biodiversity components and essential ecological processes and functions. The appropriate units for the management of human activities and demands on marine resources, be they spatial, living, or mineral resources, are defined by biogeographical parameters rather than geo-political boundaries. The QSR 2000 provides a holistic assessment of the environmental status of each of the five Regions of the OSPAR Maritime Area. It also includes concise recommendations of actions to be taken to improve the current status of the environment. Hence, WWF believes that the need to "regionalise" practical delivery procedures in line with OSPAR Regions I-V is central to the way forward.

Earlier WWF Briefings on Hazardous Substances

Brominated Flame Retardants - Bisphenol A - Nonylphenol Ethoxylates (NPE) – Phthalates – Vinclozolin - Endocrine Disrupting Pesticides - Pesticides in Surface and Coastal Waters - Cetaceans & Endocrine Disruptors - Seals & Endocrine Disruptors - Fish & Endocrine Disruptors - Synthetic Musk Fragrances - Salmon & Atrazine

Earlier WWF Proposals for Offshore Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Sula Ridge – Celtic Shelf Break - Rockall Bank - Rockall Trough and Channel - Western Irish Sea Front - Dogger Bank - Waters West of Sylt - Banco Gorringe Seamount - BIOTRANS Deep Sea Abyssal Plain - Lucky Strike Hydrothermal Vents

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