

OSPAR AND THE BONN AGREEMENT: WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Why is this important?

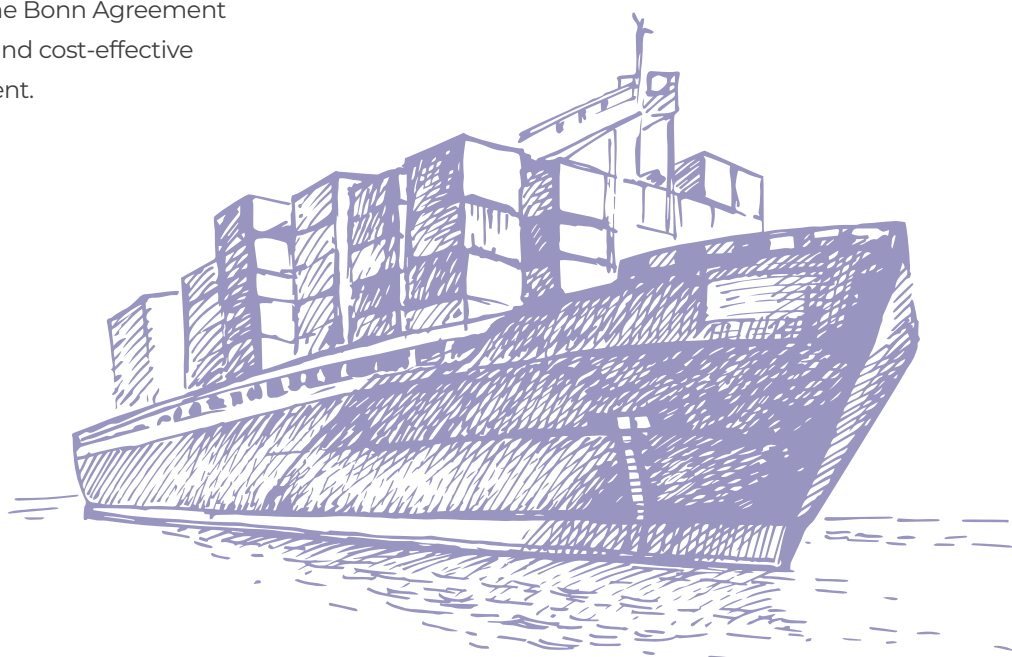
OSPAR and the Bonn Agreement have complementary competences and responsibilities for protecting the marine environment within the North-East Atlantic and the North Sea Area, respectively.

The Bonn Agreement for Co-operation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea area by Oil and Other Harmful Substances is the mechanism by which its Contracting Parties come together to combat pollution in the Greater North Sea and its approaches from maritime disasters and chronic pollution from ships and offshore installations. Prevention, preparedness, and response are the three main pillars of the Bonn Agreement Strategic Action Plan aiming to minimise as far as possible the threat of pollution from accidental and illegal pollution from ships and other maritime activities.

By working together, OSPAR and the Bonn Agreement can deliver better, more joined-up and cost-effective protection of the marine environment.

What is OSPAR doing?

By signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), OSPAR commits to strengthening collaboration and partnership with the Bonn Agreement. Both organisations address common areas of interest such as: pollution from offshore oil and gas activities; monitoring and assessment of the environmental impact of a 'significant acute pollution' event under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive; marine litter from shipping; enforcement, investigation, and prosecution of MARPOL maritime pollution offences; risk assessment, etc. Several OSPAR Committees as well as OSPAR's North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors work on these issues in liaison with the Bonn Agreement.



How will this benefit the North-East Atlantic?

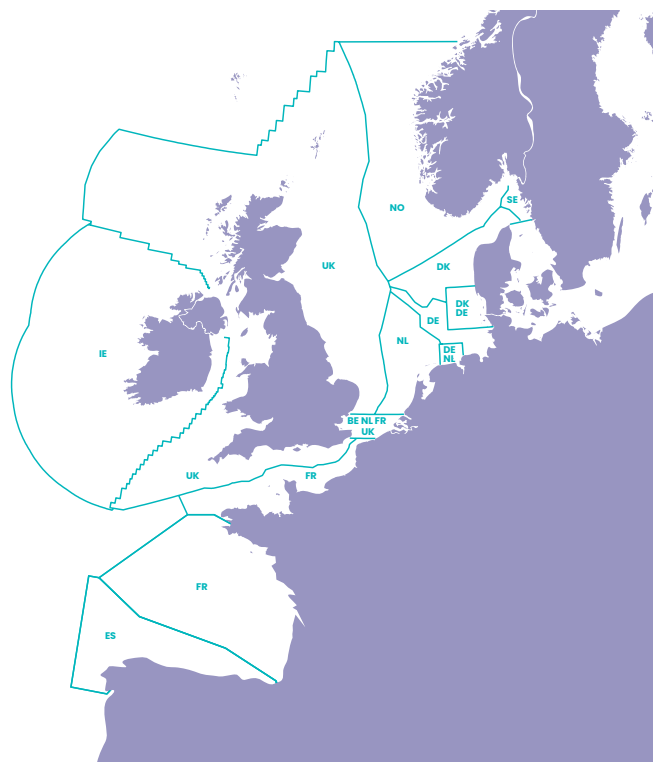
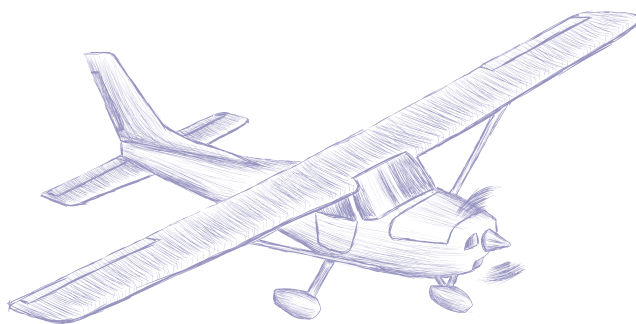
Closer working between the two organisations will help them to meet those objectives of the OSPAR North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030 and the Bonn Agreement Strategic Action Plan which could benefit from mutual collaboration. Through the MoU, OSPAR and the Bonn Agreement will exchange information and share experience on common areas of interest to promote cleaner and healthier seas and conserve the marine ecosystem, specifically through the prevention of, and combatting, marine pollution incidents, threats, and risks to the marine environment.

For more information on the Bonn Agreement, please visit the [Bonn Agreement website](#)

For more information on the North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors, please visit the [OSPAR website](#)

For more information on MARPOL, please visit the [International Maritime Organization website](#)

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