

OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
Meeting of the OSPAR Commission
Copenhagen (Denmark): 20-24 June 2022

2022-2025 Terms of Reference for the Arctic Outcomes Working Group

Context

1. The Arctic Outcomes Working Group has been established to deliver the Arctic Outcomes Roadmap (Annex 1). This 2022-2025 Arctic Outcomes Roadmap sets out the steps considered necessary to support OSPAR's commitment to deliver the statement in the 2021 Cascais Ministerial declaration:

*"We **recognise** the unique biodiversity of the Arctic, part of the OSPAR maritime area and **commit** to protect the Arctic marine environment, including through collaboration with other relevant organisations, such as the Arctic Council and the International Maritime Organisation."*

and to support relevant objectives under the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy including those concerning area-based conservation measures such as marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

2. These Terms of Reference (ToR) are for the period 2022 to 2025. The ToR will be kept under review during the implementation and delivery of the Roadmap to ensure that the objectives and goals of the Roadmap are in line with OSPAR's wider strategic direction. These ToR will be reviewed annually by the Coordination Group in their spring meeting and approved by HOD and the OSPAR Commission.

Scope

3. The AOWG will be responsible for ensuring the implementation and delivery of the Arctic Outcomes Roadmap, including drafting of documents and organisation of meetings with other relevant organisations, and reporting progress to the Coordination Group, HOD and the OSPAR Commission.

4. The AOWG will have a mandate to inform the relevant Committees and their subsidiary bodies of the progress on the Roadmap and in particular any draft proposals for measures and actions and invite input and feedback from the relevant Committees.

Practical Arrangements

Organisation:

5. The AOWG will report to the Coordination group and Heads of Delegation.

6. The AOWG will be co-convened by Sara Viljanen (Finland) and Oliver Ó Cadhla (Ireland). Participation is open to the Chair and Vice-chairs, Committee Chairs and all Contracting Parties and Observers in accordance with the OSPAR Rules of Procedure. A contact list is attached at Appendix 1. All Contracting Parties are encouraged to engage in the WG.

7. The AOWG will work through a mixture of correspondence and virtual/face to face meetings in line with the indicative timeline set out in the Roadmap.

Roadmap to support the achievement of OSPAR objectives in the Arctic

Agreement 2022-0x

Objective of the roadmap:

This 2022-2025 Arctic Outcomes roadmap sets out the steps considered necessary to support OSPAR's commitment to deliver the statement in the 2021 Cascais Ministerial declaration:

*"We **recognise** the unique biodiversity of the Arctic, part of the OSPAR maritime area and **commit** to protect the Arctic marine environment, including through collaboration with other relevant organisations, such as the Arctic Council and the International Maritime Organisation."*

and to support relevant objectives under the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy including those concerning area-based conservation measures such as marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

Time:	Responsible OSPAR body:	Tasks:
June 2022	OSPAR Commission	Agreement on the Roadmap and establishment of an Arctic Outcomes Working Group (AOWG) to deliver the roadmap.
October 2022	AOWG	Identification of sources of scientific information and knowledge on the marine environment in the Arctic in Region I. A key component of this work would be the draft OSPAR nomination proforma for the designation of an Arctic Ice High Seas MPA ¹ discussed in 2016 together with Arctic Council work, existing conservation measures and any other relevant information on the marine environment in the Arctic in Region I as well as on prevailing and predicted pressures. Consider how to approach and contact, conditions allowing, Arctic Council [SAO] or Arctic states, the Chairs of AMAP, PAME, CAFF, and relevant indigenous peoples organisations to inform them of the envisaged OSPAR process on the protection of the Arctic in Region I and invite them to a meeting to set the scene for potential future engagement.
December 2022	Contracting Parties/Secretariat	Meet with Arctic Council or Arctic states/relevant indigenous peoples organisations, as appropriate.
	AOWG	Conclude on outcomes of the initial engagement and agree on next steps.
Spring 2023	OSPAR Committees	Relevant OSPAR Committees identify relevant additional scientific information and knowledge and reflect on AOWG progress and make suggestions for further work. Based on available evidence identify possible OSPAR measures to enhance

¹ BDC 16/5/4 rev1

		protection and conservation of the marine environment in the Arctic in Region I.
Spring 2023	AOWG/Secretariat	Before the workshop: - Collection of available scientific evidence and compilation of document(s) - Invite consideration of the evidence collected so far Drafting of background documents for any proposed measures
May 2023	HoD	Discusses AOWG progress report, including suggestions for next steps to be submitted to OSPAR 2023.
June 2023	OSPAR Commission	Agrees on next steps and initial ideas for OSPAR measures/actions to be consulted on and any changes to the roadmap
Summer 2023	AOWG/Secretariat organises and holds a workshop/s to consult/share proposals with stakeholders	At the workshop: - Present the evidence and case for any proposed OSPAR measures; and - Discuss the proposed OSPAR measures/actions and how to take them forward.
Autumn 2023 /Spring 2024	AOWG	Considers outcome of the workshop and the need for further work and engagement with stakeholders as appropriate. Consider outcome of the workshop. Take onboard comments and finalise proposals for OSPAR measures/actions.
	Relevant OSPAR subsidiary bodies	Relevant OSPAR subsidiary bodies discuss AOWG proposals
Spring 2024	OSPAR Committees	Relevant OSPAR Committee discusses AOWG proposals
May 2024	HoD	Agree final proposals for OSPAR measures/actions for submission to OSPAR 2024
June 2024	OSPAR Commission	Agrees on the OSPAR measures/actions and draft documentation and any changes to the roadmap.
Autumn 2024/Spring 2025	AOWG/subsidiary bodies/Committees	Consideration and agreement of relevant documentation (Decision/Recommendation/Agreement) and initiate consultation procedure as appropriate.
May 2025	HoD	Consider final proposals from AOWG/Committee Agree final texts of draft [Decision/Recommendation]
June 2025	OSPAR Commission	Consideration of the following actions: Agreement on specific OSPAR measures to support relevant objectives under the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy to protect and conserve the marine environment in the Arctic in Region I. Adoption of relevant Decision and Recommendation