

# OSPAR AND THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## Why is this important?

As one of the leading Regional Seas Conventions, OSPAR is committed to addressing the challenges faced by the ocean. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. In 2017 the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 (Life Below Water) urged Contracting Parties to strengthen and promote effective and transparent multi-stakeholder partnerships by enhancing engagement of governments with regional bodies such as OSPAR to support and coordinate countries to achieve the goal.

## What is OSPAR doing?

OSPAR's work contributes to the global efforts of the network of Regional Seas Conventions and national governments to implement the SDGs, in particular Goal 14 Life Below Water: to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

OSPAR made two voluntary commitments in 2017 focused on work to deliver SDG 14 in addition to the comprehensive scope of regular work by OSPAR which also contributes to the delivery of the objectives. In 2021 OSPAR Contracting Parties will add a further commitment to "minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels".

## The new voluntary commitment commits OSPAR to:

- further develop its regional ocean acidification monitoring and assessment programmes;
- investigate the impacts on the marine environment from current and projected declines in pH; and
- collaborate with other regional organisations and scientific networks in its work on ocean acidification.

In addition, OSPAR has produced a document demonstrating how OSPAR's wider work contributes to the delivery of SDGs. The aim of the document is to highlight to others the action that OSPAR is taking to share its knowledge, data, and experiences to help build capacity around the globe.

## How will this benefit the North-East Atlantic?

The health and future prosperity of the North-East Atlantic relies on good regional and global cooperation.

Working closely with those that share our seas provides cost effective and efficient means of tackling transboundary issues facing the ocean.



For more information on OSPAR's work to deliver the SDGs please visit the [OSPAR website](http://www.ospar.org)



**OSPAR**  
**MINISTERIAL**  
PORTUGAL | 2021