



**OSPAR**  
**COMMISSION**

*Protecting and conserving  
the North-East Atlantic  
and its resources*

**Prof. David Johnson**  
**Executive Secretary**



## North-East Atlantic: update



**2010 - 2011**

13th Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, Busan, Korea, 3-5 October 2011

# OSPAR Commission

## 16 Contracting Parties

- Belgium
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- The United Kingdom
- European Union



## OSPAR Maritime Area and Regions:

Region I: Arctic Waters

Region II: Greater North Sea

Region III: Celtic Seas

Region IV: Bay of Biscay/Iberian Coast

Region V: Wider Atlantic

# QUALITY STATUS REPORT 2010



## OSPAR 2010 Bergen Ministerial

- North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy
- QSR 2010
- 6 High Seas Marine Protected Areas
- Measures for selected deep sea species and habitats on the OSPAR List
- Recommendation for Drilling in Extreme conditions
- NGO focus on marine litter
- Global dimensions 12<sup>th</sup> RSC + APs



# GIFT TO THE EARTH

WWF, the conservation organization, celebrates, as a *Gift to the Earth*, the establishment of the

## **First High Seas Marine Protected Areas in the North Atlantic**

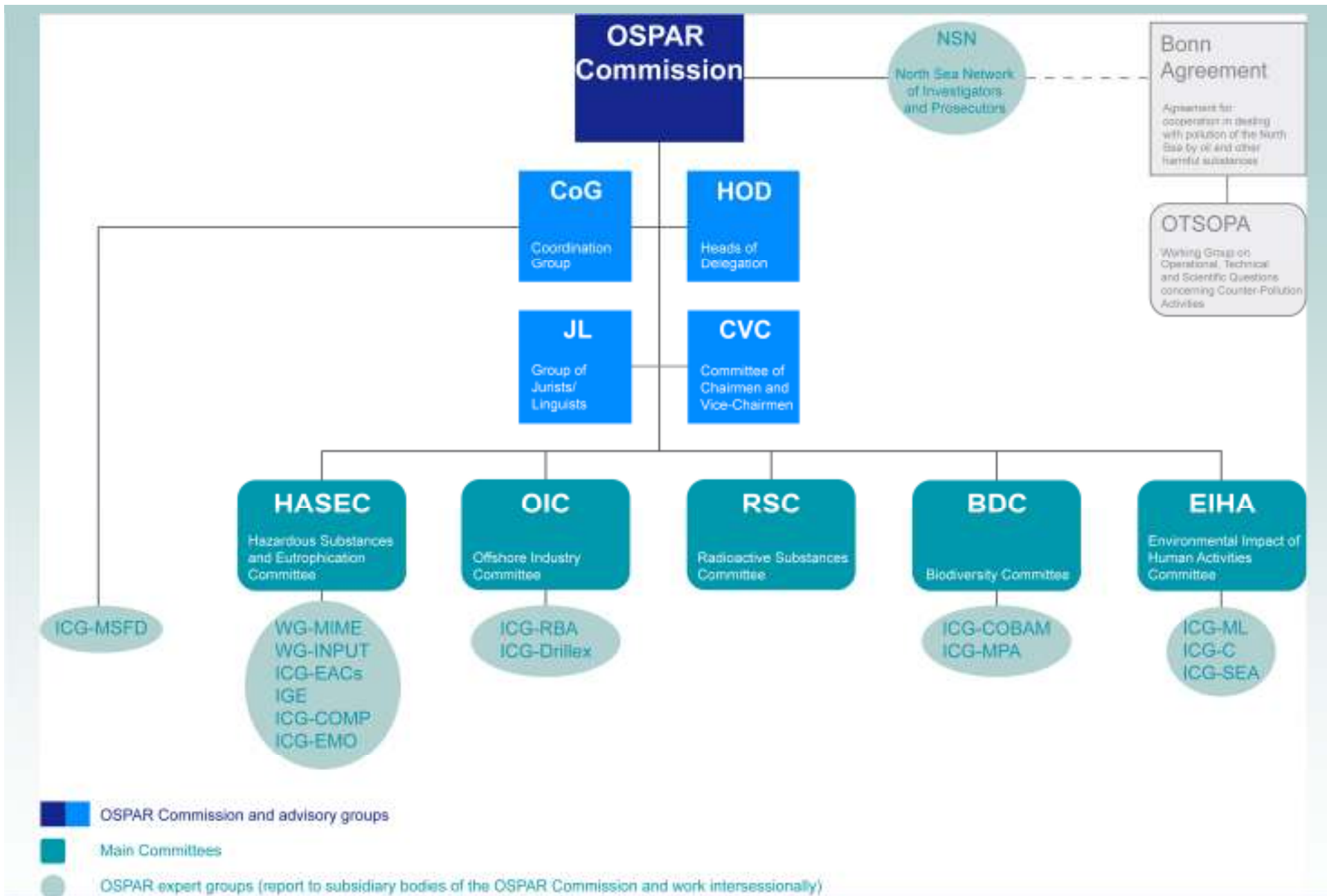
and pays tribute for this to the

## **OSPAR Commission**

represented by

**Dr. D. Johnson & Dr. H. von Nordheim**

James P. Leape  
Director General, WWF International  
24 September 2010







# Bonn Agreement

**40 years of cooperation  
Prevention, preparedness, and  
response (e.g. BAOAC)**



**2010 Dublin Ministerial Meeting  
Bonn Agreement Action Plan  
Risk assessment bid (BE-AWARE)  
North Sea Network**

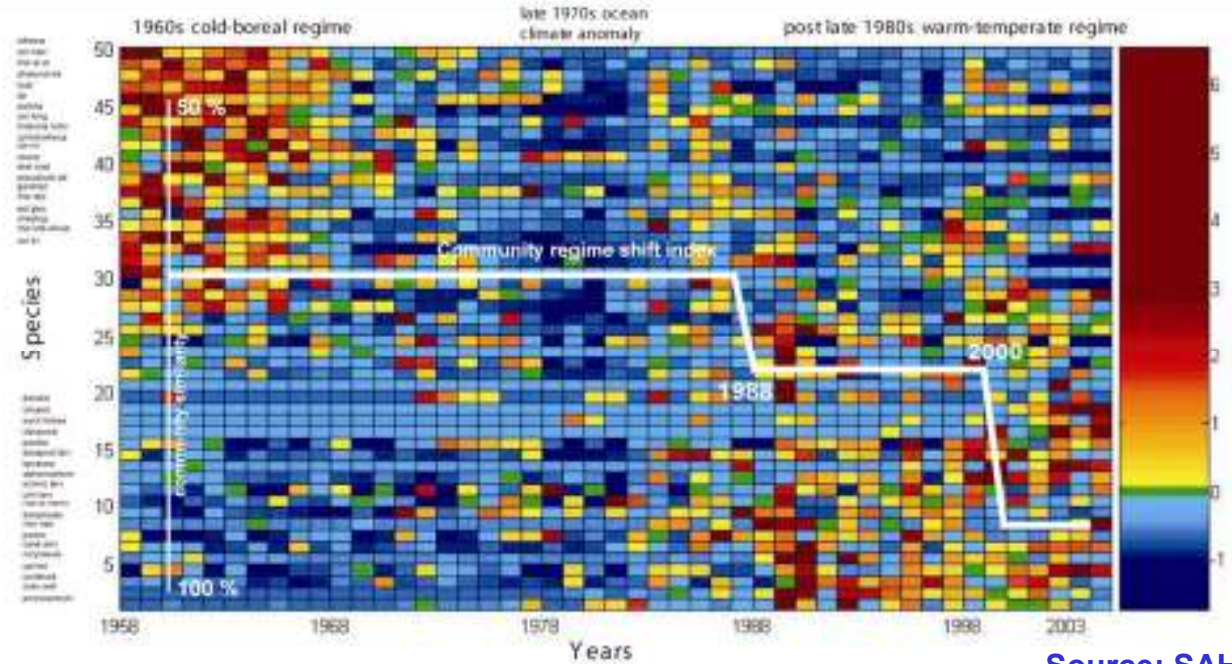


# Main OSPAR Committees

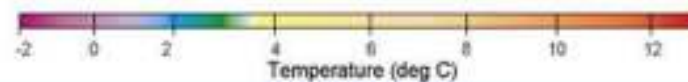
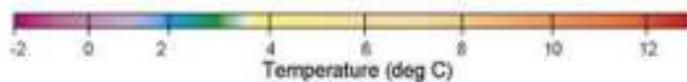
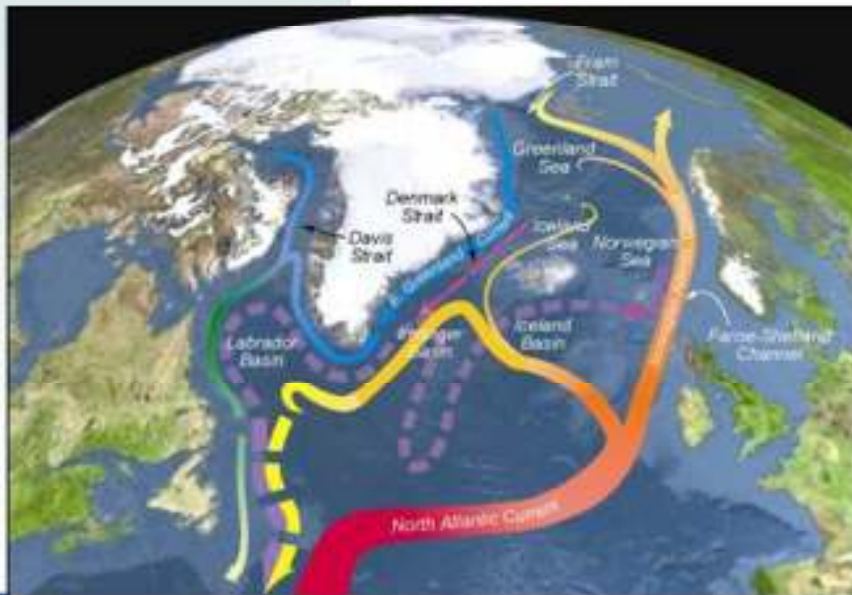
Coordination Group	Ecosystem Approach, MSFD Implementation, Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme, Cross-cutting
Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication	Priority substances, hotspots, endocrine disruptors, eutrophication modelling
Radioactive discharges	Outstanding Bremen issues – tritium, variability, historic waste. Non-nuclear sector inputs. Ecological objectives (working with IAEA)
Offshore oil and gas installations	Risk-based approach, green lighting for platforms
Marine biodiversity conservation	Seabird measures MPA network evaluation (coherence) EBSA Regional Workshop
Environmental Impact of Human Activities	Socio-economic analysis, cumulative impacts, marine spatial planning

# Monitoring and assessments of climate change and ocean acidification

Higher temperatures  
Acidity  
Plankton regime shift  
Ocean circulation?



Source: SAHFOS





# Using OSPAR EcoQOs for MSFD indicators

## **OSPAR strategic objective for offshore oil and gas**

*To prevent and eliminate pollution and take the necessary measures to protect the maritime area against the adverse effects of offshore activities, so as to safeguard human health and to conserve marine ecosystems and, when practicable, restore marine areas which have been adversely affected.*

## **GES Descriptor 8: Contaminants**

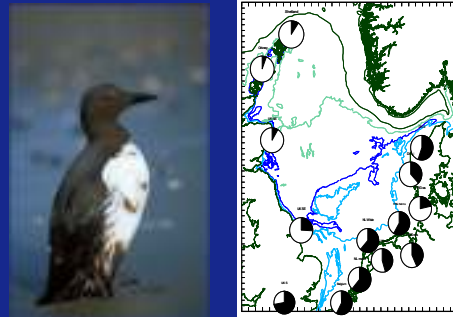
**Where does oil pollution fit in?**

**Best means of monitoring and assessment?**

**Regional added value?**

## **EcoQO oiled guillemots:**

*The average proportion of oiled common guillemots in all winter months (November to April) should be 20% or less by 2020 and 10% or less by 2030 of the total found dead or dying in each of 15 areas of the North Sea over a period of at least 5 years.*



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## **Tools for targets and indicators:**

OSPAR Guidelines for monitoring environmental impacts of offshore oil and gas activities (agreement 2004-11, and agreement 2006-7)

JAMP Guidelines on standard methodology for the use of oiled beach birds as indicators of marine oil pollution (agreement 1995-6)

## **Tools for targets and indicators:**

Monitoring programme for concentrations of radioactive substances in the marine environment (agreement 2005-8)

# Special Seabirds

Measures adopted by OSPAR 2011

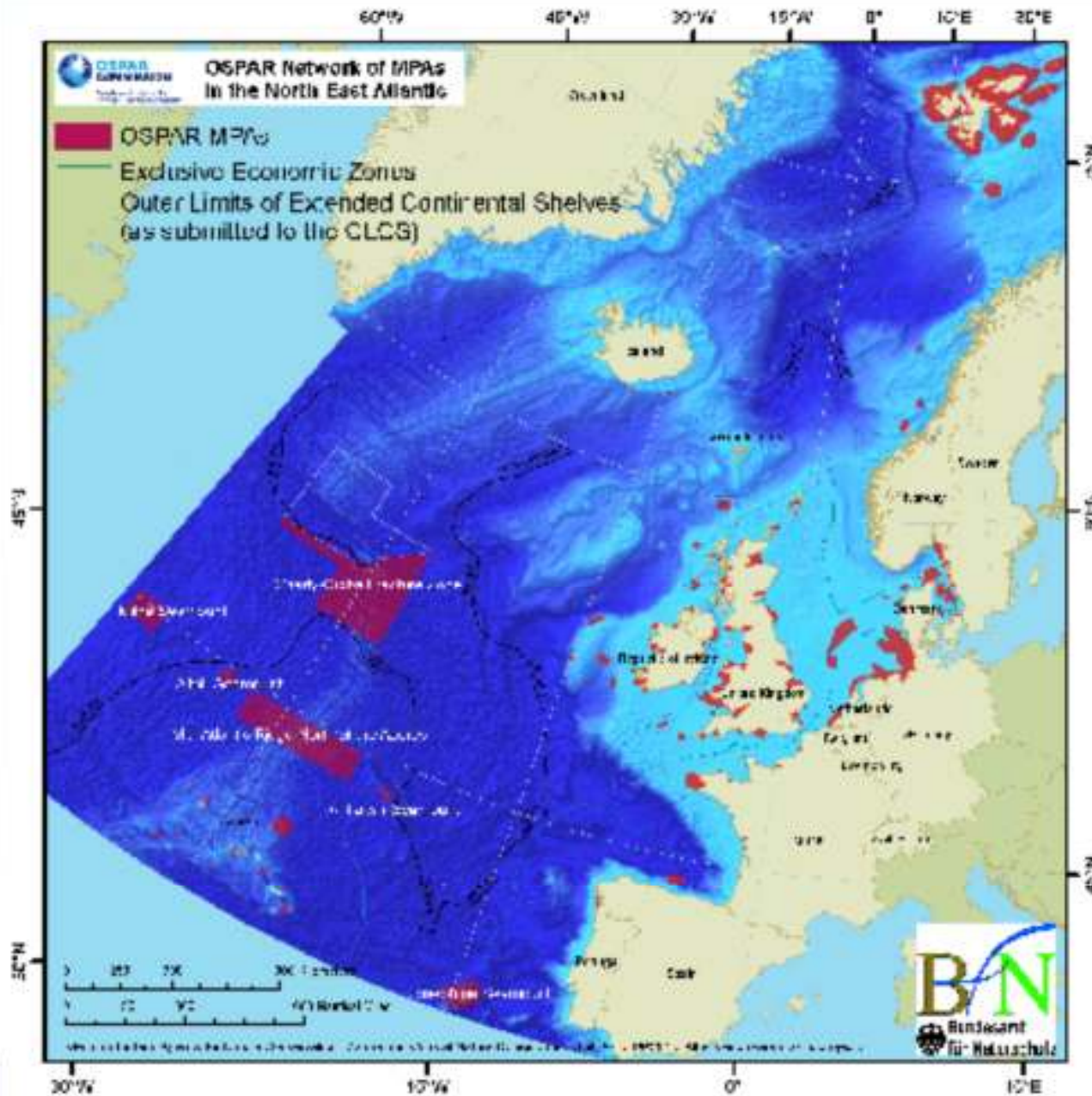


## ICG-MPA

2012:  
coherent

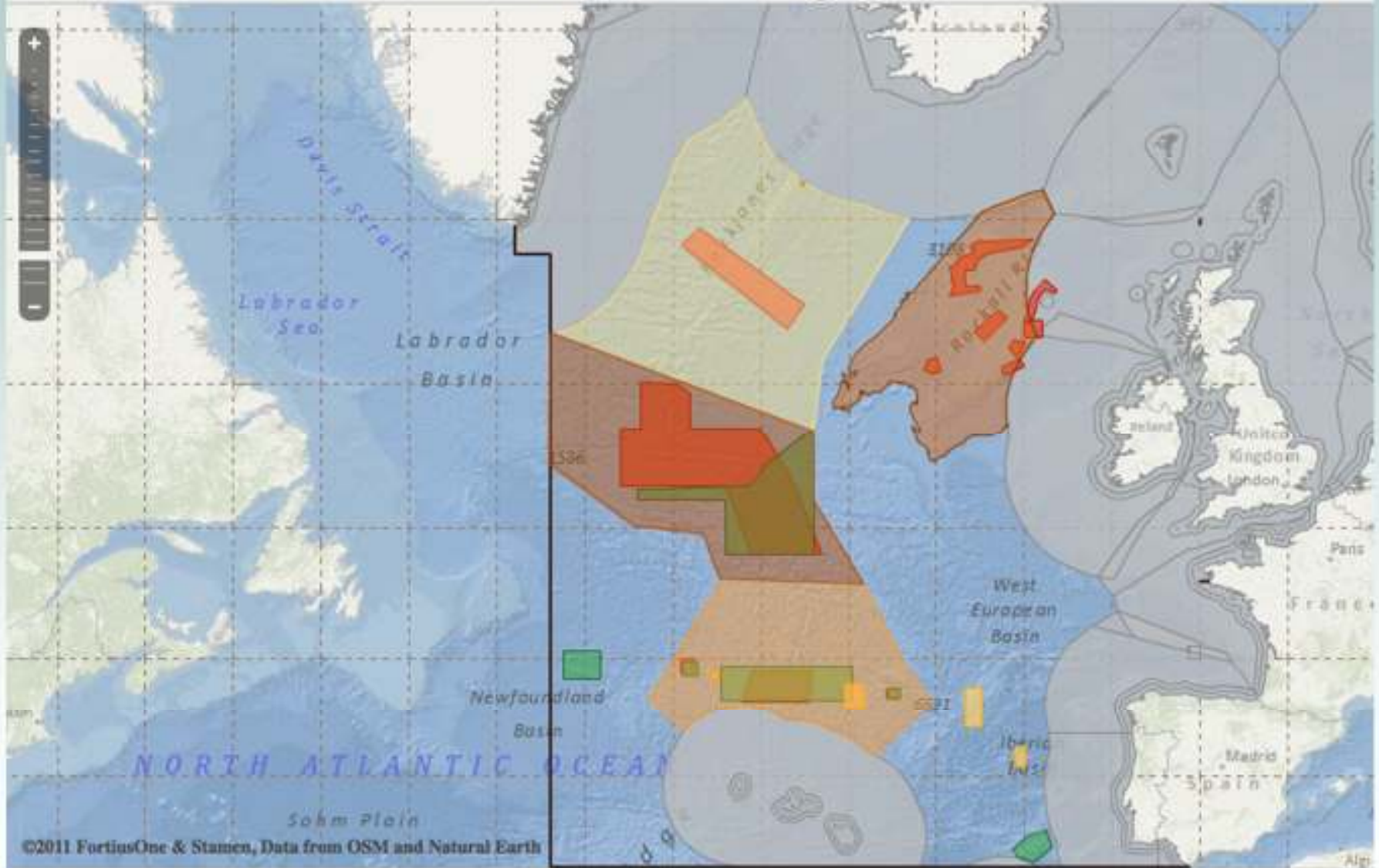
2016 well-  
managed

Collective  
arrangement





# The North-East Atlantic OSPAR and NEAFC Region



Provisional EBSA map: not for distribution



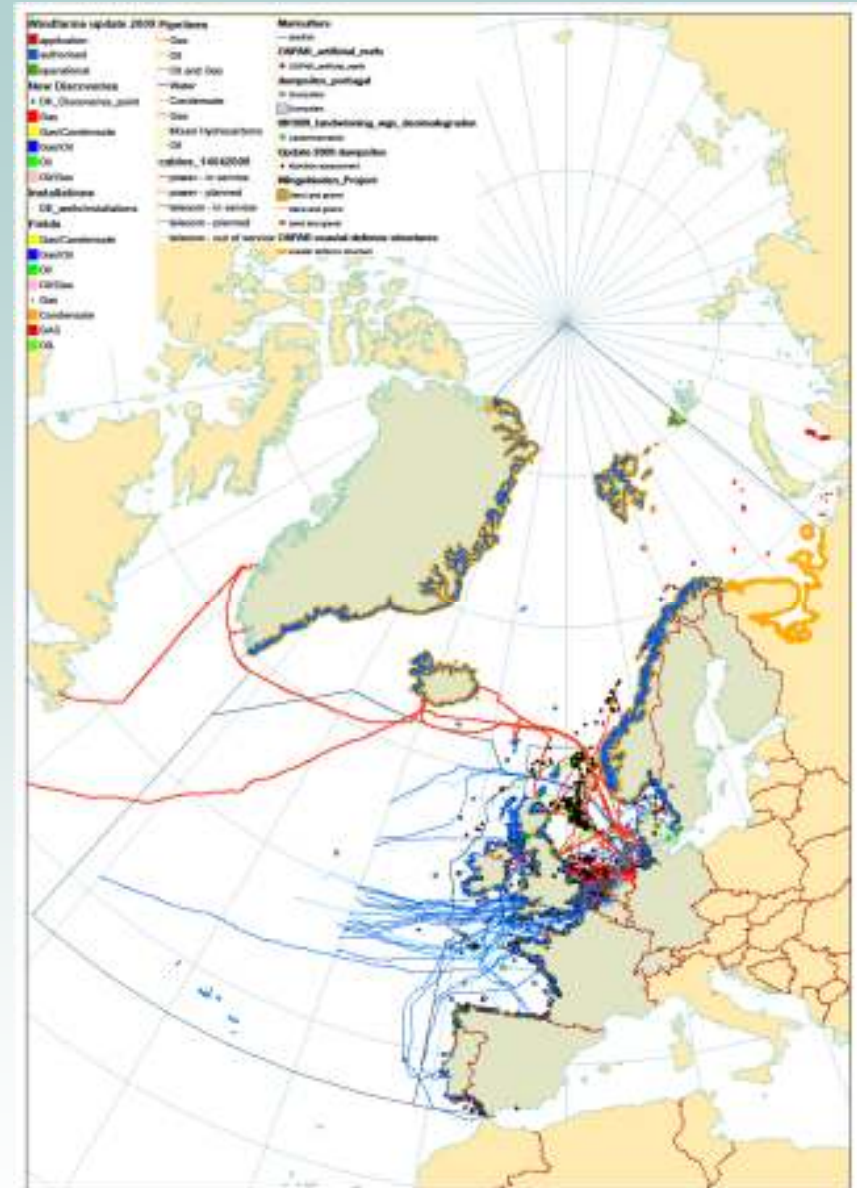


## Creating an Arctic agenda

Images courtesy AWI

# Complementary activities

- 5IMDC
- Abidjan Convention cooperation
- Seas the Future (Faroe Islands)
- Sargasso Sea Alliance
- MoU and work with the International Seabed Authority
- Information System Specification
- Visualisation (e.g. human uses)
- Visioning exercises – MPA network in ABNJ (foresight)
- NOAA attachment
- Links – NASCO, Arctic Council



# Challenges ahead

## Coordinating implementation of the MSFD:

- Transboundary Good Environmental Status
- Monitoring framework

## Contributions to global goals:

- WSSD and CBD targets for MPAs
- Regular process (with sister Regional Conventions)
- Embracing socio-economic targets and indicators
- Cost effective and consolidated regional delivery

## Secretariat change

- Seek project opportunities
- Office move
- Change of Executive Secretary