



OSPAR
COMMISSION

Sub-regional cooperation in the North-East Atlantic - Representative of OSPAR

1st Subregional Meeting on Environmental Assessments in a
Transboundary Context

Rome, 28-29 May 2024

Philip Stamp, OSPAR Secretariat

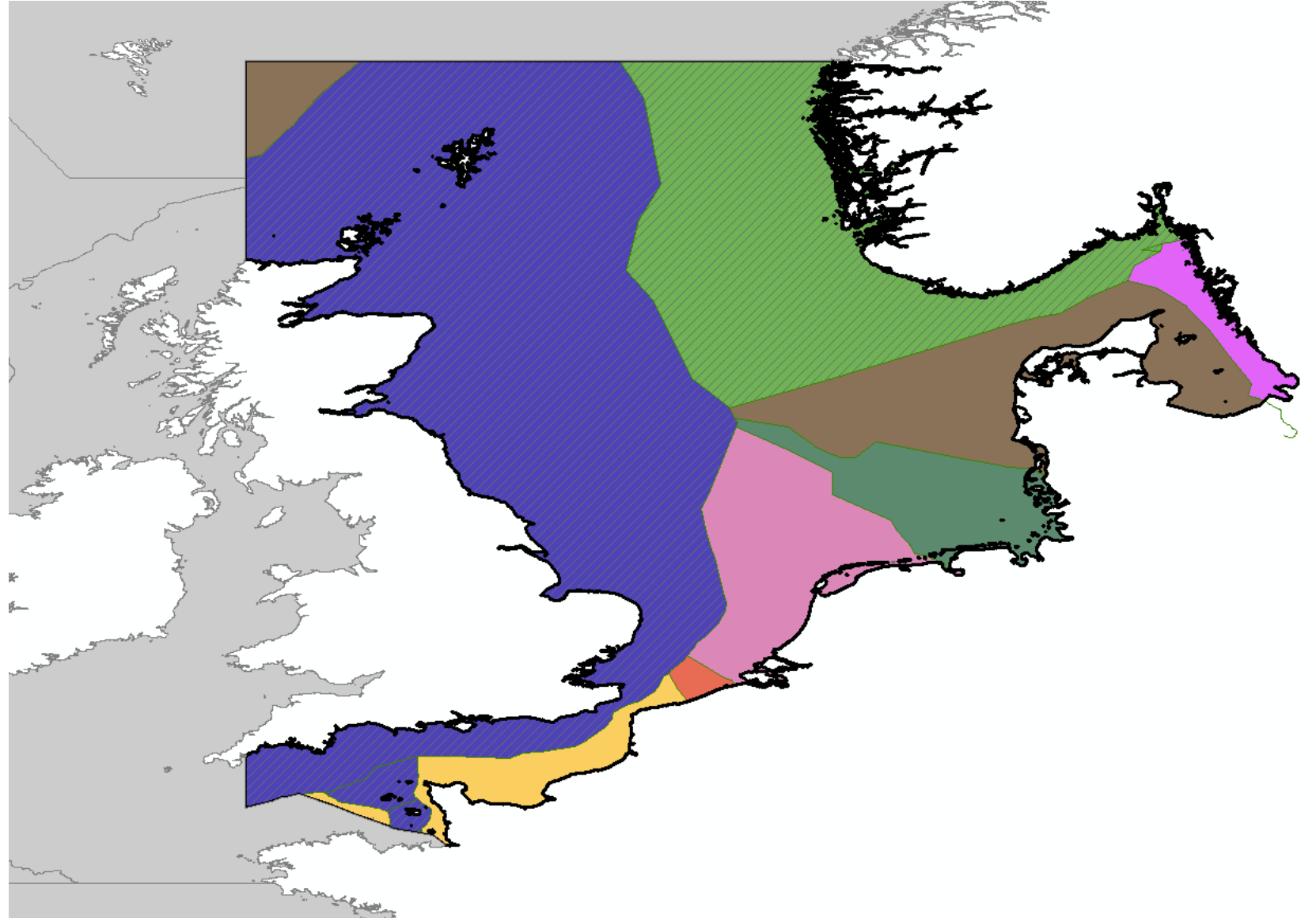
Contracting Parties of the OSPAR Convention

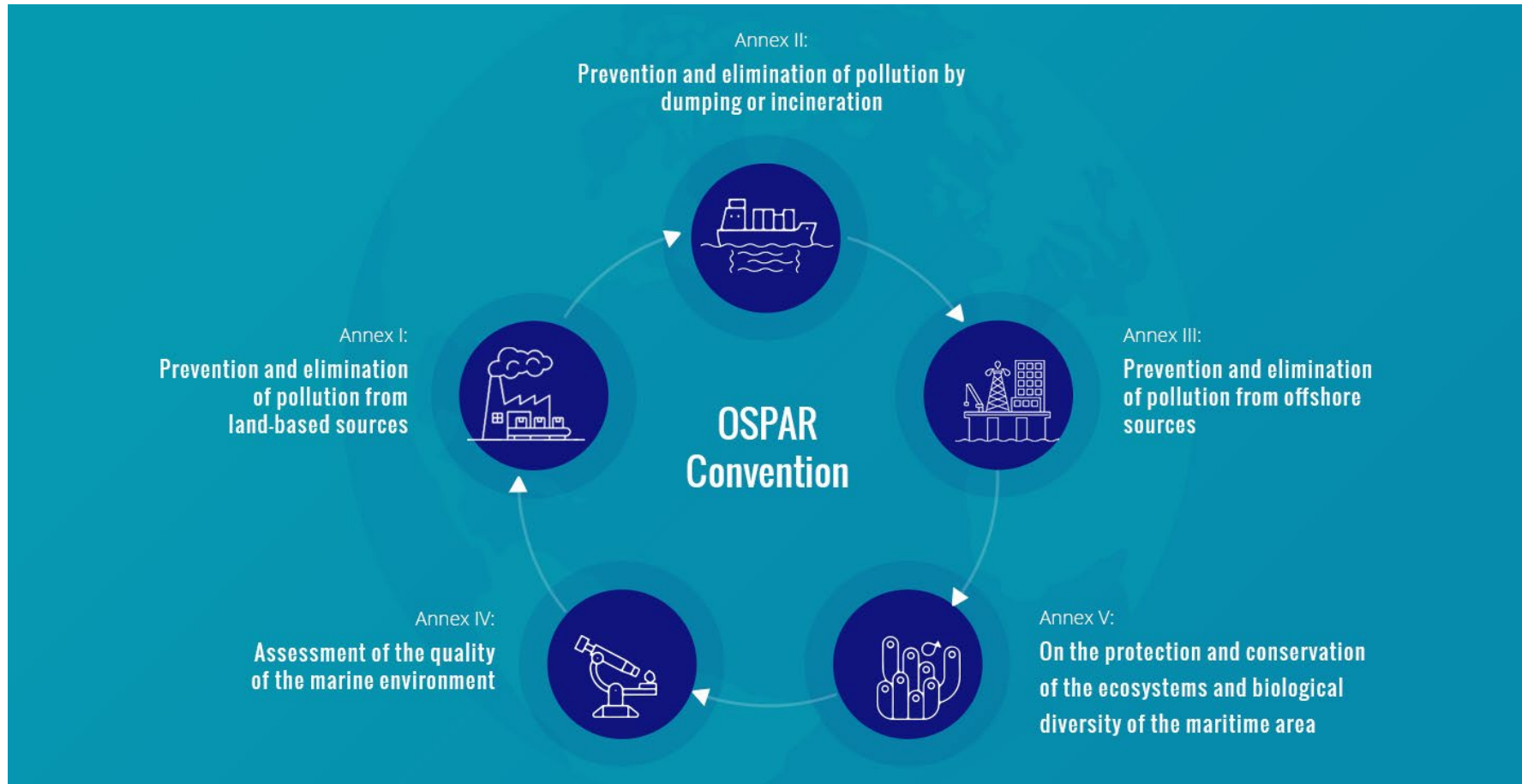


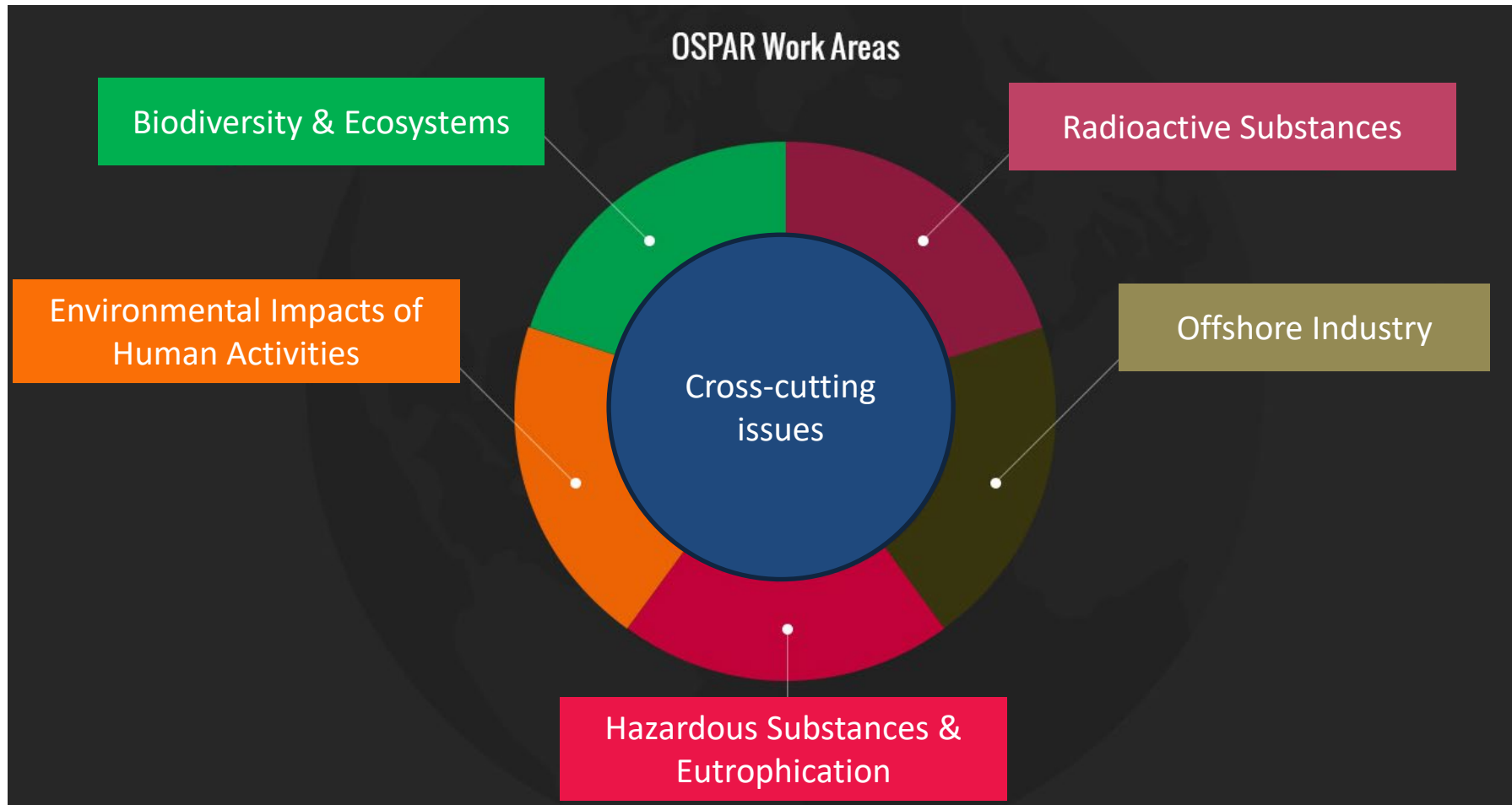
OSPAR Maritime Area and Regions:

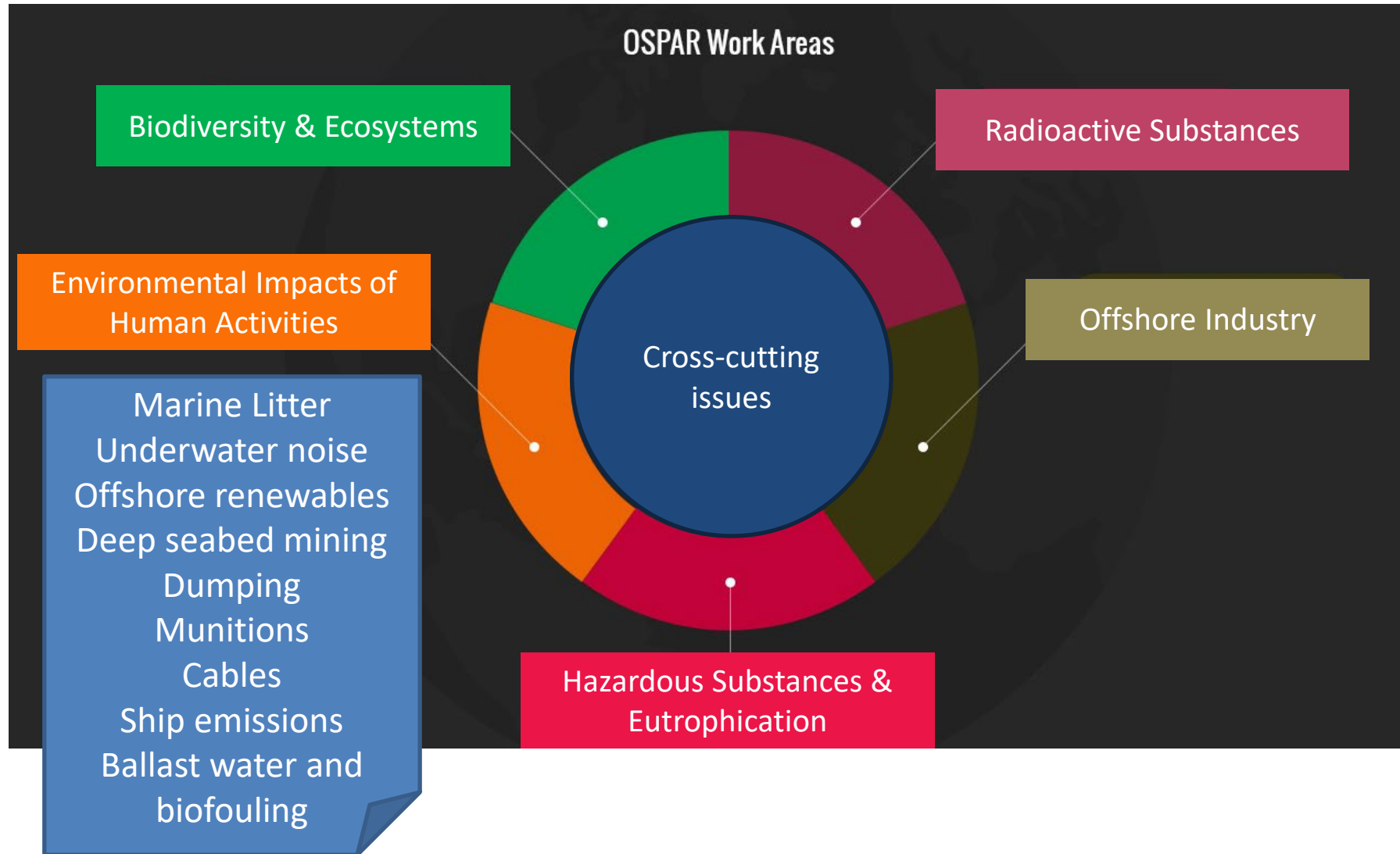
- Region I: Arctic Waters
- Region II: Greater North Sea
- Region III: Celtic Seas
- Region IV: Bay of Biscay / Iberian Coast
- Region V: Wider Atlantic

Slide to show Eezs in region II - % of non-EU waters





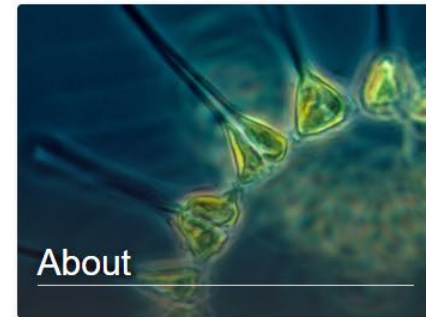




OSPAR Assessments

Welcome to OAP

OSPAR's Assessment Portal





The QSR 2023 in a nutshell



**16 Contracting
Parties to the
OSPAR
Convention**



**more than 400
experts**



**64 OSPAR
Observer
organisations**

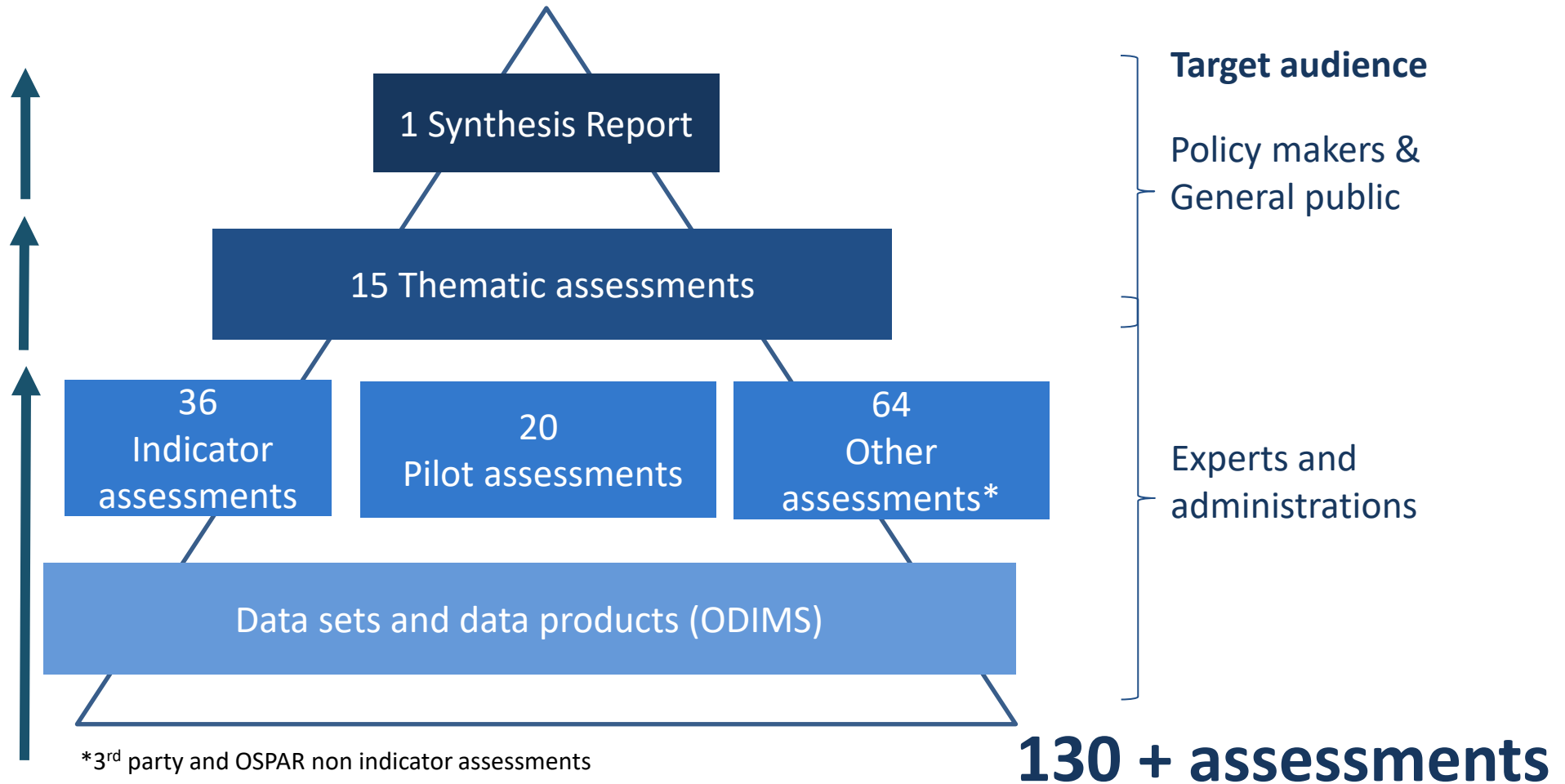


**OSPAR
Secretariat**



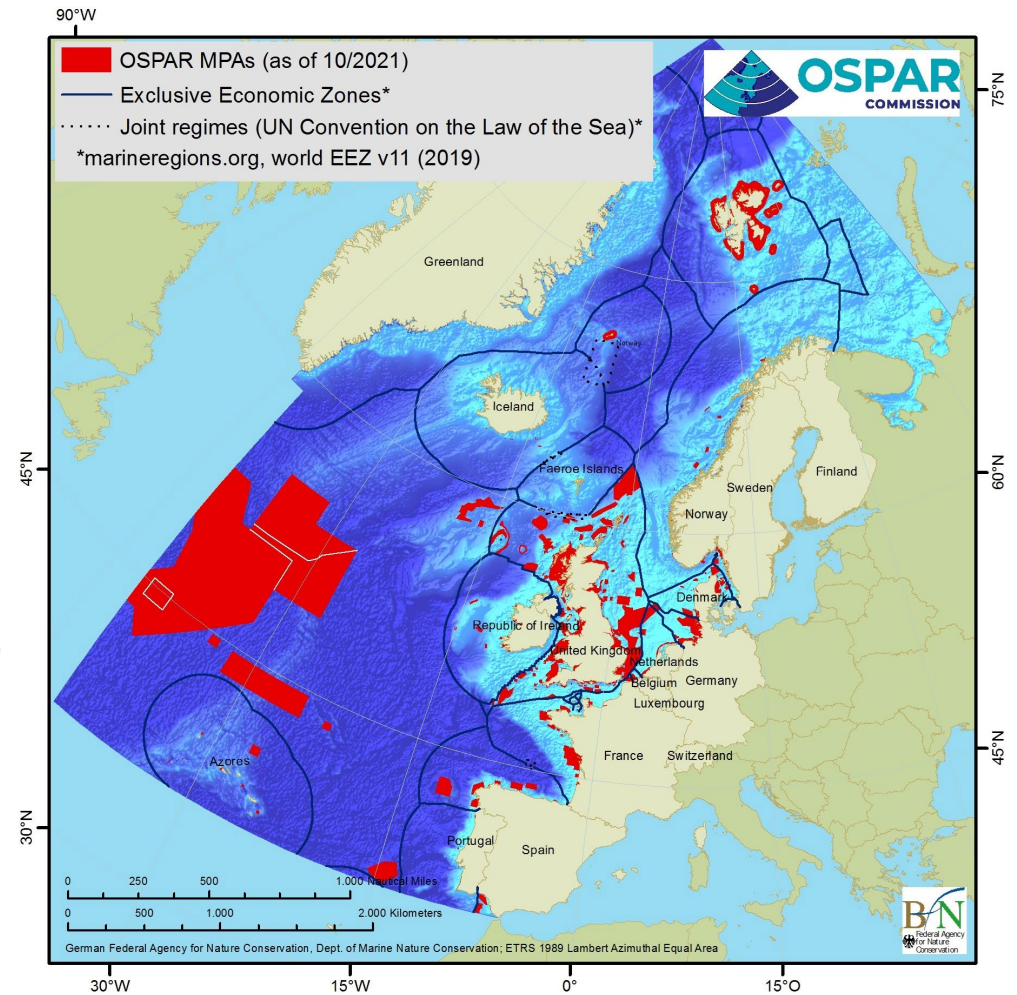


QSR 2023 Structure & Components



OSPAR Actions and measures

- OSPAR network of MPAs
- Recommendations on threatened and declining species and habitats
- Marine litter action plan – Recommendations on fishing for litter, education, pellets
- Regulation of offshore industry (oil and gas) – Decision on decommissioning
- Under development: action plans on underwater noise and recovery of marine birds





Cooperation on EIA/SEA

OSPAR does not itself conduct SEAs or EIAs and is not a permitting body. However there are many measures and actions which directly or indirectly support such assessments:

- Obligations under the OSPAR Convention to prevent and eliminate pollution and take the necessary measures to protect the maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities;
- OSPAR Recommendation 2010/5, 'OSPAR List of threatened and/or declining species and habitats'
- Requirement for Environmental Management Systems (OSPAR Recommendation 2003/5 on the Promotion of the Use and Implementation of EMS);
- Decommissioning: Ban on dumping or leaving disused installation in place (subject to derogations) (OSPAR Decision 98/3);
- OSPAR MPAs, EIA/SEA provisions, informing OSPAR Commission (.e.g North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Sea basin MPA)
- Miscellaneous guidelines and guidance to support licensing or similar approval processes for specific human activities, e.g. Management of Dredged Material, Best Environmental Practice in Cable-Laying and Operation; Environmental Considerations for Offshore Wind Farm Development; Guideline for risk assessment and management of CO₂ in sub-seabed geological formations.

OSPAR work on offshore renewable energy development

S12.O4: By 2023, OSPAR will develop common principles and by 2024 develop guidance to promote and facilitate sustainable development and scaling up of offshore renewable energy in a way that cumulative environmental impacts are minimised.

- Cumulative impact assessment – Bird pilot North Sea and Celtic Seas
- Assessment of specific pressures and impacts
- Development of guidance
- Advise on draft provisions to amend the Convention

Conclusions

- OSPAR provides a forum for cross-border cooperation in North-East Atlantic across wide range of human activities, bringing together EU and non-EU Parties;
- Cooperation focuses on monitoring and assessment, development of collective measures and other actions under a shared vision and strategy;
- Common understanding, programmes and measures improves consistency of decision-making for protection of the marine environment;
- OSPAR does not manage SEA/EIA processes but can contribute in many different ways;
- Contracting Parties attach high priority to understanding cumulative effects, especially where activity and pressure is increasing, e.g. renewable energy; sub-regional scale assessments provide essential context for project decision-making.