

CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE BALTIC SEA AREA  
(HELSINKI CONVENTION)

OSPAR CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE NORTH-EAST  
ATLANTIC

FIRST JOINT MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE HELSINKI AND OSPAR COMMISSIONS (JMM)

BREMEN: 25 - 26 JUNE 2003

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### **Joint HELCOM/OSPAR Work Programme on Marine Protected Areas**

**The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (the Helsinki Commission – HELCOM) and the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR) jointly adopt the following work programme on the creation of a network of marine protected areas:**

1. The purpose of the work programme is to ensure that by 2010 there is an ecologically coherent network of well managed marine protected areas for the maritime areas of both HELCOM and OSPAR (“the network”).
2. To these ends, HELCOM and OSPAR will:
  - a. develop co-ordinated approaches to
    - i. the compilation and evaluation of proposals for the components of HELCOM and OSPAR networks of marine protected areas, and
    - ii. identifying and addressing any gaps to be filled in order to achieve the network, which reflect the needs for protection of species and habitats identified by HELCOM and OSPAR as threatened, declining or in need of protection;
  - b. develop and implement a strategy for achieving dialogue with relevant stakeholders on the management and conservation of marine protected areas, using (where possible) existing national and international forums;
  - c. in order to ensure the ecological coherence of the network, develop common theoretical and practical aspects of what would constitute an ecologically coherent network of marine protected areas;
  - d. develop, by 2005, a common proposal, taking into account the work done by HELCOM and OSPAR as well as work by the European Community, for a programme aimed at enhancing the protection of species and habitats in European marine waters, in order to produce suggestions for consideration by the European Commission for amendments to the annexes to the Habitats and Birds Directives;
  - e. consider how Baltic Sea Protected Areas and components of the OSPAR Network of marine protected areas in the waters under the jurisdiction of EU Member States, together with the NATURA 2000 network, can constitute a coherent network of marine protected areas;
  - f. by 2006, evaluate whether the Baltic Sea Protected Areas and the components of the OSPAR Network of marine protected areas that have been identified by that date are sufficient to constitute the joint network, and take steps to identify and fill any gaps that are identified;
  - g. by 2010, evaluate whether the aim of establishing the network has been achieved, take steps to fill any shortfalls and to maintain and develop the network thereafter and periodically evaluate whether the aims of the network continue to be met;

- h. develop practical guidance for the application of HELCOM and OSPAR management guidelines, including appropriate means to enlist the help of other authorities which are competent for some necessary action, in order to achieve a common standard of good management across the network;
  - i. develop guidance on, and make arrangements for, the assessment of how effectively the management of HELCOM and OSPAR marine protected areas is achieving the aims of protection;
  - j. consider how to take into account other relevant HELCOM and OSPAR initiatives, such as that on the identification and compilation of lists of habitats and species in particular need of protection, and those on marine habitat classification and mapping;
  - k. as appropriate, identify and assist where collaboration with other international forums (such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Berne, Bonn and Ramsar Conventions) may be required, for the implementation and management of HELCOM and OSPAR marine protected areas;
  - l. explore the possibilities for collaboration with the Barcelona Convention and the Bucharest Convention and in the framework of the Arctic Council in this field.
3. To facilitate this joint work, the relevant HELCOM nature conservation working group and the OSPAR intersessional correspondence group on marine protected areas may hold joint meetings, in accordance with arrangements agreed by HELCOM and OSPAR. Where possible, these groups will also work in cooperation with the European Commission and any relevant informal advisory groups that the European Commission establishes.