



OSPAR
COMMISSION

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

Maintaining *and restoring* environmental quality

“We emphasise that shared scientific knowledge and understanding of the state of the marine environment is crucial for policy making at all levels”

(OSPAR Ministers 2010 Bergen Statement)

KEY MESSAGE

Despite existing knowledge that can inform effective policy now, “Ecosystem Approach” in highly complex marine systems brings to light that we have still many needs for better understanding to enhance policy effectiveness and get priorities for action right.

Gert Verreet, OSPAR Deputy Secretary

23 April 2012, Lisbon – SeasEra / AAC-CPMR Governance consultative workshop

General reaction consultation document

- Basics certainly OK, thanks and congratulations for many valuable references.
- Environment and sustainability to be meshed well with industrial innovation on the basis of the Plan's stated tenet that '*all research is multi-disciplinary and cross-cutting*' (i.e. don't put environment 'in a box' but enhance integration).
 - Progress in science happens by pushing the boundaries of the *analytics*. We also need the *synthetics*. E.g. linking and integrating over scales is one of the main challenges. More focus on method development to do that.

section	Draft Marine Research Plan	OSPAR identified needs (QSR 2010 etc.)
5.2.1 & 5.2.4	BASIC SCIENCE sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QSR 'Marine biodiversity is still poorly understood' Together should take a comprehensive approach to ecosystem functioning and processes (not only 'applied' focus as now seems to be the case).
5.2.2 & 5.2.4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [- Annual report card on CC and on invasive species: maybe plan something more challenging? such as an 'ecosystem (dys)function scorecard?']
5.3	APPLIED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'applied basic research' need – i.e. quicker capitalisation on new basic knowledge to match speed of change
5.3.1	Marine environmental research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> '<i>assess feasibility of aggregation of MSFD indicators</i>' -> raise scientific ambition level to '<i>develop methods for sound integration of heterogeneous environmental information in dynamic ecosystem perspective</i>'
5.3.3	Renewables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scaling up -> environmental impact assessment at planned scales
5.3.4	Shipping and maritime transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall effects "Hazardous Noxious Substances" is a top R&D priority for the Bonn Agreement (as officially requested to be notified to SeasEra)
5.3.10	Oil and Gas resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Ageing fields ? Arctic opening
5.4.1	Socio-economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [MSFD driven] – bring ecologic and economic assessment closer together (ecosystem goods and services)
5.4.4	Ecosystem Approach / MSP and MPAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more evidence-based assessment capabilities needed: ecosystem assessment methodologies; develop integrated monitoring programmes; further research both of the impact of pressures that are insufficiently understood (e.g. litter, noise, electromagnetic radiation) and biological changes that cannot presently be explained (e.g. declines in seabird populations) ➤ To develop methodologies to judge whether the North-East Atlantic is being used sustainably