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| Agenda Item 12 | RSC 24/12/01-Annex 10  Original: English |
| OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic | |
| Meeting of the Radioactive Substances Committee (RSC)  Lisbon, Portugal: 6–9 February 2024 | |

Terms of Reference for an Intersessional Correspondence Group to identify and consider obstacles to further reductions of environmental concentrations (ICG-ORC)

**Introduction**

1. RSC(2) 2022 agreed task S3.02.T1 to address operational objective S3.02 of the NEAES 2030: “By 2025 OSPAR will identify and consider any obstacles in achieving further reductions in environmental concentrations of radioactive substances in the marine environment and examine possible solutions where appropriate”.
2. RSC 2024 agreed to re-convene an Intersessional Correspondence Group to report of on the obstacles to further reductions of environmental concentrations (ICG-ORC), which will produce a report for RSC 2025.

**Objective**

1. To consider what are the obstacles in achieving further reductions in environmental concentrations of radionuclides in the marine environment and examine possible solutions.

**Scope of work**

1. Using the DAPSIR approach undertaken in the Radioactive Substances Thematic Assessment, identify the activity-pressure affecting the concentrations of radionuclides in the marine environment (state).
2. Consider previous work undertaken by RSC on remobilization of contaminated sediments[[1]](#footnote-1).
3. Consider the outputs from GESAMP WG 45 (Radionuclides subgroup).
4. Consider the need for future evaluation of activity concentrations in sediment.
5. Consider if the existing measures addressing the activities and pressures, if any, are appropriate.
6. Identify opportunities to reduce environmental concentrations and propose additional measures if appropriate.
7. Consider obstacles to further reduce environmental concentrations including the relative contribution of historic and legacy inputs.

**Participants and mode of work**

1. The ICG will be co-convened by Portugal and the United Kingdon with participation from Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Spain and France. In accordance with OSPAR Rules of Procedure, the ICG will be opened to all Contracting Parties and Observers. The ICG will work via correspondence and if necessary, meet.

**Timetable**

1. Intersessional work. Proposed meetings to be held virtually in March/April 2024 and October 2024

1. 3rd Periodic Evaluation

   Document RSC 20/05/01 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)