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| Agenda Item 17 | OIC 24/17/1 Annex 3 |
| 3OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic |
| Meeting of the Offshore Industry Committee (OIC) Scheveningen (The Netherlands): 11 - 15 March 2024 |

Terms of Reference for OSPAR’s Offshore Industry Committee (OIC)[[1]](#footnote-1)

Source: Agreement 2011-04

1. The function of the Offshore Industry Committee (OIC) is to facilitate the implementation of the North‑East Atlantic Environment Strategy and in particular the Thematic Strategy on the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry.

# Strategy implementation

2. In accordance with the Offshore Oil and Gas Strategy, OIC shall:

a. develop and apply a risk-based approach for the management of produced water from offshore activities;

b. keep under review the need for actions to prevent potential adverse effects from offshore activities; and

c. consider implications of decommissioning of redundant oil and gas installations.

3. In doing so OIC shall apply the principles of ecosystem approach and pay particular attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the QSR 2010 and shall assess compliance of Contracting Parties with agreed programmes and measures.

4. OIC shall also maintain appropriate interaction with other international organisations and industry.

5. OIC shall prepare draft measures as necessary to control the use and reduction of discharges of offshore chemicals (including those identified by OSPAR as being Chemicals for Priority Action), the discharges of oil and radioactive substances, and underwater noise levels. In doing so, in relation to facilitating the implementation of the MSFD, OIC should in particular take account of Descriptors 8, 9 and 11.

# Monitoring and assessment

6. OIC shall maintain appropriate monitoring and assessment in line with the current Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP), paying particular attention to:

a. annual data collection and periodic evaluation of the impact of discharges, emissions and losses of substances from offshore sources, which cause or are likely to cause pollution;

b. improvement of tools to collect, process and interpret such data, together with appropriate initiation and review of technical studies including BAT and BEP;

c. assessing reports from Contracting Parties on the effectiveness of programmes and measures implemented by them and assessing the need for any further programmes and measures;

d. preparing assessments, including assessments on specific issues, such as assessments of the impacts of decommissioned pipelines and cutting piles, and arranging for their publication;

e. ensuring assessments are based on results of monitoring, on research related to monitoring and assessment, and on data and information from other sources;

f. providing advice to the Commission on, and contributing and responding to, assessments undertaken by other Committees or by fora outside OSPAR;

g. developing analytical tools and criteria for assessment procedures linked to the impact of offshore activities, and developing assessment tools for the purposes of coherent conduct of assessments;

# Information exchange and consultation with other OSPAR Committees

7. OIC shall ensure exchange of information as required but specifically:

a. with RSC in respect of the discharge of NORM from offshore oil and gas activities ;

b. with HASEC in respect of the phase out of discharges of hazardous substances; and

c. with BDC and EIHA in respect of pressures and impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity of the maritime area and the OSPAR network of marine protected areas (MPAs).

8. OIC shall also provide an annual progress report on the Committee’s activities and key cross-cutting issues to the OSPAR Coordination Group.

9. OIC shall report on its non-CoG related work to the OSPAR Commission and advise the Commission on specific questions related to its work remitted to it by the Commission.

# Working Groups and Intersessional Correspondence Groups (ICGs)

10. OIC shall not have any dedicated working groups but will establish ICGs as required to progress individual products set out in its annual Programme of Work.

1. Revised in 2017 (see OSPAR 17/19/1, Annex 7) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)