

## Summary of Activities 2017-2018

An OSPAR contribution under UN General Assembly Resolution 72/73, of 5 December 2017, on Oceans and the law of the sea, to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

The OSPAR Convention is the legal instrument guiding international cooperation on [ospa@un.org](mailto:ospa@un.org) (03475472) (HBA) (03475472)

activities to support Contracting Parties' national, regional and global ambitions with regard to the protection and conservation of the marine environment.

2. In 2017, much of the effort has been directed to the publication in June 2017 of an Intermediate Assessment of the state of the North East Atlantic. The Intermediate Assessment introduces OSPAR's assessment methodology, describing issues such as climate change, cumulative effects analysis and social and economic analysis including a key messages section. The core of the Intermediate Assessment consists of a series of indicator based assessments of environmental status, which, along with summaries of some of OSPAR's more regular periodic assessments inform the public on the state of knowledge in the North East Atlantic. In 2018 the Intermediate Assessment was finalised and also made available in French via the OSPAR Assessment

## Crosscutting issues

1. The preparation and finalisation of the Intermediate Assessment published online in June 2017 (<https://oap.ospar.org/en/osparassessments/intermediateassessment2017/>) has generally been the highest priority activity for many of

fundamental role as the appropriate Regional Sea Convention in assisting its Contracting Parties through existing monitoring and reporting mechanisms in ensuring quality, accessible data collection and periodic environmental assessments and through developing an effective regional management regime

Official meetings held in Finland under the Finnish Chairmanship, in 2017 and 2018 respectively.  
Furthermore, OSPAR



which will be