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# Comments: the OSPAR Convention

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Regional Cooperation for the Protection  
of the Marine Environment  
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# The institutional arrangements, membership and history

- The OSPAR Convention was adopted in 1992
- Merge of the Oslo and Paris Convention (dealt with dumping and land based pollution )
- Broadened scope in 1998 with the adoption of Annex V on biological diversity
- 15 Governments & the EU cooperate to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic
- Convention text and five annexes
- The maritime area – five regions
- Permanent secretariat
- The OSPAR Commission
  - Shall supervise the implementation of the Convention
  - Develop programmes and measures for the prevention and elimination of pollution and for the control of activities which may, directly or indirectly, adversely affect the maritime area





## The North East Atlantic

<b>Region I</b>	Eaux Arctiques
<b>Region II</b>	Mer du Nord au sens large
<b>Region III</b>	Mers celtiques
<b>Region IV</b>	Golfe de Gascogne et cibles ibériques
<b>Region V</b>	Atlantique au large

# Description of the OSPAR Convention

- Convention text and five annexes
- Objective and main obligation:
  - Article 2: «take all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution and shall take all necessary measures to protect the marine area against the adverse effects of human activities so as to safeguard human health and to conserve marine ecosystems...»
- Main obligations: pollution from land-based sources, pollution by dumping, pollution from offshore sources, assessment of the quality of the environment and pollution from other sources
- Principles of the Convention: the states shall apply the precautionary principle

# Challenges and overall impacts

- A comprehensive legal framework for the protection of the marine environment and the conservation of the marine ecosystems in the North East Atlantic
- Challenges – broad objective to protect the marine environment against adverse impacts of human activities
  - But exception for shipping and fishing
  - Russia is not a member
- Impacts:
  - Strict far-reaching obligations
  - The OSPAR commission is active
  - Report mechanisms
  - Cooperates with other relevant institutions

# Best practices- Marine Protected Areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction

- A framework for MPAs to develop and implement MPAs developed under OSPAR
- Recommendations to establish MPAs, guidelines on selection and management of the MPAs
- Pioneer work – establishment of MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction
  - Paper works or real protection?

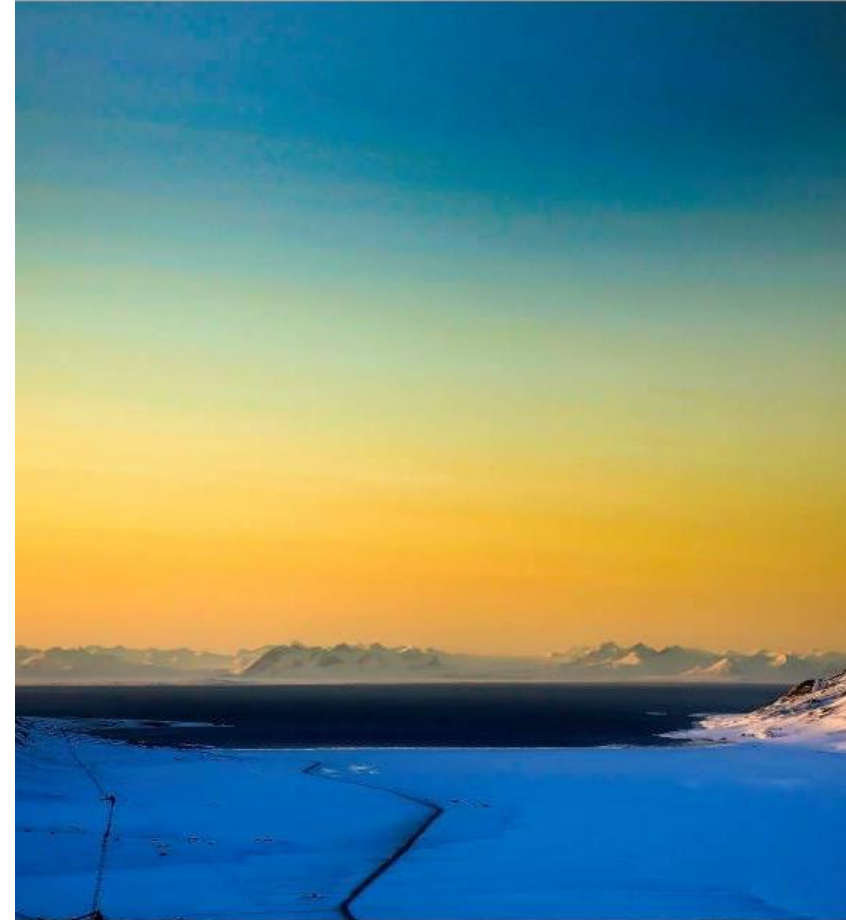
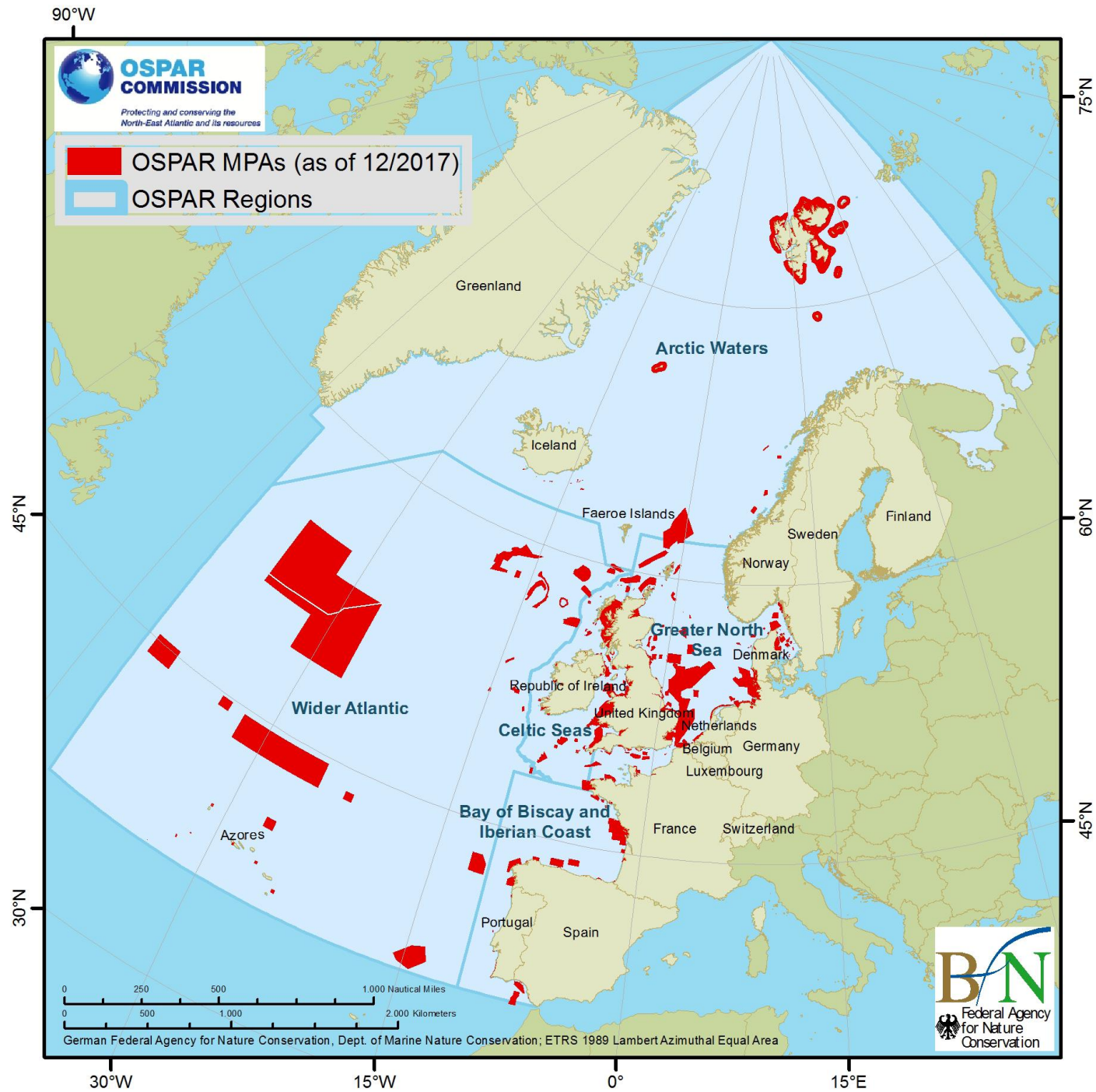


Photo Yngve Olsen





# Thank you!

