

# Lessons from cross sectoral regional cooperation In the North East Atlantic

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# OSPAR Convention – 1992

Convention for the protection of the marine environment of the  
North East Atlantic

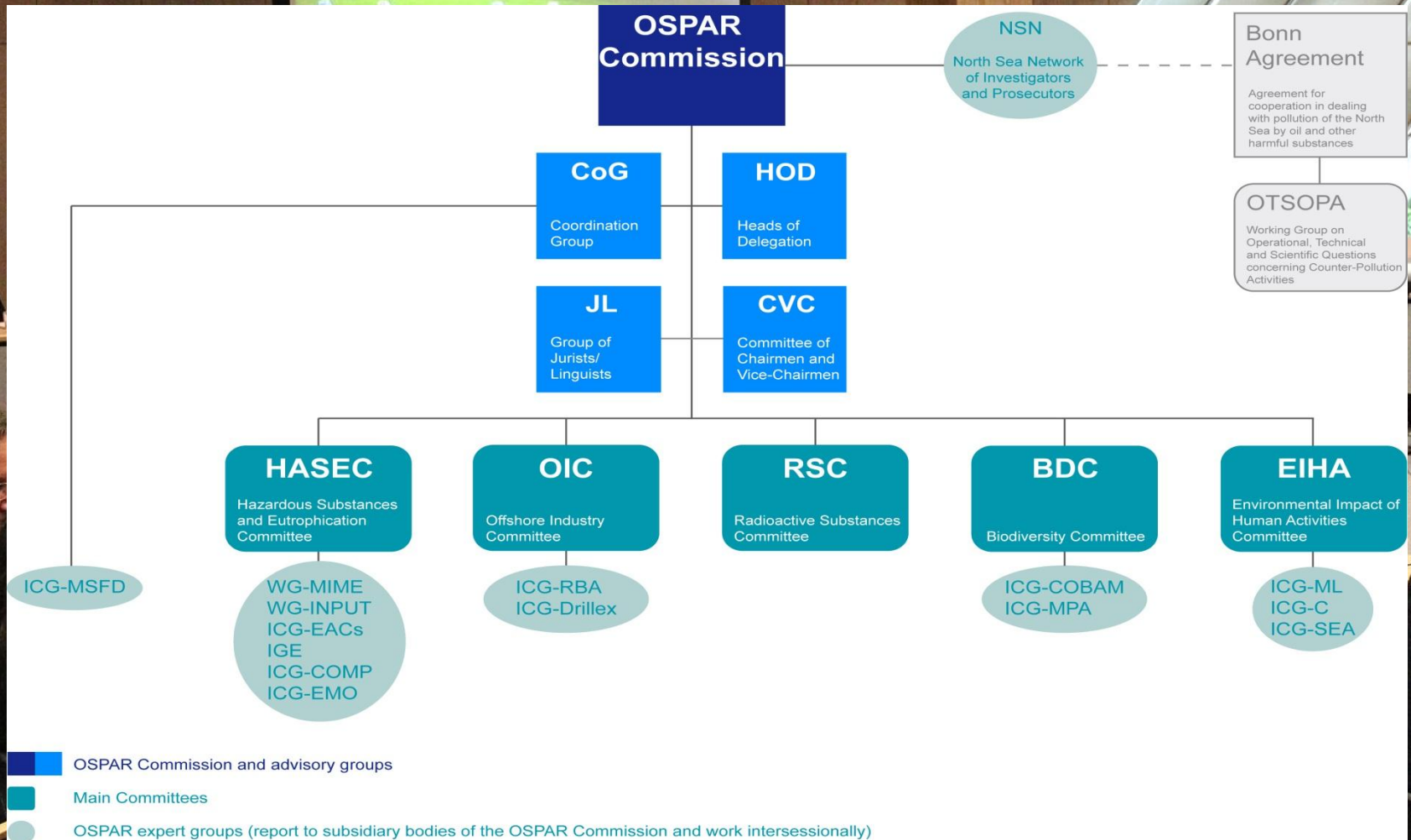
## Main Objectives

- Prevent and eliminate pollution
- protect the maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities
- safeguard human health and conserve marine ecosystems
- when practicable, restore marine areas

## Guiding Principles

- Ecosystem Approach – the overarching concept and basis for OSPAR work
- Precautionary Principle
- Polluter Pays principle
- Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices

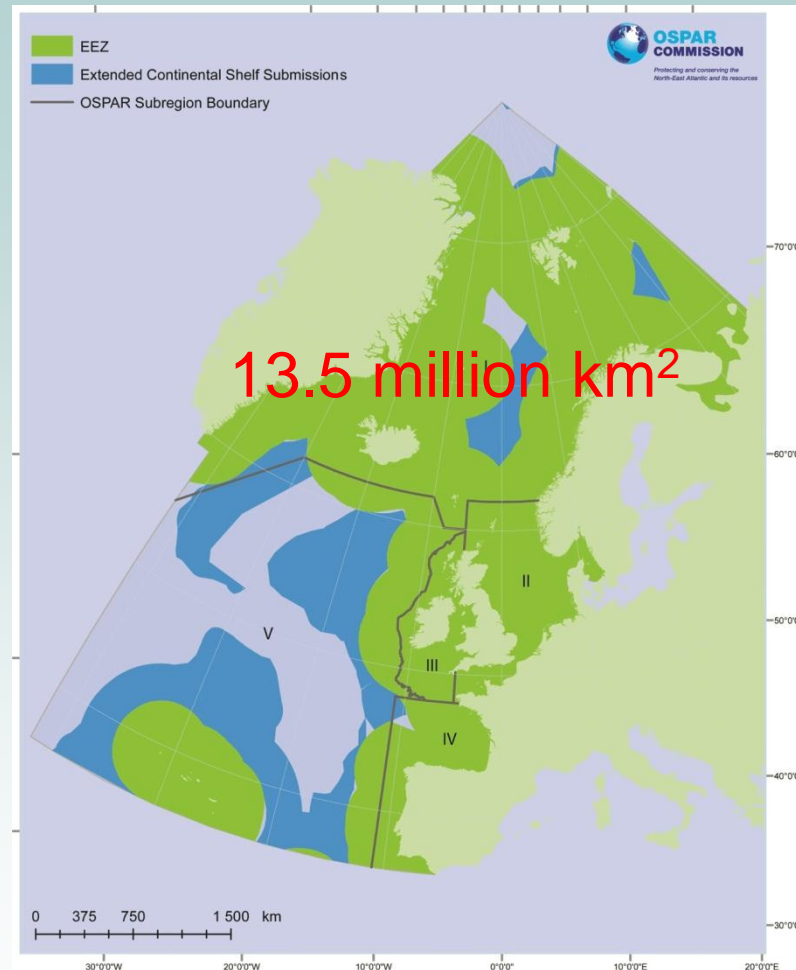
# Science meets policy – Work led by Contracting Parties



# OSPAR

## 16 Contracting Parties

- Belgium
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- The United Kingdom
- European Union



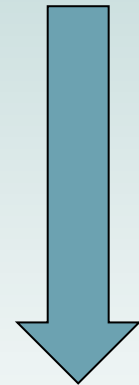
# NEAFC

## 5 Contracting Parties

- European Union
- Denmark in respect of Greenland and Faeroe Islands
- Iceland
- Russia

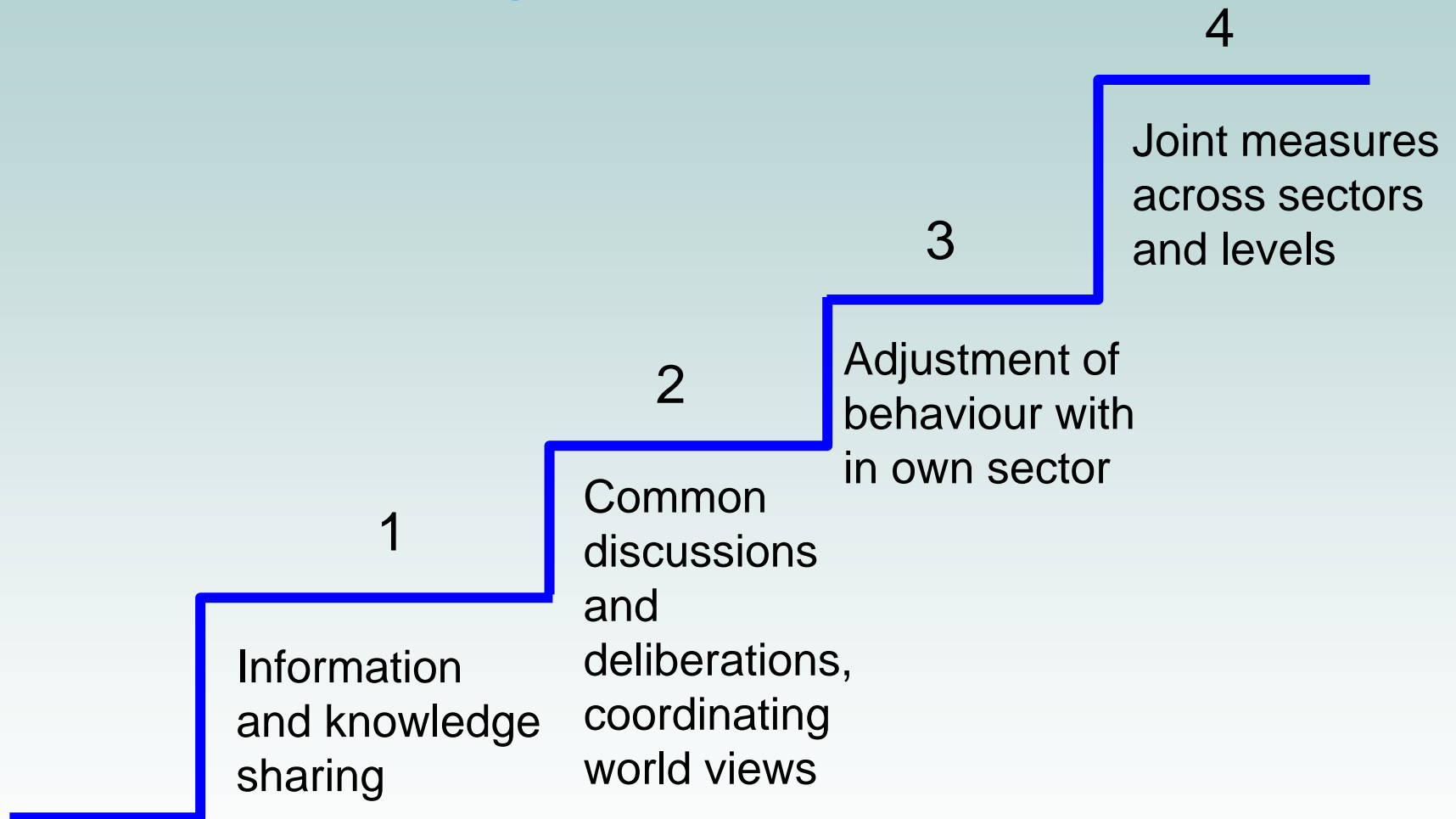
# The foundation for cooperation

Time + Clarity + Dialogue = Trust



Successful  
cooperation

# The ladder of cooperation: OSPAR and NEAFC



# Time: Timeline of events

Adoption of  
OSPAR  
Annex V

1998

Collaboration on  
description of  
EBSAS

2011-2014

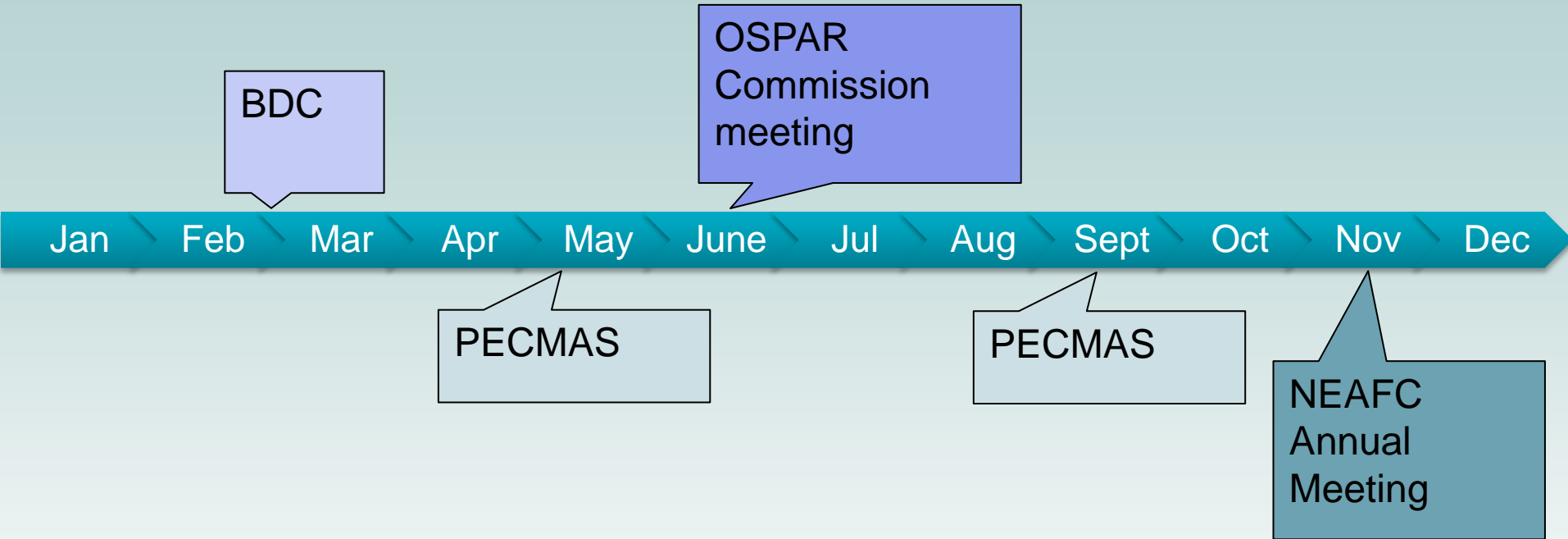
OSPAR/NEA  
FC MoU

2008

Adoption  
collective  
arrangement

2014

# Time: Consultation and decision making





# Dialogue

- MoU sets the framework for dialogue
- Informal dialogue between Secretariats
  - Regular
  - Facilitated by both being in the same City!
- Observership at each other's meetings
- Formal communications
  - Advising of matters of mutual interest
  - Drawing questions of concern to attention
- Technical dialogue (e.g. in joint tasks)
- **National inter-ministerial consultation and dialogue**

# Joint activity: Describing EBSAs

- On the basis of a CBD COP decision
- NE Atlantic Countries wished to use OSPAR and NEAFC as the platform to bring together expertise to describe a set of areas meeting the CBD criteria
- A tangible task that required some behavioural change from both organisations
- Results: A set of areas meeting the EBSA criteria for the North East Atlantic. Accepted (technically) by NEAFC and OSPAR
- Outcome: the Organisations able to learn to conduct technical work that was stronger for using the capacities of both

# Collective arrangement

- Non-legally binding text
- Agreed between international organisations competent for managing human activities
- Cooperate and coordinate
- Concerns areas in ABNJ with area specific management actions
- Guided by internationally agreed principles and norms
- Sets the framework to cooperate and coordinate – important not to undermine each other's work
- Step 1: agreed between OSPAR and NEAFC as of 2014

# The ladder of cooperation: OSPAR and NEAFC

