OSPAR
Radioactive Substances

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About OSPAR

- OSPAR is the mechanism by which fifteen Governments of the western coasts and catchments of Europe, together with the European Union, co-operate to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic

The OSPAR maritime area and its five Regions

- The fifteen Governments are:
  Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom

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Radioactive Substances Strategy

OSPAR's concern for the possibility of harm to the marine environment and its users (including the consumers of food produced from the marine environment) from inputs of radionuclides caused by human activities is addressed through the Radioactive Substances Strategy.

The OSPAR Radioactive Substances Strategy provides that:

> "In accordance with the general objective [of the OSPAR Convention], the objective of the Commission with regard to radioactive substances, including waste, is to prevent pollution of the maritime area from ionising radiation through progressive and substantial reductions of discharges, emissions and losses of radioactive substances, with the ultimate aim of concentrations in the environment near background values for naturally occurring radioactive substances and close to zero for artificial radioactive substances. In achieving this objective, the following issues should, *inter alia*, be taken into account:
> a. legitimate uses of the sea;
> b. technical feasibility;
> c. radiological impacts on man and biota."

The time frame of the Strategy is that by the year 2020

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Radioactive Substances Strategy

- Approach

Implementation requires attention to discharges (reductions in which are the main means of action), concentrations (the measure of the ultimate aim) and doses to the public and biota (consequence of the two preceeding factors, and essential as quality status indicators).

Structured in a logical sequence to answer the questions:

- what are the discharges of radioactive substances to the marine environment?
- what are the consequences of these discharges in terms of environmental concentrations of radionuclides?
- what are the radiological consequences (doses) to the human population of these marine concentrations?
- what are the radiological consequences (doses) to non-human species of these marine concentrations?

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Radioactive Substances Strategy

Main strategic directions

- **Continue monitoring programmes, to improve the evidence base and further develop assessment tools;**
- **Monitor the international development of environmental quality criteria to evaluate the impacts of discharges on the marine environment and adopt such criteria as they become established;**
- **Assess the contribution of the oil and gas industry to marine radioactive pollution and, where appropriate, develop and implement suitable management measures;**
- **Continue to scrutinise the development in, and encourage Contracting Parties to apply, best available techniques to control (i.e. prevent and/or reduce and/or eliminate) discharges of radioactive substances from the nuclear and non-nuclear sectors**

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Radioactive Substances Strategy

Implementation

- **Apply statistical trend analysis techniques to assess progress in reduction of discharges, emissions and losses;**
- **Review i) an appropriate method of reporting exceptional discharges arising either from the decommissioning of nuclear installations or from operations to recover old waste; and ii) a method to take account of the variability in the level of operation of nuclear installations;**
- **Develop agreed baseline values for discharges and concentrations, where possible, from the non-nuclear sector;**
- **Consider environmental quality criteria programmes and measures to apply such criteria;**
- **Continue monitoring programmes and annual data collection to improve the evidence base.**

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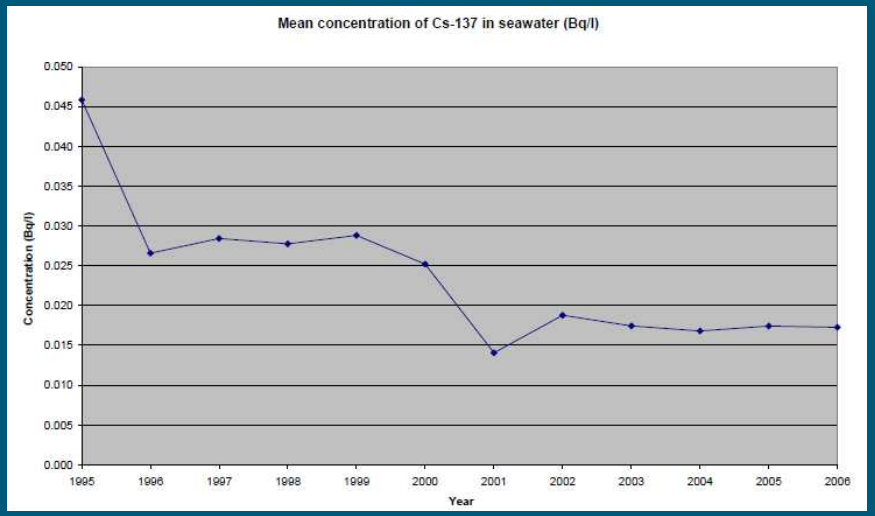
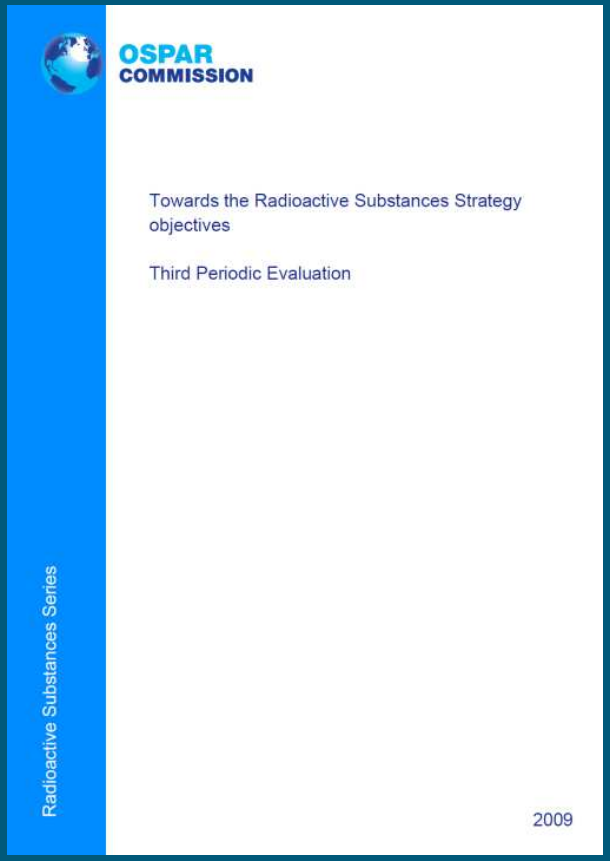
Radioactive Substances Strategy

- Implementation (continued)

Progress in implementing the strategy is evaluated periodically. Reports have been published on reduction in discharges, concentrations and impacts in the environment in a Third Periodic Evaluation of the Progress (towards the Objective of the Radioactive Substances Strategy), being an overall assessment of radionuclides in the OSPAR maritime area, was published in 2009.





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