



BirdLife Media Advisory

Embargo: 24 September 12:00 Norwegian time (12:00 CET time)

Success and failures to act

BirdLife/RSPB International response to OSPAR's Bergen Ministerial Statement, 24 Sept

Statement from Dr Sharon Thompson, Senior Marine Policy Officer at the RSPB (BirdLife in the UK)

“While we were obviously disappointed that the 2010 deadline for establishing a coherent and well-managed network of MPAs has been missed, it has now been replaced with a reasonable alternative – 2012. And the deadline for taking action to protect threatened and/or declining species and habitats on the OSPAR list has been agreed for 2013.

However, there have also been failures – such as a reluctance to act straight away on the issue of litter in the marine environment.

The most noticeable weakness however, has been the failure to take the plunge and use the opportunity to make strong statements advising those bodies with responsibility for managing fisheries to take progressive measures to reduce the impact of fisheries on those species and habitats that OSPAR has listed as threatened and/or declining. OSPAR has no competency or jurisdiction over fisheries matters, rather it rests with bodies such as regional fisheries management organisations, the European Commission, particularly in light of the forthcoming reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, and states themselves within their own waters. This lack of strong advice is despite the publication this week of OSPAR's 2010 Quality Status Report that highlights the continuing large impacts that fisheries has on the marine environment of the North East Atlantic”

For more information, please contact:

Alessia Pautasso, Communication & Media Officer at BirdLife International -

+32 (0) 2 541 07 81

Mobile: +32 494 542844

E-mail: alessia.pautasso@birdlife.org

