TABLE 10.3 *OSPAR List of threatened and/or declining habitats adopted in 2003 (¹habitats added in 2008) and the current key pressures with impacts on the habitats listed.*

	Habitat	Regions where habitat occurs (○) and has been recognised by OSPAR to be threatened and/or declining (●)					Key pressures
		I	II	III	IV	V	
Coastal habitats	Littoral chalk communities		●				
	Intertidal *Mytilus edulis* beds on mixed and sandy sediments		●	●			
	Intertidal mudflats	●	●	●	●		
	Ostrea edulis beds		●	●	●		
	Zostera beds	●	●	●	●		
	Cymodocea meadows[1]				●		
Shelf sea habitats	*Modiolus modiolus* beds	●	●	●	●		
	Sabellaria spinulosa reefs	○	●	●	○	○	
	Maerl beds	○	○	●	○	○	pH↘
	Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	○	●	●	○		
Deep-sea habitats	*Lophelia pertusa* reefs	●	●	●	●	●	pH↘
	Coral gardens[1]	●	●	●	●	●	pH↘
	Carbonate mounds	○				●	
	Deep-sea sponge aggregations	●		●	●	●	
	Oceanic ridges with hydrothermal vents/fields	○				●	
	Seamounts	●			●	●	

KEY TO TABLES 10.2 AND 10.3: Climate change; pH↘ pH changes; Hydrological changes; Hazardous substances; Oil pollution; Nutrient and organic enrichment; Litter; Underwater noise; Barriers to species movement; Death or injury by ship strikes; Siltation rate changes; Habitat damage; Habitat loss; Microbial pathogens; Introduction of non-indigenous species and translocations; Removal of target and non-target species; Predation; Loss of prey species; Threats outside the OSPAR area

OSPAR has identified a range of actions to be taken to protect particular species and habitats. These include:

- Raising awareness of the species and habitats and their key pressures among stakeholders and wider society.
- Taking into account threatened and/or declining species and habitats in environmental impact assessment processes.
- Supporting improved identification of threatened species (sharks, skates and rays, sturgeon) among key users of the sea (e.g. fishermen).
- Protection of breeding sites (seabirds, including roseate tern and thick-billed murre).
- Restoration of habitats and protection of migration corridors (diadromous fish).
- Reintroduction programmes (European sturgeon).
- Improved coordination of monitoring of species, habitats and pressures, and sharing of information, for example, on sightings (turtles, basking shark).
- Action to reduce by-catch (sharks, skates, rays, Balearic shearwater, harbour porpoise, turtles).
- Establishing marine protected areas (MPAs) to protect important functional areas for species and habitats, including key life stages (shark, skates and rays).

Thick-billed murres

Several other international organisations and frameworks contribute to protection and conservation of marine biodiversity → **TABLE 10.1**. OSPAR needs to coordinate its work with the efforts of these organisations and to provide a framework to harmonise and support consistent actions at national level. Conservation efforts for many species need to be supported by further research, especially on demographics and life history. Improved mapping of the distribution, extent and condition of seabed habitats is vital to support management. Better coordination of monitoring and information collection is also important.