



## Northwest Pacific Action Plan

Distr.: RESTRICTED

UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/  
FPM 18/10

12 November 2021

Original: English

---

Northwest Pacific Action Plan  
Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center

The Eighteenth NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting  
Vladivostok, Russia, 7-8 December 2021  
On-line conference

**Proposal on the development of marine spatial planning (MSP) in the  
NOWPAP Member States as mechanism to reduce pressure on the  
coastal and marine environment**

## 1. Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda) adopted by the UN Member States in 2015 acknowledges the integrated nature of the many challenges that humanity faces. Halting and reversing environmental degradation requires systemic actions across all three domains of sustainable development: environmental, economic and social.

The major focus of NOWPAP is to contribute to the achievement of SDG 14 «Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development», which emphasizes the importance of seas and oceans for sustainable development.

Producing sound environment and development outcomes<sup>1</sup> and creating impacts<sup>2</sup> takes considerable time. Therefore, NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023 uses results-focused, longer-term outcome planning approach aligned with the target date of the 2030 Agenda. NOWPAP strategic focus and priority areas for the period of 2018-2023 are as follows:

1. Support integrated coastal and river basin management;
2. Assess status of the marine and coastal environment;
3. Prevent and reduce land- and sea-based pollution;
4. Conserve marine and coastal biodiversity.

Over the past several years, the development of marine spatial planning (MSP) and the zoning of marine space has been a decisive step in the establishment of an ecosystem-based environmental management system. MSP aims to minimize conflicts between stakeholders; negative impacts of environmental management (by allocating space and applying zoning for various purposes). MSP is a planning tool that facilitates integrated, forward-looking and consistent decision-making on the use of maritime areas. This priority area responds directly to Objectives 3 and 4 of the NOWPAP that focus on ecosystem-based planning and management. The objectives of MSP are to ensure the optimal use of maritime space, taking into account the interaction between different users of the sea, to balance the requirements of economic development with the need to protect the environment, to contribute to the achievement of social and economic goals through planning and open discussion. The choice of the most relevant goal, in terms of current priorities and more distant prospects for development, of a specific coastal area depends on some cases.

A number of countries have developed common approaches to the formulation of coherent plans for the spatial distribution of marine activities for the conservation and management of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Among the main tasks of marine spatial planning are the following:

---

<sup>1</sup> Outcomes are defined as the uptake, adoption or use of NOWPAP intervention that is observed as a change of behavior, attitude, condition, knowledge or skill. Negotiated and agreed outcomes become expected accomplishments.

<sup>2</sup> Impacts are the ultimate ambition to be realized and represent environmental change. In the NOWPAP context they are linked to Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs) and SDG targets that NOWPAP could not achieve alone.

- promoting the sectoral development of various sectors of the marine economy, thereby increasing profits and employment;
- optimization of marine environmental management, by placing a particular activity in the most suitable places for this, without depreciating other activity;
- finding a compromise between the exploitation and conservation of aquatic biological resources;
- reduction of cost indicators, including the cost of information, regulation, planning and management decisions.

Main principles of MSP:

- the principle of limited space – MSP is implemented within a specific water area determined on the basis of legal, socio-economic and environmental characteristics;
- the principle of integrality – MSP process is strictly based on interaction between industries, government bodies and between different levels of government and local government;
- the principle of ecosystemacity – the achievement of ecological, economic, social and development goals is carried out taking into account the capabilities and capacity of this ecosystem and supporting the appropriate level of environmental services produced by it;
- the principle of joint participation – the inclusion of all interested parties, including the public, in the process of analysis, development and adoption of management decisions;
- the principle of strategic planning – orientation to large planning horizons;
- the principle of adaptability – the application of a flexible approach, when the procedure for the development and implementation of MSP provides for the possibility of quickly changing decisions already made.

## 2. Objective

During 2022-2023 NOWPAP restores the ICARM Working Group (ICARM WG) within POMRAC to provide a forum for regional, cross-border and cross-sectoral dialogue on MSP in the NOWPAP region.

As initial tasks ICARM WG will update national information on developments and best practices in MSP, especially on the elements covered by the NOWPAP ICARM regional guidelines principals (NOWPAP POMRAC, 2015).

In the period 2022-2023 ICARM WG will exchange experience on the integration of MSP into national structures. RCU NOWPAP will continue to work closely with PEMSEA, providing regular training on MSP. ICARM WG will also seek opportunities to share experiences and lessons learned with relevant regional organizations and regional seas programs.

ICARM WG will begin identifying areas and cases of MSP that may benefit from cross-border cooperation and common experience, and will assess possible project ideas and funding sources

to support this activity. For this purpose, an analysis of the MSP development state in the countries of the region should be carried out at the first stage.

Ensuring optimal use of maritime space, taking into account the interaction between various maritime users, balancing the requirements of economic development with the need to protect the environment, promoting social and economic goals through planning and open discussion.

### **3. Main features**

The wide range of tasks undertaken in the implementation of marine spatial planning justifies the need to involve relevant national and regional institutions in the development of this document. The creation of several working groups is also an option. POMRAC will play a leading role in the planning and synthesis of results. Overall activity will be implemented in close partnership between POMRAC and RCU and involve inputs from relevant national, regional and global institutions as well as individual experts.

When using marine spatial planning for environmental use, the following should be taken into account:

- the natural properties of the coastal zone, which may either contribute to or impede the location of stakeholder and the foreseeable restrictions on its use;
- current use of the relevant water area or territory, possible directions of its development, results of environmental impact assessment of existing and planned facilities;
- "Industry requests," this is meaning prospective maritime needs expressed in the development strategies and programmes of individual sectors of the economy, as well as national projects, inter-State programmes, in order to harmonize the interests of industries with respect to a certain space.

In the using of the marine environment, follow requirements should be addressed:

- the rate of consumption of renewable resources should not exceed the rate of their recovery;
- the rate of consumption of non-renewable resources should not exceed the rate of development of their sustainable (renewable) substitutes;
- the volume and intensity of contaminants entering the environment shall not exceed its ability to absorb and recycle these wastes.

### **4. Main tasks**

4.1. Preparation of the structure of the review on the implementation of the marine spatial planning (MSP).

The stage should include a review of the experience and / or prospective with the implementation of the marine spatial planning system in the region, complexities and limitations of the implementation of the planning

4.2. Organization of the Workshop in the first half 2022 for the final discussion and approval of contents and structure of such a review.

Results of the abovementioned discussion will be finalized during the 2020 Workshop of RACs and RCU representatives, and nominated experts

4.3. Preparation of draft chapters of MSP review by the nominated experts in coordination with POMRAC and RCU.

Nominated experts will prepare drafts of the different chapters for MSP review. Discussion by correspondence and comments from POMRAC, RCU and relevant organization for all chapters will be important part of this stage of review preparation.

4.4. Compilation of MSP review

Compilation of MSP review will begin by the international consultant hired by POMRAC after finalization of the separate chapters, and according to the approved structure.

### 5. Expected outcomes

Elaborated and approved different chapters will be major outcomes on the MSP activity for 2022-2023.

### 6. Schedule

| Time           | Actions   | Main Body                                       |
|----------------|---|---|
| By April, 2022 | Discussion by correspondence of the MSP review structure, and involvement of other RACs into the process of preparation | POMRAC  |
| By May, 2022   | Nomination of experts   | POMRAC and FPs                                  |
| June, 2022     | Workshop for the final discussion and approval of the MSP review structure  | Experts, POMRAC, RCU and relevant organizations |
| December, 2022 | Preparation of the drafts for the chapters of MSP review  | POMRAC, FPs and experts                         |
| June, 2023     | Review of the chapters  | POMRAC, FPs and RCU                             |
| October, 2023  | Finalization of the chapters of MSP review  | POMRAC FPs experts, RCU                         |
| December, 2023 | Preparation of Draft MSP review with presentation at the POMRAC FPM   | International consultant, POMRAC                |

### 7. Budget 39,000 USD

| Contract                         | Timing     | Output               | To be completed              | Counterpart                             | Budget |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---|--------|
| Workshop on MSP review structure | June, 2022 | MSP review structure | 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2022 | Experts, RCU and relevant organizations | 10,000 |

|  |                   |  |                                  |   |  |
|--|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
|  |                   |  | Back to back<br>19 POMRAC<br>FPM |   |  |
| Preparation of<br>the different<br>chapters of<br>MSP review | December,<br>2022 | Different<br>chapters of<br>MSP review | June, 2023                       | Experts                                   | 22,000<br>(16,000*<br>experts,<br>6,000<br>POMRAC) |
| Preparation<br>and<br>compilation of<br>MSP review           | July, 2023        | Draft MSP<br>review                    | November,<br>2023                | International<br>consultant and<br>POMRAC | 5,000*   |
| Publication  | November,<br>2023 | Publication                            | December,<br>2023                | POMRAC                                    | 2,000  |
| Total  |                   |  |                                  |   | 39,000<br>(including<br>21,000*)                   |

\* - through the special distinct contracts