



**Northwest  
Pacific  
Action Plan**

Distr.: RESTRICTED

UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/  
FPM 18/2

2 November 2021

Original: English

Northwest Pacific Action Plan  
Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center

The Eighteenth NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting  
Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 7-8 December 2021  
On-line meeting

**Annotated Provisional Agenda**

## **Annotated Provisional Agenda for the 18<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM**

### **Background leading to the meeting**

The Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC) is one of the four Regional Activity Centers (RACs) established to coordinate activities relevant to specific components of the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). Initially POMRAC had responsibility to implement activities related to atmospheric deposition of contaminants and river and direct inputs of contaminants.

The 10<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM (2006) has approved the “New Directions for the NOWPAP RACs and RCU”. Regarding POMRAC, that IGM confirmed the preparation of regional overviews on atmospheric deposition of contaminants and river and direct inputs of contaminants with subsequent preparation of the State of Marine Environment Report in the NOWPAP Region (SOMER). After that, POMRAC was expected to focus on activities related to Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM) including land-based sources of pollution. Preparation of SOMER and all activities related to ICARM were implemented in close collaboration with all NOWPAP RACs.

The 12<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC FPM (2014) reviewed and discussed major POMRAC activities in accordance with the decisions of the 18<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM. One of the main POMRAC activities agreed upon was the development of Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs) in the NOWPAP region. POMRAC FPs and experts as well as representatives of CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC and partner organizations (such as OSPAR, PICES, WESTPAC, and YSLME) participated in the meeting.

In 2015, most of POMRAC activities were “frozen” due to the problems with processing payments from Russia to foreign experts. The 20<sup>th</sup> IGM (2015) decided in order to simplify the administrative processes of payments to foreign experts (consultants), to assign the implementation of some POMRAC activities through DINRAC budget with small-scale funding

agreement (SSFA) between POMRAC and DINRAC while maintaining POMRAC responsibility for the outputs and leadership of these activities.

The 16<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM was held in 2019 in Beijing to discuss the POMRAC activities for the 2020-2021 biennium. Regional Workshop “Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian part of NOWPAP area” was held back-to-back with POMRAC FPM with the aim to discuss in detail the problems of river pollution by microplastics not only in Russia, but also in other NOWPAP countries.

For the current biennium, 2020-2021, the 24th NOWPAP IGM was postponed and the adoption of the Programme of Work (PoW) for the 2020-2021 was delayed until June 2020 due to COVID pandemic. Following the adoption of PoW, POMRAC concluded Small-Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) with UNEP for allocation of the budget for the 2020-2021 activities in June 2020. As the term of this funding agreement is for two years, the ending date of the contract is set at the end of June 2022.

The 17<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM was held in October 2020 virtually due to COVID pandemic and quarantine measures preventing any face-to-face meetings. Major goal of 17<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM was to discuss the progress in the implementation of POMRAC activities. POMRAC Secretariat has prepared working documents, uploaded them at the website, and documents have been adopted by POMRAC FPs by correspondence.

In 2019-2020 POMRAC and DINRAC met difficulties with transfer of the part of POMRAC budget allocated to DINRAC for the payments to POMRAC experts. Another mechanism of the individual contracts between nominated POMRAC experts and Nairobi UNEP HQ was suggested by RCU. Ten experts have been nominated in summer 2020, RCU staff carried out huge volume of additional paper work, and continue to push the contracting process on regular basis. Unfortunately, despite all efforts of RCU no contracts have been signed so far. In fact, POMRAC experts work in advance, and this situation is not acceptable, and has to be resolved. Solution should touch upon current activities for 2020-2021 biennium, and another mechanism has to be elaborated and discussed for the implementation of POMRAC activities for 2022-2023 biennium and further.

The COVID 19 situation has not been improved and strong restrictions of international travels and meetings are continued. Therefore, POMRAC Secretariat proposed to organize an online FPM, and the FPs agreed to organize the 18<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM virtually on 7 and 8 of December, 2021 as two 3-4 hours on-line sessions from 14 pm Vladivostok time (13 pm Tokyo/Seoul).

The meeting will review the progress of POMRAC activities for the 2020-2021 biennium and discuss proposals of the activities for the next 2022-2023 biennium. Since the meeting time limitation, working documents will be uploaded to POMRAC website in advance, and the FPs will be asked to provide their comments and suggestions to the Secretariat before the meeting, which will also be uploaded at the POMRAC website to make discussion more efficient during the limited meeting time.

At the end of the meeting, only meeting resolutions will be prepared by the Secretariat for adoption by the FPs on-line during the meeting, or after that by correspondence. The decision of the 18<sup>th</sup> FPM, in which a draft workplan of POMRAC for the 2022-2023 biennium is included, will be reported at the next NOWPAP IGM for review and adoption.

## **The Eighteenth NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting**

### **DAY 1 (7 December)**

#### **Agenda Item 1. Opening of the meeting**

(POMRAC Director chairs)

The 18<sup>th</sup> POMRAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) will be opened at 14:00 Vladivostok time (13:00 JST/Seoul), on 7 December by the Director of POMRAC.

#### **Agenda Item 2. Organization of the meeting**

##### **2.1 Election of the officers**

(POMRAC Director chairs)

The meeting will be invited to elect the chairperson and the rapporteur in line with Terms of Reference of the NOWPAP POMRAC FPM. The roles of chairperson and rapporteur rotate among the four member states. Due to peculiarities of on-line meetings POMRAC FP from Russia is suggested as a chair, and FP from Korea as a rapporteur.

## **2.2 Organization of work**

(Chairperson)

For the purpose of this meeting, the rules of procedures used in the 18th FPM will be those of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) with appropriate adjustments to suit the nature of the meeting.

English will be the working language of the meeting.

### **Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the agenda**

POMRAC Director will explain the Provisional Agenda of the 18th FPM (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 18/1) with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 18/2). The meeting will be invited to consider the agenda items for adoption.

### **Agenda Item 4. Report of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) on the progress in the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)**

A representative of NOWPAP RCU will report the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities since the 17<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC FPM (October 2020, on-line) mainly focusing on the 2020-2021 biennium and including the outcomes of the Third NOWPAP Extra-ordinary Intergovernmental Meeting held on 27 January 2021 (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 18/3).

### **Agenda Item 5. Reports on POMRAC activities for the 2020-2021 biennium**

5.1 POMRAC Director will report the overall progress of POMRAC activities for the 2020-2021 biennium including detailed reports on three specific activities (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 18/4).

5.2. POMRAC representative will report the progress in implementation of activity “Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region” (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 18/5).

5.3. POMRAC representative will report the progress in the preparation of the Overview “Development of NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators, phase 2” (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 18/6).

5.4. POMRAC representative will report the progress in the preparation of draft SOMER 3 (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 18/7).

**Agenda Item 6.** Proposals on the POMRAC activities for the 2022-2023 biennium

POMRAC Secretariat will present three project proposals for the 2022-2023 biennium, which will be a major part of a draft workplan of POMRAC (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 18/11).

## 6.1. Proposal on the finalization of SOMER-3.

POMRAC representative will present proposal how to finalize SOMER 3, because current situation needs some additional measures (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 18/8).

6.2. Proposal of activity on the use of invertebrates as potential indicators of contamination by microplastic and nanoplastic in the marine and coastal areas within NOWPAP region

POMRAC representative will present proposal on the assessment of microplastic and nanoplastic influence on the invertebrates, and the use of this data as indicators of harmful influence of plastics contamination (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 18/9).

## 6.3. Proposal on MSP

POMRAC representative will present proposal on the development and implementation of marine spatial planning methodology within NOWPAP region (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 18/10).

**Agenda Item 7.** Discussion of possible modalities of the implementation of POMRAC activities in the 2022-2023 and further.

POMRAC Director will briefly explain the peculiarities in operation of POMRAC due to features of Russian financial legislation, and propose possible options, based on discussion with the RCU and other RACs.

**Agenda Item 8.** POMRAC activities on marine litter

POMRAC Secretariat will share with POMRAC FPs for their reference a proposal on marine litter "Using of artificial intelligence in the detection, identification and counting of marine debris elements in the monitoring of pollution in the NOWPAP region" (POMRAC/FPM 18/Inf 3). This project has been submitted to the Marine Litter Focal Points Meeting was held virtually in September 2021 and discussed and approved there. This project will be implemented by Marine State University under POMRAC supervision. During this POMRAC FPM project is presented for information only.

**Agenda Item 9.** Potential collaborative areas with other RACs and/or NOWPAP partners

POMRAC Secretariat or representatives of other RACs will introduce their on-going activities and potential collaborations with POMRAC.

**Agenda Item 10.** Draft workplan and budget of POMRAC activities for the 2022-2023 biennium.

After explanation and discussion of respective projects, and the future modality of POMRAC operation, the meeting will be invited to review and discuss a draft workplan as a whole with budget plan prepared by the POMRAC Secretariat (POMRAC/FPM 18/11) for approval to send it to the 24th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting.

**Agenda Item 11.** Arrangement of the 19<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC FPM

POMRAC Secretariat will propose the venue and the time of the 19<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC FPM for approval. It is planned to be held in 2022. Place and type of meeting will depend on COVID situation.

**Agenda Item 12.** Other matters

The meeting will be invited to raise any other issues, relevant to POMRAC activities, to be discussed during the 18<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM. This agenda may be skipped during the virtual meeting unless there are no urgent matters raised by any FP and/or other meeting attendees.

**Agenda Item 13.** Adoption of the resolutions of the meeting

Draft resolutions of the 18<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC FPM will be prepared by the rapporteur and the POMRAC Secretariat for review and finalization. The meeting will agree that the POMRAC Secretariat will prepare a more detailed draft meeting report and circulate it within 2 weeks after the meeting.

**Agenda Item 14.** Closure of the meeting

The 18<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM will be closed by the chairperson at 16:00 on 8 December 2021.\*  
(\*The ending time is tentative.)