



**Northwest
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Action Plan**

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Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center

The Twelfth NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting
Busan, Republic of Korea, 4-5 September, 2014

**Report on the activities of
NOWPAP Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center
(POMRAC) in 2013-2014**

1. Introduction

1. Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC) of UNEP Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) was established according to the decision of the 4th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (Beijing, China, 6-7 April 1999) on the basis of the Pacific Geographical Institute of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Vladivostok, Russia).
2. The overall goal of POMRAC is the coordination of activities and establishment of regional cooperation in monitoring of marine and coastal environment of the Northwest Pacific region within the UNEP NOWPAP framework. Following the results of discussions at the First NOWPAP/3 Coordinating Committee Meeting (Beijing, 21-22 May 2001), the 7th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (Vladivostok, 20-22 March 2002) made a decision on sharing the responsibilities and activities between CEARAC and POMRAC as presented in document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.7/8. POMRAC is fully responsible for two working groups: WG 1 “Atmospheric Deposition of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment” and WG 2 “River and Direct Inputs of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment”.
3. It was decided also that POMRAC might later consider focusing on activities related to Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management which includes land-based sources of pollution. All activities related to land-based sources of pollution were expected to be implemented in close collaboration with all NOWPAP RACs and with the UNEP/GPA.
4. In accordance with decisions of the 16th NOWPAP IGM, during 2012-2013 POMRAC activities were focused on:
 - 10th and 11th POMRAC Focal Points Meetings (FPMs).
 - Regional overview of persistent toxic substances (PTS) in the coastal environment of the NOWPAP region with Regional workshop “PTS and POPs issues of ecological concern in the NOWPAP region” (back to back with the 10th POMRAC FPM).
 - The second “State of Marine Environmental Report” for the NOWPAP region (with more focus on socio-economic issues, climate change and issues of biodiversity conservation).
 - ICARM activities: finalization of Regional Overview “Applications of ecosystem valuation, marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management in the NOWPAP member states” and preparation of “Regional guidelines for integrated coastal planning/management”.
 - Activities of RAP MALI: increasing public awareness about marine litter problem by developing and distributing promotional materials.
 - Website update.

5. The 16th Intergovernmental Meeting approved the budget of US\$ 114,000 for 2012-2013 biennium for POMRAC activities (including US\$ 2,000 for RAP MALI implementation).
6. The 18th Intergovernmental Meeting approved the budget of US\$ 131,000 for 2014-2015 biennium for POMRAC activities (including US\$ 6,000 for RAP MALI implementation). POMRAC PD was signed on 29 April 2014.

2. Organization and staff

7. The POMRAC Secretariat is located on the basis of Pacific Geographical Institute of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (PGI FEB RAS). Day-to-day work is being done by the assigned 3 researchers and technicians from the Pacific Geographical Institute working as volunteers:

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3. Main activities in 2013-2014

8. POMRAC activities agreed at the 18th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (Toyama, Japan, 4-6 December 2013).

Director of POMRAC reported the POMRAC activities of 2013, including the results of the 11th NOWPAP POMRAC FPM and the expenditure for 2013 and workplan for 2014-2015 agreed at the 11th NOWPAP POMRAC FPM.

18th IGM approved POMRAC activities and POMRAC was allocated USD 131,000 including USD 6,000 of NOWPAP RAP MALI for the 2014-2015 budget same as the budget of other RACs.

In accordance with the decisions of 16th and 18th NOWPAP IGMs, with the budget approved at these meetings and with the main lines of POMRAC work the following activities were scheduled for 2013 – 2014:

- Holding the 11th and 12th POMRAC Focal Points Meetings;
- Organization of Regional workshop “Setting Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP region” back to back with the 12th POMRAC FPM (in cooperation with RCU, RACs, PEMSEA and other relevant organizations);
- Activities related to Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM) which includes land-based sources of pollution;

- Finalization and publishing of the reports:
 - ~ The second State of Marine Environmental Report for the NOWPAP Region (with more focus on socio-economic issues, climate change and issues of biodiversity conservation);
 - ~ Regional overview of persistent toxic substances (PTS) in the coastal environment of the NOWPAP region.
- Activities related to RAP MaLi;

3.1 The 11th POMRAC Focal Points Meetings

9. The 11th NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting was held during 9 -10 October 2013 in Tianjin, People's Republic of China.

The major objectives of this meeting were as follows:

- Overview of the progress made in the intercessional period after the Tenth NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting,
- Report of NOWPAP RCU Representative on the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan
- Discussion of the draft "Regional overview of persistent toxic substances (PTS) in the coastal environment of the NOWPAP region"
- Discussion of the draft of the second "State of Marine Environmental Report" for the NOWPAP region;
- Discussion of the activities of the Working Group on Integrated Coastal and River Basin management (ICARM WG);
- Discussion of the draft workplan and the budget of POMRAC activities for the 2014-2015 biennium and planned activities of its Working Groups.

3.2 Regional workshop "Setting Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP region"

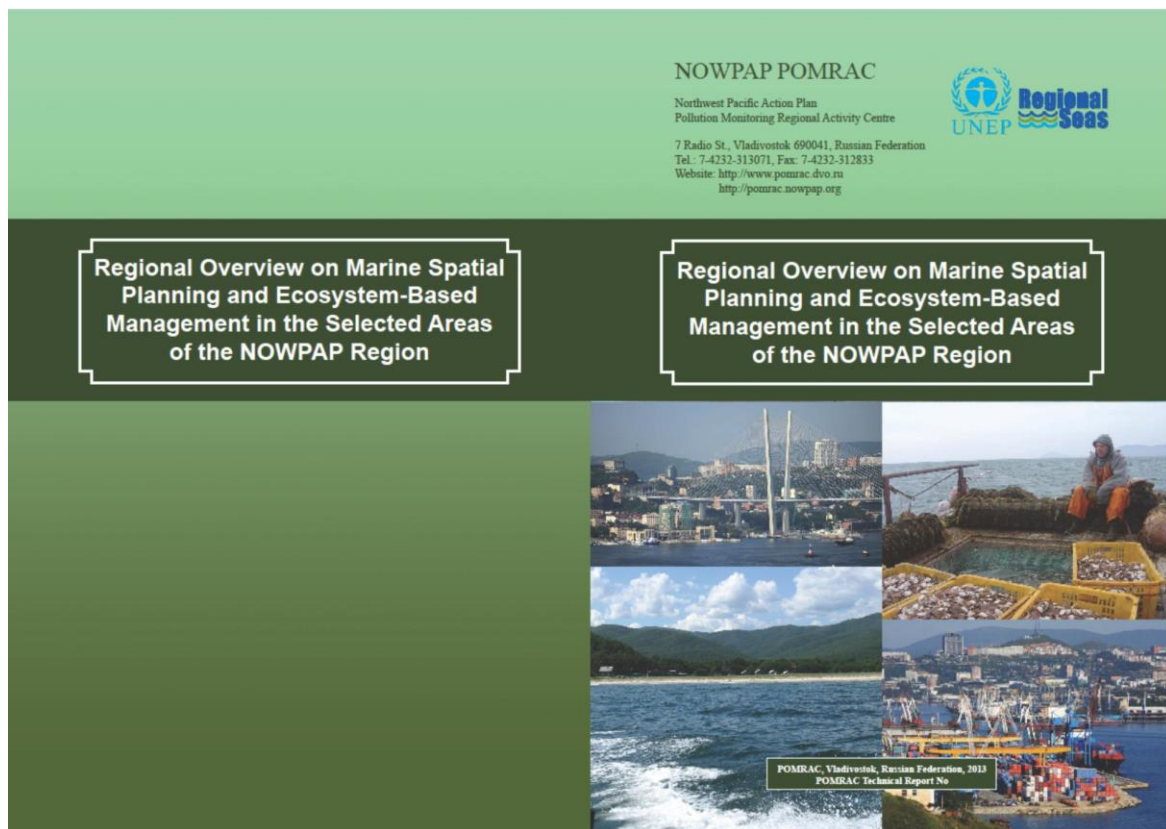
10. The Regional workshop "Setting Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP region" will be held on 3 September 2014 in Busan, Republic of Korea.

3.3 Activities related to Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM)

11. For management of the coastal and marine environment, development of a Regional Overview of the current state of coastal ecosystems in the NOWPAP region is needed. These activities are aimed at optimal use of marine and coastal resources in order to

ensure long-term livelihood of coastal population.

12. Regarding coastal areas, it is necessary to understand that their conditions are directly affected by land-based activities, mostly land-based pollution sources. Therefore, the knowledge of the conditions of river basins (affecting environmental conditions of coastal areas) is very important. That is why, as a rule, implementation of Integrated Coastal Area Management also requires integrated river basin management.
13. After receiving comments and recommendations from experts, national Focal Points, and RCU the final version of the «Ecosystem valuation and marine spatial planning for ecosystem-based management in the NOWPAP region» has been prepared. For the time being, the Overview is available through the POMRAC website as pdf. document. The publication of Regional overview will depend on the financial situation.



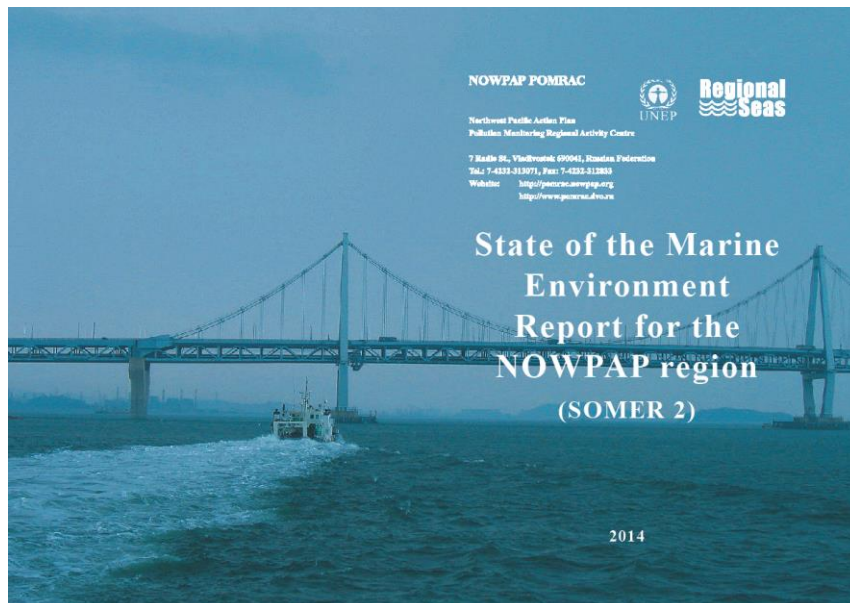
14. After finalization of the Regional Overview «Ecosystem valuation and marine spatial planning for ecosystem-based management in the NOWPAP region» POMRAC started activities on the preparation of the “Regional Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Planning/Management”. The objective of the “Regional Guidelines” is to assist member states in applying efficient ICARM methodologies, including coastal area and river basin planning (landscape, urban and marine spatial planning).

15. These guidelines should take into account the positive and negative experience of the countries and projects with more advanced ICARM practices (Europe, USA, Canada, UNEP MAP). At the same time the specific features of the different NOWPAP countries should be taken into consideration.
16. The draft version of the document has been presented by the end of February 2014. After receiving comments and recommendations from experts, national Focal points, RCU and relevant organizations (PEMSEA) the amended version of the “Regional Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Planning/Management” was submitted for the approval. After final endorsement by NOWPAP Focal Points the “Regional Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Planning/Management” will be published hopefully by the end of 2014 and distributed.

3.4 Finalization and publishing of the reports

3.4.1. The second “State of Marine Environmental Report for the NOWPAP region” (SOMER 2)

17. Objective of SOMER 2 is the synthesis of environmental problems, status and trends connected with existing and changing natural and socio-economical conditions in the NOWPAP region. Structure of SOMER 2 was adopted after negotiations with other RACs, RCU and regional experts at the 10th POMRAC FPM.



18. The draft version of the document was prepared in November 2013, and by the end of

December of 2013 it was distributed among POMRAC Experts and Focal Points, RACs and RCU for the comments. After receiving of the comments and the amending of the text, it was approved by National Focal Points, and SOMER 2 was published with kind help of Ms. Kim from RCU Busan office. For the time being SOMER 2 should be disseminated between NOWPAP partners, scientific and general public.

3.4.2. Regional overview of persistent toxic substances (PTS) in the coastal environment of the NOWPAP region

19. According to the decision adopted at the 10th POMRAC FPM (Kanazawa, Japan, April 2012) this activity was planned as combined efforts of WG1 and WG2.
20. The main objectives of this activity were:
 - To give the updated assessment of the regional ecological issues related to POPs included in the Stockholm Convention (PCDD, PCDF, PCBs, DDTs, HCHs);
 - To obtain assessment of the ecological issues of the regionally significant PTS not covered by the Stockholm Convention (e.g., PAHs);
 - To assess the transboundary aspects of ecological issues related to POPs/PTS within the NOWPAP region.
21. The implementation of the above mentioned objectives will create a scientifically sound basis for the future political and managerial agreement for regional collaboration to address POPs/PTS ecological issues.
22. According to the approved schedule of this activity, the national inputs should be presented by the end of 2012. Unfortunately, national inputs were delayed and, as a result, preparation of the Regional Overview was delayed too.
23. The draft version of the document was prepared only in June 2014, and for the time being the draft of Regional Overview on PTS is under revision by POMRAC experts, POMRAC FPs and RCU. After elaboration of the comments by experts, the draft will be distributed among RACs and National NOWPAP Focal Points according to the proposal of the 14th IGM on improving of the quality of NOWPAP technical reports.
24. After its approval by National Focal Points, the Overview will be published hopefully by the end of 2014 and become available for the general public, scientific organizations and government officials.

3.5 POMRAC activities related to Implementation of NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)

25. According to the 2012-2013 NOWPAP RAP MALI work plan, POMRAC should have prepared ML public awareness materials and US\$ 2,000 was allocated for this activity.

26. In 2013 POMRAC staff translated into Russian the brochure on best practices for prevention of marine litter input from land-based sources in the NOWPAP region which was prepared by CEARAC and funded by The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA). The brochure was printed prior to the 2013 NOWPAP ICC campaign and was distributed among the participants.

3.6 Other POMRAC activities in 2013-2014

27. Within the framework of the 6th International Ecological Forum “Nature without borders” POMRAC participated in preparation of one session, “Natural Transboundary Hazards and Risks in Asia-Pacific Region”. The session was mainly focused on cooperation among NOWPAP countries. Representatives of RCU and RACs made several presentations.



28. Summary document of the Forum noted fruitful NOWPAP activities in the field of coordination of nature protection in the Northwest Pacific region.
29. During 2013-2014, POMRAC staff members were actively involved in the meetings organized by all NOWPAP RACs, WESTPAC, PICES and other organizations.

4. Expenditure incurred in 2013

30. Table (see below) shows the expenditures of POMRAC for 2012-2013. The Tenth POMRAC FPM approved the POMRAC workplan and budget for 2012-2013 (Table) in accordance with the decisions of the 16th NOWPAP IGM.

Table. Workplan, budget and expenditures of POMRAC in 2012-2013 (US\$)

Activity	Planned Budget			Expenditure		
	2012	2013	Total	2012	2013	Total
10 th and 11 th POMRAC Focal Point meetings back to back with two WS	22,000	22,000	44,000	29,592.35	22,000	51,592.35
Joint activity of WG1 and WG2: Regional overview of persistent toxic substances (PTS) in the coastal environment of the NOWPAP region with Regional WS "PTSs and POPs issues of ecological concern in the NOWPAP region" (back to back with 10 th POMRAC FPM)	19,000	6,500	25,500	17,880	6,500	24,380
Prepare the second "State of Marine Environmental Report" for the NOWPAP region (with more focus on socio-economic issues, climate change and issues of biodiversity conservation)	21,000	4,000	25,000	21,000	4,000	25,000
ICARM WG: Finalization of Regional Overview "Applications of ecosystem valuation, marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management in the NOWPAP member states"	4,500	0	4,500	0	0	0
ICARM WG: Preparation of "Regional guidelines for integrated coastal planning/management"	0	5,000	5,000	0	6,500	6,500
Activities of RAP MALI: Increasing public awareness about marine litter problem by developing and distributing promotional materials	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	0	2,000
Website update	500	500	1,000	0	500	500
Cooperation, coordination of POMRAC activities and communication	3,000	4,000	7,000	527.65	3,500	4,027.65
Total	72,000	42,000	114,000	71,000	43,000	114,000