



**Northwest  
Pacific  
Action Plan**

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Northwest Pacific Action Plan  
Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center

The Thirteenth NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting  
Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 19-20 May, 2016

**Report on the implementation and expenditure of POMRAC activities  
for the 2014-2015 biennium**

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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. The 18<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting agreed upon development of the Ecological Quality Objectives as a part of activities of ICARM Working Group. The 18<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting approved the budget of US\$ 131,000 for 2014-2015 biennium for POMRAC activities (including US\$ 6,000 for RAP MALL implementation). POMRAC Project document was signed on 29 April 2014.

## 2. Organization and staff

5. The POMRAC Secretariat is hosted by 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 3 assigned researchers and technicians from the Pacific Geographical Institute working as volunteers:

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### 3. Main activities in 2014-2015

8. POMRAC activities were agreed at the 18<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (Toyama, Japan, 4-6 December 2013). The 18<sup>th</sup> IGM approved POMRAC activities and USD 131,000 were allocated to POMRAC including USD 6,000 for NOWPAP RAP MALI for the 2014-2015 budget, same as the budget of other RACs.
9. In accordance with the decisions of the 18<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM, with the budget approved at this meeting and with the main lines of POMRAC work the following activities were scheduled for 2014 – 2015:
  - organize 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Focal Points Meetings;
  - organize brainstorming Regional Workshop “Setting Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP Region” back to back with the 12<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM (in cooperation with RCU, RACs, and relevant international organizations/projects);
  - prepare (jointly by WG1, WG2 and ICARM WG) regional overview “Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP region”;
  - organize Regional workshop/training course on “Application of Regional Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Planning/Management” (in cooperation with PEMSEA);
  - finalize and publish the following reports:
    - a) The second State of Marine Environmental Report for the NOWPAP Region;
    - b) Regional Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Planning/Management;
    - c) Regional Overview of Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS) in the Coastal Environment of the NOWPAP Region.
10. Following the decision at the 18th NOWPAP IGM and taking into consideration delayed approval of the budget for RAC activities, POMRAC revised its workplan and budget for the 2014-2015 biennium, particularly timelines in some activities, at the 12<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC FPM (4-5 September 2014, Busan, Korea).

#### **3.1 Brainstorming Regional Workshop “Setting Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP Region” back to back with the 12<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM (in cooperation with RCU, RACs, and relevant international organizations and projects – PICES, OSPAR, HELCOM etc.).**

11. The Regional workshop “Setting Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP region” was held on 3 September 2014 in Busan, Republic of Korea.
12. The international experience in the elaboration of Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs) was presented by OSPAR, PEMSEA and PICES representatives. The features of national approaches to the problem of EcoQOs were expressed by representatives of Japan, Republic of Korea and Russia as well.
13. After lengthy and fruitful discussion the preliminary list of Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP region was suggested for further elaboration as follows:

- Biological and habitat diversity are not changed significantly due to anthropogenic pressure
- Alien species are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystems
- Eutrophication adverse effects (such as loss of biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, harmful algal blooms, and oxygen deficiency in bottom waters) are absent
- Contaminants cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health
- Marine litter does not adversely affect coastal and marine environments

More EcoQOs might be added at a later stage (or current ones could be modified).

14. A strategic vision for the NOWPAP region could be “Healthy marine and coastal ecosystems in the NOWPAP Region that are productive and biologically diverse and can continue to support sustainable use of marine resources for the benefit of present and future generations”.

### **3.2 The 12<sup>th</sup> POMRAC Focal Points Meeting**

15. The 12<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting was held during 4 - 5 September 2014 in Busan, Republic of Korea with participation of POMRAC Focal Points (FPs) of the NOWPAP member states, representatives of NOWPAP RCU, MERRAC, and CEARAC. With similar points of interest in their programs, representatives of PICES, WESTPAC, YSLME, and OSPAR were also invited to the POMRAC meeting.

The meeting reviewed the results of POMRAC activities for the 2012-2013 biennium as well as the progress of POMRAC activities for the 2014-2015 biennium, specifically focusing on current projects:

- Joint Activity for WG1, WG2 and ICARM WG in cooperation with other RACs, RCU and relevant organizations (OSPAR, PEMSEA, PICES, WESTPAC, YSLME):  
Development of the Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP region with regional workshop combined with 12<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM.
- Activities for ICARM WG:  
Regional workshop and training course in cooperation with PEMSEA for implementation of regional guidelines for integrated coastal planning/management combined with the 13<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM.
- Activities for RAP MaLi implementation in Russian part of the NOWPAP region:  
Case study on application of “no special fee system” in Russian ports.

16. After a detailed discussion it was agreed that the member states would make final decision on the list of the EcoQOs after internal consultations.
17. Due to the absence of Focal Point and experts from China, it was decided that Chinese delegation would be invited to provide their comments via e-mail correspondence after the Meeting.

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

18. For the management of 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.
19. 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.
20. 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 as pdf. document. The publication of Regional overview will depend on the financial situation.
21. 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).
22. These guidelines 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 are taken into consideration.
23. The draft version of the document was presented in late 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” with Regional Overview «Ecosystem valuation and marine spatial planning for ecosystem-based management in the NOWPAP region» will be published as a single book and further 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)**

24. Objective of SOMER 2 was 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 10<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM.
25. After receiving of comments and amendments to the text, it was approved by National Focal Points, and SOMER 2 was published with kind help of Ms. Kim from RCU Busan office in 2014. SOMER 2 was distributed to NOWPAP partners, scientific institutions and public.

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

26. According to the decision adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM (Kanazawa, Japan, April 2012) this activity was planned as combined efforts of WG1 and WG2.
27. 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.
28. The implementation of the abovementioned objectives should create a scientifically sound basis for the future political and managerial agreement for regional collaboration to address POPs/PTS ecological issues.
29. The draft version of Regional Overview on PTS was prepared only in June 2014, with great help of Prof. Yasuyuki SHIBATA (Japan) in cooperation with POMRAC experts, POMRAC FPs and RCU. After elaboration of the comments by experts, the draft was distributed among RACs and National NOWPAP Focal Points according to the proposal of the 14<sup>th</sup> IGM on improving of the quality of NOWPAP technical reports.
30. After its approval by National Focal Points, the Overview was published and become available for the general public, scientific organizations and government officials.

### **3.4.3 Joint Activity for WG1, WG2 and ICARM WG in collaboration with other RACs, RCU and relevant organizations (e.g., PEMSEA, PICES, WESTPAC, YSLME, OSPAR)**

31. A regional workshop on Development of the Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs) for the NOWPAP region at was combined with 12th POMRAC FPM. Suggestions to develop Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP region were included in the NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy 2012-2017 (MTS) already approved by NOWPAP member states in 2012. One of the main MTS goals is to develop and adopt a harmonious approach towards coastal and marine environmental planning on an integrated basis and in a pre-emptive, predictive and precautionary manner (objective (iii) from NOWPAP Action Plan). Suggested Activity for this purpose is Setting Ecological Quality Objectives for marine and coastal environment based on the regular assessments.
32. The List of the Ecological Quality Objectives is based on the vision reflecting the common broadly accepted description of ecological status of the region.
33. Several steps are suggested for the development of Ecological Quality Objectives. These steps include:
  - Preparation, discussion and approval of the set of EcoQOs;
  - Elaboration of the Operational Objectives for each EcoQO;
  - Agreement on indicators and targets for each Operational Objective.
34. In 2014-2015 POMRAC secretariat analyzed the expertise on EcoQOs of various Regional Seas programs and developed tasks for preparation of proposals by member countries on this activity as national inputs for compilation of a regional overview.
35. The initial elaboration of operational objectives could be also started for EcoQOs in 2014-2015 biennium but due to inner financial problems in POMRAC this activity should be postponed to 2016-2017.
36. After transition of UNEP to new financial system (UMOJA system), POMRAC secretariat faces the problem of serious restrictions to finance its activities. The scheme applied earlier could allow POMRAC to conclude MoUs with experts, international consultants and other organizations (for example, other NOWPAP RACs) through direct funding from Nairobi Office of UNEP, but the new rules of UNEP make it impossible.
37. The new rules require that all funds according to the approved budget are to be transferred to the banking account of POMRAC and to be operated by POMRAC. Under the legislation of Russia, POMRAC will pay all related taxes (about 35-40%), and to hire experts through

the Russian system of tenders and quotations.

38. This would result in dramatic increase of expenditures, for example the expected cost of a POMRAC focal point meeting would make at least 40,000 US\$ excluding DSA for meeting participants. The DSA itself becomes a serious problem, as Russian legislation does not accept a possibility to apply the UN scale. Local DSA is considerably lower,
39. Under these conditions, we try to solve these issues hampering the implementation of planned POMRAC activities through the Ministry of the Natural Resources of Russia and National Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but the situation is still unimproved. Therefore we had to suspend the basic activities of POMRAC, including the development of EQOs, and to postpone the 13th POMRAC FPM

### **3.5 POMRAC activities related to Implementation of NOWPAP Regional Action**

#### **Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI)**

40. According to the 2014-2015 NOWPAP RAP MALI work plan, POMRAC should assist on activities of RAP MALI: Increasing public awareness about marine litter problem by developing and distributing promotional materials (Case study on application of a “no special fee system” in Russian ports) and US\$ 6,000 was allocated for this activity.
41. Within 2014-2015 employees of the Maritime State University named after Nevelskoy (the Institute of Sea Protection) carried out the activities on development of recommendations on optimization of activity of port reception facilities in Russian ports and related pollution fee system.
42. The work included the following stages:
- To review current legislation on port activities in Russia and North West Pacific countries
  - To review in details law regulations of sea pollution prevention from ships in Russian ports
  - To review norms of marine environment protection in Russian ports and in North-West Pacific countries
  - To inform on charges and the order of environmental taxation in Russian ports
  - To describe the procedure of waste reception in Russian ports, mainly in Far Eastern Russia, showing peculiarities of ecological services in various ports
  - To analyze efficiency of the measures taken to minimize port water area pollution
  - To recommend on improvement/optimization of Russian approach



43. The core of the finalized case study is the description of ecological fee obligatory for arriving ships, which includes the expenses of basic waste reception service. The draft of the report was completed by December 2015. It describes the procedure of incurring of the fee, its calculation and distribution.

### **3.5 Other POMRAC activities in 2014-2015**

44. Within the framework of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> International Ecological Forums “Nature without borders” POMRAC participated in preparation of topic session “Natural Transboundary Hazards and Risks in Asia-Pacific Region”. The session was mainly focused on cooperation among NOWPAP countries. The similar session was carried out at the Far Eastern Economic Forum held on 3-5 September 2015 in Vladivostok.
45. Summary document of the Forum noted fruitful NOWPAP activities in the field of coordination of nature protection in the Northwest Pacific region.
46. During 2014-2015, POMRAC staff members were actively involved in the meetings organized by all NOWPAP RACs, WESTPAC, PICES and other organizations.

**Table 1. Workplan, budget and expenditures of POMRAC in 2014-2015 (US\$)**

Activity	Planned Budget			Expenditure*		
	2014	2015	Total	2014	2015	Total
Joint activity of WG1, WG2, ICARM WG:						
Development of the Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP region	20,000	14,000	34,000	0	0	0
Regional workshop "Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP region" (back to back with 12th POMRAC FPM)	10,000		10,000	2,519	0	2,519
ICARM WG: Regional workshop/training course on application of Regional Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Planning/Management combined with 13th POMRAC FPM (in cooperation with PEMSEA)	0	12,000	12,000	0	0	0
Finalization and printing: The second State of Marine Environmental Report for the NOWPAP Region Regional Overview of Persistent Toxic Substances (PTS) in the Coastal Environment of the NOWPAP Region Regional Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Planning/Management"	9,000	0	9,000	3,617	5,898	9,515
Cooperation, coordination of POMRAC activities, and communication	4,000	5,000	9,000	0	3,271	3,271
Website update	500	500	1,000	0	1,000	1,000
Activities within the NOWPAP RAP MALI: Increasing public awareness about marine litter problem by developing and distributing promotional materials	3,000	3,000	6,000	0	6,000	6,000
POMRAC Focal Points meetings	25,000	25,000	50,000	25,000	0	25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,500</b>	<b>59,500</b>	<b>131,000</b>	<b>31,136</b>	<b>16,169</b>	<b>47,305</b>

**Table 2. Budget 2016-2017 from Trust fund of NOWPAP**

	2016 (in US \$)	2017 (in US \$)	Total (in US \$)
<b>10 PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT</b>			
<u>1600 Travel</u>			
1601 Travel on official business			
1699 Sub total:			
<b>1999 Component total:</b>			
<b>20 SUB-CONTRACTS COMPONENT</b>			
2201 Joint activity of WG1, WG2, ICARM WG: Development of the Regional Overview "Targets and indicators for Ecological Quality Objectives used in NOWPAP member states"	8,000	7,000	15,000
Organization of Regional WS "Targets and indicators for Ecological Quality Objectives used in NOWPAP member states" (back to back with 13th POMRAC FPM)	10,000	0	10,000
2202 ICARM WG: Organization of Regional workshop/ training course on Integrated Coastal Planning/Management of Regional Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Planning/Management combined with POMRAC FPM (in cooperation with PEMSEA)	0	12,000	12,000
2204 Cooperation, coordination of POMRAC activities, and communication	3,000	4,000	7,000
2205 Website update	500	500	1,000
2206 Activities within the NOWPAP RAP MALI: Increasing public awareness about marine litter problem by developing and distributing promotional materials	3,000	3,000	6,000
<b>2999 Component total:</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>26,500</b>	<b>51,000</b>
<b>30 MEETING COMPONENT</b>			
<u>3300 Meetings/conferences</u>			
3301 POMRAC Focal Points Meeting	15,000	18,000	33,000
3399 Sub total:	15,000	18,000	33,000
<b>3999 Component total</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>33,000</b>
<b>40 EQUIPMENT COMPONENT</b>			
<b>4999 Component total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>50 MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT</b>			
<u>5200 Reporting cost</u>			
5201 Publicity Activities	0	2,000	2,000
5299 Sub total:	0	2,000	2,000
<u>5300 Sundry</u>			
5301 Communications			
5304 Other			
5399 Sub total:			
<b>5999 Component total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>99 GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>39,500</b>	<b>46,500</b>	<b>86,000</b>
13 %PSC			
<b>Total</b>			