



**United Nations  
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**Northwest Pacific Action Plan  
Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment  
Regional Activity Centre**

**The Seventh NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting  
Toyama, Japan, 14-15 September 2009**

**A new marine assessment method  
focusing on marine biodiversity**

## **1. Background**

CEARAC developed the common procedures for assessment of eutrophication status for the NOWPAP region in the 2008-2009 biennium. These procedures are the first tool to assess the coastal environment in the NOWPAP region. However, in recent years, it is suggested that the coastal environment should be assessed and managed by various viewpoints, such as eutrophication, biodiversity, hazardous substances and maritime activities. For more appropriate assessment and management of the coastal environment in the NOWPAP region, it is desired to conduct an effective and comprehensive assessment and management in this region.

The responsibility of CEARAC is to develop assessment tools that contribute to conservation of the marine and coastal environment in the NOWPAP region. In response to this, Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NPEC), the host of CEARAC, starts a new activity to develop an assessment method focusing on marine biodiversity in the NOWPAP region in order to contribute to CEARAC's activity.

## **2. Objective**

Objectives of this activity are to consider how best to assess the influences of various factors which give impacts on marine biodiversity and marine ecosystem. The developed method will be contributed to the conservation of wealthy marine biodiversity and ecosystem and maintenance of healthy marine environment in the NOWPAP region.

## **3. Main tasks**

NPEC plans to develop a draft new coastal environmental assessment method focusing on marine biodiversity during these three years, 2009-2011. Based on this activity, CEARAC plan to develop a new assessment method for the NOWPAP region and implementation of case studies in each member state in the 2012-2013 biennium. CEARAC will report of the progress by NPEC.

The schedule for development of an assessment method by NPEC is as follows;

2009: Consideration of a new coastal environmental assessment method focusing on marine biodiversity.

2010: Implementation of a pilot study in Toyama Bay, and review of assessment indicators and assessment procedure.

2011: Development of a draft assessment method for the NOWPAP region based on the results of the pilot study.

#### 4. Expected outcome

CEARAC has already developed the common procedures for assessing eutrophication status for the NOWPAP region. In the future, we can conduct more comprehensive assessment using these two assessment methods in order to contribute to conservation of the marine environment in the NOWPAP region.

#### 5. Schedule

Schedule of this activity and main body are as follows:

Time		Actions (CEARAC)	Actions (NPEC)	Main body
2010	Q1 (The 8 <sup>th</sup> CEARAC FPM)	Approval of workplan		CEARAC and FPs
	All year		Implementation of a pilot study in Toyama Bay	NPEC
	Q3 (Expert meeting)	Progress report of the pilot study		CEARAC
2011	All year		Development of a draft assessment method	NPEC
	Q3 (9 <sup>th</sup> CEARAC FPM)	Report of an assessment method focusing on marine biodiversity developed by NPEC		CEARAC

#### 6. Budget

This activity will be implemented with in-kind support by NPEC. So CEARAC doesn't allocate any budget to this activity.