

## **Annex VII**

### **Terms of Reference for NOWPAP Working Group 3**

#### **1. Background**

The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) and three Resolutions were adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) (Seoul, 14 September 1994, UNEP (OCA)/NOWPAP/IG.1/5). Resolution 1 identified five areas of priority for implementation of the Action Plan, one of which was NOWPAP/3 Establishment of a collaborative, regional monitoring programme.

Following the decision of the Third IGM (Vladivostok, 9 April 1988), the responsibility for NOWPAP/3 (Regional Monitoring Programme) was jointly shared by the Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center (CEARAC) and the Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC) to carry out regional activities.

The Fourth IGM (Beijing, 6-7 April 1999) adopted the proposal for the second phase of the implementation of NOWPAP, in which the establishment of Coordinating Committee (CC) was expected as an outcome for the Activity NOWPAP/3. Resolution 1 of this meeting requested the NOWPAP Members to designate relevant representatives for participation in the "NOWPAP/3 Coordinating Committee and Working Groups".

Following the decision of the First Meeting of the CC, (Beijing, 21-22 May 2001), four Working Groups were established under NOWPAP/3.

Following the results of discussions at the First Meeting of the CC, the Seventh IGM (Vladivostok, 20-22 March 2002) approved the resolution 3 Para.6, "the demarcation of the responsibilities and activities between CEARAC and POMRAC as presented by the Secretariat in document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.7/8". Subsequently CEARAC was allocated with the responsibility to implement activities related to NOWPAP Working Group 3 for Harmful Algal Bloom(s) (HAB) and NOWPAP Working Group 4 for Remote Sensing of Marine Environment.

The Seventh IGM also adopted the proposal as regards to the allocation of new responsibilities and activities to the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) with the necessity to move from a project-based implementation of activities to RAC-based activities. Following the approval of the Seven IGM to establish the fora of the RAC's Focal Points, the CC for Activity NOWPAP/3 evolved to become the CEARAC Focal Points Meeting.

In the First CEARAC Focal Point Meeting, the main issues needed to be focused on by the Working Group 3 were defined.

Noticing the difference of definition and usage of the term “HAB” among the NOWPAP Members, standardized concept of HAB phenomenon is necessary for the Working Group 3. HAB is defined as proliferation of microscopic algae which can cause massive fish kills, contaminate seafood with toxins, and alter ecosystems in ways that human’s perceives as harmful. Water discoloration by microalgae, commonly called red tide, is in the target phenomena of the Working Group 3 as high biomass of microalgae can alter the environment. Proliferation of toxic algae is also one of the target phenomena, as shellfish and other filter feeders become toxic inadequate for human consumption.

## **2. Objectives**

The main objectives of the Working Group 3 will be to promote, coordinate and harmonize regional cooperation in the Northwest Pacific region regarding monitoring of HAB and management of the adverse effects.

## **3. Functions**

The functions of the Working Group 3 will be:

- (a) To identify concrete cooperative actions in the NOWPAP Region regarding HAB
- (b) To carry out concrete cooperative actions in the NOWPAP Region for the purpose of exchanging information on HABs
- (c) To evaluate the outcome of the cooperative actions and propose further activities

## **4. Participation**

- 4.1 NOWPAP Members will be invited to participate in the Working Group 3. Both the representatives of each NOWPAP Member and the experts for the Working Group 3 should be of sound scientific and administrative knowledge and experience in HABs. The CEARAC Focal Points could be also experts for the Working Group 3.
- 4.2 Other relevant international and/or regional bodies and organizations concerned with HABs in the NOWPAP Region may be invited to participate in the meeting of the Working Group 3 as observers.

## **5. Sessions**

Meetings of the Working Group 3 will be held as requested by the CEARAC Focal Point Meeting. The CEARAC Focal Point Meeting will discuss the needs and timing of the meeting, depending on recommendations by the Working Group 3.

## **6. Tasks**

The Working Group 3 will carry out the following tasks;

- (1) To make and implement the workplan
- (2) To prepare reports of its outcomes and report them to CEARAC

Specific tasks will be as follows;

- (a) To standardize a format of the National Report of each NOWPAP Member and review the Integrated Report prepared by CEARAC
- (b) To establish database of literature and published information on HABs
- (c) To identify and prioritize the Regional needs to cope with HABs
- (d) To establish information dissemination strategies utilizing a website and booklets
- (e) To organize regional activities such as workshops and training courses.

## **7. Intersessional Work**

In principle, all intersessional work will be carried out by correspondence among the participants.

## **8. Secretariat**

The Working Group 3 will be served by a secretariat provided by the CEARAC.

## **9. Decisions**

The Working Group 3 achieves decisions by consensus among the Working Group members. If consensus cannot be reached on administrative and procedural matters, voting may be taken. Each Working Group member will have one vote. Such decision will be taken by a majority of those Working Group members present and voting.

## **10. Procedure**

The Working Group 3 shall adopt, *mutatis mutandis*, the rule of procedures of the UNEP Governing Council.

**11. Agenda**

The secretariat, in consultation with and under the guidance of the Chairperson, will prepare a provisional agenda for each session of the meeting. Any participant in the meeting may request the secretariat to add discussion items to the provisional agenda prior to the determination of the final one.

**12. Budget and Expenses**

The initial budget for the Working Group 3 is supported by the NOWPAP Trust Fund. Other external funds shall also be sought in accordance with the development of the Working Group 3 activities.

**13. Report**

The Working Group 3 will consider and adopt a report at each of their session. The reports will be circulated to all participants in the meeting. The director of CEARAC will present the reports to the CEARAC Focal Points Meeting.

**14. Language**

The working language of the Working Group 3 will be English. The host country may interpret English into the language of the host country for the purpose of disseminating the session discussion to a wider audience.