

**Report on the Expert Meeting on Marine Biodiversity
and Eutrophication in the Northwest Pacific Region**

1. In the 2012-2013 biennium, NOWPAP CEARAC has been implementing its activities on marine biodiversity and eutrophication, which were approved at the 16th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting held on 20-22 December 2012, Beijing, China.
2. Approaching towards the end of the current biennium, CEARAC held an expert meeting on 5-6 August 2013 in Toyama, Japan in order to review the progress of its on-going activities with experts in the relevant fields from the NOWPAP member states and to collect their suggestions for preparing draft workplan for the next biennium (2014-2015).
3. The draft workplan, reflecting the outcomes of the Expert Meeting, will be presented at the 11th NOWPAP CEARAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) to be held on 11-12 September 2013, Toyama, Japan, for approval of its submission to the 18th NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting to be held in December 2013.
4. The meeting started at 9:00 on 5 August 2013 at Tower 111 in Toyama, Japan. After the opening remark by Mr. Hiroshi ONO, Director of CEARAC, all of the meeting participants introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 1: Background and objective of the meeting

5. The Secretariat introduced the background and the objective of the meeting.
6. Upon recommendation from the Secretariat, it was agreed by consensus that Dr. Yasuwo FUKUYO, an expert from Japan, served as the chair of the meeting.

Agenda Item 2-1: Case studies of the eutrophication assessment in the selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region with the refined NOWPAP Common Procedure

7. Dr. Zhiming YU, Dr. Changkyu LEE and Dr. Pavel TISHCHENKO, experts from the NOWPAP member states of China, Korea and Russia, and Mr. Genki TERAUCHI, researcher of CEARAC secretariat, presented the results of the eutrophication assessments in the selected sea areas (Jiaozhou Bay-China, Northwest Kyushu sea area and Toyama Bay-Japan, Jinhai Bay-Korea, and the Peter the Great Bay-Russia), using the refined NOWPAP Common Procedure.

Agenda 2-2: Discussion on the refined NOWPAP Common Procedure and the outline of the regional overview on the eutrophication assessment

8. The Secretariat introduced the outline of the regional overview on the eutrophication assessment to be completed by the end of 2013 based on the results of the eutrophication assessments in the selected areas.

Agenda 3: Discussion on the proposal of an activity on eutrophication for the 2014-2015 biennium

9. Based on the outcomes of the CEARAC activities for the 2012-2013 biennium, the Secretariat presented a proposal and draft workplan of an activity on eutrophication for the 2014-2015 biennium, "Trial application of the Screening Procedure of the NOWPAP Common Procedure for eutrophication assessment."
10. The meeting reviewed the workplan, in particular the proposed parameters for the detection of eutrophication symptoms, and suggested:
 - (i) to consider including a parameter representing nutrient inputs and their residence in an enclosed sea area;
 - (ii) to reconsider the applicability of "hypoxia occurrence frequency" due to possible lack of availability and reliability of such data in the NOWPAP region; and
 - (iii) to use the words of "red tides" instead of "red tides and harmful algal blooms (HABs)" since toxin plankton bloom is a part of HABs which may not be directly related to eutrophication.

Agenda 4: Review of a draft regional report for conservation of marine biodiversity and sustainable use of marine ecosystem services in the NOWPAP region

11. The Secretariat introduced the draft regional report for conservation of marine biodiversity and sustainable use of marine ecosystem services in the NOWPAP region. The report was prepared based on the national reports by experts in each member state on selected marine protected areas (MPAs) in the NOWPAP region.
12. Since there was some information missing, the Secretariat requested necessary input in each chapter/sub-chapter from the national experts. The experts agreed to submit missing information by 12 August.
13. There were some suggestions to improve the quality of the report based on the IGM

decision including observing the deadlines and requirements in the Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) that the national experts had signed with the Secretariat.

Agenda 5: Discussion on the proposal of an activity on marine biodiversity for the 2014-2015 biennium

14. Based on the outcomes of the CEARAC activities for the 2012-2013 biennium, the Secretariat presented a proposal and draft workplan of an activity on marine biodiversity for the 2014-2015 biennium, "Development of procedures for comprehensive marine environmental assessment in the NOWPAP region."
15. After discussion, the meeting suggested the Secretariat:
 - (i) to further clarify the title, scope and tasks of the proposed activity and the workplan;
 - (ii) to focus more on the relevance to marine biodiversity conservation;
 - (iii) to consider the possibility of assessment of specific marine biodiversity topics based on the achievements of ongoing eutrophication and biodiversity projects so far, for instance, difference of settlement success of non-indigenous species due to eutrophication and other environmental conditions, and balance between eutrophication and sustainable use of marine resources; and
 - (iv) to consider the selection of feasibility study sites from current/past sites for eutrophication case studies and selected MPAs where necessary data are available.
16. The meeting requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised draft proposal outline within a few days and circulate it for comments from the participants in order to develop a concrete workplan to be presented to the 11th CEARAC FPM.

Agenda item 6: Review of activities related to seagrass/seaweed mapping in the NOWPAP region

17. Dr. Yongchao ZHAO, Dr. Teruhisa KOMATSU, Dr. Jong-Kuk CHOI and Dr. Tatiana KRUPNOVA, experts from China, Japan, Korea and Russia introduced their activities on seagrass/seaweed mapping.

Agenda item 7: Discussion on the proposal of an activity on seagrass/seaweed mapping for the 2014-2015 biennium

18. Based on on-going activities in the NOWPAP region and the current technologies of remote sensing, the Secretariat presented a proposal and draft workplan of an activity on seagrass/seaweed mapping for the 2014-2015 biennium, "Case studies on seagrass

and seaweed mapping in selected sea areas in the NOWPAP region.”

19. The meeting reviewed the proposal and workplan, and supported the activity with some suggestions to further clarify and elaborate the scope of the tasks which are achievable within the proposed budget.

Agenda item 8: Conclusion and adoption of the report of the meeting

20. The meeting was closed at 15:00 on 6 August 2013.

**List of Participants for the Expert Meeting on Marine Biodiversity
and Eutrophication in the Northwest Pacific Region**

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