

UN-OCEANS VIII
Paris, 30 June 2010



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC
COMMISSION**
(of UNESCO)

**REPORT OF THE EIGHT MEETING OF UN-OCEANS
UNESCO-IOC Headquarters, Paris 5 May 2010**

SUMMARY

The 8th Meeting of UN-Oceans was held in Paris on 5 May 2010 at UNESCO/IOC Headquarters. Representatives from WMO, FAO, UNESCO/IOC, IAEA, UNEP, UNDP and UN/DOALOS attended the meeting. CBD and IMO reported Agenda items 4.2 and 5.2 by email.

The participants discussed the progress made by the thematic task forces (Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and the Marine Protected Areas and Other Area-Based Tools), developments relating to the Regular Process, the UN Atlas of the Oceans, and the activities of GESAMP. Expected inputs into ICP-11 were also considered. Finally the participants commented on possible strategic planning for future directions of UN-Oceans and elected Mr. Andrew Hudson (UNDP) as new Coordinator and Ms. Jacqueline Alder (UNEP) as Deputy Coordinator.

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

The meeting was opened at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 5 May 2010, by Ms Wendy Watson-Wright Executive Secretary, UNESCO/IOC. Ms Watson-Wright and the Deputy/Acting Coordinator for UN Oceans, Mr Andrew Hudson (UNDP), welcomed the participants to UNESCO/IOC headquarters and thanked them for their attendance to the meeting. The Coordinators introduced the Agenda of the meeting (Annex I to this document), which was approved without amendments; afterwards, the participants introduced themselves and gave a short description of their functions and past activities within UN-Oceans (the List of Participants is available as Annex II).

Mr Andrew Hudson remarked on the commitment of UN-Oceans to improve the coordination of ocean and coastal activities among the UN organizations with competencies in these areas.

2. ELECTION OF UN OCEANS COORDINATOR AND DEPUTY COORDINATOR

2.1. Discussion on Election Process

On the basis of the discussion of previous meetings, this year, the discussion focused on the principle of rotation of the posts among the agencies within UN-Oceans. The experience of UN-Water and UN-Energy was pointed out, where a rotating system with elections every 2 years has been put in place.

It was agreed that the election procedure should be carried out in accordance with past practice, this being in a consensual and transparent manner. Furthermore, the need to ensure the transfer of knowledge, memory and assure continuity was stressed. It was also pointed out that the need to avoid a simultaneous change of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator.

The participants agreed that this could be taken care of by having a Coordinator for 2 years with the Deputy Coordinator's current term for 1 year and thereafter for 2 years.

2.2. Election of Coordinators

Upon agreeing on the procedure, the election took place and noting that there was only one candidate for the position of Coordinator, namely Mr Andrew Hudson (UNDP), he was elected as Coordinator, and Ms Jacqueline Alder (UNEP) was elected as Deputy Coordinator.

3. REPORTS ON AGENCY PROGRAMMES RELEVANT TO UN-OCEANS

Ongoing Programmes, activities and coming meetings related to UN-Oceans were reported by the participants. Annex III contains the list of documents provided for the meeting participants.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Mr Edgar Cabrera remarked that WMO considers UN-Oceans to be a good coordinating forum where the various inputs for the UN Secretary General Report to the General Assembly on Oceans and Law of the Sea can be better determined. He then referred to the 3rd session of the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) that took place on 4-11 November 2009 in Marrakech. He pointed out that the meeting had achieved its aim, since it had allowed for the consolidation of common projects.

Mr Cabrera mentioned that WMO was mandated to work in close cooperation with the UN and its agencies. He then referred to the Global Framework of Climate Services which was established to strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services. Mr Cabrera also mentioned the International Polar Year, which is a large scientific programme focused on the Arctic and the Antarctic from March 2007 to March 2009. He then recalled WMO training activities in relation to coastal inundation, in particular the JCOMM/CHy Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Project (CIFDP), which focuses on the improvement of coastal floods forecasting and warning capacities through an enhanced collaboration.

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

Dr. Luis Valdés highlighted the participation of the new DG of UNESCO, Ms Irina Bokova, in the COP-15 in Copenhagen last December. Ms Bokova considered the oceans and climate change as key pieces for sustainable development and so was transmitted to the IOC Executive Secretary Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright. IOC is actively preparing the celebration of both the World Oceans Day (8th June) and the IOC 50 Anniversary; in this regards different exhibitions and didactic material are being prepared for the occasion. Since the last UN-Oceans meeting, IOC has attended and cooperated in the organization of many international conferences programmed by the UN agencies such as WCCC3 (Sep, 2009), OceansObs'09 (Sep, 2009), COP-15 (Dec, 2009) and others. IOC has also organized a Ministerial round table in connection with the UNESCO General Assembly last October 2009. Some new activities and projects in collaboration with other UN agencies were started and many others reinforced; cooperation is maintained with WMO, IAEA, UNEP, IMO, CBD, GESAMP and others. During last year, IOC was very active in publishing technical guidelines and brochures for policy makers and general public, some good examples are the *Marine Spatial Planning: A step by step approach* (which will be translated to different UNESCO languages), *Blue carbon: the role of healthy oceans in binding carbon* (together with UNEP, FAO and IUCN), and the brochure *Ocean Acidification a summary for policymakers from the Second Symposium on the Ocean in a high-CO2 World* (together with IAEA, IGBP and SCOR). In July 2009 IOC and UNEP published the Assessment of Assessments Report which was distributed prior to the UNGA debates on the Regular Process.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Ms Jackie Alder informed that UNEP had recently adopted a Marine and Coastal Strategy. She further detailed the conferences and meetings related to oceans in which UNEP had been involved, among which reference was made to the 2010 World Water Day which highlighted the aspect of freshwater quality, the Manado World Ocean Conference and to the Declaration that was issued as a result of it, as well as the First Global Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Consultation on the fifth Global Environment Outlook Report (GEO-5), which was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 29-31 March 2010. Ms Alder described the latest reports and publications prepared by UNEP among which attention was given to those on ocean acidification and blue carbon. Detailed information was given on the projects and activities UNEP is planning to carry out in the near future, these include the continuation of the Blue Carbon report, a conference on marine litter to be held in 2011, the initiative on Marine Protected Areas and Marine Spatial planning with special focus on Latin America, on fisheries and marine conservation targets, in cooperation with FAO, among others. Ms Alder called to the attention of the participants the need to coordinate the UN activities in relation to ocean acidification, and proposed that the matter be dealt with in the framework of UN Oceans.

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)

Ms Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli updated the participants on the work the United Nations General Assembly and subsidiary bodies had carried out of relevance to UN Oceans. The

main topics she referred to were the UN Secretary-General's Report on Oceans and Law of the Sea; the outcome of the ninth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UN Fish Stocks Agreement), that took place from 16 to 17 March 2010, the upcoming resumed Review Conference on the UN Fish Stocks Agreement that would be held at UN Headquarters in New York, from 24 to 28 May 2010; and the outcome of the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction that was held from 1 to 5 February 2010. Reference was also made to the upcoming eleventh meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP), which would be held at UN Headquarters in New York from 21 to 25 June 2010, as well as to the twentieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that would be held from 14 to 18 June 2010. She invited UN Agencies to send DOALOS their inputs for the Secretary-General's Report to the General Assembly on Oceans and Law of the Sea. She concluded by referring to some of the activities UN-DOALOS was undertaking to celebrate World Oceans Day on 8 June. Developments relating to the Regular Process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects and the outcome of the General Assembly Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to recommend a course of action on the Regular Process, which met at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 31 August to 4 September 2009 were reported by her under agenda item 5.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Mr Kevern Cochrane informed the group of the recent ratification of the "Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing" by Russia, bringing the total to 16, out of the 25 required for the Agreement to come into force. He mentioned current FAO activities relevant to UN Oceans including the Canary Current LME (CCLME) and Bay of Bengal LME (BoBLME) projects for which FAO is the executing agency; the second phase of the GEF project "Reduction of Environmental Impact from Tropical Shrimp Trawling, through the Introduction of Bycatch Reduction Technologies and Change of Management" the proposal for which is being finalized with a focus on the Pacific region (REBYC II); the NORAD sponsored project on "Strengthening the Knowledge Base for and Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries" (EAF Nansen) and the development of an associated integrated 'toolbox'; and the multipartner "Global Partnership on Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture" (PaCFA) which is trying to raise the visibility of oceans-related climate change issues. Under upcoming key documents, Mr Cochrane made reference to new Technical Guidelines on MPAs which should be published soon and Technical Guidelines on bycatch management that are currently being prepared. The FAO Committee on Fisheries would be meeting in January 2011 during which time the most recent edition of the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture would be issued.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr Andrew Hudson informed that through the GEF International Waters programmes in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem and the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem, permanent LME commissions were in the process of being established and operationalized for each of these LMEs. Mr Hudson further described the progress that the UNDP-GEF-IMO Global Ballast Water Management GEF Programme (GloBallast), has created among the private sector through establishment of a "Global Industry Alliance" on ship ballast water management and technology. He also informed that the Peoples Republic of China and Republic of Korea reached agreement on the environmental management needed to

revitalize the Yellow Sea as detailed in the respective government endorsement of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) developed under the UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Project (YSLME). He highlighted new UNDP-GEF International Waters projects in the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea LME, the Timor-Arafura Sea, and the Humboldt Current LME (joint with Biodiversity Focal area, the first of its kind in an LME).

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Ms Maria Betti described the IAEA Marine Environment Laboratories activities related to UN Oceans, in particular those of the Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory (MESL) which is devoted to studies involving non-nuclear pollutants and lipid biomarkers. She described the MESL projects on Ocean Acidification and Carbon Sequestration (from surface to the bottom), as well as the capacity building activities that have been carried out on sampling, methodology, ocean acidification, pollution and seafood safety. IAEA informed about the workshop on Ocean acidification and economic implications that will be held in Monaco (16-18 November, 2010).

4. REPORTS BY THE UN-OCEANS TASK FORCES

4.1 Task Force on Biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction

Ms Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli from UN-DOALOS introduced and presented progress achieved by this Task Force. (See document UN-Oceans VIII/5)

Background

The First Inter-Agency Meeting of UN-Oceans (January 25-26, 2005, UNESCO-IOC, Paris, France) established the UN-Oceans Task-Force on marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction for the purpose of coordinating information input to the General Assembly, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and other international processes dealing with biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction. The Task Force is co- led by UN-DOALOS and the CBD Secretariat.

Activities in 2009-2010

The activities of this Task Force have been directly related to the work carried on in relation to this topic by the General Assembly, and in particular by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. (the "Working Group").

The Task Force held a meeting on 1 February 2010, at UN Headquarters, on the margins of the third meeting the General Assembly Working Group. The following intergovernmental organizations and bodies of the UN system were represented: the CBD Secretariat, FAO, the International Seabed Authority, DESA and DOALOS.

The Task Force discussed various proposals presented in the Secretary-General's report prepared for the meeting of the Working Group (A/64/66/Add.2), which addressed the possible role that UN-Oceans could play to enhance cooperation and coordination in the area of conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

It was generally recognized by the Task Force that the proposals were useful and deserved further consideration. At the same time, it was highlighted that the lack of resources and different priorities, as well as the need to obtain mandates from the respective governing bodies constituted major challenges for the operation of the Task Force in general. A

suggestion was made that options for financing the carrying out of such proposals from donors should be explored.

In response to the proposal in paragraph 189 of the Secretary-General's report that, as noted by UNEP, a review of the roles, strengths and contributions of various organizations in respect of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, in particular with a view to filling in possible gaps and avoiding duplication of work, could enhance cooperation and coordination, the opinion was expressed that the scope and objective of such review would need to be carefully assessed.

As regards the proposal in paragraph 207 of the report that consideration be given to the potential role of the Task Force in the compilation and development of databases of available capacity-building assistance and capacity needs and in the dissemination of such information through the relevant international organizations, it was observed that the ICP, at its eleventh meeting in June 2010, would also focus its discussions on issues relating to capacity-building and could provide further guidance in this respect. It was also observed that the proposed tasks could be undertaken as part of the review that had been proposed and to which I just referred.

Finally, with reference to the proposal contained in paragraph 247 of the report, that the Working Group may wish to consider inviting UN-Oceans, through its Task Force, to assist in identifying ways and means of carrying out necessary studies, it was noted that while UN-Oceans was not an executing body, it could identify who could undertake a particular study amongst its members. The identified member(s) would of course, have to be in a position to dedicate the necessary resources to the conduct of the study.

Other issues that were discussed at the meeting of the Task Force related to the compilation of tools for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction under relevant international instruments. DOALOS informed the Task Force that the compilation of tools would be circulated to the Task Force members as soon as finalized in order to allow for comments and suggestions. The finalized compilation would then be made available through the Task Force website, and eventually it could become a UN publication.

With regard to the Task Force's website, it was recalled that in 2008 DOALOS had developed, in consultation with the CBD Secretariat, a web page hosted on the Division's website addressing the issue of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. The web page included a section on the UN-Oceans Task Force, with a list of web links to the websites of the members. In the past, DOALOS had invited members of the Task Force to provide additional links to specific parts of their websites, containing information on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, to be included on the webpage and also to identify relevant studies, publications, documents they were aware of that could be included in order to contribute to the knowledge-base relating to this area. No information had been received at that time, and a new request would be sent in the near future by e-mail.

In order to finalize the above and other future tasks, it was agreed that each Task Force member should identify a focal point at the working level.

The participants of UN-Oceans took note of these developments and also noted that future activities of the Task Force would focus on:

- Designation of focal points by Task Force members

- Completion of outstanding issues (compilation of tools which would be circulated for comments and inputs; and confirmation and update of links to other UN-Oceans members).

It was further noted that, once adopted by the General Assembly, the Task Force could focus on facilitating the implementation of the recommendations made by the General Assembly Working Group, which were addressed to competent international organizations. It could facilitate a coordinated approach and follow-up action by the relevant organizations.

4.2 Task Force on Marine Protected Areas and other Area-based tools

(Text provided by Ms Jihyun Lee by e-mail)

Background

The 5th Meeting of UN-Oceans (21-22 May 2007) established the Task Force on Marine Protected Areas and Other Area-based Management Tools. UNESCO (IOC, MAB and WHC), CBD, UNEP, and FAO were designated as co-lead organizations. The main purpose of the Task Force was to strengthen collaboration and coordination among UN organizations dealing with marine protected areas, especially to promote the accomplishment of the targets set by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). In this regard, the Task Force focused on:

- Promoting and facilitating the application of MPAs as a management tool for marine and coastal conservation by UN Member States;
- Enhancing coordination among UN organizations dealing with MPAs to improve coherence and effectiveness of the application of MPAs;
- Developing a mechanism for exchanging information on MPAs among UN and non-UN organizations; and
- Enhancing coordination and coherence in providing reporting inputs to relevant UN processes and mechanisms and/or the relevant processes of other international bodies.

Activities in 2009 – 2010

CBD Parties adopted, in its decision IX/20, scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats. The criteria include uniqueness or rarity; special importance for life-history stages of species; importance for threatened, endangered or declining species and/or habitats; vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity or slow recovery; biological productivity; biological diversity; and naturalness. In addition, the Parties adopted scientific guidance for selecting areas to establish a representative network of marine protected areas, including in open-ocean waters and deep-sea habitats. The required network properties and components include ecologically and biologically significant areas; representatively; connectivity; replicated ecological features; and adequate and viable sites.

Further progress in regards to identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) was made in the context of the Expert Workshop on Scientific and Technical Guidance on the use of Biogeographic Classification Systems and Identification of Marine Areas beyond national jurisdiction in need of protection (Ottawa, Canada, 29 September - 2 October, 2009). The workshop reviewed progress made in identification of areas beyond national jurisdiction that meet the criteria in annex 1 to decision IX/20 as well as national and regional experiences of applying similar criteria. The workshop then developed scientific guidance on the identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, which meet the scientific criteria in annex 1 to decision IX/20. This guidance was consolidated from the

experience reported by Parties, UN organizations such as FAO, ISA and IMO, IGOs, NGOs, and experts who have used these or similar criteria in the identification of EBSAs in marine ecosystems. Guidance was provided for the application of each individual criterion, and available methods and tools were reviewed. The workshop also provided advice on more general issues related to scale; relative importance/significance; spatial and temporal variability; accuracy, precision and uncertainty; and taxonomic accuracy and uncertainty. Issues related to capacity building and data and analysis for identifying EBSAs and biogeographic classification systems were also considered. The workshop also provided guidance for the further development of biogeographic classification systems in general, and put forward specific considerations relating to the use of the Global Open Oceans and Deep Seabed (GOODS) biogeographic classification. In this regards, the workshop noted that while the GOODS biogeographic classification in its present format provides a reasonable basis for management, its refinement in the future with new data could make it even more useful. Guidance regarding this refinement was provided. Further details can be found in document UNEP/CBD/EW-BCS&IMA/1/2 (available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EWBCSIMA-01>).

5. OTHER INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATIONS

5.1 Integrated Ocean Assessment 2010-2014: Update on progress and discussion on future Steps

UN REGULAR PROCESS

In 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) decided to establish by 2004 a Regular Process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including its socio-economic aspects. The UN General Assembly in 2002, through Resolution 57/141 decided "to establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments [...] (paragraph 45)." The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) were requested to serve as the lead agencies to carry out a three years start-up phase, in cooperation with all relevant UN agencies and Programs of the UN, to conduct an "Assessment of Assessments (AoA)" whereas a Group of Experts was in charge of drafting the AoA report under the guidance of the Ad Hoc Steering Group.

The AoA report (A/64/88) which had been prepared in collaboration with IOC and UNEP was submitted to the 64th session of the General Assembly and prior to that to its Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to recommend a course of action on the Regular Process, which met at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 31 August to 4 September 2009. The recommendations, which were adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group (A/64/347, Annex), were submitted to the General Assembly. In its Resolution 64/71, the General Assembly decided to provide additional time for Member States to agree on the modalities for the implementation of the Regular Process, including the key features, institutional arrangements and financing, and the specification of the objective and scope of the first cycle of the Regular Process as well as key questions to be answered and primary target audiences, in order to ensure that assessments are relevant for decision-makers. It also decided to convene a second meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group (in September 2010).

A new Group of Experts was established pursuant the Resolution 64/71 and includes 20 members distributed in 5 regional Groups. A meeting of the Group of Experts organized by UN-DOALOS and funded by IOC and UNEP will take place in June. Voluntary Trust Funds

have been established, as mandated by the General Assembly, and a contribution of \$30,000 was received.

The implementation of the Regular Process will require the engagement of all UN Programmes and Agencies relevant to ocean affairs.

IOC and UNEP are implementing since 2009 an 18 month GEF Medium Size project on a Transboundary Water Assessment Programme (TWAP), looking at the development of a common marine assessment methodology for open ocean, LME regions and coastal zones. The project has been designed so as to also serve the needs of a future Regular Process in terms of assessment methodology, data gathering and products. Another issue that will need to be clarified is the interaction of a future Regular Process with other global environmental assessment processes such as the future Intergovernmental Science-Policy Interface on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in terms of mandate, scope and deliverables, since it is the intention that the IPBES mechanism will include marine biodiversity.

TWAP

The IOC secretariat invited input from the other UN-Oceans agencies on the developing Global Environment Facility (GEF) Transboundary Waters Assessment Project (TWAP). TWAP has as its goals to develop an indicator-based methodology for assessment of transboundary water systems (Open Ocean, Large Marine Ecosystems LMEs, Rivers, Lakes, Groundwater), and to develop a partnership among UN and other agencies for conduct of a global assessment (in 2011-2012). The IOC is leading the Open Ocean and LME components, and UNESCO/IHP is leading the Groundwater component. The inception meeting was held in June 2009. The assessment would allow prioritization of interventions and of allocation of financial resources, and GEF (and partners and others) to track results of their interventions. The Open Ocean and LME groups have developed a common conceptual framework for the assessments, and are working on the indicators and overall methodology.

5.2. GESAMP (Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection)

UN Oceans was informed that GESAMP had held its thirty-seventh session, hosted by the UNEP Co-ordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) in Bangkok, Thailand, from 15 to 19 February 2010. It was noted that GESAMP has revitalized itself by reconnecting with the international marine science community and by expanding its advisory activities in the last few years. A selection of the *main new topics* it considered at this session is listed below. The full report of the session can be downloaded from <http://gesamp.org> as GESAMP Reports and Studies No.81.

Two task teams were set up under GESAMP WG 37 led by UNEP: One GESAMP Task Team will assist it with the science background for the preparation, by 2013, of a binding international agreement to protect the environment from releases of *mercury and its compounds*. A second Task Team will close listed scientific information gaps on *lead and cadmium*.

GESAMP WG 38 concerning the atmospheric input of chemicals to the ocean was continued at the proposal of WMO and charged, subject to the availability of funds, with providing a more detailed description of the atmospheric transport and deposition processes of iron and phosphorus to the ocean.

GESAMP reviewed a further refined proposal by IAEA for starting WG 39 (Establishment of trends in global pollution in coastal environments). This WG would use retrospective ecosystem analysis based on available environmental archives and time-series data.

GESAMP only approved a first phase of this project, consisting of a bibliographic review and a critical review of existing methodologies on suitable environmental archives, etc., while follow-up activities could then be agreed in light of the outcome of this first phase and the availability of additional funding.

GESAMP clarified the steps necessary for it to identify *new and emerging issues regarding the degradation of the marine environment* and the route for bringing them to the attention of the Sponsoring Organizations of GESAMP and potential donors.

GESAMP discussed in detail progress with four new and emerging issues identified for further review at GESAMP 38 in 2011: (1) The go-ahead was given for a Workshop in June 2010 on micro-plastics as a vector in the transport of persistent and toxic substances, in view of the ubiquity and prevalence of plastic waste in the marine environment; (2) On the basis of a revised scoping paper, and subject to the availability of funding, GESAMP agreed to initiate a workshop on endocrine disruption as a result of hypoxia in the marine environment to build support for this topic; (3) GESAMP agreed that a scoping paper should be developed in the intersessional period on bio-magnification in top predators and its ecological and social implications to provide sufficient background on the key issues involved, the feasibility and especially to identify potential partners for future activities in this field; and (4) GESAMP agreed to continue its correspondence group on Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) to further explore the possibility of global standards and to expand the GESAMP website section on EQS.

Finally, GESAMP, currently with its 15 members, its five working groups, involvement in the UN Regular Process, TWAP, a 'new and emerging issues' forum developing as outlined above, peer review tasks and other commitments for advice, may have reached the limits of its current capacity and institutional arrangements. GESAMP has come a long way since the 'Strategic Vision' was published (summary contained in GESAMP Reports & Studies No. 74, 2005) and increased support is necessary to ensure that the steps recommended therein can be completed and to guarantee the timely delivery and quality of its products.

5.3. UN Atlas of the Oceans

Ms Tina Farmer suggested that this agenda item also cover Agenda Item 7 on the UN-Oceans Web site as both are closely linked. She gave a PowerPoint presentation on the UN Atlas of the Oceans (www.oceans.atlas.org), providing a brief overview of the Atlas, its background, content and future plans. The Atlas is an Internet portal containing information relevant to the sustainable development of the oceans and designed for policy-makers who need to become familiar with ocean issues as well as for scientists, students and fisheries managers who need access to information on oceans. The Atlas was developed in 1999 and launched online in June 2002. The site contains useful information such as recent news and events, maps, images and data. There are over 10,000 registered members, a number that continues to grow, albeit slowly as general activity to the site has stagnated. The Atlas is highly appreciated and valued (as assessed through third-person rankings and recommendations) and general use is steady (unfortunately, Web statistics on monthly visits were not available due to a technical glitch). Future plans include continued development and strengthening of partnerships, wider collaboration, seeking new partners (such as UNIDO and the World Bank who had expressed interest to join in previous UN-O meetings), updating content and functionality.

Ms Farmer informed the group that no funding had been received in the last two years, hence the overall dormant activity of the site, which was maintained entirely through in-kind contributions. In order to prompt and generate new material and update current content, as well as to add features such as an events calendar, Ms Farmer proposed that all UN Atlas

partners commit to annual contributions of US\$7000. This would cover above-mentioned development and editorial improvements as well as creation, production and distribution of promotional and communications material (posters, leaflet, etc.) for use by all partners. All members agreed on the importance of sustaining support for the Atlas from the partners to ensure its continuity and supported the funding proposal, with WMO, UNEP, UNDP and FAO ready to commit; highlighted the unavailability of financial resources to support the Atlas. Information on payment modalities would be forthcoming from FAO. FAO also proposed convening a Technical Committee Meeting of the UN Atlas members in October 2010 (last one was held in February 2007) to which all participants responded favorably. More and detailed information would be forthcoming from FAO.

Mr Valdes, in noting that the IOC had no financial resources for updating the UN-Oceans website, proposed that FAO, as secretariat of the UN Atlas, assumed the migration of the UN-Oceans pages into the UN Atlas site. FAO accepted noting that affiliated costs would have to be assessed and eventually shared (Annex IV contains the Terms of Reference for UN Atlas of the Oceans website enhancement). FAO further agreed to look into securing the relative Internet domain address (www.unoceans.org) and paying any associated costs. Mr Hudson, as chairman, underlined that it is essential that information on UN-Oceans is expected to be regularly updated and easily accessible by all Members. Long-term maintenance of the site's information (including for archival and legacy purposes) would need to be discussed further.

5.4. UN-Oceans cooperation with UN-Water

The issue was presented by Mr Hudson, as chairman, underlining that a more important cooperation between UN-Oceans and UN-Water should be explored and encouraged. The participants agreed that a way forward would be to have the Chairpersons of each Group to attend the sessions of the other Group as well as exploring the possibility of have the spring meeting together. Proposals for establishing the same working methods with UN-Energy were voiced.

5.5. UN Secretary-General's Report on Oceans and Law of the Sea

Ms Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli from UN-DOALOS pointed out that the Division was working on the preparation of the second part of the UN Secretary General's Report on Oceans and Law of the Sea to be presented to the 65th session of the General Assembly and thus an invitation for contributions from all the UN Agencies and Programmes participating in UN-Oceans would be sent shortly.

6. UN OCEANS MAPPING

UNDP prepared and shared with UN-Oceans a draft template for a previously proposed activity to map the principal activities of UN-Oceans as an aid to coordination, cooperation and "One-UN" coherence. The utility of the exercise was reaffirmed, the template was briefly discussed and UNDP agreed to share it with UN-Oceans members for further input, finalization and dissemination so that the mapping can be completed and results used by the members.

7. UN-OCEANS WEBSITE

The Agenda item was dealt with along with item 5.3

8. INPUTS FOR ICP-11

Ms Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli informed UN-Oceans that the next ICP meeting would be held from 21-25 June in New York. The Secretary-General's Report on Oceans and the Law of the Sea had benefited as usual from the contributions from UN and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, etc., and all the contributions were posted on the UN-DOALOS website along with the format and annotated provisional agenda for the meeting. Pursuant to paragraph 193 of General Assembly resolution 64/71 of 4 December 2009, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the Consultative Process at its eleventh meeting will focus its discussions on capacity-building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including marine science. The areas of concentration of the discussion panel were the following:

- Assessing the need for capacity-building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including marine science;
- Overview of capacity-building activities/initiatives in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including marine science and transfer of technology;
- Challenges for achieving effective capacity-building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including marine science and transfer of technology;
- New approaches, best practices and opportunities for improved capacity-building in oceans and the law of the sea.

On the basis of the nominations from States, a list of panellist had been drawn by the Co-Chairs. It was noted that both, the new Coordinator of UN-OCEANS, Mr Andrew Hudson, and Mr Ehrlich Desa, Deputy Executive-Secretary of IOC, had been invited by the Co-Chairs to make presentations during the eleventh meeting of ICP.

Ms Goettsche-Wanli pointed out that Member States had requested that the UN-Oceans' Coordinator (or his/her designee) participate in the meeting and provide information on the activities of UN-Oceans in relation to the topic of focus. It was agreed that the new coordinator, Mr Andrew Hudson, would attend on behalf of UN-Oceans and address the topic of focus of the ICP and inform on the latest meeting and the decisions taken.

9. REVIEW OF UN-OCEANS TERMS OF REFERENCE

The issue was introduced by Mr Luis Valdes highlighting that originally UN-Oceans participating Agencies and Programmes had decided to establish a "distributed secretariat". This was done in order to decrease the financial and human resource requirements for providing secretariat support; functions were divided into an Organizing Secretariat and an Implementing Secretariat: the first one, established in UN-DOALOS, was in charge of, in consultation with the Coordinators, assist the Network in meeting its reporting requirements, including coordinating the preparation of its reports and organizing meetings; the Implementing Secretariat, established in UNESCO/IOC, was given the task of, in consultation with the Coordinators, assist the Network in strengthening cooperation, reviewing the relevant programmes and activities, and promoting the coherence of the UN system activities on oceans and coastal areas.

Mr Valdes pointed out that this division had proved to be difficult to implement in practice, and thus suggested that the working method should be revised.

Ms Goettsche-Wanli agreed and noted that it had been difficult for UN-DOALOS to carry out its functions as organizing Secretariat as the meetings had not taken place before the ICP as originally envisaged, but had been held at IOC headquarters instead.

After some discussion the participants agreed to fuse both Secretariats in a rotating Secretariat. It was agreed that the organization of the UN-Oceans Coordinator would act as Secretariat during the mandate of that Coordinator.

In relation to the setting of dates for UN-Oceans meeting, the participants agreed of the advantages of having the 9th UN-Ocean meeting at a date as close as possible to the ICP meeting, as well as every two years to coordinate the meeting with that of the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands

10. FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR UN-OCEANS

The item was introduced by Mr Andrew Hudson who made patent the need for UN-Oceans to have a more important visibility. The participants agreed and proposed several actions to be taken among which the following were adopted: the necessity to strengthen the structure of UN-Oceans and to raise its profile and visibility, it was thus proposed to explore the possibility of having a UN-Oceans Goodwill Ambassador, to consider listing the Global Partnership Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture (PaCFA) as one of the UN-Oceans task forces; to consider engaging in joint activities in Africa; to make the UN Atlas of the Oceans one of the main awareness/advocacy tools of UN-Oceans, to be promoted by the relevant UN Agencies and Programmes; and to use GESAMP as an operational tool for UN-Oceans.

It was further decided to create a task force on Oceans outreach, which will be chaired by IOC, in order to more coherently build on and seize opportunities to strengthen UN-Oceans visibility.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Attention was brought to the organizing of the 2012 World Exposition in Yeosu, South Korea with the theme "The Living Ocean and Coast: Diversity of Resources and Sustainable Activities" and UN-Oceans had been designated to coordinate the UN participation. It was decided that IOC would act as UN-Oceans focal point with the Government of South Korea.

12. Closing

Mr Andrew Hudson, Coordinator of UN-Oceans, thanked the participants for attending the 8th Meeting of UN-Oceans and expressed his satisfaction with the success of this meeting, which was closed at 5pm, on Wednesday, 5 May 2010.

ANNEX I



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (of UNESCO)

VIII Meeting of UN-Oceans

Paris, 5 May 2010

UNESCO Headquarters

IOC Meeting room (B.4.20)

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

AGENDA

- 1. OPENING**
- 2. ELECTION OF THE UN-OCEANS COORDINATOR & DEPUTY COORDINATOR**
 - 2.1 Discussion on Election Process
 - 2.2 Election of Coordinators
- 3. REPORTS ON AGENCY PROGRAMMES RELEVANT TO UN-OCEANS**
- 4. REPORTS BY THE UN-OCEANS TASK FORCES**
 - 4.1 Biodiversity in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (UN/OLA/DOALOS)
 - 4.2 Marine Protected Areas and Other Area-Based Tools (CBD)
- 5. OTHER INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATIONS**
 - 5.1. Integrated Ocean Assessment 2010-2014: Update on progress and discussion on future steps (IOC/UNEP/DOALOS)
 - 5.2 GESAMP (IMO)
 - 5.3 UN Atlas of the Oceans (FAO)
 - 5.4 UN-Oceans collaboration with UN-Water (all)
 - 5.5 SG Report on Oceans and Law of the Sea (UN-DOALOS)
- 6. UN-OCEANS MAPPING INITIATIVE (UNDP)**
- 7. UN-OCEANS WEB SITE**
- 8. INPUTS FOR ICP-11**
- 9. REVIEW OF UN-OCEANS TERMS OF REFERENCE**
 - 9.1 Organizing vs. Implementing Secretariats
 - 9.2 Meeting Venues
- 10. FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR UN-OCEANS**
 - Strategic objectives, short term goals and products.
 - Emerging Issues
- 11. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 12. CLOSING**

ANNEX II LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX III
LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document Code	Working Document	Agenda Items	Format
UN-OCEANS VIII/1	Agenda	1-12	printed
UN-OCEANS VIII/2	Provisional List of Participants <i>(to be issued early during the Session)</i>	1-12	printed
UN-OCEANS VIII/3	Report UN-OCEANS VII (annual meeting 2009)	1-12	e-file
UN-OCEANS VIII/4	Report UN-OCEANS I (annual meeting 2005)	2 & 9.1	printed
UN-OCEANS VIII/5	UN-Oceans Task Force on Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	4.1	printed
UN-OCEANS VIII/6	IMO: Executive Summary GESAMP 37th session	5.2	printed
UN-OCEANS VIII/7	CBD: In-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity	info	e-file
UN-OCEANS VIII/8	CBD: Report on implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity	info	e-file
UN-OCEANS VIII/9	CBD: Report of the expert workshop on scientific and technical guidance on the use of biogeographic classification systems and identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction in need of protection	info	e-file
UN-OCEANS VIII/10	CBD: Report of the expert workshop on scientific and technical aspects relevant to environmental impact assessment in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction	info	e-file
UN-OCEANS VIII/11	CBD: Report of the FAO/UNEP expert meeting on impacts of destructive fishing practices, unsustainable fishing, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing on marine biodiversity and habitat	info	e-file
UN-OCEANS VIII/12	CBD: Scientific Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity	info	e-file
UN-OCEANS VIII/13	CBD: Scientific Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Fertilization on Marine Biodiversity	info	e-file
UN-OCEANS VIII/14	Inventory template for discussion	info	printed

ANNEX IV
Terms of Reference
United Nations Atlas of the Oceans (www.oceansatlas.org)
Web site enhancements

Purpose

Under the overall coordination of the UN Atlas of the Oceans Secretariat (FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, with direct supervision by Tina Farmer, Editor, UN Atlas of the Oceans), contributions will be used for the maintenance, upgrade and improvement of the UN Atlas of the Oceans Web site content and system.

Background

The UN Atlas of the Oceans is an Internet portal providing information relevant to the sustainable development of the oceans. It is designed for policy-makers who need to become familiar with ocean issues and for scientists, students and resource managers who need access to databases and approaches to sustainability. The UN Atlas can also provide the ocean industry and stakeholders with pertinent information on ocean matters.

The Atlas includes four main entry points to access information:

1. ABOUT (the oceans) - from history, biology, maps and statistics to research, climatology and ecology;
2. USES (of the oceans) - from fishing, shipping and mining to tourism, dumping and marine biotechnology;
3. ISSUES - from food security and climate change to governance and human health; and
4. GEOGRAPHY - information categorized by geographical area

The UN Atlas supports Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, the blueprint for the sustainable development of oceans adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The development of the Atlas began in November 1999 by the UN agencies responsible for matters relevant to the sustainable development of the oceans and the advancement of ocean science as an initiative of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) (formerly the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas of the Administrative Committee on Coordination).

At the 8th Meeting of UN-Oceans (IOC-UNESCO, 5 May 2010), during the reporting of Agenda Item 5.3 on the UN Atlas of the Oceans by FAO, as UN Atlas Secretariat, all members agreed on the importance of sustaining support for the Atlas from the partners to ensure its continuity. Members further supported a funding proposal for annual contributions of US\$7000 in order to prompt and generate new material and update current content, enhance system features and functionality and develop outreach material. Communications material could be re-used by partners at various events. These activities would facilitate the updating of the UN Atlas site, adding to its relevance and timeliness and broader coverage. These enhancements would also support the points raised in Agenda Item 10 on Future Direction for UN-Oceans which states the need to have greater visibility for UN-Oceans and to make the UN Atlas of the Oceans one of the main tools of UN-Oceans.

Activities

- a. Maintenance, upgrade and improvement of the UN Atlas of the Oceans Web site content and system
- b. Generate new material and update current content, enhance system features and functionality and develop outreach material.

Delivery

Consultants will be recruited to prepare and implement specific material, as follows:

SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT: IT (CDS) programmer 260€ /day (about 30 days=€7800)

System maintenance, upgrades and enhancements: including to develop keyword-based content harvesting, improve search functionality, optimize image gallery, add interactive calendar features, provide functionality to view usage statistics of the site; implement archiving features

WEB DESIGN: Web designer 200€/day (about 10 days= €2000)
Layout improvements and modifications to the Web site

CONTENT: Writer/editor US\$180/1000 words (about 88,250 words=US\$15,885)

Update main introductory texts (35 topics and sub-topics, c.12,250 words); prepare and publish all entries for 'Geography' (11 topics/230 subtopics, c.75,000 words); update all institutional information (partners, 16 entries; About the UN Atlas, c.1000 words); correct links; add related images and information where appropriate.

COMMUNICATIONS: Writer US\$250/day (about 5 days=US1250); Graphics designer US\$180/day (about 5 days= US\$900)

Develop, produce and distribute promotional and communications material for on-print demand, and update existing products: poster, leaflet, slide presentation, pop-up exhibition stand.

Outputs

- Complete content under Geography
- Edited main pages
- Improved system search and content updating mechanisms
- Web site statistics
- Promotional poster, leaflet, slide presentation and pop-up stand on UN Atlas

Results

- Strengthened, more comprehensive and updated content
- New calendar feature on UN Atlas site, with enhanced access to information
- Systematic information harvesting and updating
- Communications material for the UN Atlas of the Oceans available

Monitoring & reporting

FAO will send regular reports to all UN-Oceans partner contributors upon completion of activity blocks. A final report of all activity – ongoing and completed – will be made at the subsequent meeting of the UN-Oceans.

Activity	Description	Total (USD)
<u>SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT</u> : IT (CDS) programmer 260€ /day (about 30 days=€7800)	System maintenance, upgrades and enhancements	USD 9,600
<u>WEB DESIGN</u> : Web designer 200€/day (about 10 days= €2000)	Layout improvements and modifications to the Web	USD 2,500

	site	
<u>CONTENT:</u> Writer/editor US\$180/1000 words (about 88,250 words=US\$15,88 5)	Update main introductory texts	USD 15,885
<u>COMMUNICATIONS:</u> Writer US\$250/day (about 5 days=US1250); Graphics designer US\$180/day (about 5 days=US\$900)	Develop, produce and distribute promotional and communicatio ns material for on-print demand, and update existing products	USD 2,150
		USD 30,135