

# Summary of discussions of the second regional Workshop of the first round of workshops held under the auspices of the United Nations in support of the second cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

Auckland, New Zealand, 18– 19 October 2017

## I. Overview

The present document provides a summary of the discussions and information emanating from the second regional Workshop of the first round of workshops in support of the second cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (Regular Process), covering the region of the South Pacific. The Workshop was held in Auckland, New Zealand from 18 to 19 October 2017.

The information provided in the present summary synthesizes the discussions, presentations, as well as the Co-Chairs' and Joint Coordinators' remarks at the workshop under the following overarching topics: available assessments and sources of information; proposed structure of the second world ocean assessment; additional topics for inclusion in the second world ocean assessment; priorities in the workshop region; how to make the second world ocean assessment most helpful to policy-makers in the region; supporting contributions to the preparation of the second world ocean assessment; capacity-building needs, including for the conduct of integrated assessments; and operational considerations with respect to the second cycle of the Regular Process. The annexes to the present summary of discussions provide other details of the Workshop and its outcomes, including the agenda, list of participants, and the document entitled "Proposed Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) structure".

## II. Background

The programme of work for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process, developed by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process<sup>1</sup> and endorsed by the General Assembly,<sup>2</sup> includes in the activities for 2017 the holding of regional workshops to support the development of the assessment and facilitate outreach, awareness-raising and capacity-building, through, *inter alia*, the identification and collection of data, the identification/scoping of regional priorities and the wider dissemination of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment – World Ocean Assessment I (WOA I).<sup>3</sup> The workshops will also foster a wider geographical representation in the appointment of experts to the Pool of Experts. Subsequently, the Group of Experts of the Regular Process developed the "Guidelines for the first round of Workshops in 2017 to Assist the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects" for the first round of regional workshops. The Guidelines provide for, *inter alia*, the purpose, objectives, participants and outputs of the workshops, as well as for the various operational and administrative considerations on their implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> See the attachment to A/71/362.

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution 71/257, paragraph 299.

<sup>3</sup> See paragraph 8 (h) of the Programme of Work 2017-2020, attachment to A/71/362.

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In accordance with the Guidelines, the objectives of the first round of workshops are to:

- (a) Provide an opportunity to present the main conclusions of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment – World Ocean Assessment I;
- (b) Enable participants to put forward their views on the scope and structure that should be adopted for the assessment to be prepared in the second cycle of the Regular Process, which is to be completed by the end of 2020. Given that the General Assembly decided that the first cycle of the Regular Process should focus on establishing a baseline, and that subsequent cycles should extend to establishing trends, the workshops should in particular aim to conclude:
  - (i) What aspects of the ocean are most relevant to include in the assessment to be made in the second cycle, and the extent to which it is possible to establish trends in relation to them;
  - (ii) How the establishment of such trends can most effectively be done in the different oceanic regions in a standard manner;
  - (iii) How the existence of trends can in the future be evaluated;
  - (iv) How risks in relation to the various aspects of the ocean can be evaluated, taking into account regional interests and differences;
  - (v) What regional priorities should be addressed in the preparation of the assessment of the second cycle, bearing in mind the global ocean policy agenda;
- (c) Promote capacity-building within the region for which each workshop is held, so as to assist in creating the abilities to contribute from the region to the production of the assessment. In particular, the workshops should consider what steps might be taken to improve abilities to carry out integrated assessments within the region;
- (d) Explore what increased cooperation or coordination between processes already under way in the region could assist in providing the information required for the assessment;
- (e) Consider how assessments produced by the Regular Process can be structured so as to help policy-makers most effectively with their tasks; and
- (f) Consider how to improve arrangements for networking between experts and organizations taking part in each workshop, and the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, the Group of Experts, the Pool of Experts, the National Focal Points and the secretariat of the Regular Process.

### **III. Conduct of the Workshop**

The Workshop was held under the auspices of the United Nations, represented by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs, which also serves as the secretariat for the Regular Process, and hosted by the

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Government of New Zealand. It was held at the Rydges Hotel in Auckland, New Zealand.

The workshop was conducted in accordance with the draft agenda (Annex 1).

The workshop was co-chaired by Ms. Karen Evans of Australia (member of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process) and Mr. Malcolm Clark (member of the Pool of Experts of the first cycle of the Regular Process). It was attended by one of the Joint Coordinators of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process: Mr. Alan Simcock (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). Participants also included representatives from the Governments of the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, and of regional scientific bodies, academic research institutes, and foundations (see Annex 2, List of Participants). The United Nations was represented by the Secretary of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process, and by the Programme Officer of the secretariat of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process. Overall, the workshop was attended by twenty-seven participants, eight of whom were female.

The Workshop opened with welcoming remarks delivered on behalf of the Government of New Zealand by Ms. Rosemary Paterson, Divisional Manager, Environment Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Programme Officer of the secretariat of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process also made opening remarks on behalf of the United Nations. The draft agenda for the workshop was subsequently adopted. The agenda was followed with the exception that the presentation by a representative of the secretariat of the Regular Process on current developments in global ocean policies (item 2) was done after item 10 (“Consideration of what steps might be taken within the region in the period 2017 – 2020 to support contributions to the assessment(s) under the Regular Process in the second cycle”).

Following the welcoming remarks, a presentation was given by Ms. Karen Evans on assessments being conducted by Australia, which provided insight into the process of data collection for the preparation of the Australian State of the Oceans and Seas report (2016). Following these remarks, presentations were given by Mr. Alan Simcock (on behalf of the Group of Experts) and by Mr. Malcolm Clark.

Mr. Clark gave a presentation on New Zealand’s involvement in the preparation of WOA I. His presentation highlighted his experience in contributing to the preparation of a number of chapters of the WOA I from the perspective of a member of the Pool of Experts of the first cycle of the Regular Process. It was noted that WOA I included a number of deep-sea focused chapters and that many chapters were contributed to by people and results from the Census of Marine Life (CoML) (2000-2010). Mr. Clark observed a number of generic issues across all chapters, in particular the following:

- unclear (and hence variable) scope and content;
- the fact that there were many co-authors, which in turn led to a lack of unified content and style; the lack of coordination between chapters which resulted in considerable revision after completion of the drafts;
- the unclear review process;
- the heavy reliance upon experts from the CoML;

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- the funding and time constraints that affected the ability to undertake new analyses that led to limited availability of data beyond the 2010 CoML synthesis.

The presentation also provided information on possible inputs from New Zealand to the assessment of the second cycle (second world ocean assessment).

Mr Alan Simcock thereafter gave a presentation on WOA I, including a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the Assessment. The presentation covered the history and the preparation of WOA I, the main conclusions and the identified knowledge and capacity-building gaps. The presentation highlighted the fact that during the preparation of WOA I, there was no effective cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations including regarding the nomination of experts to the Pool of Experts, and that there was no effective communication mechanism with the members of the Pool of Experts in order to keep them engaged in the process. Thus, contributions to WOA I were marked by low participation. The ten main themes of WOA I were presented which covered the following: climate change, marine biota, food security and safety, patterns of biodiversity, use of ocean space, inputs of harmful material, cumulative impacts, distribution of ocean benefits, integrated management, information and capacity gaps.

This was followed by another presentation by Mr. Simcock on the draft elements for a possible structure of the second world ocean assessment (draft elements) which aims to bring together the issues that need to be considered in reaching a decision on the scale and content for the second world ocean assessment. He noted that the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole decided on one comprehensive assessment. He also observed the fact that the information in WOA I was presented in a manner that did not immediately make the linkages between chapters clear resulting in less integration than desired and that the preparation of the second world ocean assessment would need a more integrated approach. It was noted that the regional workshops were expected to contribute to determining the best way to achieve this integration. Mr. Simcock introduced the draft elements which are organized under the following sections: “The ocean and its circulation”; “The food web”; “The coastal and shelf areas” and “The open ocean”, and noted that the organization of information needed to be useful for policy-makers. Participants suggested that it would be important for the Group of Experts to prepare a timetable of all relevant milestones related to the second cycle, as well as to the preparation of the second world ocean assessment, to keep them informed and engaged in the process. It was noted that Mr. Simcock would facilitate this task.

These presentations were followed by other presentations made by a number of participants under the various agenda items on existing or future assessments in the region, so as to identify how the assessment under the Regular Process can best build on these; as well as discussions in break-out groups on the possible structure of the second world ocean assessment; regional priorities for consideration in the preparation of the second assessment; how to make the assessment of the second cycle most helpful to policy-makers in the region, including with respect to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). Subsequent discussions in plenary focussed on possible steps which may be undertaken within the region to support contributions to the second world ocean assessment, on the capacity-building needs and opportunities relevant to the science-policy interface, and how the activities undertaken during the second cycle

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of the Regular Process may contribute; on how capacities to achieve integrated assessments of the marine environment can be improved; and on what steps could be taken, either within the region or at a global level, to improve the information available for the second world ocean assessment and future assessments.

The workshop concluded with the Co-Chairs presenting their summary of the main elements that emerged from the Workshop, followed by closing remarks by the Co-Chairs of the Workshop and from the Government of New Zealand represented by Ms. Rosemary Paterson. The representatives from the secretariat also made closing remarks on behalf of the United Nations.

#### **IV. Summary of discussions**

The discussions provided an opportunity for all participants to raise important sources of information to be considered during the implementation of the second cycle of the Regular Process, in particular the preparation of the second world ocean assessment. These discussions have been summarized below.

##### **A. Consideration of the available and ongoing assessments and sources of information**

Participants provided information on the various assessments carried out in the South Pacific since 2012 and that are proposed to be carried out within the region in the period 2017 – 2020, as well as sources of information within the Workshop region which may be of relevance to the preparation of the second world ocean assessment. Some participants made presentations on the work being undertaken by their organizations in the Workshop region which may be of relevance to the Regular Process. Presentations made available for distribution will be posted on the Regular Process homepage ([www.un.org/depts/los/rp](http://www.un.org/depts/los/rp)) in due course.

These included a presentation by the Cook Islands on the “Marae Moana” initiative, including the 2017 Marae Moana Act whose primary purpose is to protect and conserve the ecological, biodiversity, and heritage values of the Cook Islands marine environment, as well as to promote an integrated decision-making and management framework; by Fiji on its development of a mineral management plan and a National Ocean Policy Framework; by the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority on the “Reimaanlok” which is the implementation mechanism for the Micronesia Challenge and addresses conservation issues, including community-based management; by the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment on the 2015 Environmental Reporting Act, under which the Marine Environment report was released in 2016 which uses a “Pressure, State, Impact” structure for reporting; by Tonga on its establishment of marine fisheries management areas and on a number of national assessments, including on coral health, lagoon species and water quality; by Tuvalu on their work with locals and industry on using traditional knowledge to develop hotspot maps; by Conservation International on its role in the South Pacific including with regard to the “whole domain marine management concept” and the use of modern management tools to implement management of marine ecosystems; a presentation from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO) on the Ocean Biogeographic Information System’s role as a supporting data system for

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WOA I and its overall goals which include setting a baseline for marine biodiversity assessment and monitoring as well as building and maintaining a global alliance that collaborates with scientific communities to facilitate free and open access to, and application of, biodiversity and biogeographic data and information on marine life and by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) on its works across the region. A number of interventions were also made by the following entities: Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner; New Zealand Conservation Organizations; University of Auckland; and University of the South Pacific.

It was noted that the summary observations and conclusions of WOA I were very applicable to the Pacific Islands. Regarding the preparation of assessments in the region, it was observed that they were not comprehensive, both spatially and temporally and were heavily reliant on international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other agencies rather than having a coordinated government-level approach. The strongest data sources for assessments in the region came from commercial fisheries, regarding, *inter alia*, reef fish, coral reefs, and protected areas that have been declared. It was observed that access to and use of general ocean environmental data was beginning to improve through links with global initiatives, such as the Ocean Biogeographic Information System, the Group on Earth Observations, Global Earth Observation System of Systems, the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network, as well as with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). The second world ocean assessment should include Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) (as well as associated biological variables) for consistency across regions. It was also observed that the region was beset by capacity gaps, particularly regarding water quality, including ocean acidification and related parameters, marine debris and pollution, habitat quality and extent, mobilizing and analysing existing data within countries for reporting into regional and global assessments, and integrated ocean management (beyond the exclusive economic zone).

## **B. Consideration of the proposed structure of the second world ocean assessment**

Several points were raised throughout the discussions with respect to the structure of the next assessment, particularly in comparison to that of WOA I.

### *Focus*

It was noted that the second world ocean assessment should focus on ecosystem-level services, including intrinsic goods and services, biodiversity, genetic resources etc., and that in this regard, it should include human benefits which should refer to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA). It was also noted that it would need to include cultural values (traditional and indigenous) and links between communities and oceans (which is relevant to both the coastal and open ocean). Additionally, the need to make sure the ocean is viewed as a socio-ecological system and to ensure adequate consideration of trends (and their drivers) and gaps rather than just focusing around activities, was emphasized.

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### *Structure*

Participants considered the proposed elements for a structure for the second world ocean assessment prepared by the Group of Experts. A general observation was made that the effects-based, and activities-based structure and content was variable in the proposed structure, and resulted in some duplication within and across the sections.

The need to develop a structure that recognizes the ecosystem services of the ocean and better engages with national, regional and global bodies to advance integrated ocean management and sustainable development (including social sustainability), was highlighted. With regard to ecosystem services, the point was made that there was a need to distinguish between the coastal regions and the open ocean. It was also noted, with regard to ecosystem services, that the terminology would need to be carefully considered, with the MEA being a possible point of reference for the classification of services and how they affect human wellbeing, as well as the services the ocean provides for the environment and humans. Further, mindful of the need to ensure that compatibility and synergies between the second world ocean assessment and other ongoing assessments, it was noted that the Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) is the preferred framework being used by several other processes. It was suggested that the assessment should concentrate on providing a synthesis of available science with a focus on trends and changes, including socio-cultural issues, and should provide examples of management in addressing pressures and drivers occurring within regions.

There was general support for using the DPSIR framework (Annex 3, a suggested DPSIR structure) within which impacts would be mapped to different habitats and species, as well as providing an idea of drivers and pressures and how to nest the different approaches. It was noted that the DPSIR approach would also allow for the specific handling of, *inter alia*, cumulative impacts, social and cultural issues. This would need to be disaggregated at the regional level, hence making it more relevant to people in individual countries, and getting more buy-in at a national level.

The need to think about how best to integrate the complexity of impacts was noted, bearing in mind that it may be easier for some regions than others and would need to identify for each of the main ocean basins the overriding themes that need to be taken into account. It was suggested that the evaluation of values should be a starting point for consistency of indicators being included in the various assessments. The point was made that policy-makers need to understand the importance and value of natural capital (natural resources) and what losses may not be substitutable by any economic gain. It was observed that it may therefore be useful to value the economic loss of destruction of habitats/ecosystem services to lend more weight to the argument for preserving those services.

Some participants considered that more time was needed to devote to the discussion of the scope and structure, and some also felt that before finalizing the structure, there should be an opportunity for them and other stakeholders to provide feedbacks.

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### **C. Consideration of additional topics for inclusion in the second world ocean assessment**

Other general observations in regard to the proposed elements for a structure were as follows:

- The introduction should include a section on marine governance notwithstanding the fact that WOA I, chapter 1, included a description of the various governance regimes;
- Geophysical data summaries should be included and discussed in terms of the trends in our state of knowledge (including gaps), and should also include bathymetry. This will include metrics that indicate how much more sampling, or knowledge, has been obtained in the period between assessments. This could be reflected in Part 2, or in a new Part 2.5 (“State of data/Knowledge base”);
- Mutual impacts and relationships between sectors, ecosystem services, human activities and biodiversity should be included. For example, over use and overfishing of coral stocks, can result in a move to offshore fisheries with subsequent socioeconomic impacts; and
- There should be a section at the end summarizing data gaps and priorities for data collection.

It was observed that the proposed elements for a structure involved some duplication in the topics proposed. In that regard, the following suggestions were put forward:

- “Water quality” (in Parts 3, 4 and 5) should be moved up to Part 2 as a cross-cutting issue and the evaluation of values should be included;
- “Shipping and ports” could be combined into a section on “Maritime transport”;
- Part 3, “Food Web” should be deleted and replaced with a focus on ecosystem goods and services under Parts 4 and 5 (“Coastal and Shelf areas” and “Open Ocean”);
- Parts 4.6 and 4.7 should be combined to make a new subsection 4.7 “Marine invasive species”;
- There should be a part dealing with social issues that could encompass traditional knowledge aspects/values e.g., in Parts 4 and 5 (“Coastal and Shelf Seas” and “Open Ocean”) to ensure that cultural values and social aspects are included not as an add on, but as an integral part; and
- A new Part 5 could be a concluding section that brings together all the trends, identifies cumulative impacts and addresses knowledge gaps and priorities for data collection. Such a section could also be a catch-all chapter for some drivers that do not fall squarely into a chapter.

### **D. Consideration of priorities in the Workshop region**

As regards regional priorities, it was noted that they should underpin the second world ocean assessment, and hence the content and focus may differ between regions. It was agreed that Pacific Island States face different issues from more developed countries and that the assessment would need to include coverage of

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climate and ocean change and holistic traditional management. The second world ocean assessment would need to remain a global document, while ensuring that the regional aspects are well covered either within the existing chapters (meaning lots of cross-section work) or in the regional chapters (which would still require lots of cross-cutting integration amongst chapters).

#### **E. Consideration of how to make the second world ocean assessment most helpful to policy-makers in the region**

In addition to the points summarized above in the context of the proposed structure of the second world ocean assessment (section B), the present section summarizes additional relevant points raised during the Workshop relating to how to make the second world ocean assessment relevant to policy-makers in the region.

##### *Linkages with other processes*

With regard to supporting processes for the second world ocean assessment, it was noted that there was need for support from a potentially-separate process for identifying, collating and prioritizing data sets to be included in the preparation of the assessment. In that regard, it was suggested that, using global databases such as the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), and regional and national data sources available through government agencies could be considered. A comment was made that, where possible, students, especially those at the post-graduate level, could be an additional resource for data collection and collation and accessing grey literature (e.g., theses). The over-riding need to engage with the wider Pacific community in order to facilitate buy-in and wider acceptance of the assessment and its related outputs, was emphasized. In this regard, it was proposed that early engagement with managers and policy people at the high level from the outset would ensure that the assessment was used both as a tool to inform policy, as well as a resource document. In addition to a number of regional bodies in the area (e.g., Pacific Commission (SPC), The SPREP, the Pacific Island Forum), a major forum for leaders of the Pacific Island States was identified as a platform that could help promote the second world ocean assessment. The importance of ensuring that information is aligned with priorities for regional management frameworks such as Pacific Oceanscapes, which are currently being developed across a number of Pacific Island States, was noted. It was also noted that there are a number of complimentary reporting mechanisms that could be “piggy-backed” on (e.g. the Convention on Biological Diversity processes and the sustainable development goals). Regionally, the Pacific Community is establishing a regional ocean information hub which could also be utilized. The Marine Sector Working Group, and newly formed Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner are other groups that can help in fostering integration across countries in the region.

##### *Outputs/Format*

In addition to the points summarized above in the context of the proposed structure of the second world ocean assessment (section B), and with the recognition that the assessment must be policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive, the present section summarizes additional relevant points raised during the Workshop relating to how to make the second world ocean assessment relevant to policy-makers in the region.

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It was agreed that the second world ocean assessment should not be too voluminous and great importance was attached to ensuring the digestibility of the assessment and its related outputs i.e., the ability for them to be accessible to, and understood by, policy-makers and a variety of other stakeholders. In that regard, a number of proposals were put forward, such as the need for an effective graphics-rich summary report describing trends and consequences; the need for several different communication formats to suit the needs of different stakeholders e.g., a rich text version that is modular and well-indexed, as well as a digital and searchable format, noting that for scientists there may be more detail, while for managers and policy-makers, less scientific detail may be warranted; and the need to consider the narrative coming out of the process which could be at the national, regional, ocean basin and global scale.

It was noted that since the second world ocean assessment was not intended to be policy prescriptive, appropriate ways to frame the issues for policy-makers would need to be employed. Among the best ways to do this would be to include region-specific examples of good/best practices through case studies, illustrating data and measures that have and have not worked as the basis for policy and management action.

#### **F. Consideration of supporting contributions to the preparation of the second world ocean assessment**

Following discussions on steps to contribute to the preparation of the second assessment, the following suggestions were put forward as opportunities to raise awareness about the next assessment and to collect information:

##### *Supporting processes and data sources*

- Increased cooperation and coordination between processes underway, e.g., using current processes such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Community (SPC), and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs);
- Increasing the role of industry, civil society and NGOs; and
- Collaboration/cooperation with other ocean area organizations e.g., from the Southern Ocean and/polar region; it was noted that cultural values and links are being developed by the National Science Challenges in New Zealand which could address some issues about Southern Ocean and the Antarctic.

##### *Nomination of experts and communications*

- Ensuring appropriate Pacific Island representation in the Pool of Experts, using resources such as the Marine Sector Working Group to assist in the identification of experts;
- Provision of data and/or information;
- The establishment of a repository of information on available data sets available through a shared website to facilitate meta data summary; and
- Improving arrangements for networking between experts and organizations, such as the Marine Sector Working Group, New Zealand

**G. Consideration of capacity-building needs and opportunities, including for the conduct of integrated assessments**

With regard to capacity-building in general, it was observed that it was important to know what new data is available to address existing knowledge gaps, including those identified in WOA I. It was noted that in the region, the limited capacity to undertake integrated assessments (capability) was a key issue, particularly in terms of achieving real integration, addressing issues of scale and variable and multiple reporting, access to data and developing a comparable/common format for assessments. This translated into a need to build capability.

As regards the regional situation, it was suggested that there was need for outsourcing of capacity and importing capacity as well as (human and financial) resources to help build local capacity. It was noted that it was necessary to strengthen partnerships with other ocean observing programmes, metropolitan country programmes in the region, and international NGOs and to involve other industries (tourism, polluters, social entrepreneurs, etc.) apart from the fisheries industry. The need to involve local organizations and communities in the preparation of the second world ocean assessment and in ongoing assessments and monitoring was emphasized. The tight time frame of the second assessment, however, was noted as a major constraint in the short-term. The development of capability and capacity was seen as an incremental long-term need to improve subsequent assessments.

With regard to the proposed multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building event, it was emphasized that there was urgent need to clarify its scope and objectives, as well as to identify priorities with regard to gaps and capacity needs and link them with similar initiatives in the South Pacific e.g., the Marae Moana Initiative (Cook Islands) and National Policy-Strategic Advisory Projects (NP-SAPS).

Several specific suggestions on training needs for the South Pacific were put forward, such as Seascope, integrated ocean management, incorporating traditional values into environmental assessments, and adaptive management. It was noted that in order to ensure adequate representation of experts from the region in the multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building event to be held on accordance with the programme of work for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process, the possibility of sponsoring the participation of relevant experts would need to be considered.

**H. Operational considerations with respect to the second cycle of the Regular Process**

Discussions on this point involved the consideration of what steps could be taken, either within the region or at a global level to improve the information available for the second world ocean assessment. Participants underlined the importance of the second world ocean assessment having a qualitative narrative (i.e. a mix of both information quality and quantity), as well as the need to consider policy and

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management objectives in formulating and carrying out the assessment. Several suggestions and considerations were put forward to facilitate the access to information for the preparation of the assessment, bearing in mind the short time frame (six months to a year maximum) as follows:

- The need to collate, analyze and compile the existing best available data and trends e.g., through consistent and sustained information sharing;
- The need to consider community-level information (not just individual national, activity sector, or species) where appropriate to better reflect an ecosystem approach;
- Utilizing IOC UNESCO to support the establishment of new databases through the Ocean Teacher Academy, and to format existing databases;
- Using existing processes/regional cooperation and coordination initiatives in the Pacific region as well as existing regional databases to identify and compile data to avoid duplication, e.g., National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans prepared and submitted by parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Fisheries Forum Agency, the SPC, the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, the World Bank, the Asia Bank; and Oceanographic datasets from ARGO, BIO ARGO, Oceanographic Autonomous Observations; a February/March 2018 workshop for the Pacific Islands Marine bio-regionalization exercise (an example of a workshop devoted to discussing data availability and requirements, data collation and compilation), and a coastal regional fisheries management meeting in November 2018 which will help identify fisheries data gaps;
- Requesting States to provide information on what other data needs to be provided, mindful of the fact that sensitive or confidential data (e.g., bathymetric, maritime boundary delimitation, tuna fisheries, vessel movement within regions; nuclear waste) would require a formal request for the release of such data, and factoring in also the “consultation fatigue” at the national level;
- Preparing a data request letter that could be provided by participants or experts to relevant institutions to identify needed data;
- Sourcing non-ecological data e.g., economic, which would reflect both the monetary value of resources to countries and ecological valuation; and include public benefit, and risk;
- Distribution of a spreadsheet based on Part VI of WOA I that can help identify data or analyses that could reduce some of the identified gaps;
- The need to factor in cultural property rights and community-based data and information (citizen-science), as well as other non-traditional scientific sources of data e.g., insurance company databases on vessel risk, risk assessor’s information; the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; and the World Bank;
- The need to include input from the eastern Pacific including how to engage and capture content;
- The need to get active, well connected and well-informed experts into the Pool of Experts that can tap into the large body of information from the region; and

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- The need to maintain momentum through the Workshop participants acting as focal points for their respective organizations on Regular Process issues, and also developing the networks established during the Workshop.

Overall, it was agreed that there was a need to ensure that the South Pacific is considered in all parts of the assessment, both in terms of process and substance. The Workshop highlighted the extensive nature and extent of activities occurring in the region, and the large potential to contribute to the assessment. As noted above, it was agreed as an initial way forward in preparing data, that the Joint Coordinators, in consultation with the Group of Experts and with the secretariat, would prepare a spreadsheet of gaps identified in Part VI of the summary of WOA I to help identify available datasets, which would be circulated to participants in order for the relevant information to be provided. It was also agreed that the secretariat would compile a timeline of the various meetings foreseen for the duration of the second cycle and of deadlines related to the preparation of the assessment to foster continued engagement of the participants and other experts throughout the process.

### **ANNEX 1: Draft agenda**

## **REGULAR PROCESS FOR THE GLOBAL REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING SOCIOECONOMIC ASPECTS**

### **Workshop to support the Regular Process: Auckland, 18 – 19 October 2017**

#### **(South Pacific)**

#### **DRAFT AGENDA**

#### ***First day – Wednesday 18 October 2017***

1. Welcome addresses.
2. Adoption of agenda for the Workshop.
3. Presentation by a representative of the secretariat of the Regular Process on current developments in global ocean policies.
4. Presentation by a member of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process on the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment – World Ocean Assessment I, and discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the Assessment.
5. Presentation by Alan Simcock (Joint Coordinator of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process) of a document on the possible structure of the assessment or assessments to be prepared under the Regular Process in the second cycle, running until the end of 2020.
6. Review of assessments that have been carried out in the South Pacific since 2012 and that are proposed to be carried out within the region in the period 2017 – 2020, in order to identify how the assessment(s) under the Regular Process can best build on them.

Participants in the workshop are requested to be prepared to make short presentations on the assessments with which they have been concerned.

7. Establishment of break-out groups.

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The purpose of the break-out groups is to enable as many people as possible to contribute to the discussion. The membership of the break-out groups could be by area or by discipline.

***Lunch-break***

8. Break-out groups meet to discuss:
  - (a) Possible structures of the assessment(s) of the second cycle;
  - (b) Regional priorities for the assessment(s) of the second cycle;
  - (c) How to make the assessment(s) of the second cycle most helpful to policy-makers in the region with their tasks, including implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

***Second day – Thursday 19 October***

9. Report-back session for the break-out groups and discussion of their conclusions.
10. Consideration of what steps might be taken within the region in the period 2017 – 2020 to support contributions to the assessment(s) under the Regular Process in the second cycle. This consideration will be broken down into separate discussions of:
  - (a) What increased cooperation or coordination between processes already under way in the region could assist in providing the information required for such assessment(s);
  - (b) What can be done in relation to issues on which relevant data and/or information is known to be available for the region or parts of it, but where it has not been fed into any assessment;
  - (c) What can be done to provide data and/or information by 2020 on issues relevant to the region where data and/or information are currently lacking;
  - (d) How to improve arrangements for networking between experts and organizations taking part in each workshop, the Group of Experts and the secretariat of the Regular Process.

***Lunch-break***

11. The secretariat of the Regular Process will present information and material relevant to the database on capacity-building needs and opportunities and to the Capacity-Building Partnership Event and Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (to be held later in 2017), as well as the identification of best practices and the role of the workshops and participants therein in awareness-raising and outreach.

12. Consideration of how capacities to achieve integrated assessments of the marine environment can be improved.

Participants in the workshop are requested to be prepared to make short presentations on their ideas.

13. Consideration of what steps could be taken, either within the region or at a global level:
  - (a) To improve the information available for the assessment(s) of the second cycle;
  - (b) To improve the information available for future assessments.

Participants in the workshop are requested to take account of the information gaps identified in World Ocean Assessment I in formulating ideas on these questions.

14. Oral presentation by the Chair and the Joint Coordinators of the main elements that have emerged from the workshop.

15. Closure of the Workshop.

### **ANNEX 2: List of Participants**

<b>#</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>FIRST NAME</b>	<b>LAST NAME</b>	<b>COUNTRY / ORGANIZATION</b>
1	Mr.	Alan	Simcock	UK / Joint Group of Experts of the Regular Process
2	Mr.	Benedict	Yamamura	Marshall Islands / Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
3	Ms.	Cath	Wallace	New Zealand / Environment and Conservation Organisations of NZ Inc
4	Ms.	Cherie	Morris	Fiji / Institute of Marine Resources, University of the South Pacific
5	Mr.	Duncan	Currie	New Zealand / High Seas Alliance, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition
6	Mr.	Epeli	Maisema	Fiji / Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources
7	Mr.	Irawan	Asaad	New Zealand / Indonesia / Institute of Marine Science, University of Auckland
8	Ms.	Jacqueline Tapaeru	Evans	Cook Islands / Office of the Prime Minister, Cook Islands
9	Mr.	Jitendra Kumar	Mohan	Fiji / Fishing Industry Association
10	Ms.	Karen	Evans	Australia / CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere
11	Mr.	Kevin	Mackay	New Zealand / Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS)

12	Mr.	Lou	Hunt	New Zealand / Moana Tahora (Marine Policy and Evidence), Ministry for the Environment, New Zealand
13	Mr.	Luca	Mori	Italy/Conservation International New Zealand & Pacific Islands
14	Mr.	Luke	Roughton	New Zealand / Environment Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
15	Mr.	Malcolm	Clark	New Zealand / Fisheries, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
16	Mr.	Mark	Costello	University of Auckland, New Zealand
17	Mr.	Martin	Cryer	New Zealand / Marine Branch, Ministry for Primary Industries
18	Ms.	Rosemary	Paterson	New Zealand / Environment Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
19	Ms.	Sarah	Fish	New Zealand / Moana Tahora (Marine Offshore), Ministry for the Environment
20	Mr.	Semese	Alefaio	Tuvalu / Tuvalu Fisheries Department; Coastal Fisheries Management and Resources Assessment
21	Ms.	Sheryl	Uy	Philippines / Department of Foreign Affairs
22	Mr.	Stephen	Fevrier	Canada / Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner
23	Ms.	Sulieti	Hufanga	Tonga / Department of Environment
24	Mr.	Timothy	Bamford	New Zealand / Department of Conservation
25	Mr.	Warren John Lee	Long	Australia / Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
26	Mr.	Francois	Baillet	UN DOALOS
27	Ms.	Vita	Onwuasoanya	UN DOALOS

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## **ANNEX 3: Proposed Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) structure**

### **Assessment - Identification of trends and focus on ecosystem goods & services within a DPSIR framework**

#### **Part 1: Definition of ecosystem goods and services and the DPSIR framework**

- Provisioning services
- Regulating services
- Cultural services
- Supporting services
- DPSIR framework – drivers, pressures, state, and impacts, response

#### **Part 2: Trends in Drivers**

- Global drivers
- Regional drivers of importance

#### **Part 3: Trends in pressures**

- These could be split by pressures impacting coasts/open oceans or split by pressures impacting services
- Climate change
- Hazardous substances and nutrients
- Capture fisheries
  - Bycatch
- Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing
  - Fisheries subsidies
- Aquaculture and mariculture
- Sedimentation
- Shipping
- Ports
- Coastal development
- Seabed mining
- Hydrocarbon industries
- Renewable energy industries
- Tourism and recreation
- Solid waste disposal
- Marine debris
- Invasive species

#### **Part 4: Trends in state**

##### *Provisioning services*

- The trade in fish products and other food
- Aquaculture production
- Seaweeds for food

##### *Regulating services*

- Water quality
- Coastal and shelf biodiversity
- Surface water biodiversity
- Deep sea biodiversity
- Fish stocks
- Shellfish and invertebrate stocks

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- Hydrothermal vents and cold seeps
  - Top predators

*Cultural services*

- Cultural links to the sea
- Cultural values and heritage

*Supporting services*

- Ocean currents
- Sea temperature
- Sea level
- Ocean chemistry
- Primary production
- 

**Part 5 Trends in management**

- Area based management tools
- Marine protected Areas (MPAs)
- Culturally based management approaches
- Marine spatial planning
- Identification of cumulative impacts