

Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

Second world ocean assessment (WOA II) – review by States

Instructions

NOTE: Only comments submitted in accordance with the six instructions below will be accepted and transmitted to the writing teams for consideration.

1. Each Member State may submit **one** set of written comments.
2. Comments must be submitted using the template provided in this document.
3. The document containing the comments must be saved in either **.doc** or **.docx** format
4. All comments must be in **English**.
5. Comments must be submitted either through the Permanent Mission to the United Nations, or through designated National Focal Point for the Regular Process.
6. Comments must be submitted to the secretariat of the Regular Process by e-mail (doalos@un.org; temnova@un.org; legesseh@un.org).

About the process for review by States

- States may comment on any aspects of the draft, including content, structure and references. States may provide general comments or comments on specific wording, tables, figures, maps, etc. Line numbers are provided to facilitate line-by-line review, should States so desire.
- All comments received from a State will be shared with the writing teams and the Group of Experts under the name of that State without featuring any sub-divisions (offices, departments, ministries etc.) of that State.
- The comments received from States will be shared with other States along with the second draft of WOA II and the agreed responses by the Group of Experts to the comments. States will then have the opportunity to review and raise any remaining questions they may have with the Group of Experts.
- Relevant background documents are made available on the website of the Regular Process: <http://un.org/regularprocess/WOA-II-review-by-states>

Tips on using the template

- The template below uses a table format. This format allows for an unlimited number of comments to be added for each chapter or sub-chapter. To add more comments on a chapter or sub-chapter, simply add more rows.
- States may copy text from the draft into the table if they wish to use “track changes” in editing text.
- The template is shared in **.doc** and **.docx** format. These formats can be used with Microsoft Office products, in Google Docs and open-source office suites such as LibreOffice.

- To enable cross-departmental collaboration across departments or agencies, States may wish to consider adding the template to a shared drive or cloud storage solution, where multiple collaborators can add their comments simultaneously.

Template

The Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects	
<i>Second draft of the second world ocean assessment (WOA II)</i>	
Comments submitted by the Republic of the Philippines	
Contact person:	
<i>Please fill out the below with the details of a person the secretariat can contact in case there are any questions.</i>	
Name:	MARIA ANGELA PONCE
Title:	LEGAL ADVISER & SIXTH COMMITTEE EXPERT, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO UNHQ NEW YORK
Email address:	mangela.ponce@nypm.org
Telephone number:	9178212465
Checklist:	
	This document contains all comments on the second draft of WOA II from the Republic of the Philippines
	All comments are submitted in the template provided below.
	The document is submitted in either .doc or .docx format.
	All comments in this document are in English.
	This document is submitted by (1) the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations <u>OR</u> (2) its duly designated National Focal Point for the Regular Process.
	This document is sent to the secretariat of the Regular Process (doalos@un.org ; temnova@un.org ; legesseh@un.org) no later than midnight (New York time) on 9 <u>September 2020.</u>

Overall comments on the first draft of the second world ocean assessment (WOA II)	
[Indicate the scope of comment A, including to which chapters and sub-chapters comment A is relevant]	[Comment A]
All discussions related to SDG 16	<p>While noting the writing team’s comments, the Philippines reiterates its comments, amended as follows:</p> <p>The Philippines draws attention to the environmental impact of militarization and disputes on territorial and maritime boundaries. <u>The South China Sea figures prominently in the WOA but is generally limited to an extolling of the expansion of maritime research and a rather passive take on climate change effects such as coral bleaching; the draft is ominously silent on the destruction of coral reefs as a result of island-building.</u></p> <p>The Philippines cites, as an example, the construction of the following sentence under Chapter 3 on the scientific understanding of the ocean:</p> <p>“Intensive expansion of marine research capability and capacity, including remote sensing and in situ platforms and land-based infrastructures, by the People’s Republic of China (Xu and 47 Lei, 2019), has enhanced monitoring capacity in the South China Sea and adjacent seas. This has supported progress in regional cooperation in sustainable development and marine and climate research.”</p> <p>To counter this incomplete and therefore misleading narrative, UNCLOS should be given more prominence in the draft by including it in all discussions related to SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and highlighting, in consequence, the importance of adherence to the rule of law.</p> <p><u>Precisely since the assessment takes an expert-driven and evidence-based approach, the Philippines recommends inserting appropriate reference to the detrimental effects of escalation of tensions and militarization of territorial and maritime disputes on the marine environment in order to “de-politicize” the discourse, without naming any countries, by framing it within a global environmental and sustainable development context.</u></p>
Chapter 1: Overall summary	

Section	Comment
<p>2. Drivers</p>	<p>While noting the writing team’s comments, the Philippines reiterates its comments, amended as follows:</p> <p>The Philippines draws attention to the environmental impact of militarization and disputes on territorial and maritime boundaries. <u>The South China Sea figures prominently in the WOA but is generally limited to an extolling of the expansion of maritime research and a rather passive take on climate change effects such as coral bleaching; the draft is ominously silent on the destruction of coral reefs as a result of island-building.</u></p> <p>The Philippines cites, as an example, the construction of the following sentence under Chapter 3 on the scientific understanding of the ocean:</p> <p>“Intensive expansion of marine research capability and capacity, including remote sensing and in situ platforms and land-based infrastructures, by the People’s Republic of China (Xu and 47 Lei, 2019), has enhanced monitoring capacity in the South China Sea and adjacent seas. This has supported progress in regional cooperation in sustainable development and marine and climate research.”</p> <p>To counter this incomplete and therefore misleading narrative, UNCLOS should be given more prominence in the draft by including it in all discussions related to SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and highlighting, in consequence, the importance of adherence to the rule of law.</p> <p><u>Precisely since the assessment takes an expert-driven and evidence-based approach, the Philippines recommends inserting appropriate reference to the detrimental effects of escalation of tensions and militarization of territorial and maritime disputes on the marine environment in order to “de-politicize” the discourse, without naming any countries, by framing it within a global environmental and sustainable development context.</u></p>
<p>7.5 Key knowledge and capacity-building gaps</p>	<p>The Philippines notes that there is currently a global seaweed project which addresses knowledge and capacity-building gap, as it focuses on safeguarding the seaweed industry especially in developing countries. (http://www.globalseaweed.org/)</p>

Chapter 2: Approach to the assessment	
Section	Comment
2.4. Changing governance structures and geopolitical instability	<p>While noting the writing team’s comments, the Philippines reiterates its comments, amended as follows:</p> <p>Consistent with our comment on Chapter 1(2) on Drivers, we suggest that the following language be added:</p> <p>“Where there is conflict over access to resources and property rights, policies and agreements focused on sustainability can be undermined by such conflicts (Suarez-de Vivero and Rodriguez Mateos, 2017). Escalation and militarization of maritime and territorial conflicts adversely impact marine environmental protection, food sustainability and economic activity.” xxx</p>
Chapter 3: Scientific understanding of the ocean	
Section	Comment
3.5 The North Pacific Ocean	<p>While noting the writing team’s comments, the Philippines reiterates its comments:</p> <p>The Philippines draw attention to the environmental impact of militarization and disputes on territorial and maritime boundaries. The South China Sea figures prominently in the WOA but is generally limited to an extolling of the expansion of maritime research and a rather passive take on climate change effects such as coral bleaching; the draft is ominously silent on the destruction of coral reefs as a result of island-building.</p> <p>The Philippines cites, as an example, the construction of the following sentence under Chapter 3 on the scientific understanding of the ocean:</p> <p>“Intensive expansion of marine research capability and capacity, including remote sensing and in situ platforms and land-based infrastructures, by the People’s Republic of China (Xu and 47 Lei, 2019), has enhanced monitoring capacity in the South China Sea and adjacent seas. This has supported progress in regional cooperation in sustainable development and marine and climate research.”</p> <p>To counter this incomplete and therefore misleading narrative, UNCLOS should be given more prominence in the</p>

	<p>draft by including it in all discussions related to SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and highlighting, in consequence, the importance of adherence to the rule of law.</p> <p>Precisely since the assessment takes an expert-driven and evidence-based approach, the Philippines recommends inserting appropriate reference to the detrimental effects of escalation of tensions and militarization of territorial and maritime disputes on the marine environment in order to “de-politicize” the discourse, without naming any countries, by framing it within a global environmental and sustainable development context.</p>
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Chapter 4: Drivers	
Section	Comment
Chapter 5: Physical and chemical state of the ocean	
Section	Comment
Chapter 6: Trends in the biodiversity of main taxa of marine biota (overall introduction)	
Section	Comment
Chapter 6A: Plankton	
Section	Comment
Chapter 6B: Marine invertebrates	
Section	Comment
Chapter 6C: Fish	
Section	Comment
Chapter 6D: Marine mammals	
Section	Comment
Chapter 6E: Marine reptiles	
Section	Comment
Chapter 6F: Seabirds	
Section	Comment
Chapter 6G: Marine plants and macroalgae (merged with Chapter 6H and incorporates elements from Chapter 7H)	
Section	Comment

Chapter 6H: Macroalgae (merged with Chapter 6G)	
Chapter 7: Trends in the state of biodiversity in marine habitats	
Chapter 7A: Sand and mud substrates and rocky substrates and reefs (merged with Chapter 7B)	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7B: Rocky substrates and reefs (merged with Chapter 7A)	
Chapter 7C: Intertidal zone (to precede Chapter 7A)	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7D: Atoll and island lagoons	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7E: Tropical and subtropical coral reefs	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7F: Cold-water corals	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7G: Estuaries and deltas	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7H: Kelp forests and algal beds (elements incorporated into Chapter 6G)	
Chapter 7I: Seagrass meadows	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7J: Mangroves	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7K: Salt marshes	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7L: Submarine canyons	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7M: High-latitude ice	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7N: Seamounts and pinnacles	

Section	Comment
Chapter 7O: Abyssal plains	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7P: Open ocean	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7Q: Ridges, plateaus and trenches	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7R: Hydrothermal vents and cold seeps	
Section	Comment
Chapter 7S: Sargasso Sea	
Section	Comment
Chapter 8: Trends in the state of human society in relation to the ocean	
Chapter 8A: Coastal communities (elements incorporated into Chapter 8C)	
Chapter 8B: Human health as affected by the ocean	
Section	Comment
Chapter 8C: Maritime industries (incorporates elements from Chapters 8A, 18, 23, 24)	
Section	Comment
3.Capture fisheries, shellfish harvesting and aquaculture	On the third paragraph, the Philippines proposes to use “an estimated” in lieu of “some,” such that: “In 2017, <u>an estimated</u> 135 million people were involved in capture fisheries and marine aquaculture...”
Chapter 8D: Maritime cultural services (elements incorporated into Chapters 30 and 31)	
Chapter 9: Pressures from changes in climate and atmosphere	
Section	Comment
Chapter 10: Nutrient inputs	
Section	Comment
Chapter 11: Liquid and atmospheric inputs from land, ships and offshore installations	
Section	Comment
Chapter 12: Solid waste	

Section	Comment
Chapter 13: Erosion and sedimentation	
Section	Comment
Chapter 14: Coastal and marine infrastructure	
Section	Comment
Chapter 15: Capture fisheries	
Section	Comment
Chapter 16: Aquaculture	
Section	Comment
1.4 Biosecurity	The Philippines wishes to propose in the second paragraph: “...Countries must monitor other emerging diseases, such as <i>Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei</i> in shrimps and <u>Tilapia Lake virus</u> in tilapia, which have the potential to severely impact the sector if not addressed in a timely manner (FAO, 2017a)
1.5. Technology	<p>The Philippines wishes to correct the typographical error in the last sentence of the first paragraph:</p> <p>“Potential negative environmental and socio-economic impacts should always be considered along with potential for developing native species culture, when deciding to introduce a species <u>for</u> culture (Wurmann, 2019)”</p> <p>While noting the writing team’s comments, the Philippines reiterates its comments:</p> <p>On Lines 34 to 36 on adoption of genetic improvement programmes, the Philippines recommends the following edits:</p> <p>“Adoption of genetic improvement programmes based on conventional and/or the advanced molecular marker-assisted selection schemes is very slow, even for some major aquaculture species. Such programmes are expensive to initiate but there is evidence that public–private partnerships can be effective in building and sustaining long-term programmes (FAO, 2019). Recent technologies, such as genomics and genome editing, offer approaches that aim to genetically improve performance traits and/or address disease problems in aquaculture animals. However, such techniques in farmed aquatic species are</p>

	<p>still subject to public acceptance and strict regulatory protocols (Gratacap et al. 2019).”</p> <p>This is based on the work of Gratacap RL, Wargelius A, Edvardsen RB and Houston RD (2019. Potential of genome editing to improve aquaculture breeding and production. Trends in Genetics 35(9):672- 684. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tig.2019.06.006),</p>
Chapter 17: Seaweed harvesting and use	
Section	Comment
Chapter 18: Desalination and sea salt production (elements incorporated into Chapter 8C)	
Chapter 19: Seabed mining	
Section	Comment
Chapter 20: Hydrocarbon exploration and extraction	
Section	Comment
Chapter 21: Anthropogenic noise	
Section	Comment
Chapter 22: Marine renewable energy	
Section	Comment
Chapter 23: Marine transportation (elements incorporated into Chapter 8C)	
Chapter 24: Tourism and recreation (elements incorporated into Chapter 8C)	
Chapter 25: Invasive species	
Section	Comment
Chapter 26: Marine genetic resources	
Section	Comment
Chapter 27: Marine hydrates	
Section	Comment
Chapter 28: Cumulative effects (renamed from “cumulative impacts”)	
Section	Comment
Chapter 29: Marine spatial planning	

Section	Comment
Chapter 30: Management approaches (incorporates elements from Chapter 8D)	
Section	Comment
Chapter 31: Overall benefits from the ocean (incorporates elements from Chapter 8D)	
Section	Comment