WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Third World Ocean Assessment

Coordinating authors workshop

Lisbon Portugal 19-20 February, 2024

Day 1

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

1. Introductions: tour de table

Name, where you are from, role in the third WOA

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

2. Overview and overall objectives of the third WOA

Development of the annotated outline

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Scoping exercise/preparation of the third WOA outline supported through 5 regional workshops held throughout 2022.

Tasks were to identify the assessment:

- Focus;
- Structure;
- Content including ocean related priority;
- Outputs of most use;
- Regional perspectives.

Workshops also identified:

- Regional assessments and outputs of relevance;
- Knowledge gaps;
- Capacity gaps;
- Key contributors from the region;
- Activities and products that could support greater outreach.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 28 to 30 September 2022

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 19 to 27 July 2022

The Hague, The Netherlands, from 28 to 30 November 2022

Kingston, Jamaica, from 5 to 14 September 2022

Belitung, Indonesia, from 13 to 15 December 2022

Development of the annotated outline

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Feedback from the workshops:

- Mechanisms needed to improve the ability of stakeholders to access, find information and then utilise that information – previous WOAs challenging in these respects.
- Consideration of pressures the human activities and responses to mitigating and managing those pressures needed to be more integrated.
- Social components were underdeveloped and needed more consideration.
- Summaries developed from the assessment should be produced within the same cycle as the assessment, not in the next cycle (as had been the case with the first and second WOAs).
  - Out of date when produced otherwise and no longer relevant.

Development of the annotated outline

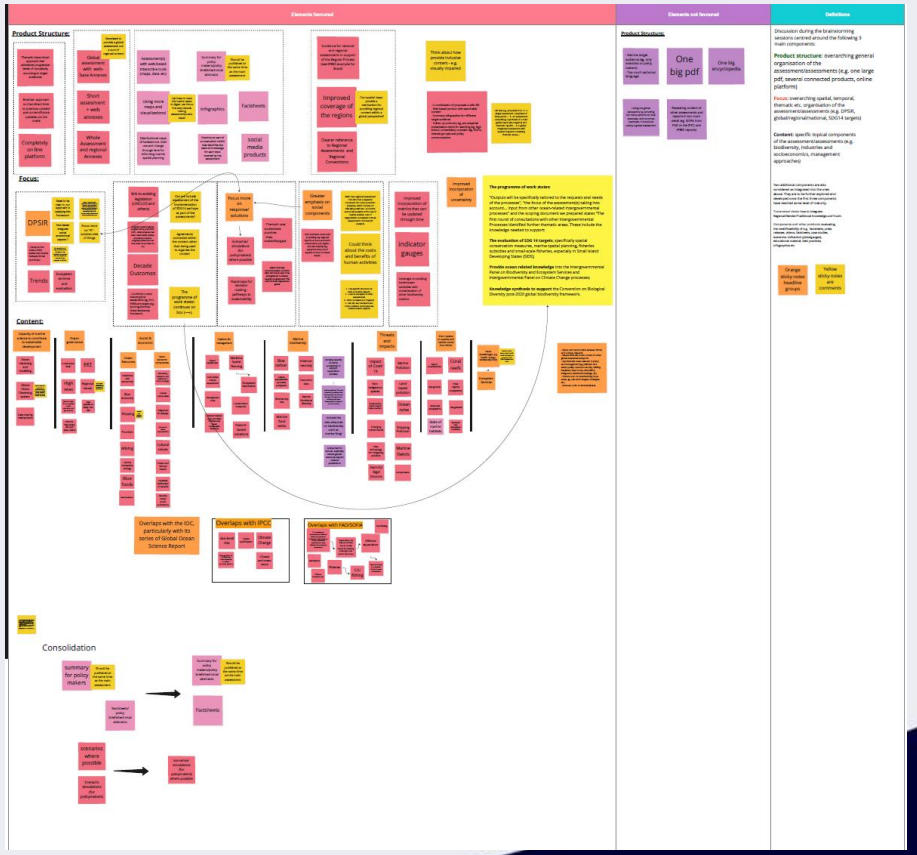
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

The Group of Experts (online):

- Synthesised all of the workshop outputs.
- Undertook three “brainstorming” sessions.
- Identified a set of key elements that could comprise an assessment.

The Group of Experts (in person meeting) developed:

- A comprehensive annotated outline of the World Ocean Assessment.
- The proposed scope of the next World Ocean Assessment.
- A list of expertise needed for the writing teams.
- An assessment of potential gaps and overlaps in expertise and the way to manage them.

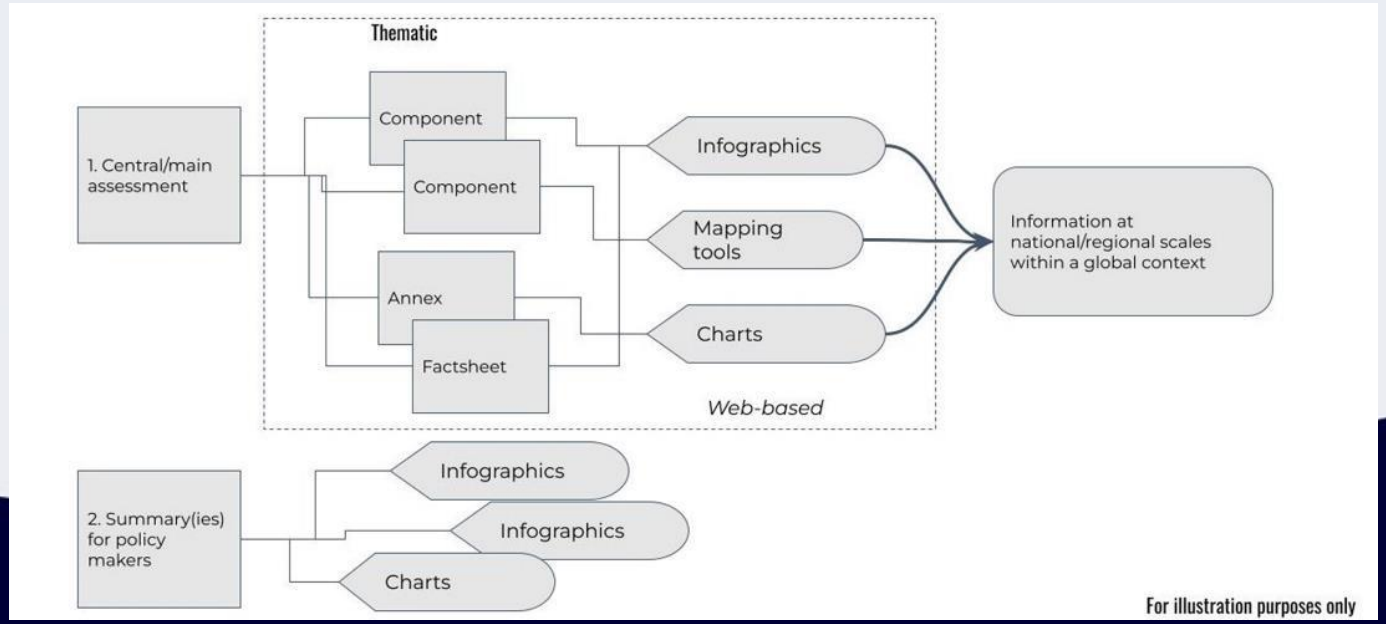


These documents were approved by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in March 2023.

The third World Ocean Assessment: new components

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

- Digital delivery: a dedicated digital platform that can be updated with content.
  - Improves accessibility and use of the WOA;
  - Allows for external linking to products, repositories, bibliographies;
  - Allows for download of datasets associated with tables and figures;
  - Facilitates “drilling down” into regional data (e.g., through spatial mapping of content) ;
  - Enables the embedding of video content.



The third World Ocean Assessment: new components

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

- Enhanced integration:
  - Consideration of Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact, Response (DPSIR) components beyond the structuring of the assessment (as in the second WOA) to direct integration into individual chapters.
  - Incorporation of social and cultural components across multiple chapters including gender, equity and Indigenous, Traditional Owner and Local Community knowledge.

- Forward looking components:
  - Consideration of information, tools and products for facilitating sustainability pathways for sectors over the short and medium term (2030, 2040, 2050) guided by a synthesised future scenario.
  - Identification of best practices and frameworks that have led to positive outcomes.

The third World Ocean Assessment: engaging widely and developing content

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

The second set of regional workshops were refocused from those conducted in the second cycle to focus on developing content that could be utilised by writing teams.

This included:

- Identifying the drivers/motivators and challenges/barriers to sustainability for consideration by the chapters/sub-chapters of section 5A of the assessment.

- Identifying content for consideration across all sections of the assessment on:
  - Gender aspects;
  - Equity aspects;
  - Indigenous, Traditional Owner and Local Community knowledge perspectives.

The annotated outline

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

https://www.un.org/regularprocess/sites/www.un.org.regularprocess/files/2_clean_ver_edited_annotated_outline_of_third_assessment_final_clean.pdf

Comprises six core elements:

1. An overall summary (GoE);
2. A detail of the approach to the assessment (GoE);
3. An overview of global ocean governance;
4. An update on the change since the second WOA (5 chapters and 27 sub-chapters);
5. An overview of the socioecological system of the ocean comprising:
    A. A sustainable and inclusive ocean economy (10 chapters and 8 sub-chapters);
    B. One health (9 chapters);
6. Thematic summaries (GoE).

Writing Teams

The annotated outline

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

1. An overall summary
    - Consider progress against SDG14;
    - Identify contributions to other global processes (e.g. IPCC, IPBES, GEO);
    - Identify nowledge for informing internation agreements;
    - Comprise the only part of assessment to be printed.

2. Detail of the approach to the assessment
    - Detail of the approach to updating the second WOA;
    - Include definitions of component parts and justification (e.g., small-scale, medium-scale, large-scale fishing);
    - Detail the methods associated with developing input via the regional workshops;
    - Define the application of input from the regional workshops;
    - Detail the steps associated with defining sustainability pathways, including the synthesised scenario.

3. An overview of global ocean governance
    - Provide a summary of the overall change in conventions, associated resolutions, international agreements and regional treaties in place regulating aspects of the ocean;
    - Detail recent development of conventions and international agreements.

The annotated outline

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

4. An update on the change since the second WOA

- Detail of the changes that have occurred in the ocean over the period of 2018-2023;
- Will directly relate to specific chapters in the second WOA, with the addition/expansion of two sub-chapters to address gaps.

5A. A sustainable and inclusive ocean economy

- Will focus on human activities in the ocean, with each chapter specifically including content relating to:
  - Pressures;
  - Sustainability pathways;
  - Social and economic components;
  - Sector-relevant governance.

5B. One health

- Encompasses three main components that chapters will focus on collectively:
  - The physical and chemical marine environment;
  - The organisms that live in the marine environment;
  - People.

6. Thematic summaries

- Focal topics will be determined through a scoping process.

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Lunch break

Discussion session: synergies and overlaps

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

- Where do these occur across the assessment?

  For example:
  The chapters and sub-chapters of section 5A are expected to cover sector–specific social aspects such as gender. How might consideration of these topics be aligned with synergies in chapter 6 of section 5B (gender)?

  Chapter 1 of section 5A is focused on the role of ecosystems in the carbon cycle – how might this chapter align with synergies in the sub-chapters of chapter 5 (habitats) in section 4?

- What might be an effective way for writing teams to interact with other writing teams to acknowledge and manage synergies and overlaps?

  For example:
  Might writing teams be provided with access to the folders of other writing teams so that they can keep abreast of drafts?

  Perhaps coordinating authors of sections, chapters or sub-chapters could schedule regular meetings?

  Let’s leave it to the GoE to sort things out!

Discussion session: Incorporation of content from external processes/ delivery information of use to external processes

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Direction from the UN-GA that the assessment should consider:

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- The BBNJ Treaty;
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- The United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea;
- The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030);
- The United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030);
- The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
- United Nations Ocean Conference;
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
- The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Discussion session: Incorporation of content from external processes/ delivery of information to external processes

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

- How might the assessment best incorporate outputs from the Ocean Decade and the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration?
  - What might be an effective way of integrating the content of the Decade Vision 2030 white papers?
  - Can we seek advice from the DAB or the DER-SC?

- What might be effective approaches for identifying and incorporating knowledge useful for evaluating progress against:
  - The Ocean Decade outcomes;
  - SDG14;
  - The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework goals.

- How might this be effectively done without being policy prescriptive?

- How might knowledge that can support IPCC (AR7) or IPBES (rolling programme to 2030) assessments best be highlighted?

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Coffee break

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Lead, Co-lead and Coordinating author familiarisation

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Tour of the aquarium

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Third World Ocean Assessment

Coordinating authors workshop

Lisbon Portugal 19-20 February, 2024

Day 2

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

3. Guidance for writing teams

Development of writing teams

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

- Coordinating authors have been granted access to the Pool of Experts (PoE) database.
  - expectation expertise will be drawn from the PoE prior to searching externally.

- Coordinating authors will work with the relevant leads and co-leads to identify potential writing team members.

- When identifying expertise outside of the PoE, experts will need to self-nominate to the PoE.
  - coordinating authors should work with their leads and co-leads to manage this process.

- Writing teams should demonstrate gender, geographical and disciplinary diversity .
  - if not, adequate justification will need to be provided as all writing teams will need to be approved by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

- There is no expectation on the number of members that should be in a writing team: different sections, chapters and sub-chapter will have varying needs.

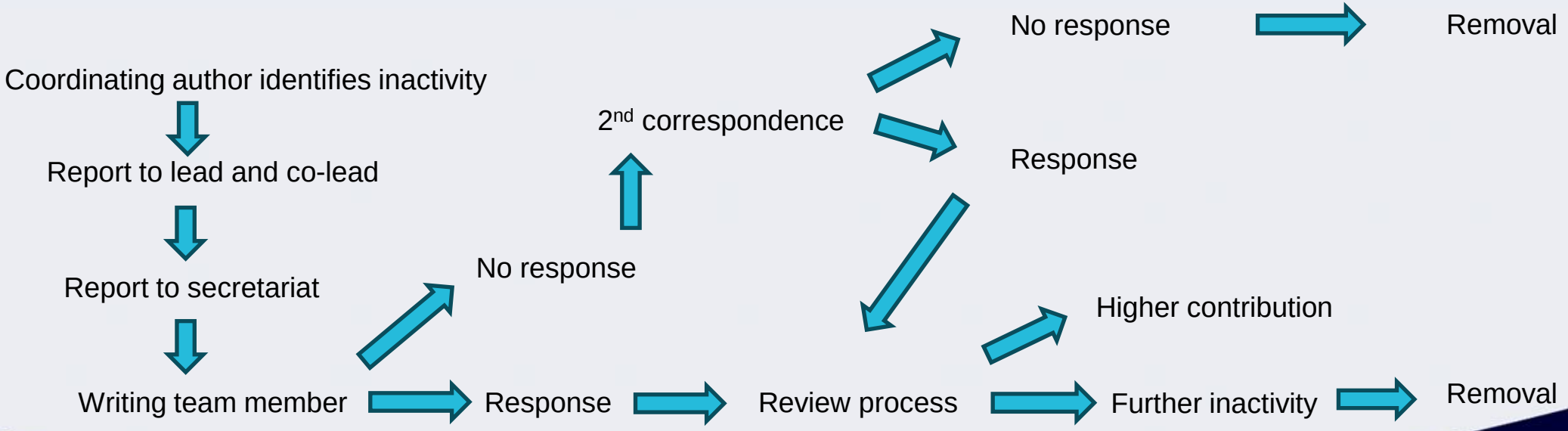
- Writing team members should be advised to be careful committing to multiple sections, chapters or sub-chapters (coordinating authors can only be assigned to one section, chapter, sub-chapter):
  - Pros: can ensure synergies and overlaps, consistency in perspectives well managed;
  - Cons: over commitment and potential inactivity of writing team members.

Inactivity of writing team members

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

- Has been an issue in previous cycles
  - Therefore need for a coordinated and consistent approach

- Guided by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole
  - Reviewed the processes utilized by other assessments
  - Developed a set of procedural steps



Discussion session: Approaches for tracking progress and resolving issues

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Tracking progress:

- What might an efficient way for coordinating authors to identify progress during the drafting phase?
  - Is an expectation that coordinating authors will meet with their lead and co-lead at least monthly;
  - Leads and co-leads to track and report on progress.

Raising and sharing issues:

- What might be an effective way for raising issues early so they can be responded to quickly?
- What might be an effective way for sharing issues and responses so that there is collective learning and consistency in responses?

Example of a potential platform: Trello

Drafting: Development of plans

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

- Coordinating authors (and writing teams) have been (will be) granted access to the Regular Process SharePoint:
  - This will be the primary site for development and submission of drafts.

- Once writing teams are established all writing teams will need to submit a section, chapter or sub-chapter plan to the Group of Experts for review:
  - Purpose of the review is to ensure that plans meet the guidance for writing teams and are appropriately responding to the annotated outline of the third WOA.
  - Plans must outline the components of the section, chapter or sub-chapter (in the case of those in section 4 and 5A include the components set out in the guidance for writing teams document).
  - Plans must detail the length (number of words) for each component, following the word counts set out in the guidance for writing teams document.

- Writing teams will be expected to respond to the GoE review appropriately before commencing drafting.

Drafting: Word counts

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

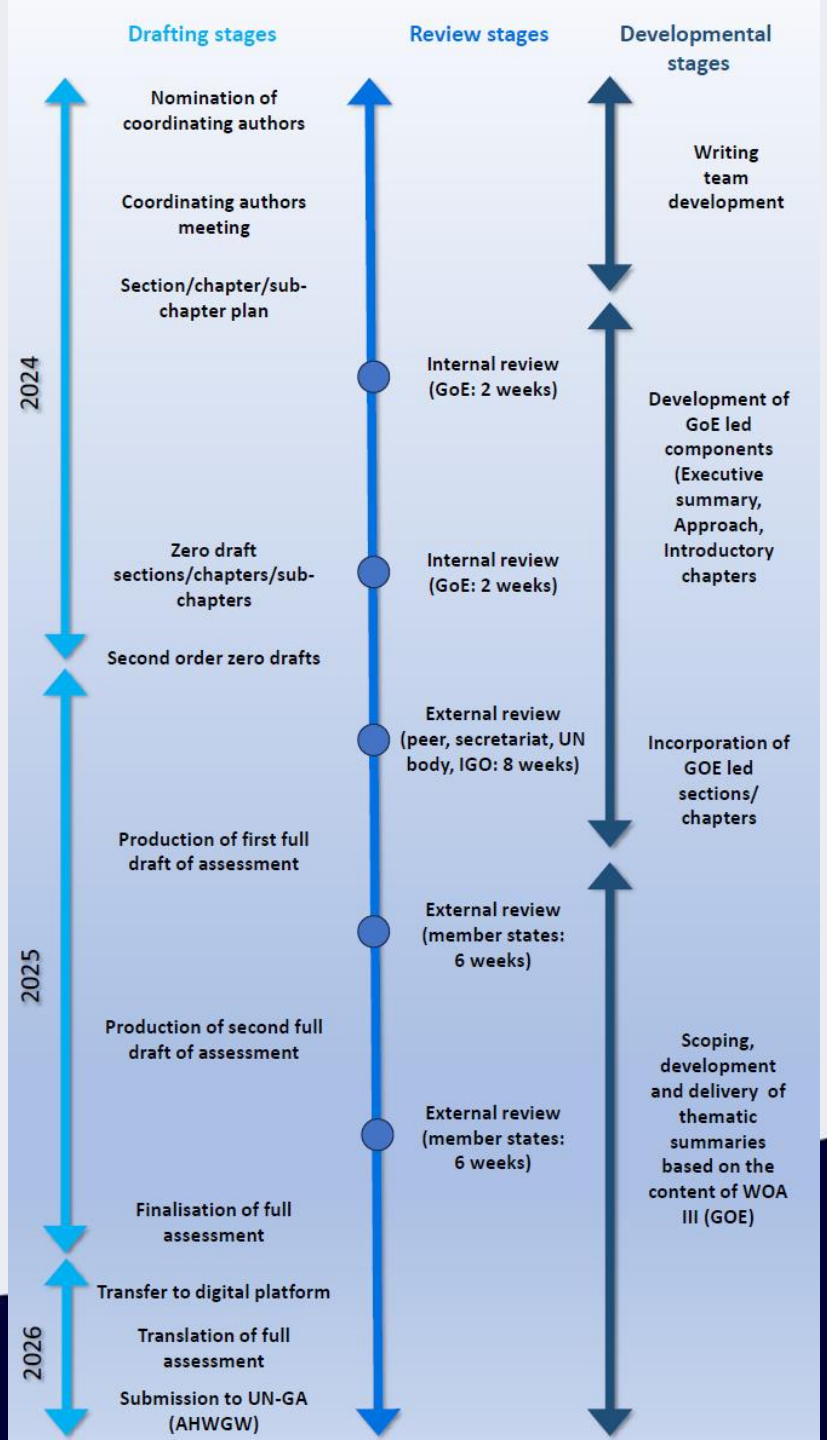
- Word count for the assessment set by the budget available for translation of the assessment into the six official languages of the UN.
  - Overall count not negotiable – all components need to be translated
  - Internal count might be if some sections, chapter or sub-chapters use less than their allocation, but this should not be counted on.

Section	Word count	Exceptions
1 (Overall summary)	12,000	
2 (Approach)	5,000	
3 (Governance)	3,500	
4 (Update to WOA 2)	2,500 (all sub-chapters)	Introductory components: 250 Sub-chapters 5N and 5R: 3,500
5A (Ocean economies)	6,300	Introductory components: 300/500
5B (One Health)	6,000	Introductory components: 500
Total for whole assessment	264,000	

Drafting: Timeline

Review process

- Pre-drafting:
  - GoE review of plan.
- Zero draft:
  - GoE review.
  - Peer review.
  - Secretariat, UN system.
- First full draft
  - Member State, IGOs and NGOs review.
  - GoE review of response to first full draft review.
- Second full draft
  - Member State, IGOs and NGOs review.
  - GoE review and finalisation.



UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

Drafting: Use of AI

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

- The Regular Process recognises that Large Language Models such as ChatGPT can be useful in refining language and editing of content.

- However, they have substantive shortcomings that can compromise the transparency and ethical standards of the assessment:
  - Not capable of initiating an original piece of research without direction – can lead to biases;
  - Content is not original, often copied directly from other sources – can result in plagiarism;
  - Not capable of creating a literature review – can result in made up references.

- Third WOA will follow similar guidelines to scientific journals and universities.

- Can only be used to improve the readability and language of text.

- All use must be disclosed in an acknowledgements section.

- All text generated must be identified via a citation to the AI system used.

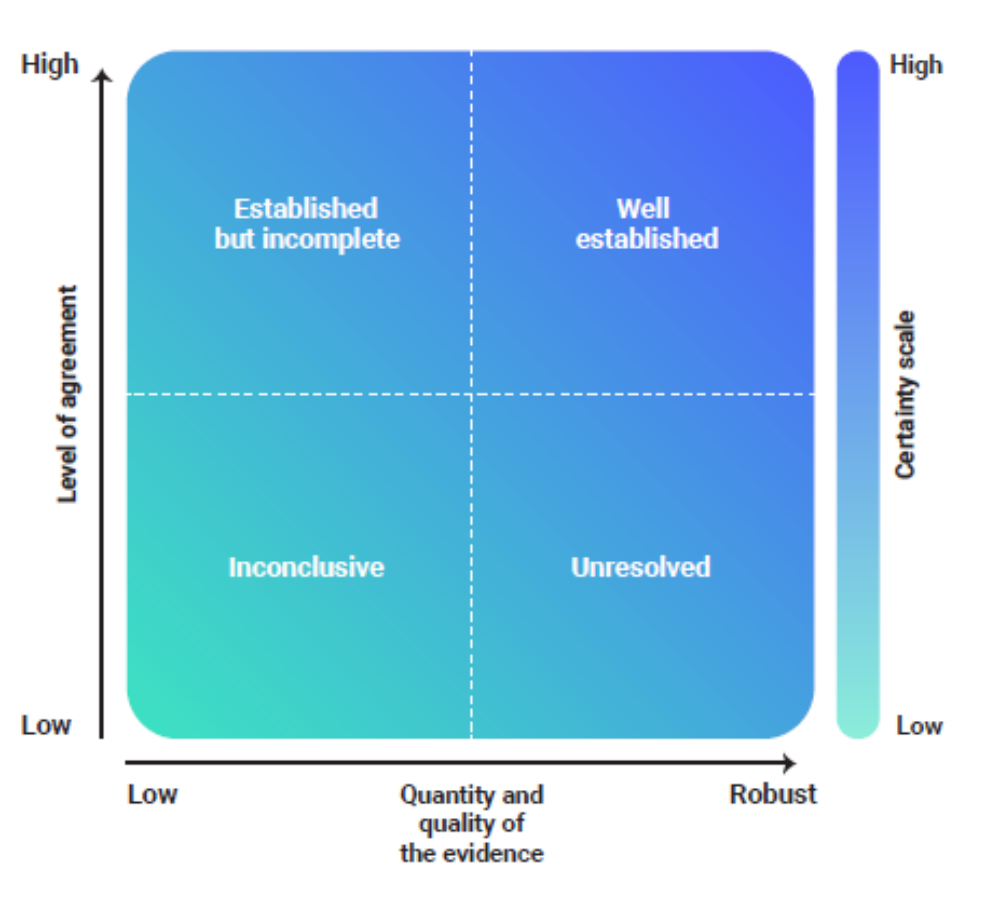
- Final decision on inclusion of text to be determined by the GoE.

Drafting: Uniform handling of uncertainty

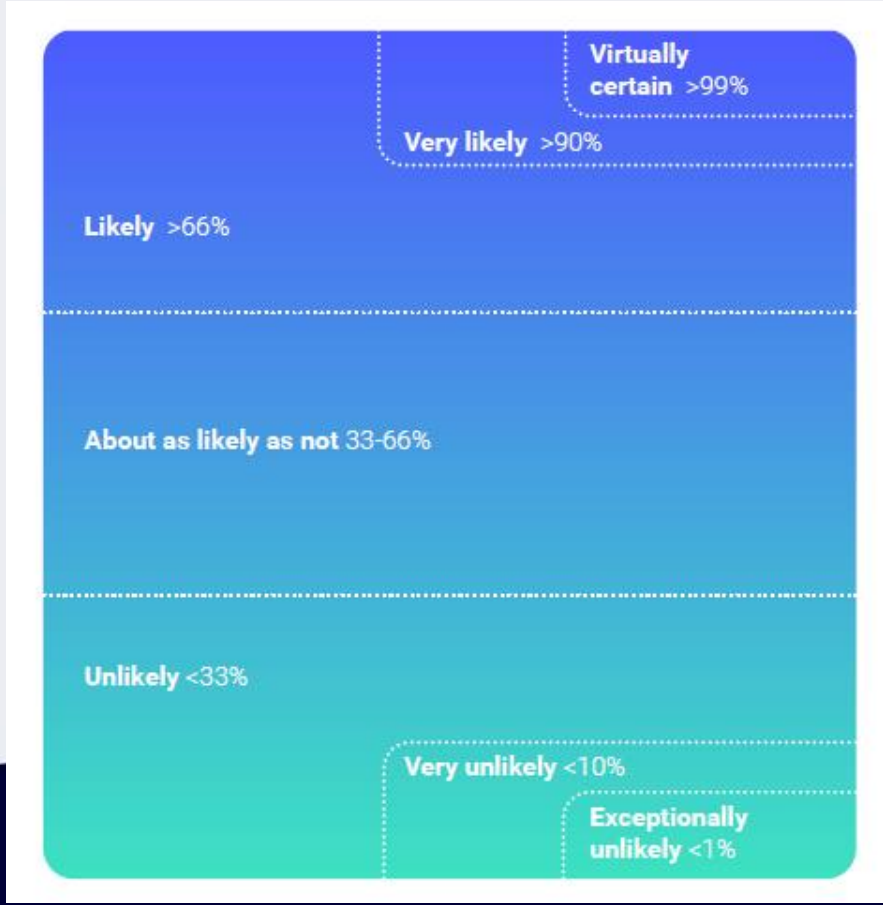
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

- Writing teams must be consistent in their handling of uncertainty – third WOA will introduce a common approach based on that used by other global assessments.

Confidence: Indicator of validity of findings.



Likelihood: probabilistic estimates of a single event or of an outcome (based on analysis/model results).



Drafting: A controlled vocabulary

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

- Ensures use of technical terms is consistent across sections, chapter and sub-chapters.
- Secretariat will maintain and make accessible to all writing teams.
- If any issues with use need to be raised with lead and co-lead – GoE then to discuss and advise.
- Use of alternative definitions need to be approved
  - Must be associated with clear description and justification (supported by references).
- Controlled vocabulary will be provided digitally as a glossary resource.

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Coffee break

Discussion group: Section 4

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

- Focuses on providing detail of the changes that have occurred in the ocean since the second WOA:
  - Period of change to be considered: 2018-2023;
  - Sub-chapters need to provide for comparability with the sub-chapters of the second WOA;
  - Two new/expanded sub-chapters in chapter 5 (habitats) to address gaps.

- Writing teams should familiarize themselves with their equivalent sub-chapter in the second WOA.

- Duplication of content should be avoided, however gaps in knowledge should be addressed.

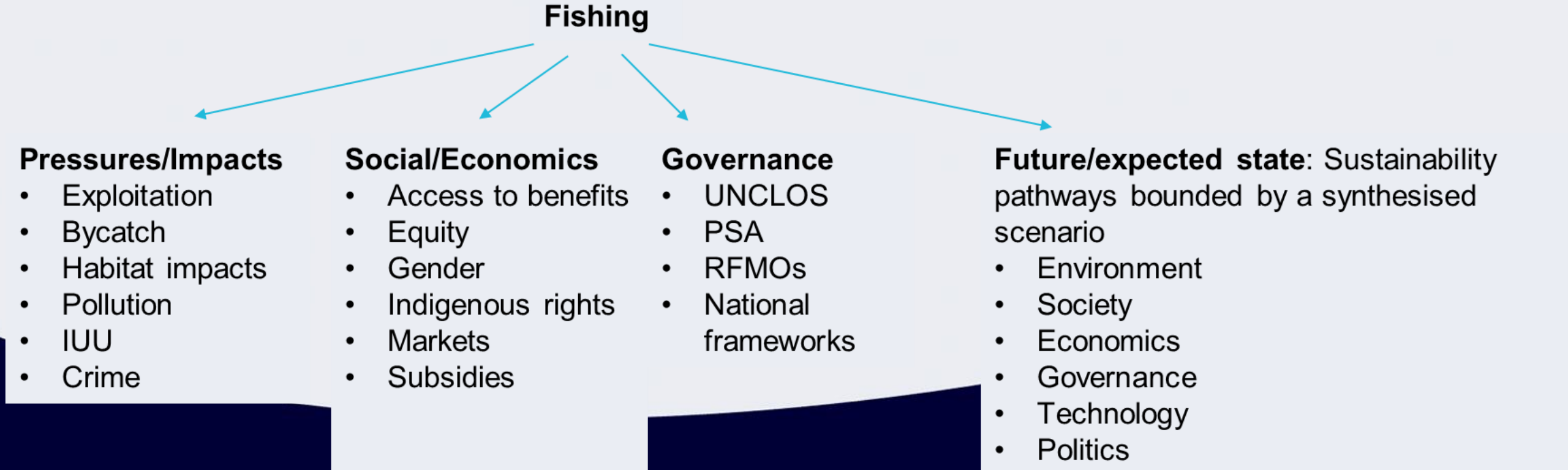
- Detailed structure outlined in the guidance for writing teams.

Discussion group: Section 5A

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Focuses on:

- pressures that human activities are placing on the ocean;
- the social and economic conditions associated with ocean sectors, including the demographic, institutional, and technological factors associated with these sectors;
- the data, tools and information, including management approaches available for progressing sustainable pathways for human activities in the ocean.



Discussion group: Section 5A

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

- Regional workshop outputs:
  - Provide content useful to the topics of gender, equity and ITLK;
  - Provide content that can be used for identifying future states/sustainability pathways;
    - The motivators within sectors that are driving sectors towards sustainability;
    - The barriers might need to be overcome to achieve sustainability;
    - Both of these can inform what tools/information might be available for supporting sustainability .

- Use of the synthesised scenario:
  - Provides some “bounds” within which sustainability pathway narratives can be shaped – what might be a tangible vision of the future;
  - Allows for the identification of:
    - Tools and information;
    - Frameworks and best practices

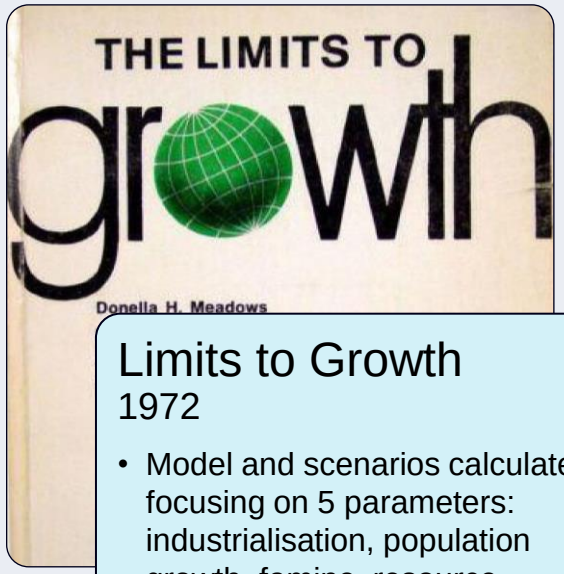
    That sectors can utilise to achieve that vision – therefore identifying a “pathway” towards sustainability;

The Ocean in 2050 Scenarios

Guidance on the development of sustainability pathways for the writing teams of relevant chapters/subchapters of section 5a of the third UN World Ocean Assessment (WOA).

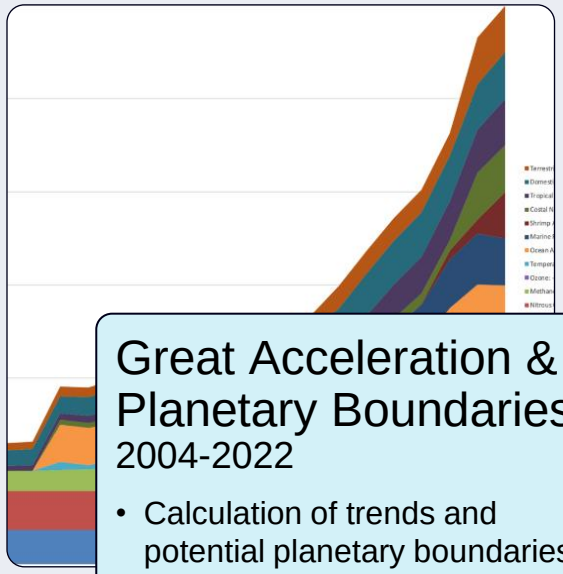
Konsortium Deutsche Meeresforschung

Intellectual History and Motivation



Limits to Growth
1972

- Model and scenarios calculated, focusing on 5 parameters: industrialisation, population growth, famine, resource exploitation, and habitat destruction
- Land focused
- Negative message with focus on the limits to economic and population growth



Great Acceleration & Planetary Boundaries
2004-2022

- Calculation of trends and potential planetary boundaries characterizing the Anthropocene
- Earth system and socio-economics focused
- Negative message with focus on human impacts

Ocean Scenarios 2050
2023-2030

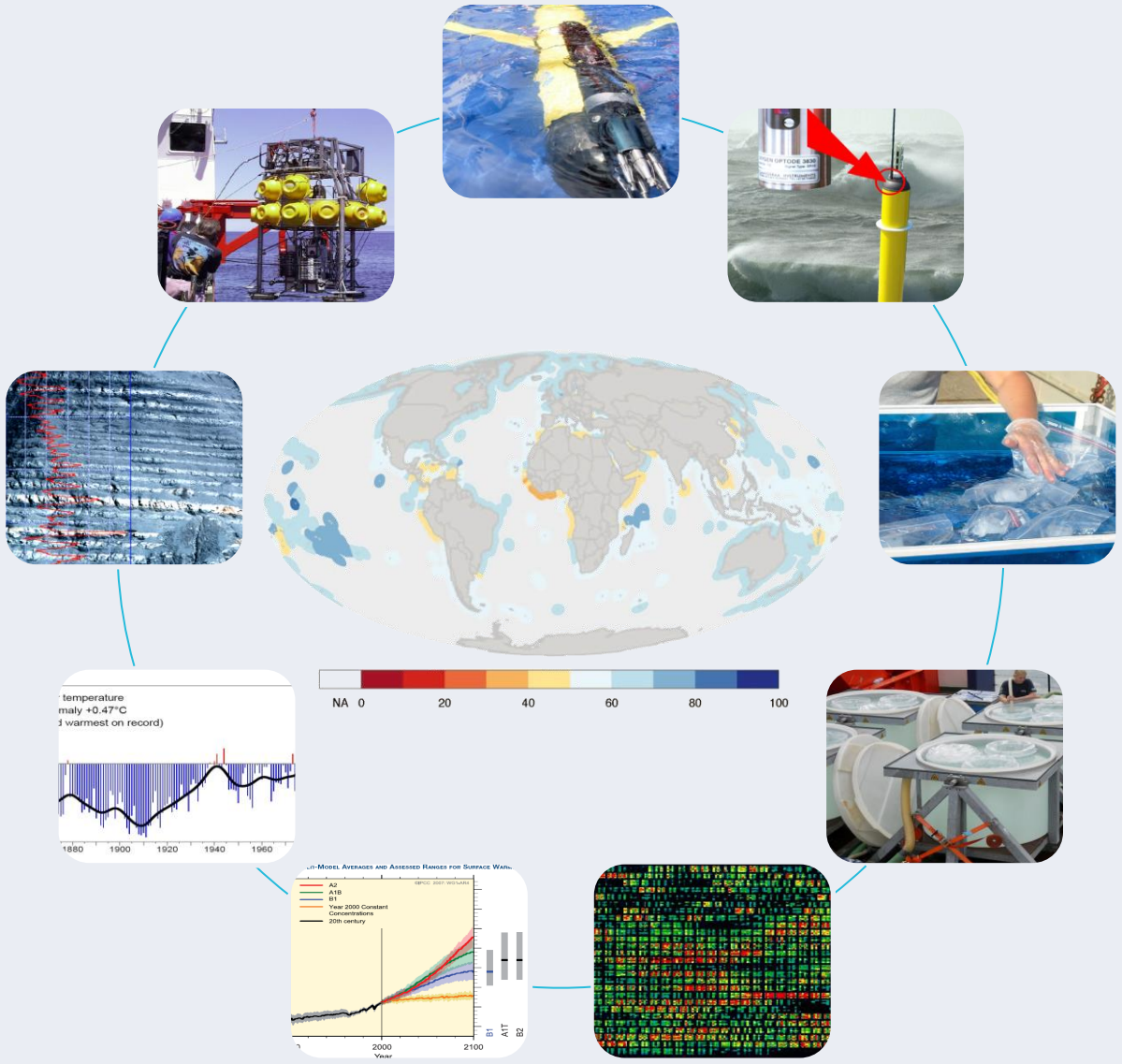
- No integrated scenarios for the Ocean in 2050 have been developed to date.
- Model and scenarios based on selected parameters integrating human-ocean relations
- Ocean focused, especially on the question: What ocean do we want?
- Positive message with focus on providing and actionable alternatives

What has been achieved so far?

- Observations
- Experiments
- Models
- Predictions
- Indices

We have not answered:

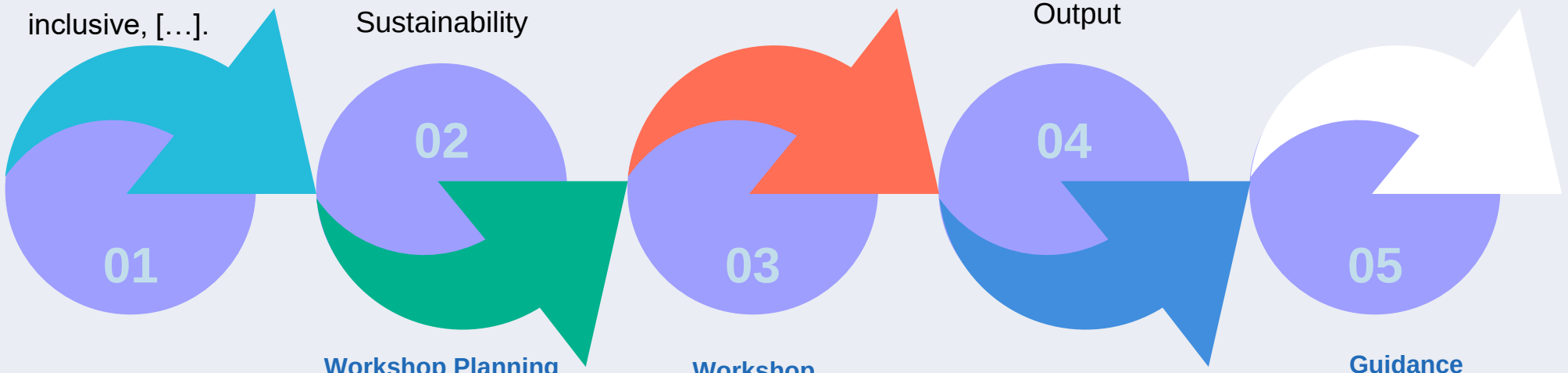
What will our ocean and regional seas look like in 2050? or 2100?



Scenario Pilot Development Process

Annotated Outline of the Third UN Regular Process

"These […]pathways will identify the scientific data, tools and knowledge that could be utilized […] to ensure that human activities are sustainable and inclusive, […].



Regional Workshops

Drivers and Barriers towards Sustainability

Workshop Planning

Curation by a Scientific Preparatory Group

Workshop

Ocean Futures Scenarios and Pathways WS

The synthesized scenario

Consolation of Workshop Output

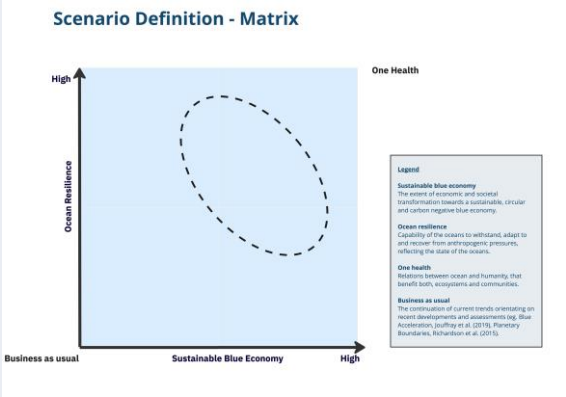
Guidance

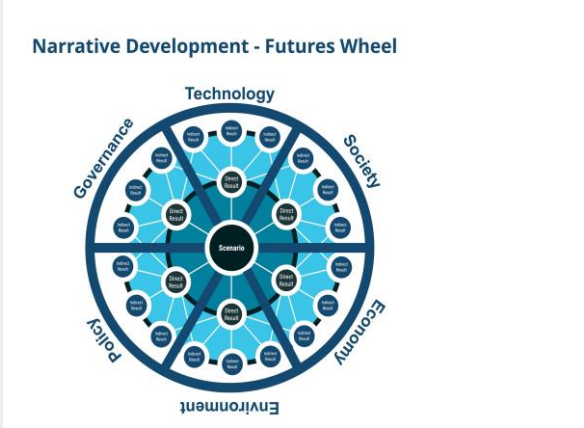
Guidance Document for Section 5a of WOA 3

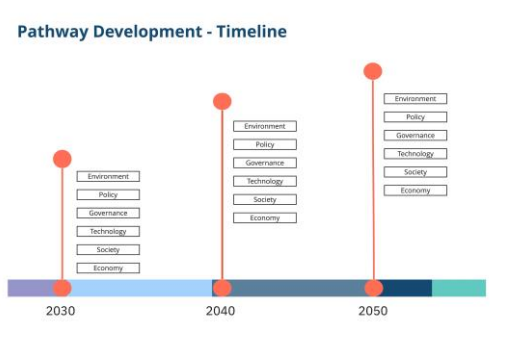
The Ocean Futures Scenarios and Pathways Workshop

The aim: To guide the articulation of scenarios and pathways for the Oceans in 2050 that build on work already being done around the world.

- Three interdisciplinary breakout groups worked on one scenario each during three separate sessions, where they defined and built the narrative of their scenario.
- The results of the Scenarios Workshop were compiled by the organizing team in consultation with the groups' rapporteurs.
- Results are in alignment with WOA chapter and subchapter specific drivers and barriers towards sustainability, which were collected during the WOA Regional Workshops.







The Ocean in 2050 Scenario Pilot

- This scenario is an impressionistic but realistic standard, against which potential changes in the state of the ocean can be measured in 2030, in 2040 and in 2050.

- Six main dimensions (governance, technology, economy, society, politics, and environment), each a space of socio-economic activity.

From a Scenario to Practical Knowledge

The Ocean in 2050 Scenario

- This scenario is an impressionistic but realistic standard, against which potential changes in the state of the ocean can be measured in 2030, in 2040 and in 2050.
- Six main dimensions (governance, technology, economy, society, politics, and environment), each a space of socio-economic activity.

How do we get there?

Sector specific Sustainability Pathways

- What information, best practices and tools could UN Member States use to support their work in achieving the integrated ocean scenario across the time periods of 2030, 2040 and 2050?
- Develop a pathway, outlining the tools, best practices, and information that might be useful or is needed by Member States and regional entities to progress towards the outlined scenario

Resources

You can draw on a range of resources, including beyond the Guidance Document, to develop these pathways.

Drivers/Motivators and Barriers/Challenges towards Sustainability

The Ocean in 2050 Scenario Pilot

Ocean Futures Workshop Summary

Ocean Futures Living Bibliography

Workshop Experts and Group Rapporteurs

Discussion group: Section 5B of the WOA 3

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

- Focuses on the concept of one health and the relationship between the physical and chemical state of the ocean, the organisms that live in it and humans.
- Based on several fundamental principles including equity, inclusivity, equal access, parity, socio-ecological equilibrium, stewardship, and transdisciplinarity.
- Chapters within this section all contribute to meeting those principles.
- Annotated outline provides key topics needing to be covered by each chapter.
- Use of regional workshop outputs:
  - Provide content useful to the topics of gender, equity and ITLK;
  - Provide common perspectives as well as regional differences.

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Lunch break

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

3. Guidance for writing teams breakout discussions cont'd

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

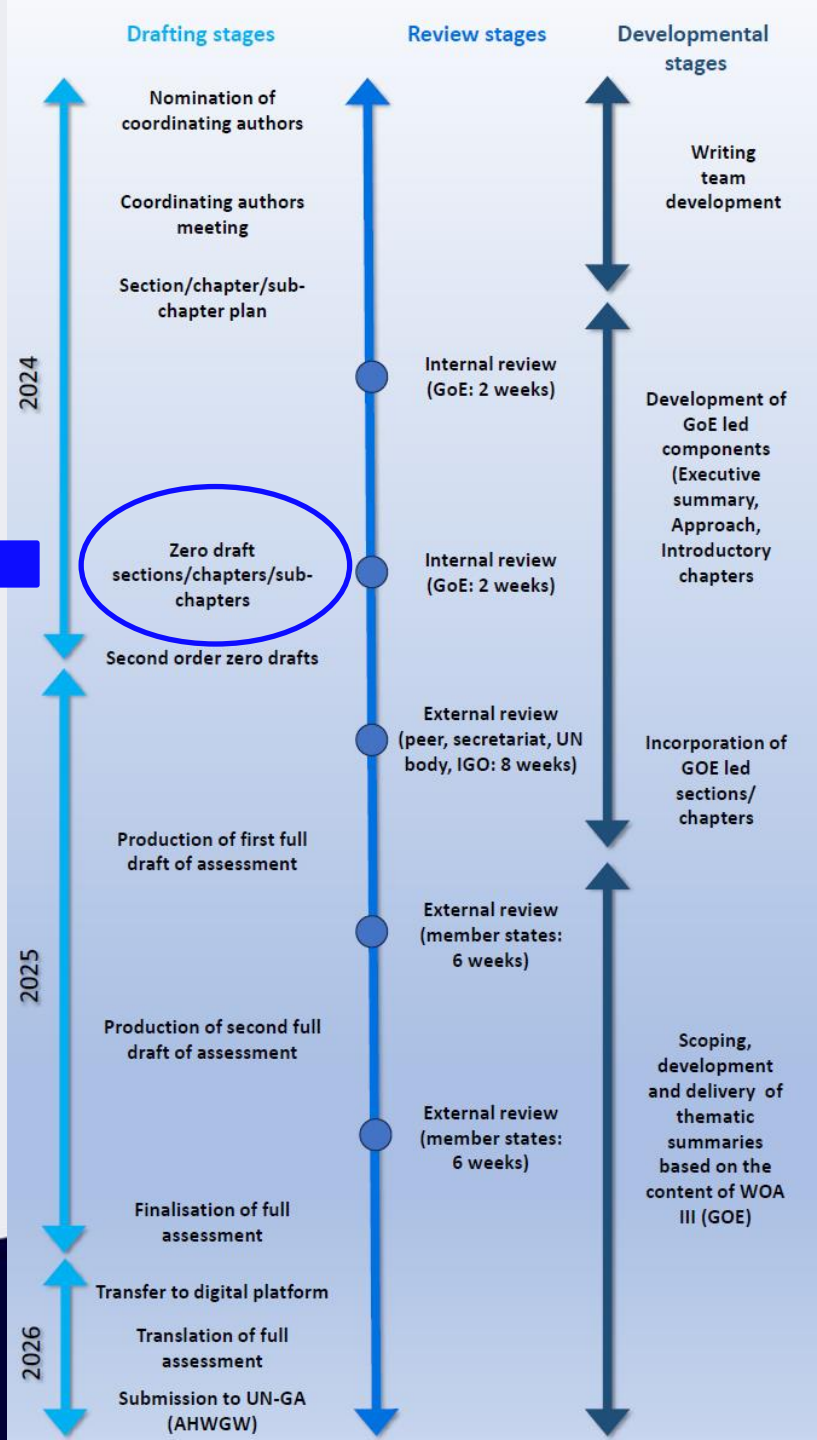
Coffee break

Timeline for delivery of zero drafts: discussion session

Will determine the dates for all following review and revision steps.

Currently scheduled in Q4 2024 (October – December 2024).

Should allow for review by GoE, subsequent revision by writing team by end of 2024 so peer review can occur in January-February 2025.



WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Lessons learned from previous cycles: Q&A and discussion with GOE involved in WOA 1 and WOA 2

Maria Bebianno, Karen Evans, Enrique Marschoff, Jörn Schmidt, Tymon Zelinski

Development of the digital platform for the third WOA

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

[Secretariat to provide content]

WOA digital platform to enhance stakeholders' engagement

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Third Cycle: 2021 - 2025

- Lessons learned from the second cycle – outreach, awareness raising, and effective communication with stakeholders.
- Feedback from the Regional Workshops.
- Outreach and engagement strategy for the third cycle.

- The World Ocean Assessment (WOA) is the only global integrated assessment of the ocean, covering environmental, economic and social aspects. It is endorsed by the UN General Assembly.
- **Lessons learned from the (previous) 2nd cycle**: Further improvements are needed to enhance access to credible sources of knowledge considering the current challenges of misinformation and disinformation.
- **Annotated Outline of the Third World Ocean Assessment (WOA III)**: In response to the input provided via the regional workshops held in 2022, it was proposed that the third cycle will present most of the assessment in a web-based format that allows for digital linking to core datasets, repositories (including for scripts and code), data providers, literature databases etc., thereby improving accessibility to the content of each section of the assessment.
- **Scope of WOA digital platform improvements:**
  - Content of the third World Ocean Assessment
  - Linkages with scientific publication entities

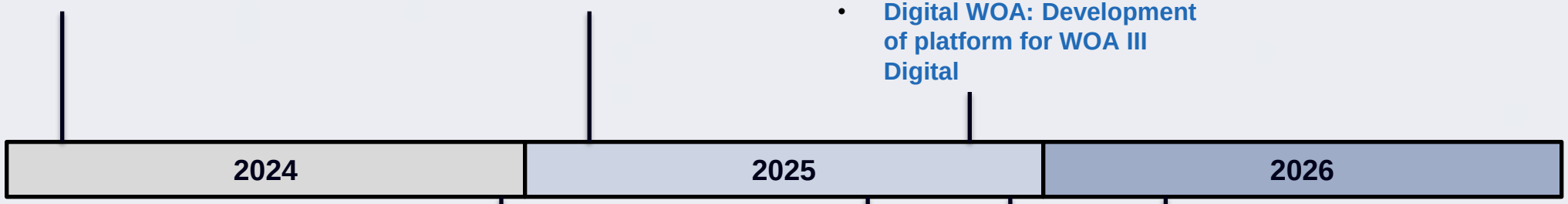
High-level timeline for WOA digital platform

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

- Coordinating Authors Meeting in Lisbon
- Commencement of WOA III writing process
- **Digital WOA: Research phase and partnership explorations**

- Commencement of WOA III Zero draft review process by peer reviewers
- **Digital WOA: Outcomes of research phase**

- **Digital WOA: Development of platform for WOA III Digital**



- Completion of WOA III Zero draft

- Commencement of WOA III first draft review process by UN Member States and Intergovernmental Organizations

- Publication WOA III (English version)

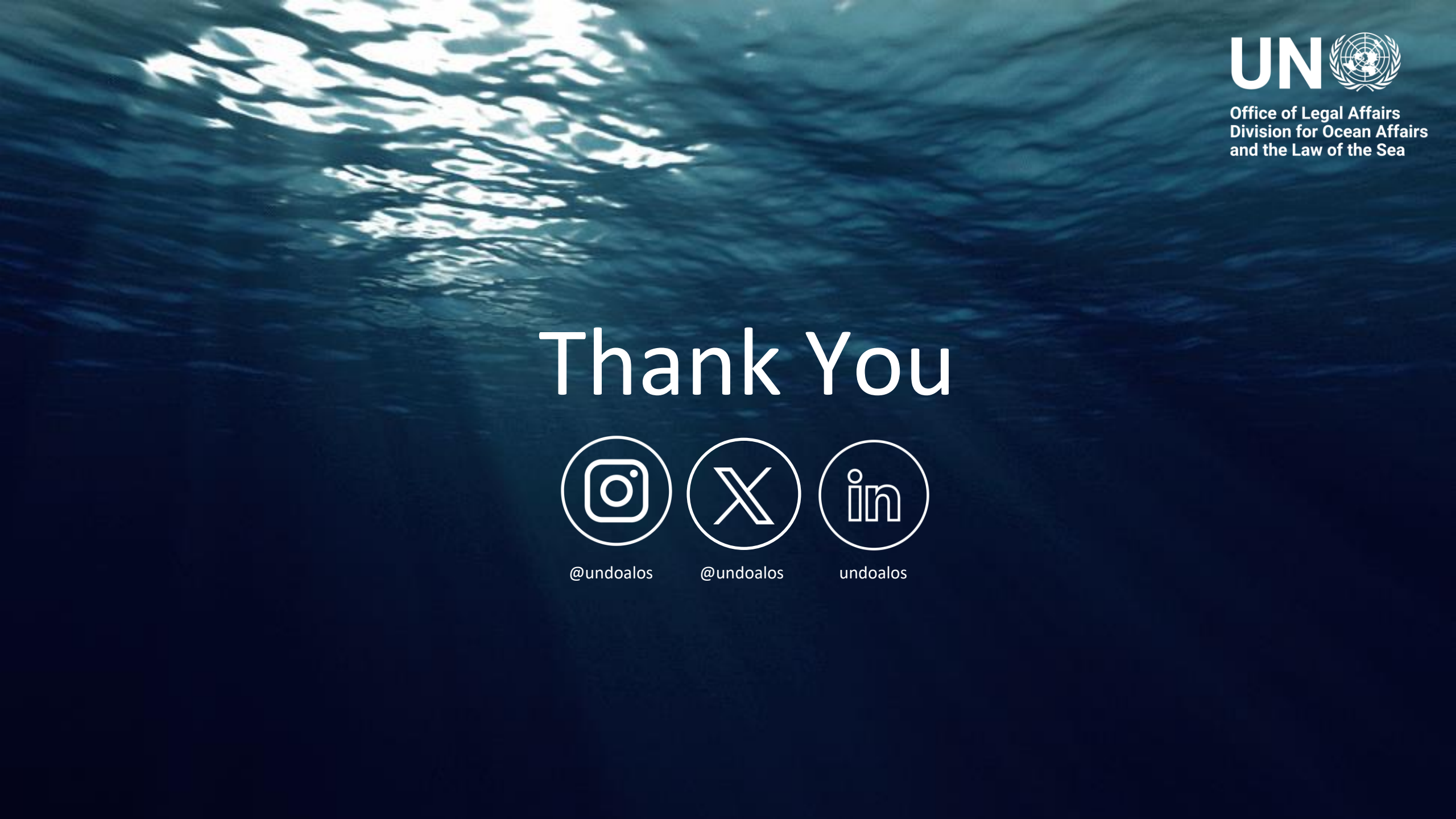
- **Digital WOA: Implementation (Go-live) of the WOA III Digital content**

Coordinating Authors' involvement in the WOA digital platform development throughout this period is essential

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT

UN
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Closing remarks



UN

Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

Thank You

@undoalos @undoalos undoalos