

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

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 28-30 September 2022

## **I. Overview**

The present document provides an overview of the workshop held as part of the first round of regional workshops in support of the third 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 Atlantic and the Wider Caribbean area. This workshop was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 28-30 September 2022.

Specifically, the information provided in the present summary synthesizes the discussions and presentations from the workshop held as part of the scoping process of the third cycle of the Regular Process. Several elements that were discussed throughout the workshop include:

- a) The Regular Process and its history
- b) The findings of the Second World Ocean Assessment
- c) The third cycle of the Regular Process and its associated outputs
- d) Regional programmes and assessments of relevance to the third cycle
- e) Key topics for focusing on and output formats for consideration in scoping the assessment(s) of the third cycle
- f) Knowledge gaps and capacity needs for the region
- g) Regional processes and intergovernmental organizations and expertise that relevant to the third cycle
- h) Sources of information relevant to the third cycle

The annexes to the present summary of discussions provide other details of the workshop and its outputs, including the annotated agenda and timetable, the list of participants, and the pre- and post-workshop survey results.

## **II. Background**

The programme of work for the period 2021-2025 for the third 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 three outputs to be produced during this period:

- Output I: Assessment(s) of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects
- Output II: Regular Process support for and interaction with other ocean-related intergovernmental processes

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<sup>1</sup> [A/RES/74/19](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/RES/75/239](#).

- Output III: Capacity-building.

These outputs should also include outreach and awareness-raising activities, particularly to reach and engage policymakers, organisations, academia, schools and the general public.

The assessment(s) of the third cycle may focus on specific topics in evaluating trends, if the Group of Experts and the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole so decide. Building on the first global integrated marine assessment (first World Ocean Assessment, WOA I) which provided a baseline study of the state of the world's oceans, and the second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II) the scope of which extended to evaluating trends and identifying gaps, the Group of Experts will oversee the preparation of assessment(s) of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects with the final goal of strengthening the decision-making at all levels.

To support the development of the assessment(s) of the third cycle (Output I), five scoping workshops are to be held during the second half of 2022. These workshops aim to identify regional perspectives on assessment content and formats, information and expertise that might contribute to the third cycle, and facilitate outreach and awareness-raising of the Regular Process and the WOA II.<sup>3</sup>

In considering the focus of these workshops, the Group of Experts of the Regular Process developed the “Concept note for the third cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects”.<sup>4</sup> This concept note serves as a guiding document for the workshops and the overall scoping process for the assessment(s) of the third cycle. In accordance with the Concept Note, the objectives of the first round of regional workshops are to:

- a) Provide perspectives on regional priorities and regional products to guide the focus of assessment(s) produced by the Regular Process during the third cycle
- b) Provide perspectives on the format of assessment(s) produced during the third cycle to ensure that they are practically useful to policy and decision-makers across each of the regions, including in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- c) Ensure the Regular Process through its assessments provides a comprehensive overview of the ocean and the relationships between the ocean and humans, covering all environmental, social and economic aspects
- d) Identify and communicate regional knowledge and capacity gaps
- e) Identify regional processes and intergovernmental organizations and expertise that could be involved in developing the assessment(s) of the third cycle.

The outputs from these workshops will be used by the Group of Experts to develop an outline for the assessment(s) produced during the third cycle. Once approved by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, the outline(s) will guide the work of the Group of Experts in producing the assessment(s).

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<sup>3</sup> [Programme of Work 2021-2025, paragraph 8.](#)

<sup>4</sup> Available on the Regular Process website: [www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops](http://www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops).

### 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 (DOALOS) of the Office of Legal Affairs, which also serves as the secretariat for the Regular Process, and was hosted by the Government of Argentina at Palacio San Martin, Buenos Aires. A component of the workshop on improving region-specific third cycle output delivery methodologies also served to provide content on the science-policy interface as part of Output III of the Programme of Work for the third cycle of the Regular Process.

Prior to the workshop, nominated workshop participants were provided with a pre-workshop survey that was designed to provide some background to:

- a) The institutions, organisations, and sectors represented at the Workshop
- b) General awareness of participants of the Regular Process and the World Ocean Assessments
- c) Use and usefulness of the World Ocean Assessments, including regional coverage
- d) Key knowledge and capacity gaps
- e) Key topics that the assessment(s) of the third cycle might focus on
- f) Pathways for incorporation of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge
- g) Regional assessments of relevance
- h) Outputs that the third cycle could produce for supporting policy and decision making

The survey served to also ensure that participants came to the Workshop with some preparatory thinking that could inform the agenda components. Survey questions are provided on the Regular Process website.<sup>5</sup>

The Workshop was attended by 20 participants (see Annex 2 – Participant List), 12 of whom were female, and they came from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, and Mexico. Participants came from national organisations, non-governmental organisations, and academic research institutions.

The Regular Process was represented at the workshop by the Group of Experts (Ms. Maria João Bebianno, Mr. Roberto De Pinho, Mr. Carlos Garcia-Soto, and Mr. Enrique Marschoff) and DOALOS as the secretariat of the Regular Process (Mr. Marco Boccia and Ms. Jisun Hwang). The Workshop was chaired by Ms. Erica Lucero from the Government of Argentina and Mr. Marco Boccia from DOALOS.

Welcoming remarks at the opening ceremony were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Pablo Tettamanti, Argentine Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Mr. Enrique Marschoff, Regular Process Group of Experts representative, and Mr. Marco Boccia, Programme Officer of DOALOS. The workshop was conducted in accordance with the annotated agenda and timetable (see Annex 1 – Annotated Agenda and Timetable). The workshop was structured around general lectures and discussion sessions. Discussion sessions were conducted through breakout groups, with each group moderated by a member of the Group of Experts. At the end of each discussion session, breakout group rapporteurs reported key discussion points back to the plenary. Closing

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<sup>5</sup> Available on the Regular Process website: [www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops](http://www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops).

remarks at the ending ceremony were delivered by H.E. Ambassador Holger Martinsen, Legal Adviser of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, and Mr. Marco Boccia, Programme Officer of DOALOS.

Following the workshop, a post-workshop survey was provided to participants with the aim of capturing their views on the workshop itself and what could be improved, and also whether there were particular topics that could be incorporated into future workshops that would be of relevance and assistance to participants. Survey questions are provided on the Regular Process website.<sup>6</sup>

#### **IV. Summary of presentations and discussions**

##### **A. Background to the Regular Process, the Second World Ocean Assessment and the third cycle**

Mr. Marco Boccia presented an overview of the Regular Process and its first cycle. The topics covered during presentation<sup>7</sup> included:

- a) Background and objectives of the Regular Process
- b) Institutional arrangements
- c) Regular Process first cycle (2010-2014) and WOA I
- d) Lessons learned from the first cycle
- e) Ways to contribute to the Regular Process, including the mechanism to join the Pool of Experts

Mr. Roberto De Pinho presented an overview of the second cycle and WOA II. The topics covered during presentation<sup>8</sup> included:

- a) Objectives and outputs of the second cycle (2016-2020)
- b) Key findings from WOA II
- c) Outreach and awareness-raising campaigns to disseminate the key findings of WOA II
- d) Lessons learned from the second cycle

Mr. Carlos Garcia-Soto presented an overview of the third cycle, including the scoping exercise to guide the development of the next assessment(s). The topics covered during presentation<sup>9</sup> included:

- a) Purpose and objectives of the third cycle (2021-2025) and the scoping exercise
- b) Outputs of the Regular Process in the third cycle
- c) Guiding questions for breakout sessions
- d) Relevant global processes and organizations that could be engaged in the third cycle

##### **B. Background to regional processes and assessments**

Several regional experts presented their perspectives on relevant projects and programmes and associated assessments that had been or are currently being conducted in

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<sup>6</sup> Available on the Regular Process website: [www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops](http://www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops).

<sup>7</sup> This presentation can be accessed via [www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops](http://www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops)

<sup>8</sup> This presentation can be accessed via [www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops](http://www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops)

<sup>9</sup> This presentation can be accessed via [www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops](http://www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops)

the region. This served to identify activities and outputs of relevance that could inform assessment(s) produced during the third cycle. Presentations<sup>10</sup> included:

- "Pampa Azul Initiative" and "The National System of Marine Protected Areas" by Mercedes Santos and Lida Pimper
- "Filling the knowledge gaps in Southwestern Atlantic, from science to action" by Alexander Turra
- "From Whaling to Responsible Whale Watching" by Miguel Iñiguez
- "State of Fishery Resources in Argentina 2022" by Gabriela Navarro
- "What is underway in Southwestern Atlantic: advances in a strategic view of the Ocean" by Alexander Turra
- "The All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance Declaration" by Roberto De Pinho
- "How is the health of the ocean in Chilean Patagonia?" by Gonzalo Campos

### C. Pre-workshop survey results

Ms. Jisun Hwang and Mr. Roberto De Pinho presented the results of the pre-workshop survey (see Annex 3 – Pre-Workshop Survey) to the participants. In total, 19 submissions were received from the workshop participants. These submissions identified that:

- 53% of respondents was slightly familiar with WOA I and II.
- 63% of respondents used WOA I and II in their work at least a few times.
- 42% of respondents identified that the reason for not using or rarely using WOA I and II was owing to the lack of awareness, followed by 37% of respondents citing that the information provided in WOA I and II was not regionally specific enough (note: respondents could choose multiple choices including a free category).
- 53% of respondents considered that the coverage of regional perspectives via subsections within each chapter in the previous WOAs was adequate. 37% of respondents flagged that there should be specific regional reports under the third cycle.
- 89% of respondents identified that a summary for policymakers would be a most helpful tool to support policymakers in the region, followed by 79% of respondents flagging that a database of oceanographic information would be a great addition to it (note: respondents could choose multiple choices including a free category).
- Overall consensus was observed in recognising the importance of incorporating indigenous knowledge into the third cycle by enhancing the participation base for indigenous knowledge experts, applying verification measures to help support traditional knowledge, encouraging a dedicated indigenous knowledge regional chapter in the next assessment(s), and strengthening cooperation with NGOs and member states.
- Most frequently proposed pathways for enhancing incorporation of indigenous knowledge included mainstreaming cooperation with indigenous experts, implementing implementable solutions, utilisation of focal points and citizen science, gaining contextualised local understanding, widening the pool of

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<sup>10</sup> The presentations can be accessed via [www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops](http://www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops)

consultants and building upon existing cooperative initiatives involving indigenous knowledge experts.

#### **D. Proposed focus, structure, and topics of the assessment(s) of the third cycle**

During the breakout group discussions, the participants were invited to identify the main elements of the next assessment(s): focus, structure, and topics.

Regarding the focus of the next assessment(s), the participants suggested the following points:

- Strengthen linkages to socioeconomic aspects, providing enhanced relevance with regional guidance.
- Catalyse cross-sectoral and science-based approaches for ensuring long-term sustainability of economic activities for the protection and preservation of the marine environment.
- Improve the cohesive global integration of topics with outputs from relevant marine conventions feeding into the assessment(s).
- Consider an active use of regional and local case studies, with a view to enhancing the resonance of the next assessment(s) with decision-makers and stakeholders at regional, national and local levels.
- Enhance the public's understanding on ocean sustainability by fostering stakeholder dialogues to identify solutions and resolve conflicts between differing uses of the ocean.

Regarding the structure of the next assessment(s), the participants suggested the following points:

##### *Length*

- World Ocean Assessment III as one single book in a shorter form, structured in a practical, focused manner, providing integrated information
- Concise executive summary to be included with hyperlinks to essential information

##### *Target Group: policymakers*

- Recommend usage of bullet points and highlights, avoiding research output formats
- The output to be in specific targeted language for the audience, without being overbearingly scientific

##### *Helpful tools*

- Executive summaries
- Scenario simulations (scenarios and numbers for policymakers)
- Roadmap of decision-making
- Clever use of annexes/boxes
- Translation into various languages versions
- Emphasis on using the online platform as the primary method of dissemination
- Infographics

#### *Communication*

- Short policy briefs and infographics to facilitate communication and dissemination of information
- Use of the Regular Process website, social media, and mass campaigns to disseminate Regular Process outputs
- Development of a fit-for-purpose communication strategy (e.g. film documentaries, infographics, flyers, videos, summaries, social digital media) to enhance awareness of the importance of the ocean
- Capacity building modules about the Regular Process and its results, including videos on the Regular Process

#### *Others*

- Establish protocols for harmonising data collection
- Develop recommendations for future steps on the international ocean agenda
- Produce guidelines to national assessments under the Regular Process

Regarding the topics of the next assessment(s), the participants suggested the following points:

- Latest science and knowledge on land-ocean connectivity across various disciplines
- Emphasis placed on essential ocean variables with consideration of other biodiversity metrics
- Models to ensure equitable access to marine resources and their valorisation through an ecosystem approach
- Management approaches to promote conservation and restoration of marine ecosystems
- Fisheries that are region-specific and exploration of potential new species whose value could be highlighted for combatting current sustainability challenges, including climate change
- Implications of gender differences and gender inequalities in accessing ocean benefits
- Marine governance at both international and national levels
- Microorganisms

### **E. Regional knowledge gaps and capacity needs**

In this part, participants were invited to identify key knowledge gaps and capacity needs for the region. The gaps that were noted by the participants include those associated with:

#### a) Knowledge gaps

##### *In research/assessment topics*

- Knowledge of the ecosystems in a broad sense
- Ecosystem valorisation
- Bioregionalization
- Research in the open ocean and deep ocean regions
- Integration of local knowledge into scientific research

- Source-to-Sea approach (land-ocean interaction) and the transboundary assessment of threats
- Effect of multiple stressors on the marine environment
- Ocean engineering, marine geophysics, marine geology

*In data*

- Lack of scientific data to make practical use (fisheries statistics, deep sea)
- Lack of ocean-linked socio-economic data
- Lack of globally integrated information and data
- Lack of long-term series of data
- Lack of data-useful data for policies
- International integration related to the ocean, considering data and metrics

b) Capacity needs

*Training*

- Training of broad sectors of society on ocean issues
- Training of the interface science- policy-society
- Training in multidisciplinary research processes (training in transdisciplinary science, including the different scientific and traditional, and indigenous knowledge)
- Training in species identification (e.g. fisheries management)
- Training and incentivising the standardisation, storage, and sharing of data on the marine environment, including biodiversity (e.g. Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), ReBentos, Global Basic Observing Network (GBON)) and pollution (e.g. plastics and microplastic, oil, sewage, emerging contaminants)

*Resources*

- Improve economic, human, and technical resources for capacity
- New technologies (e.g. acoustic sensors/devices)
- Transfer of technology
- Resources dedicated to general outreach and diffusion of research included through the arts

*Actions*

- Creation of mechanisms to interrelate and articulate different authorities with competencies related to the ocean (e.g. Pampa Azul)
- Control of illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing
- Diffusion of knowledge and awareness raising

**F. Regional processes, intergovernmental organizations, and key institutes/research organizations that could contribute to the assessment(s) of the third cycle**

The participants identified regional processes, intergovernmental organisations, and key institutes/research organisations and some of the data and information they could contribute:

- Bilateral Commissions
- Coastal and Marine Percutaneous Endoscopic Lumbar Discectomy (PELD) (Brazil) and similar sites
- Joint research initiatives, e.g.: Atlantic Research Alliance actions
- National Focal Points for the SDGs
- National Interministerial Commissions and similar bodies
- National/Local Universities
- Navy/Coast Guards
- Regional and global intergovernmental processes
- Regional Fisheries Bodies
- Relevant Ministries (Ocean, Economy, Environment, Agriculture, Fisheries etc.)
- Relevant Research Institutes
- Relevant Treaty Organizations
- Research funding organizations
- Space Agencies, research institutes and commissions
- Permanent Commission of South Pacific (CPPS)
- Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS)
- Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- Brazilian Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BPBES)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA/Convention on Biological Diversity)
- International Whaling Commission (IWC)
- Mixed Technical Commission of the Rio de la Plata Maritime Front (Comision Tecnico Mixta del Frente Maritimo del Rio de la Plata)
- IUCN and other relevant conservation organizations (e.g. IC, WWF, Greenpeace, TNC)
- National organisations for protect areas (e.g. ICMBio)
- Research funding organizations (CONICET, National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), FAPESP and other state funding agencies in Brazil)
- Border organizations (e.g. UNESCO Chair on Ocean Sustainability)
- Organisation of the Amazon Treaty
- InterAmerican Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)
- Brazilian Interministry Commission for the Resources of the Sea (CIRM)
- Iguazú Agreement
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM), IOCaribe
- Atlantic Research Alliance data pilot actions, PIRATA
- Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States Geological Survey (USGS)

- Copernicus
- NGOs (e.g. Fundacao boticario, CI, OCEANA, Funbio)
- National Focal Points to inform on SDGs
- National Ocean Decade Implementation Plans (if available)
- National Regulatory Agencies (protected areas, mining, oil, electric energy)
- Open Databases
- Interministerial Commissions
- Amazonia Azul/Interministerial Commission for the Resources of the Sea (CIRM)
- Intersecretarial Commission for the Sustainable Management of Seas and Coasts (CIMARES)
- Argentina:
  - Pampa Azul
  - National Institute of Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP)
  - National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET)
  - National Parks Administration (APN)
  - Argentine Naval Prefecture (PNA)
  - Argentine Antarctic Institute (IAA)
  - National Commission for Space Activities (CONAE)
  - NGOs (e.g. Cethus)
- Costa Rica:
  - Maritime Training Center and Training (CIMAR) (suggested contact: Álvaro Morales)
  - UN School of Biology (suggested contact: Ángel Herrera)
  - Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (suggested contact: Jose Miguel Carabajal)
  - Ministry of Environment
  - NGOs
- Chile:
  - Ministry of Environment (suggested contacts: Felipe Paredes and J. Luis Orellana)
  - Undersecretary of Fisheries (suggested contact: A. Guerrero, Head of Fisheries Administration)
  - Millennium Institute in Coastal Socio-Ecology (Instituto SECOS) (suggested contact: Sthephan G.)
- El Salvador:
  - Ministry of Environment
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

**G. Formats or products that could enhance the utility of the assessment(s) of the third cycle**

The suggested formats or products that could enhance the utility of the assessment(s) of the third cycle were as follows:

- Produce targeted deliverables under the framework of the extant ocean knowledge ecosystem, maximising the unique vantage point only the Regular Process can bring in.
- Develop one assessment containing common themes across all regions and the rest could be contained in appendices/annexes.
- Structure the assessment(s) around relevant intergovernmental processes, such as SDGs/UN Decade/IPCC outputs, complemented with regional input from the Pool of Experts (POE).
- Produce succinct documents and reports with online thematic appendices and data sources.
- Develop holistic assessment(s) with region-specific information that integrates an existing body of knowledge from a critical perspective, based on a Drivers-Pressures-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) framework, emphasising responses and solutions, with a view to producing concise conclusions and recommendations.

The participants also identified the following areas where the Regular Process need to produce original work that is not provided by other assessments:

- Develop an integrated product through strategic meta-analysis of all existing work with a critical understanding, supported by regional information from the POE.
- Produce original work focusing on recalibrating information in a policy-oriented manner, providing nuanced contexts and fresh perspectives.
- Establish a data management plan, with a view to effectively presenting compact information through a one-stop shop for providing further details and statistics to be readily searchable by end-users.

The following items were identified as pathways to incorporate indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge into the next assessment(s):

- Invite experts with indigenous knowledge to the POE.
- Current challenges: language barrier, identification of suitable candidates, cooperation with UN bodies/other organisations who already work with them.
- Produce a specific chapter written by indigenous knowledge experts.
- Conduct interviews with indigenous knowledge experts to solicit their input.
- Incorporate as much as possible available indigenous knowledge into the current process.

## **H. Consideration of activities that could support the contributions and provision of information for the assessment(s) of the third cycle**

In this section, the breakout groups discussed potential ways to enhance regional cooperation and contribution to the preparation of the next assessment(s).

The participants identified ways to enhance the cooperation of regional processes in providing relevant information for the next assessment(s). Some key points noted by the participants included:

- Seek further guidance on bolstering regional cooperation from the UN General Assembly Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole (AHWG) on the Regular Process.
- Expand upon existing multilateral processes, e.g. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), UN Ocean Decade.
- Sign MOUs or other legal agreements with relevant institutions (fisheries conventions, academia, local groups) to develop formalised cooperation.
- Leverage regional/national focal points and POE input.

The participants also discussed the possible ways to leverage the existing processes and activities, such as the UN Ocean Decade, the 2030 Agenda, and the IPCC, particularly in bringing information from outside traditional research areas into assessments (e.g., socioeconomic information, indigenous and traditional owner knowledge and perspectives). Key suggestions included:

- Conduct stakeholder dialogues for their feedback on processes, assessment(s), broadening participation of experts, local and indigenous peoples.
- Draw upon the Agenda 2030 and UN Ocean Decade outputs as indicators at regional and national levels.
- Strategically position the assessment(s) as a key instrument to fill gaps in knowledge.
- Redouble outreach efforts of the Regular Process to foster wide-reaching cooperation at all levels.

In addition to the cooperation with existing processes and activities, the participants also identified several ways to ensure the availability of relevant data and information to support the development of the next assessment(s). The following suggestions were made:

- Fundraise for developing an integrated database of the Regular Process for data storage, sharing and publishing.
- Develop a verification process for identifying robust quality data.
- Strengthen outreach towards data providers, accentuating potential synergies to be created by collaborating on data sharing with the Regular Process.
- Identify ways to directly institutionalise data providers' participation in the Regular Process.
- Enhance public perception on ocean data and surveys.

The participants also identified activities or processes that would (i) increase and strengthen the Pool of Experts, (ii) build capacity, and (iii) improve networking and collaboration between experts and organizations taking part in the Regular Process. Some of the key points noted by the participants included:

- Strengthen outreach efforts via online communication channels.

- Provide training and funding support to widen POE participation.
- Monitor follow-ups on capacity building, including access to technology.
- Invite experts in areas that are currently lacking, e.g. socioeconomic, desalination.
- Strengthen cooperation with organisations whose network provides a robust pool of candidates, feeding into them with Regular Process input/resources under a mutually beneficial cooperative framework.
- Designate within the POE focal points to strategically identify proven experts and cultivate cooperative relations suited to local contexts.

A participant submitted a proposal on possible ways to further disseminate assessment findings to be culminating at future UN Ocean Conferences where reports would be launched, complemented by stakeholder dialogues on lessons learned and soliciting feedback for preparing the next cycle. Key points included:

- Develop synthetic and comprehensive documents with a holistic, integrated, strategic, critical view across geographies and themes, encompassing a review of relevant reports produced by international bodies.
- Integrate local and regional views with specific documents for regions based on a DPSIR framework, emphasising responses and solutions which can be captured as conclusions and recommendations for policymakers.
- Apply notable indicators, such as SDGs, UN Ocean Decade outcomes, Paris Agreement, Aichi targets, and Ocean Health Index.
- Aim for the global scale, highlighting regional and national scales as needed.
- Cultivate networks with experts and stakeholders, expanding them on an incremental basis, and leverage their dissemination channels:
  - Thematic and regional assessments: regional seas, conventions, platforms, processes, UN-Ocean member entities
  - National Assessments: UN Ocean Decade national committees, programmes, projects, subnational networks

## **I. Consideration of activities to improve the outreach and policy significance of the outputs of the third cycle**

In this part, the participants discussed ways and tools to improve the outreach and communication of outputs from the Regular Process to policymakers and other stakeholders in the region, including indigenous, traditional and local communities.

The discussion started by identifying several ways to ensure a widespread outreach of the outputs. Some of the key points noted by the participants included:

- Outreach channels need to ensure that all levels of stakeholders are empowered at the international, regional, local, and citizens levels.
- Leverage the UN Ocean Conferences and other international flagship ocean-related events and their side events as effective knowledge diffusion platforms.

- Focus on introducing a continuous channel of informal engagements at the outset with stakeholders.
- Utilise policy briefs, infographics, interactive maps, and databases as vehicles to disseminate information further.
- Underscore the importance of reaching out to a broadest audience possible through translated versions of knowledge products.
- Enhance engagement through social media promotion and invite experts to these avenues to share their findings with policymakers and the general public.
- Harness the power of partners and allies through the creation of a WOA youth group and ocean ambassadors.

The participants were also invited to identify ways to improve the delivery of outputs of the third cycle to policymakers and other stakeholders in the regions. Some of the key points noted by the participants included:

- Gain better understanding on the need from the policymakers' perspective and tailor the language for this audience.
- Promote dialogues with regional, national, local decision-makers and inform the general public.
- Develop outreach campaigns with results-based scientific assessments to induce action/transformation.
- Strengthen outreach efforts at DOALOS with increased frequency on input solicitation and sharing of latest updates.
- Ensure user feedback is incorporated into for continuous improvement, monitoring and evaluation.

#### **J. Post-workshop survey**

In total, 13 submissions were received from the workshop participants (see Annex 4 – Post-Workshop Survey). These submissions identified that:

- 54% of respondents came into the workshop with some defined expectations.
- 92% of respondents considered the workshop was within/above/far above their expectations.
- 85% of respondents thought the workshop covered all the presented topics adequately.
- 92% of respondents would like to be kept informed about the next steps in the third cycle of the Regular Process via a mail list.
- 100% of respondents would be willing to attend another workshop on the Regular Process and its associated assessments.

## **Annex 1: Annotated agenda and timetable**

### **Annotated Agenda**

#### **Workshop on the scoping of the next Assessment(s) of the United Nations Regular Process for the Global Reporting and Assessment of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (Regular Process)**

**Buenos Aires, Argentina, 28-30 September 2022**

1. Welcoming remarks (*Representative from the Host Country and from the Group of Experts*)
2. Adoption of the Agenda for the Workshop (*Secretariat of the Regular Process*)
3. Presentation on the Regular Process on Global Reporting and Assessment of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects by the Group of Experts and the Second World Ocean Assessment (*Secretariat of the Regular Process / Representative of the Group of Experts*)
4. Presentation on the proposed outputs of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle and the Concept Note to guide the scoping process for the Assessment(s) of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects (*Representative of the Group of Experts*)
5. Regional perspectives on a global assessment and needs for decision-making  
*Participants from regional management organizations and country representatives are invited to prepare short presentations (5-10 minutes, depending on final format either presented live or being pre-recorded).*
6. Review of assessments, relevant projects and programmes that have been carried out in the region since 2017 and that are proposed to be carried out within the region in the period 2022 – 2025, in order to identify how the assessment(s) under the Regular Process can best build on them.  
*Participants in the workshop are invited to prepare short presentations (5-10 minutes depending on final format either presented live or pre-recorded) on relevant assessments.*
7. Consideration of key topics for the assessment(s) and the regional processes and intergovernmental organizations that could contribute to the assessment(s) of the third cycle  
*Participants will be divided into breakout groups, moderated by representatives of the Group of Experts and the Secretariat of the Regular Process. The purpose of the breakout groups is to enable as many people as possible to contribute to the discussion.*

**Part 1 - Break-out groups will meet to discuss the following questions:**

- (a) Identify key topics the assessment(s) of the third cycle should prioritize
- (b) Identify key knowledge gaps and capacity needs for the region

**Part 2 (Based on Part 1) - Break-out groups will meet to discuss the following questions:**

- (a) Identify the regional processes and intergovernmental organizations and key institutes/research organizations that could contribute to each of the topics listed
- (b) Identify formats or products that would make the assessment(s) of the third cycle most helpful to policymakers in the region with their tasks, including implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda

**Part 3 - Report-back session for the break-out groups and discussion of their conclusions**

8. Consideration of what steps might be taken within the region in the period 2022 – 2025 to support contributions to the assessment(s) under the Regular Process in the third cycle.

*Participants will be divided into break out groups, moderated by representatives of the Group of Experts and the Secretariat of the Regular Process. Participants in the workshop are invited to take account of the information gaps identified in World Ocean Assessment II in formulating ideas on these questions.*

**Part 1 - Break-out groups will meet to discuss the following questions:**

General format and content

- (a) Should outputs be focused around one large global assessment report, including regional or thematic appendices with in-depth treatment of certain themes (as in the first two cycles), or several, more targeted products?
- (b) Where does the Regular Process need to produce original work and where can we refer to existing assessments?
- (c) How can the Regular Process incorporate Indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge into assessment(s)? How can outputs from the third cycle be best co-designed and co-delivered with Indigenous peoples, traditional owners, and local communities that are the custodians of this knowledge?

Regional cooperation, data, and contributions

- (d) Where cooperation and/or coordination of regional processes exist, what might be needed to enhance this cooperation/coordination to ensure the production of information that is relevant to the assessment(s) of the Regular Process?
- (e) How might other relevant processes and activities, such as the Ocean Decade, the 2030 Agenda, and the IPCC be leveraged to support the Regular Process, particularly in bringing information from outside traditional research areas into assessments (e.g., socio-economic information, indigenous and traditional owner knowledge and perspectives)?
- (f) What can be done in relation to supporting the availability of relevant data and/or information that is known for the region or parts of it (including historical information), but where it has not been provided to any formal and publicly available process?

(g) What can be done to increase and strengthen the Pool of Experts, including building capacity, and improve networking and collaboration between experts and organizations taking part in the Regular Process, including with the Groups of Experts and Secretariat?

Outreach and policy significance

(h) How might widespread outreach of the outputs from the third cycle be achieved?

(i) How might the outputs be presented to support the uptake and use in policy decisions (technical abstracts, very succinct summaries, regionally or globally relevant, etc.)?

(j) Should outputs be more focused on future scenarios and associated likelihoods rather than focusing on changes that have already occurred? In association, should outputs be focused on responses or solutions that could be utilized to address changes observed?

(k) How might outreach and communication of outputs from the third cycle and their associated findings to stakeholders in the region across including local and indigenous communities be improved?

(l) What can be done to improve the delivery of content from the outputs of the third cycle to decision makers in support of improving science-policy interfaces in the region?

**Part 2 - Report-back session for the break-out groups and discussion of their conclusions**

9. Oral presentation by the Group of Experts of the main elements that have emerged from the workshop. (*Representative of the Group of Experts*)
  
10. Closure of the Workshop (*Representative from the Host Country and representative of the Secretariat*)

**Timetable**

**Workshop on the scoping of the next Assessment(s) of the United Nations Regular Process for the Global Reporting and Assessment of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (Regular Process)  
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 28-30 September 2022**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter/Coordinator</b>
09:00 - 09:30	Registration	Host/DOALOS
09:30 – 10:00	Welcoming remarks, housekeeping and adoption of the agenda for the Workshop (Items 1 and 2 of the Annotated Agenda)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambassador Pablo Tettamanti, Argentine Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Marco Boccia, DOALOS</li> <li>• Mr. Enrique Marschoff, RP Group of Experts</li> </ul>
10:00 – 11:00	The Regular Process on Global Reporting and Assessment of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects and the Second World Ocean Assessment (Item 3)	Mr. Marco Boccia, DOALOS / Mr. Roberto De Pinho, RP Group of Experts
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 – 12:30	Scoping process for the third cycle (item 4) + questions from the floor/debate	Mr. Carlos G. Soto, RP Group of Experts
12:30 – 13:00	Pre-survey outcome presentation	Ms. Jisun Hwang, DOALOS / Mr. Roberto De Pinho, RP Group of Experts
13:00– 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 15:30	Regional perspectives on needs for decision making (Item 5): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host country proposed presentations by Mercedes Santos, National Director of Marine Protected Areas &amp; Lida Pimper, Coordinator of Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Marine Protected Areas</li> <li>• Filling the knowledge gaps in Southwestern Atlantic, from science to action by Alexander Turra, University of Sao Paulo</li> </ul>	Region's experts
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00 – 17:30	Regional/Review of Assessments (Item 6): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host country proposed expert presentation by Gabriela Navarro, Director of Fisheries Planning of the Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture.</li> <li>• Host country proposed expert presentation by Miguel Iñiguez, President of Fundación Cethus and Argentine scientific advisor in the International Whaling Commission</li> <li>• What is underway in Southwestern Atlantic: advances in a strategic view of the Ocean by Alexander Turra, University of Sao Paulo</li> <li>• The All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance Declaration by Roberto De Pinho, RP GOE member</li> <li>• How is the health of the ocean in Chilean Patagonia? by Gonzalo Campos, Centre for Dynamic Research of High Latitude Marine Ecosystems (IDEAL)</li> </ul>	Region's experts
17:30-17:45	Process for break out group sessions and designation of groups and rapporteurs (Item 7)	Mr. Marco Boccia, DOALOS

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September

Time	Topic	Presenter/Coordinator
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09:30 – 11:00	Break out session - Part I (Item 7)	RP Group of Experts and DOALOS
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 – 13:00	Break out session - Part II (Item 7)	RP Group of Experts and DOALOS
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch Break	
14:30 – 16:00	Break out session - Part III – Report back to plenary (Item 7) with the RP Group of Experts moderating each group commenting on some of the outcomes presented	RP Group of Experts and DOALOS
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30 – 17:30	Preparation for the next breakout sessions (Item 8)	RP Group of Experts and DOALOS

### Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September

Time	Topic	Presenter/Coordinator
09:30 – 11:00	Steps for supporting regional contributions to assessments – Part I - Break out groups (Item 8)	RP Group of Experts and DOALOS
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 – 13:00	Steps for supporting regional contributions to assessments – Part I (Cont'd) - Break out groups (Item 8)	RP Group of Experts and DOALOS
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch Break	
14:30 – 16:00	Steps for supporting regional contributions to assessments – Part II – Report back to plenary (Item 8) with the RP Group of Experts moderating each group commenting on some of the outcomes presented	RP Group of Experts and DOALOS
	How to join the Pool of Experts of the Regular Process	Mr. Marco Boccia, DOALOS
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30 – 17:30	Summary of workshop elements (Item 9)	Ms. Maria Bebianno and Mr. Carlos G. Soto, RP Group of Experts
17:30-17:45	Closing remarks (Item 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ambassador Holger Martinsen, Legal Adviser of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship</li> <li>Mr. Marco Boccia, DOALOS</li> </ul>

**Annex 2: List of Participants**

#	First name	Last name	Country
1	Alexander	Turra	Brazil
2	Ana Elizabeth	Villalta Vizcarra	El Salvador
3	Barbara	Ramos Pinheiro	Brazil
4	Edgar Eduardo	Noriega Herrera	Mexico
5	Edgardo Augusto	Monteros	Argentina
6	Erica	Lucero	Argentina
7	Eugenia	Goya	Argentina
8	Fernanda	de Oliveira Lana	Brazil
9	Getho	Bazelais	Haiti
10	Gonzalo Simón	Campos Arellano	Chile
11	Jenny Mayela	Asch Corrales	Costa Rica
12	Jisun	Hwang	DOALOS
13	Juan Pablo	Quimbayo Agreda	Colombia
14	Lida Elena	PIMPER	Argentina
15	M. Mercedes	SANTOS	Argentina
16	Marco	Boccia	DOALOS
17	Maria Guillermina	Ruiz	Argentina
18	Marina	Abas	Argentina
19	Miguel Angel	Iñiguez Bessega	Argentina
20	Pilar De Maria	Velasquez Jofre	Guatemala
21	Vanesa Patricia	Tossenberger	Argentina
22	Victor Eduardo	Chocho Sanchez	Ecuador

## Annex 3: Pre-workshop survey

# Pre-workshop Survey

Scoping for the Next World Ocean Assessment(s)

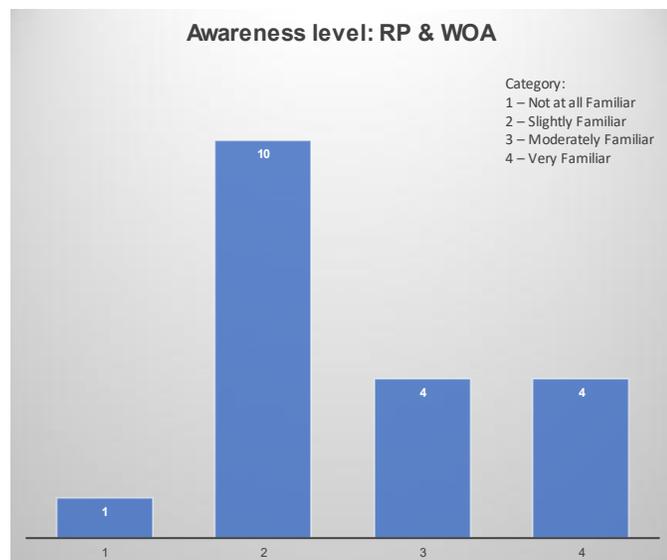
Third cycle of the Regular Process

Buenos Aires, Argentina (2830 September 2022)

How familiar are you with the Regular Process and the World Ocean Assessment reports (WOA I and WOA II)?

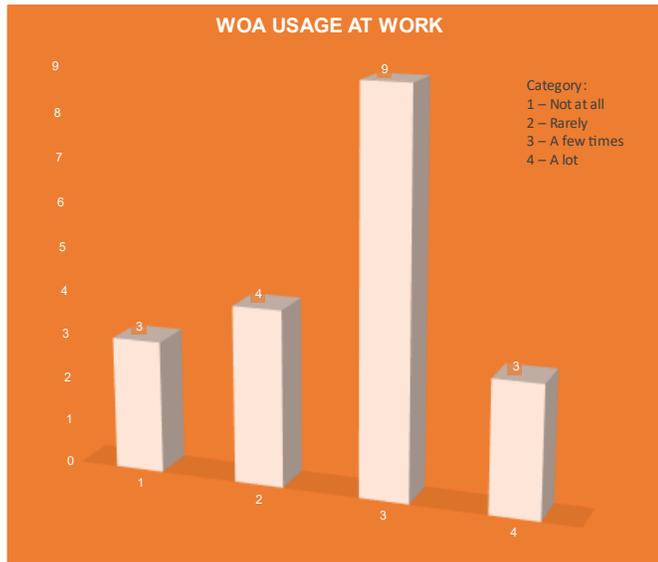
- Responses: 19
- Median: 2
- Most respondents were **slightly familiar** with RP and WOA I and II

Awareness level: RP & WOA



Have you used the World Ocean Assessment reports (WOA I and WOA II) in your work?

- Responses: 19
- Median: 3
- Most respondents have used WOA I and WOA II at least **a few times** in their work

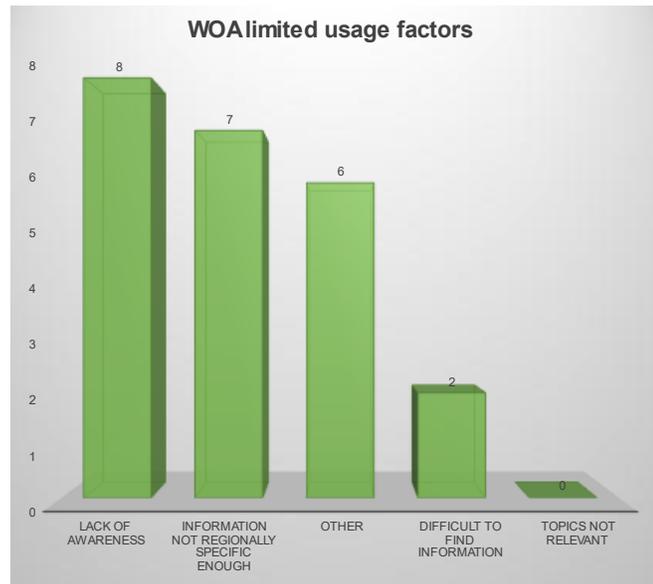


Which topics covered by the World Ocean Assessment reports (WOA I and WOA II) have you found most helpful for your work?

Popular topics

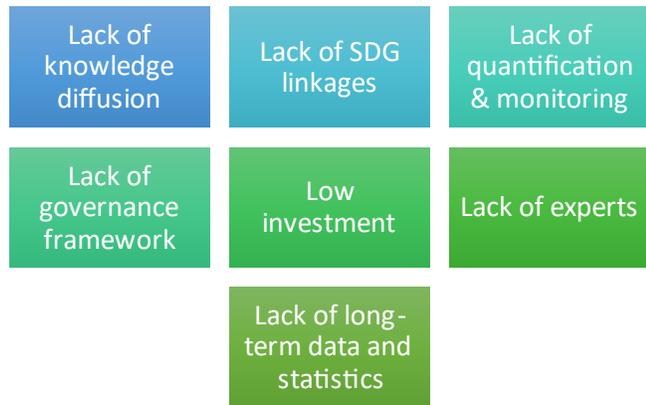


What are some of the factors that have limited your use of the assessments?



What are the five primary knowledge gaps in your region in understanding the state of the ocean, including the use of the ocean?

Knowledge gaps



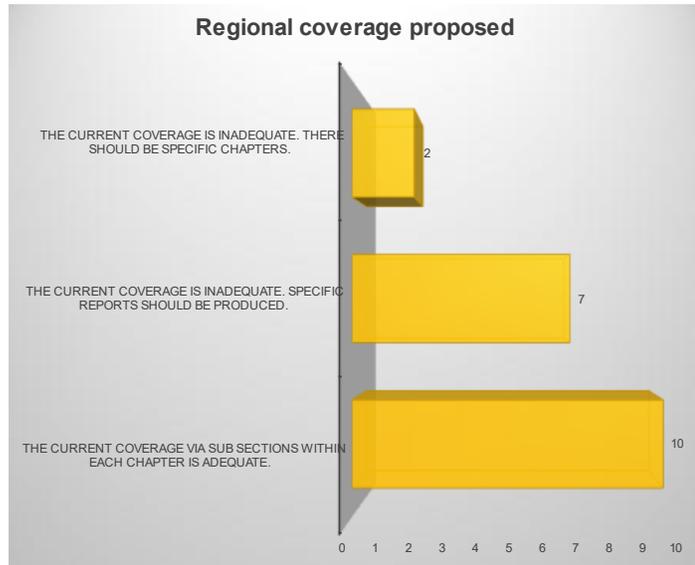
Lack of disclosure      lack of difussion      Lack of the study  
 data collection      lack of data      Lack of knowledge  
 Lack of integration      marineocean lack      data base  
 Lack of awareness      lack of fishery  
 lack of information      data      general lack      climate changes  
 Lack of investment      lack of implementation      pollution - lack

What are the five primary capacity gaps in your region in understanding the state of the ocean, including the use of the ocean?

Capacity gaps

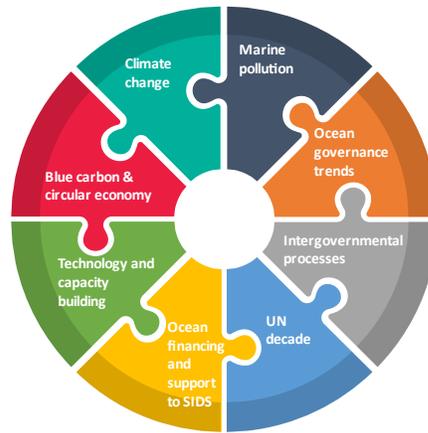


Should the next assessment(s) produced under the third cycle expand its coverage of regional perspectives to specific chapters or reports or is the current coverage adequate?



Should the next assessment(s) be produced under the third cycle focus on particular topics? If so, which topics should it focus on?

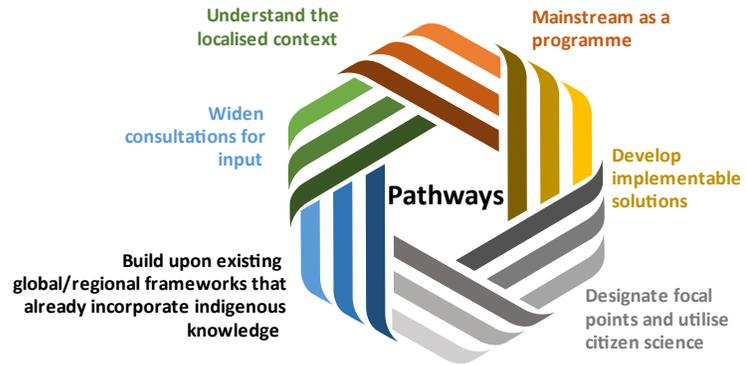
Suggested topics



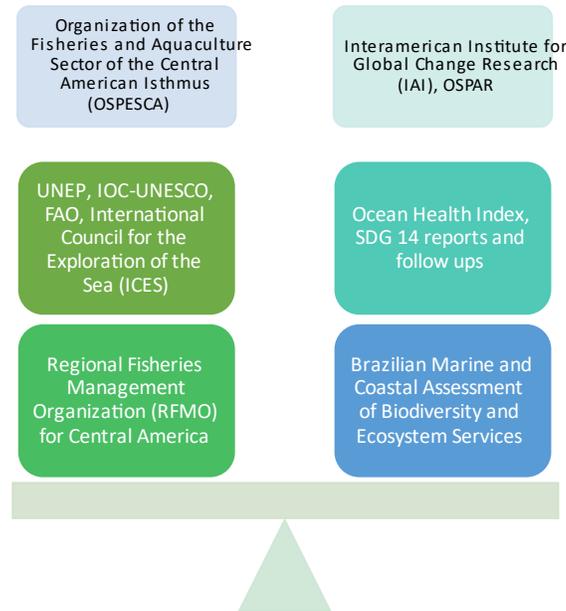
How might indigenous, traditional and local knowledge from your region inform and contribute to the next assessment(s)?



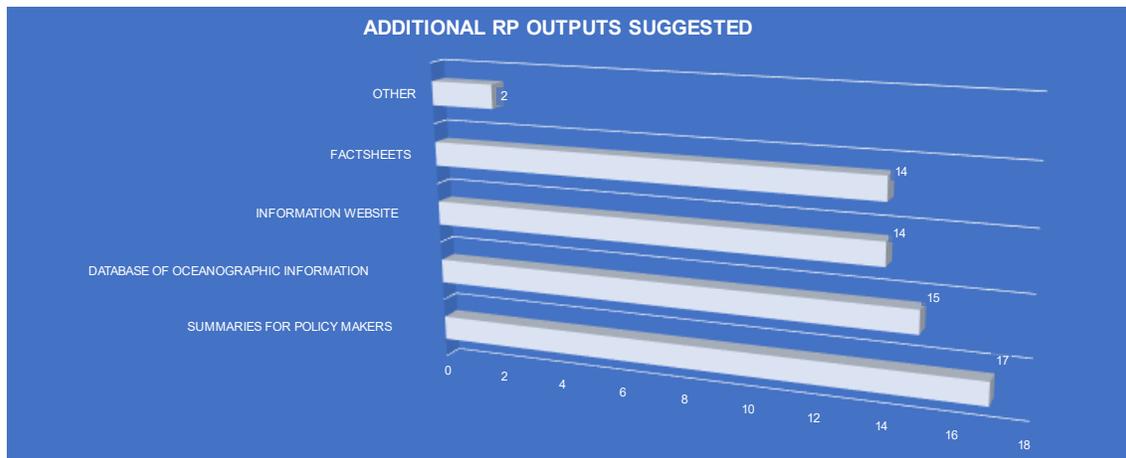
What might be the appropriate pathways for supporting the consideration of indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge from your region in assessment(s) produced by the Regular Process?



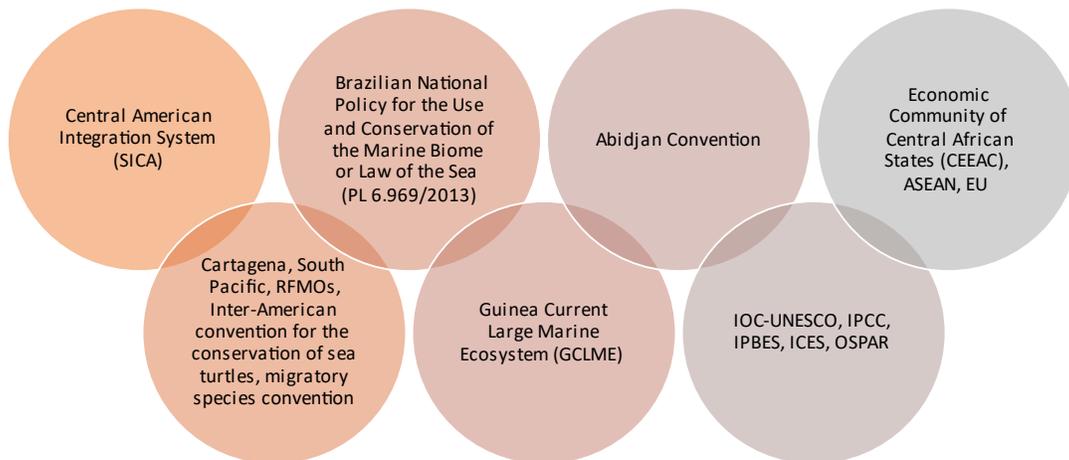
Are there any ocean-related assessments from your region that are relevant for in supporting development of the next assessment(s) produced by the Regular Process?



What other output(s) would be most helpful to support policy and decision making in your region?



Are there particular regulatory frameworks or legislations/policies in your region that would benefit from the knowledge provided in the World Ocean Assessments?



# Thank You



## Annex 4: Post-workshop survey

# Post-workshop Survey

Scoping for the Next World Ocean Assessment(s)

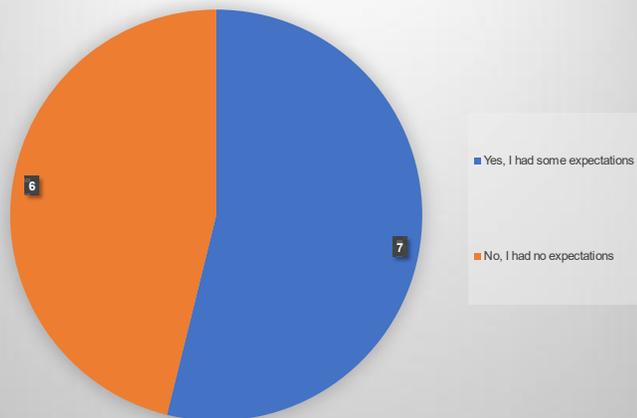
Third cycle of the Regular Process

Buenos Aires, Argentina (28-30 September 2022)

Did you come into the workshop with some defined expectations?

- Responses: 13
- More than half of respondents came to the workshop with some **expectations**

Prior expectations



## What were your expectations?

Enhancing scientific linkages to policymakers

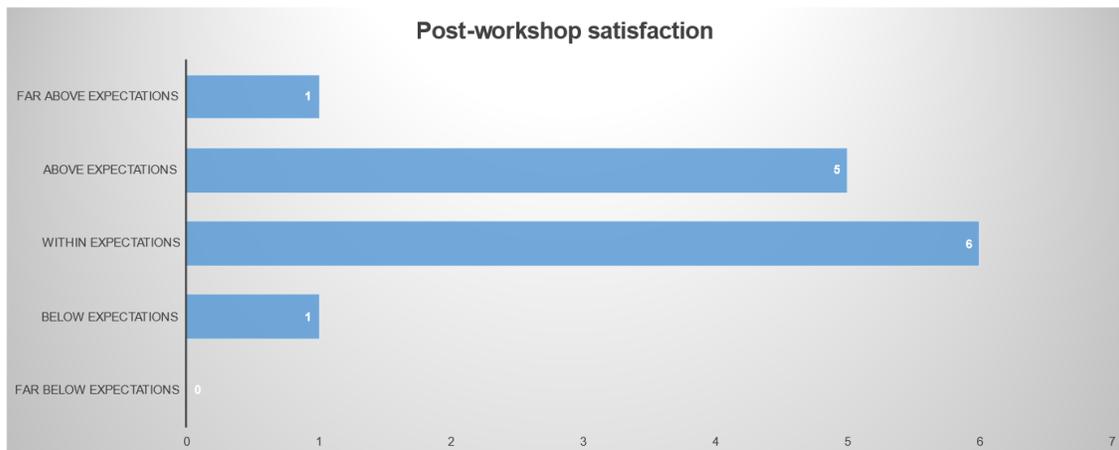
WOAIII: Latin America relevance, stakeholder base, and format improvement

Learn more on the Regular Process and member state commitments

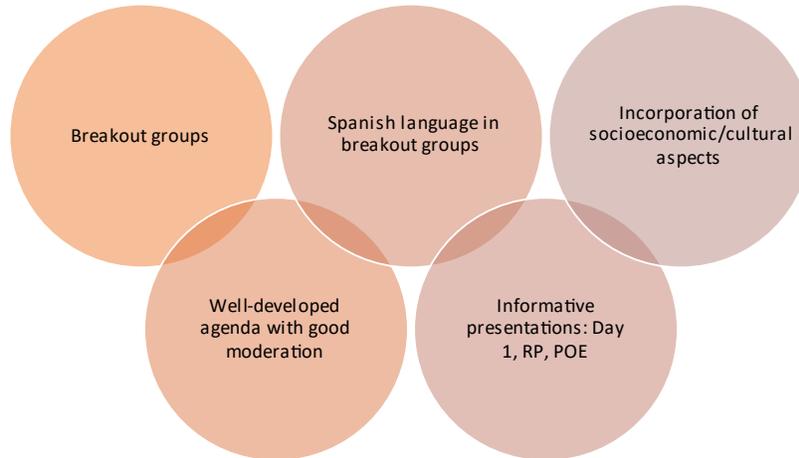
Collaboration on SDG14

A word cloud containing various terms related to expectations and workshop goals. The most prominent words are 'regular process' and 'expectations'. Other visible words include 'WOA', 'sustainable development', 'effective actions', 'touch with other scientists', 'American region', 'WOA document', 'environment issues', 'Policy brief', 'WOA more relevant', 'regional approach', 'de', 'los chanel of communication', and 'WOA'.

Comparing your expectations at the beginning of the workshop and your opinion of it now. How well did the workshop meet your expectations?



## What parts of the workshop worked particularly well?



## What could be improved?

Focus more on member state roles and post-evaluation follow-ups; refine workshop participant roles vis-à-vis that of POE

Time allocation: more time needed to discuss integration of various initiatives and for breakout groups

Logistics: to receive PPT decks in advance, not after; difficulties in obtaining visas and travel documents



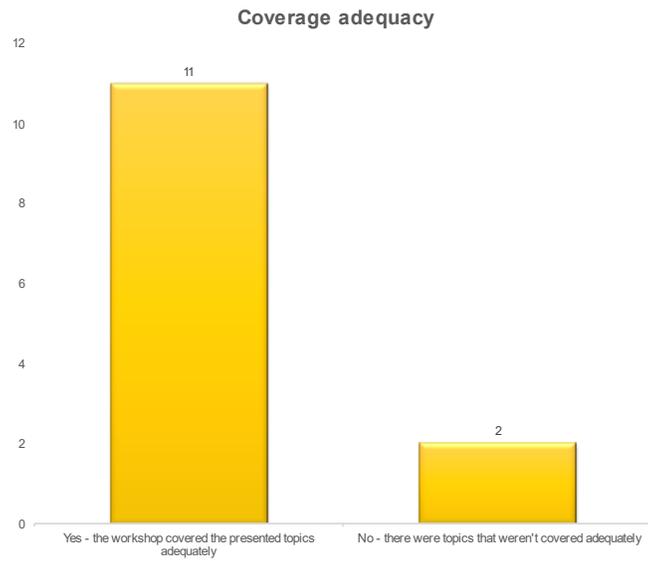
Repetitive guiding questions

Regional focus to be sharpened; varying levels of development within the same region

Improve social media coverage; expand the participation base, including policymakers

**In your opinion, did the workshop cover all the presented topics adequately?**

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**What are the topics that were not covered adequately?**

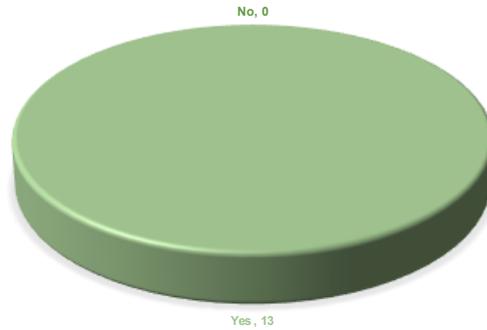
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Need to increase diversity of disciplines in breakout groups

Further detailed information to be provided on the Regular Process

Would you attend another workshop on the Regular Process and its associated assessments?

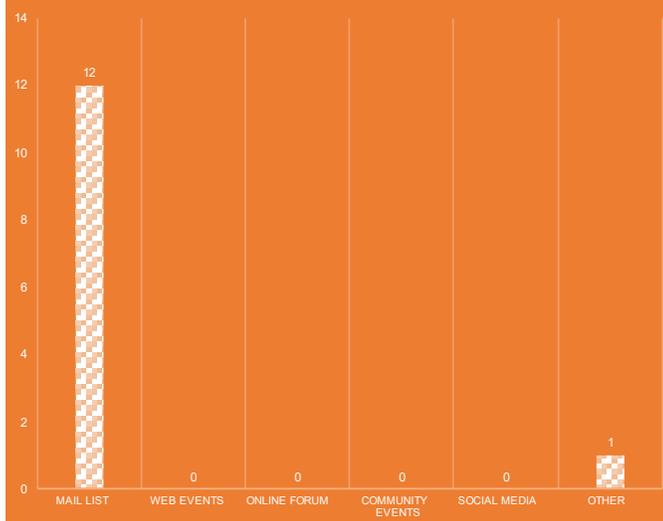
WILLINGNESS TO RE -PARTICIPATE



How would you like to keep informed about the next steps in the third cycle of the Regular Process?

- Responses: 13
- Most respondents preferred to be on a **mailing list** for staying informed

INFO TRANSMIT METHOD



Any further comments

Improve the PR website; difficult to navigate and gain necessary workshop info

Improve social media and outreach efforts to policymakers

Strengthen linkages with climate change and Ocean Decade

Share the participants contact info

Expedite the visa/travel arrangements process



# Thank You