



**Northwest
Pacific
Action Plan**

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Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center

The Sixteenth NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting
China, 30 October – 1 November 2019

**Proposal for the continuation of POMRAC activity “Microplastics
abundance in river runoff of the NOWPAP region”
Workplan and budget for the biennium of 2020-2021**

1. Background

The activity 'Microplastics abundance in river runoff of the NOWPAP region' was approved by the 21 IGM in 2017 as part of the activities on WG2 – River and Direct inputs of contaminants into the marine environment of the NOWPAP region. Since 2016-2017 biennium, NOWPAP POMRAC collected data related to an urgent topic of microplastic contamination via rivers after publishing a case study of microplastic contamination in the coastal marine water area in the Russian part of NOWPAP region under the RAP MALI activity (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 15/Inf.4: "Microplastic Pollution in the coastal water of the Peter the Great Gulf: content and distribution. The first stage of survey"). During the biennium of 2018-2019, it was decided to carry out a case study in the Russian part of NOWPAP region due to absence of related available data. The activity also suggests collection of primary information from all member countries of NOWPAP describing current data availability on microplastic contamination in rivers, methodologies for microplastic contamination assessment in freshwater environment and importance of these assessment measures. This information should be provided as presentations during related workshop back-to-back with the 16th NOWPAP POMRAC FPM to discuss possibilities for developing a regional overview. Therefore, suggested second stage of this activity might include development of the overview. Besides, if possible, lacking data on the discharge of Amur/Heilong River that has a strong impact on North and Northwest Pacific should be collected for including into the overview.

2. The goal of the project

All available data on microplastic discharge with rivers in the NOWPAP region, related assessment methodologies, national programs and future prospectives should be summarized as national inputs for combining into the regional overview.

3. Tasks of the project

The project will be implemented by National Experts nominated by POMRAC FPs and a hired consultant. Suggested structure of the National Inputs is presented in Annex 1. Regional overview will be prepared by compilation and synthesis of these National Inputs with the same overall structure.

The tasks of the project are as follows:

- 1) To assess and analyze available data on microplastic discharge with rivers in the NOWPAP region,
- 2) To describe current methodology of sampling microplastics in rivers and the sample treatment protocols applied in NOWPAP countries;
- 3) To assess possible impacts of river discharge on contamination of water ecosystems with microplastics and to share national data;
- 3) To carry out seasonal monitoring in the Amur/Heilong River for inclusion of the data into National Input of Russia;
- 4) To compile the Regional Overview based on the National Inputs and providing recommendations on what should be done to minimize the microplastic pollution impact.

4. Implementation plan

The proposed procedure for preparing the National Inputs and the Regional Overview would be as follows:

- The National Inputs will be compiled and written based on the 'Structure and Contents of National Inputs' agreed upon by the 16th POMRAC FPM (in 2019). The FPM will also discuss sources of information for the regional overview.
- The National Inputs will be prepared by either POMRAC FPs assisted by national experts or directly by national experts hired by POMRAC.
- The draft National Inputs will be submitted to POMRAC Secretariat after review and approval by POMRAC FPs no later than by the end of January 2021.
- An experienced consultant from the region, hired by POMRAC, will conduct a preliminary compilation and harmonization of the four National Inputs and will provide comparative analysis, short introduction and summary.
- The 18th POMRAC FPM (in 2021) will discuss and agree the Regional Overview. When approved, the Regional Overview will be published as a POMRAC technical report.

Seasonal monitoring in the Amur/Heilong River will be carried out during four sampling periods (winter, spring, summer and autumn) of 2019.

Workplan

Activities	2020				2021				Implementing body
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
1. Nominations and Signing MOUs with Experts and an international Consultant									POMRAC, POMRAC FPs
2. Preparation of the National Inputs									POMRAC, Nominated Experts
3. Seasonal survey of microplastics transport with river runoff including Amur/Heilong River									POMRAC
4. Finalization of National Inputs									POMRAC, nominated Experts
5. Synthesis of national Inputs and preparation of the draft Regional Overview									POMRAC, hired Consultant
6. Finalization and publication of the regional Overview									POMRAC, hired Consultant

Budget

Contract	Output	To be completed	Counterpart	Budget (US\$)
Preparation and finalization of National Inputs on the river runoff of microplastics to the marine and coastal environment of the NOWPAP region	National Inputs	December 30, 2020 – draft, March, 1 - final	Expert(s) from China	4,000*
			Expert(s) from Japan	4,000*
			Expert(s) from Korea	4,000*
			Expert(s) from Russia	4,000*
Seasonal surveys of microplastic transport with	Surveys	March 31, 2021	POMRAC	13,000

river runoff including Amur/Heilong				
Synthesis of national Inputs and preparation of the draft Regional Overview	Regional Overview Assessment of river runoff of microplastics to the marine and coastal environment of the NOWPAP region	September 30, 2021	POMRAC with hired Consultant	5,000*
Finalization and publication of the Regional Overview	Published Regional Overview	November 30, 2021	POMRAC	4,000
				38,000

* under SSFA with DINRAC

Draft Structure of National Inputs

River runoff of microplastics to the marine and coastal environment of the NOWPAP region

Executive Summary

Introduction (goals, brief general information on river input of microplastic pollution, geographical scope)

Social and economic situation in 2001-2019 (short overview of relevant social and economic aspects related to microplastic contamination)

National monitoring and assessment activities (related to microplastic contamination, including main features of national policies and laws)

National monitoring program(s) including features and changes in methodologies and procedures

Present situation of river and coastal water contamination with microplastics (based on the most recent available data)

Assessment of trends in river and coastal water contamination with microplastics during the last decade

Conclusions

Data sources (publications, websites and other information sources)