



**Northwest
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Action Plan**

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Northwest Pacific Action Plan
Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre

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

Annotated Provisional Agenda

Background leading to the meeting

The Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC) is one of the four Regional Activity Centers (RACs) established to coordinate activities relevant to specific components of the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). Initially POMRAC had responsibility to implement activities related to atmospheric deposition of contaminants and river and direct inputs of contaminants.

The 10th NOWPAP IGM has approved the “New Directions for the NOWPAP RACs and RCU”. Regarding POMRAC, that IGM confirmed for 2006 and future years the preparation of regional overviews on atmospheric deposition of contaminants and river and direct inputs of contaminants with subsequent preparation of the State of Marine Environment Report in the NOWPAP Region (SOMER). After that, POMRAC was expected to focus on activities related to Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM) including land-based sources of pollution. Preparation of SOMER and all activities related to ICARM were implemented in close collaboration with all NOWPAP RACs.

The 12th NOWPAP POMRAC FPM (4-5 September 2014, Busan, Republic of Korea) reviewed and discussed major POMRAC activities in accordance with the decisions of the 18th NOWPAP IGM. One of the main POMRAC activities agreed upon was the development of Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs) in the NOWPAP region. POMRAC FPs and experts as well as representatives of CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC and partner organizations (such as OSPAR, PICES, WESTPAC, and YSLME) participated in the meeting.

In 2015, most of POMRAC activities were “frozen” due to problems with processing payments to foreign experts from Russia. The 20th IGM (Beijing, People’s Republic of China 28-30 October 2015) decided in order to simplify the administrative processes of recruitment and payments to foreign experts (consultants), to assign the implementation of some POMRAC activities through DINRAC budget with small-scale funding agreement (SSFA) between POMRAC and DINRAC while maintaining POMRAC responsibility for the outputs and leadership of these activities.

The 13th POMRAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) back-to-back with the Workshop on EcoQOs (Vladivostok, Russia, 19-20 May 2016) agreed to prepare Regional Overview on possible Ecological Quality Objectives in the NOWPAP region, discussed the format and procedures of work for this and other POMRAC activities in 2016-2017 biennium. The Meeting has adopted the structure and contents of the Regional Overview “Targets and indicators for Ecological Quality Objectives for the NOWPAP region”

The 14th POMRAC FPM (Vladivostok, Russia, 25-26 October, 2017) reviewed and adopted the “Regional overview of possible Ecological Quality Objective indicators for the NOWPAP region”, compiled by the International Consultant based on the National Inputs prepared by the nominated national experts. The Meeting discussed future POMRAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium, including 1) Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators, phase 1; 2) Assessment of trends in river and direct Inputs of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment in the NOWPAP region during the last decade; 3) Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian part of NOWPAP area.

The 15th POMRAC FPM (Vladivostok, Russia, 4-5 July, 2018) reviewed and discussed major POMRAC activities for the biennium 2018-2019. The implementation of the POMRAC activities on the EcoQOs targets, on the river and direct inputs, and on the assessment of microplastic abundance in river runoff has been discussed in details.

The 16th POMRAC Focal Points Meeting (FPM) will be held in Beijing, China on 30 October – 1 November 2019 to review the progress of POMRAC current activities and to discuss the activities for the 2020-2021 biennium. Focal Points and experts of the NOWPAP Members, namely China, Japan, Korea and Russia will participate in the 16th NOWPAP POMRAC FPM. NOWPAP RCU representative as well as representatives of CEARAC, DINRAC, MERRAC and partner organizations, such as YSLME, COBSEA, PICES, and PEMSEA will be also invited to

participate in the meeting. It is planned to hold back-to-back with POMRAC FPM the Regional Workshop “Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian part of NOWPAP area” with the aim to discuss in detail the problems of river pollution by microplastics not only in Russia, but also in other NOWPAP

countries. Program of this workshop will include the presentations of the experts from NOWPAP countries describing the status of microplastics pollution in rivers, estuaries and adjacent coastal waters. Methods used for the sampling, processing and analysis of microplastics in environment will be the second topic at the WS.

Day 1 (30 October, 2019)

Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

The 16th NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting will be opened at 9:30 am at the **Grand Metropark Hotel** Beijing October 30 2019 by the Director of POMRAC, Dr. Anatoly KACHUR. Welcoming remarks by NOWPAP RCU representative will follow. Representatives of the participating members will be invited to make opening remarks if they wish.

Agenda Item 2. Organization of the Meeting

2.1. Election of the officers

The meeting will be invited to elect the Chairperson and the Rapporteur for the 16th NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting. As it had been decided during the previous POMRAC Focal Points Meetings, the duty of the chairpersons for FPM would be performed on a rotational basis. This time the Chairperson should be a representative of Russia, and the Rapporteur – a representative of Japan.

2.2. Organization of work

2.2.1. Rules of procedure will be established. It is proposed that, for purposes of the meeting, the rules used here be those of the UN Environment Assembly, adjusted as appropriate to suit the nature of the meeting.

2.2.2. The secretariat will introduce a suggested program of work and timetable of the meeting.

2.2.3. English will be the working language of the meeting and all decisions will be made by consensus. The secretariat will present a provisional list of the documents (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 16/Inf. 1).

Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

The Provisional Agenda (NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM16/1) will be introduced by the Secretariat with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM16/2). The meeting will be invited to consider and adopt the agenda.

Agenda Item 4. Overview of the progress made in the intersessional period after the 15th NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting

4.1. Report of NOWPAP RCU representative on the progress in the implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan after the 15th NOWPAP POMRAC FPM

NOWPAP RCU Representative will introduce to the meeting the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities during the intersessional period (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 16/3).

4.2. Report on the implementation and expenditure of POMRAC activities in 2018-2019 biennium

Director of POMRAC will present the implementation of POMRAC activities in 2018-2019 (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 16/4). The meeting will be invited to hold a general discussion after the presentation.

4.3. Report on the implementation of activity “Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian part of NOWPAP area”

Mr. Kozlovsky as a POMRAC expert will present the progress in implementation of this activity in form of technical report (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 16/5, and UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/ FPM 16/Inf.6). Meeting will be invited to discuss the report and way to continue the activity on microplastic issue in POMRAC workplan for the 2020-2021 biennium.

Agenda Item 5. Report on the implementation of activity “Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators, phase 1”

International Consultant will present the Regional synthesis report on the “Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators, phase 1”

(UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 16/6, and UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/ FPM 16/Inf.7). The meeting will be invited to discuss the results of activity and to consider recommendation to continue this activity (phase 2).

Agenda Item 6. Report on the preparation Regional Overview “Assessment of trends in river and direct inputs of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment in the NOWPAP region during the last decade”

POMRAC Secretariat will present the Regional Overview “Assessment of trends in river and direct Inputs of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment in the NOWPAP region during the last decade” (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 16/7). The meeting will be invited to discuss the results of this activity and to consider recommendation of the Regional Overview to the publishing.

Agenda Item 7. Discussion of the future POMRAC activities on the 2020-2021

7.1. Discussion of the proposal for the Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators. Phase 2

POMRAC Secretariat will present the proposal with workplan and budget for the activity “Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators, phase 2” (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 16/8). The meeting will be invited to discuss this activity, to provide comments, and to recommend workplan and budget for the approval by the next NOWPAP IGM

7.2. Discussion of the proposal for POMRAC activities related to the preparation of SOMER-3

POMRAC Secretariat will present the draft structure and content of Third State of Marine Environment Report (SOMER-3) suggested by POMRAC Secretariat for the discussion (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 16/9). Taking into account the complexity of the preparation of SOMER 3, and necessity to involve into the work on this activity all RACs, and outside experts, POMRAC Secretariat proposes to hold a special Workshop on the detailed discussion of SOMER 3 structure, content and implementation plan. Meeting will be invited to discuss and to adopt the scheme of SOMER 3 preparation for further approval by the next NOWPAP IGM.

7.3. Discussion of proposal for the continuation of activity “Microplastics abundance in river runoff of the NOWPAP region”

POMRAC Secretariat will present the proposal for the continuation of activity on the assessment of microplastic abundance in the river runoff within NOWPAP region in form of National inputs with further compilation as regional overview (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 16/10). Meeting will be invited to discuss the proposal for further approval by the next NOWPAP IGM for the implementation.

Agenda Item 8. Workplan and budget of POMRAC activities for the 2020-2021 biennium

Director of POMRAC will introduce to the Meeting the Workplan and Budget for POMRAC in 2020-2021 biennium, for the further approval at the 24th NOWPAP IGM (December 2019, Beijing, China). The POMRAC FPM will be invited to review and provide guidance to the workplan (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 16/11).

Agenda Item 9. Arrangements for the 17th NOWPAP POMRAC FPM

The Secretariat will propose a venue and tentative dates of the 17th NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting for discussion and approval.

Agenda Item 10. Other matters

The meeting will be invited to raise any other issues relevant to POMRAC activities to be discussed during the 16th POMRAC FPM.

Day 2 (31 October, 2019)

Agenda Item 11. Adoption of the report of the meeting

A draft report of the meeting will be prepared by the Rapporteur and the Secretariat for consideration and adoption.

Agenda Item 12. Closure of the meeting

The meeting will be closed by the Chairperson.

Day 3 (1 November, 2019)**Regional Workshop “Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region”**

1. Report on the discussion and decision of TEMM-NOWPAP Workshop on Marine Litter and RAP MALI FPM (Dalian, September 2019) (representative of RCU)
2. Status of rivers in the northeastern Chinese provinces within NOWPAP region in relation to microplastic abundance (Ms. Zhang Weiwei)
3. Current pollution of rivers and coastal waters in ROK by floating debris and microplastics (Ms. Heejee Lee)
4. Discussion of the technical report “Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian part of NOWPAP area” (Mr.Kozlovsky)
5. The monitoring of the plastic and microplastic content in the river waters of Japan (TBD)