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**Northwest Pacific Action Plan  
Pollution Monitoring  
Regional Activity Center**

The Fourth NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting  
Qingdao, China, 25-26 April 2006

**Report on the activities of NOWPAP Pollution Monitoring Regional  
Activity Center (POMRAC) in 2005**

## **Background**

Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center of UNEP Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) was formed by NOWPAP Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting (Beijing, China, April 6-7, 1999) on the basis of the Pacific Geographical Institute of the Far Eastern Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences (Vladivostok).

In its work POMRAC is guided by UNEP Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region, the Resolutions of NOWPAP First Intergovernmental Meeting (Seoul, Korea, September 14, 1994), Resolutions of NOWPAP Third Intergovernmental Meeting (Vladivostok, Russia, April 9, 1998), NOWPAP Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting (Beijing, China, April 6-7, 1999) and NOWPAP Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting (Vladivostok, Russia, March 20-22, 2002).

POMRAC work on the territory of Russia is guided by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, laws and other norms of Russian legislation, UNEP management directives. The Russian National NOWPAP body is the Ministry of Natural Resources with Centre for International Projects acting as its executive body.

The overall goal of POMRAC is the coordination of activity and establishment of cooperation in regional monitoring of marine and coastal environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP/3) under the program NOWPAP UNEP.

Following the results of discussions at the First NOWPAP/3 Coordinating Committee Meeting (Beijing, 21-22 May 2001), the 7<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting (Vladivostok, 20-22 March 2002) shared the responsibilities and activities between CEARAC and POMRAC as presented in document UNEP/NOWPAP IG.7/8. POMRAC is fully responsible for two working groups: WG 1 - Atmospheric Deposition of contaminants into the marine and coastal environment; and WG 2 – River and Direct Inputs of contaminants into the marine and coastal environment.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting approved the budget of \$150,000 for 2004/2005 for POMRAC activities.

Report of the activities of POMRAC in 2004 – September 2005 was made during the 3<sup>rd</sup> POMRAC Focal Point Meeting (13-14 October, 2005, Vladivostok, Russia) (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 3/7).

### **The main functions and tasks of POMRAC are:**

- To collect relevant information on the introduction of the program of regional monitoring of marine and coastal environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP/3).
- To organize meetings of Working Groups under the plan approved by the member states at intergovernmental meetings.
- To collect information on technologies and know-how in the field of monitoring of the sea, coastal and associated fresh waters as well as the atmosphere in NOWPAP region.
- To develop training programs, to plan and organize training courses and technical seminars.
- To coordinate an exchange of monitoring results in the network of monitoring stations which are included in NOWPAP/3 system and to give these results to other NOWPAP projects and organizations.
- To provide regular reports on the activity of Regional center and to submit these results to NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meetings.

- To publish the technical reports, manuals, bulletins etc. as results of NOWPAP activity.
- To continuously inform the population and organizations concerned on the condition of sea, coastal and associated fresh waters as well as the atmosphere in the NOWPAP region.
- To maintain contacts with POMRAC Working groups and with the appropriate national and regional international organizations in NOWPAP member states to achieve the objectives and tasks of the UNEP NOWPAP.
- To provide the necessary methodical and, when possible, technical assistance for organizations of the NOWPAP countries in efforts and techniques of monitoring of sea, coastal and associated fresh waters and the atmosphere. To organize data intercalibration in cooperation with other international and regional organizations concerned, first of all IOC UNESCO. To promote harmonization of the approaches and techniques used in NOWPAP/3 monitoring network.
- To consider and, in consultation with RCU NOWPAP, to undertake other necessary initiatives to achieve the objectives and tasks of the Action Plan in the field of pollution monitoring.

**Within its Terms of Reference and under current legislation, POMRAC has the rights:**

- To liaise with NOWPAP partners; To participate in NOWPAP work on adjacent subjects;
- To involve specialists and experts in the preparation of materials on NOWPAP problems, to form regional environmental cooperation expert boards in consultation with the national coordinator, Center for International Projects.
- To participate in an information exchange on regional environmental problems in accordance with national rules and procedures;
- To conduct meetings and other activities on realization of POMRAC NOWPAP thematic sectors and the program as a whole and on adjacent subjects;
- To prepare recommendations for national and international partners concerned in prospective lines of activity of POMRAC NOWPAP;
- To conduct analysis of information on the problems of international environmental cooperation in the region;
- To advise organizations, institutions and individual experts on international environmental cooperation in the region;
- To correspond with the POMRAC partners on routine matters.

**Outline of POMRAC**

The managerial functions of POMRAC are executed by POMRAC Directorate on the basis of Pacific Geography Institute of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Center for International Projects. Day-to-day technical-organizational work is to be done by the assigned researchers and technicians from Pacific Geography Institute of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

**Staff**

Three staffers of PGI have been engaged in the work related to POMRAC activities.

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### **Main Responsibilities**

In accordance with the decision of NOWPAP Eight Intergovernmental Meeting, with the budget approved at this meeting and with the main lines of POMRAC work the following activities are scheduled for 2004 – 2005:

1. Development of the primary goals, and structure of national and regional reports for working groups.
2. Holding the 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group Meetings,
3. Holding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group Meetings,
4. Holding the 2<sup>nd</sup> POMRAC Focal Points Meeting
5. Preparation of the basic formats for National Reports.
6. Preparation of the basic formats for Regional Overviews.
7. Preparation of the Structure of the State Marine Environment Report for NOWPAP Region.
8. Support of POMRAC website.

### **Main Activities in 2005:**

**The Second Joint Meeting of NOWPAP Working Groups (WG1 and WG2)** was held during 10-11 October 2005 in Vladivostok, Russian Federation

The major objectives of this meeting were:

- Overview of National Reports, prepared by National Experts of WG 1 (Atmospheric Deposition) and WG 2 (River and Direct Inputs) of NOWPAP;
- Recommendations for harmonization and publishing of National Reports of WG1 and WG2;
- To agree Structures of the Regional Overviews for WG 1 and WG 2;
- The establishment of the Reference Database on Atmospheric Deposition of Contaminants into the Marine and Coastal Environment in NOWPAP Region (AD Reference Database) and the Reference Database on River and Direct Inputs of Contaminants into the Marine and Coastal Environment in NOWPAP Region (RDI Reference Database);
- To recommend Workplan of WG1 and WG2 to the 3<sup>rd</sup> POMRAC FPM for 2006/7.

The participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting of NOWPAP Working Groups were nominated POMRAC Focal Points of four NOWPAP Members, experts from NOWPAP members, a representative of RCU NOWPAP UNEP, representatives of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Science, the director of CEARAC, representatives of DINRAC and MERRAC.

**The Third Focal Points Meeting of POMRAC** was held during 13-14 October 2005 in Vladivostok, Russian Federation.

The major objectives of this meeting were:

- Review and adoption of the Report on activities and budget expenditures made during inter-sessional period after Second NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting (see table);

- Review and adoption decisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> WG1 Meeting on National Reports “Atmospheric Deposition” and the 2<sup>nd</sup> WG2 Meeting on National Reports “River and direct inputs”.
- Review and adoption of the Content of Regional Overviews “Atmospheric Deposition” and “River and Direct Inputs”, approval of Consultant(s) for preparation of the Regional Overviews.
- Discussion of possible directions of activity POMRAC for 2006/7 and further.
- Review and adoption of the Content of the STATE OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT REPORT IN THE NOWPAP REGION
- Discussion and adoption of the proposed Workplan and Budget of NOWPAP POMRAC for the 2006/2007 biennium.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> FPM recommends Budget and Workplan of POMRAC for 2006/7 for the 10<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting.

The participants of the Third FPM were the nominated Focal Points of four NOWPAP Members, invited experts from NOWPAP Members, representatives of RCU NOWPAP, of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Science, the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, the director of CEARAC and representatives of DINRAC and MERRAC.

The report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Focal Points Meeting of POMRAC is published and distributed among all NOWPAP members by POMRAC. This report is on WEBSITE of POMRAC NOWPAP <http://www.pomrac.dvo.ru> .

**Total costs of expenses for carrying out ‘Back to Back’ the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meetings of WG 1, WG 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> FPM have made 43000 dollars.**

Director of POMRAC presented the REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NOWPAP POLLUTION MONITORING REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTER (POMRAC) IN 2004/2005, Workplan and Budget for 2006/07 on the **10<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting on the Northwest Pacific Action Plan** (Toyama, Japan, 24-26 November 2005). The 10<sup>th</sup> IGM approved all POMRAC documents and budget of \$ 155 500 for 2006/7 for POMRAC activities.

The 10<sup>th</sup> IGM has approved the directions for the NOWPAP RACs including the new activities of POMRAC such as State of Marine Environment Report (with other RACs), Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICRBM), Land Based Sources of Pollution (with other RACs) and Marine Litter (with other RACs).

### **Other activities**

In June - August, 2004 Terms of Reference for National Consultants for preparation of the National Report and the basic formats for preparation of National Reports of the NOWPAP countries (tables, maps and others) were prepared by POMRAC after their approval by the National Focal Points.

In August, 2004 projects of contracts (Memorandums of Understanding) with National Experts for preparation of National Reports were prepared. Signing of contracts was not carried out before March 2005 because of existing problems with financing through the Russian banks. Only by assistance of RCU and UNEP we solved the problem in the beginning of March, 2005.

Table. Expenditures for POMRAC in 2004/2005

Activity	Actions and planned date	Term of execution	Responsibility	Remarks	Planned Budget US\$	Expenditures for 2004-2005
'Back to Back' Meeting of WG 1, WG 2 and 2 <sup>nd</sup> FPM	May 2004	May 2004	POMRAC with assistance of UNEP	Vladivostok, Russia,	36 000	36 000
Preparation of the National Report of WG 1	June 2004 – February 2005	February 2005 – July 2005	National Experts from each NOWPAP Member States	\$5,000 for experts from each NOWPAP member	20 000	20 000
Preparation of the National Report of WG 2	June 2004 – February 2005	February 2005 – July 2005	National Experts from each NOWPAP Member States	\$5,000 for experts from each NOWPAP Member States	20 000	20 000
'Back to Back' Meeting of WG 1, WG 2 and 3 <sup>rd</sup> FPM	May 2005	October 2005	POMRAC with assistance of RCU and UNEP	POMRAC, Vladivostok	33 000	42 000
Harmonization of WG 1 National Reports	February – May 2005	October-November 2005	POMRAC	POMRAC through national experts	6 000	6 000
Harmonization of WG2 National Reports	February – May 2005	October-November 2005	POMRAC	POMRAC through national experts	6 000	6 000
Printing of NOWPAP Booklet		August – September 2005				1 000
Printing of National Reports	Autumn 2005	Winter 2005/2006			4 000	4 000
Preparation of WG 1 Regional Overview	June 2005 – end of 2005	November 2005- February 2006	POMRAC with assistance of UNEP and RCU	Activity and budgets could continue to next biennium	10 000	5 000
Preparation of WG 2 Regional Overview	June 2005 – end of 2005	November 2005- February 2006	POMRAC with assistance of UNEP and RCU	Activity and budgets could continue to next biennium	10 000	5 000
Website	Throughout 2004/5		POMRAC		2 000	2 000
Cooperation, coordination of POMRAC activities and communication	Throughout 2004/5		POMRAC in cooperation with RCU, UNEP, UNESCO/IOC and relevant regional organizations		3 000	3 000
<b>Total</b>					<b>150 000</b>	<b>150 000</b>

During July - August 2005 all National Reports of Working Group 1 (AD) and practically all of National Reports of Working Group 2 (RDI) (except report by National Expert of ROK) were received. Payments for expert work of 37500 US dollars were made. Remuneration for the expert from Republic of Korea for the Report for Working Group 2 (2,500 US\$) was paid after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of NOWPAP Working Group 2 (13-14 October 2005, Vladivostok, Russia), where the report was presented.

In October-December of 2005 POMRAC Secretariat worked on edition of Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of NOWPAP Working Group 1, Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of NOWPAP Working Group 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Focal Points Meeting of POMRAC. The Reports were published in March 2006. Cost of the publication made 1425 US dollars.

In November of 2005 there were signed Memorandums of Understanding for National Experts of WG 1 and for National Experts of WG 2 for harmonization and finalization of the National Reports according to decisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP WG 1 and WG 2 Meetings (10-11 October, 2005, Vladivostok, Russia) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC FPM (13-14 October, 2005, Vladivostok, Russia). By December 12, 2005, POMRAC Secretariat received the Final National Reports, which were finalized by POMRAC National Experts:

1. Chinese National Report for WG 1 – Mr. Ruibin WANG
2. Chinese National Report for WG 2 – Ms. Mingcui WANG
3. Japanese National Report for WG 1 – Mr. Susumo OKADA
4. Japanese National Report for WG 2 – Mr. Susumo OKADA
5. Korean National Report for WG 1 – Dr. Hee Gu CHOI
6. Russian National Report for WG 1 – Dr. Tatiana BELAN
7. Russian National Report for WG 2 – Dr. Vladimir M. SHULKIN

Dr. Jae Ryoung OH - Expert of Republic of Korea for WG2 – sent Final National Report on 31 of January 2006.

Payments for expert work of 12000 US dollars were made.

In January-March 2006 POMRAC Secretariat worked on edition National Reports on Atmospheric Deposition of Contaminants into the Marine and Coastal Environment in NOWPAP Region and National Reports on River and Direct Inputs of Contaminants into the Marine and Coastal Environment in NOWPAP Region. These Reports are planned to be published by May, 2006.

In December 05 – January 06 projects of contracts (Memorandums of Understanding) with International Experts (Consultants) for preparation of Regional Overview were prepared. Signing of contracts was carried out in February 2006.

Director of POMRAC participated in Intersessional Workshop 2005 in Seoul in July, 2005. Together with other RACs, during this meeting there was achieved the arrangement on preparation "STATE OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT REPORT IN THE NOWPAP REGION".

Representatives of POMRAC participated in FPMs of other regional NOWPAP centers: MERRAC (2005, May); CEARAC (2005, September; 2006, March); DINRAC (2005, September).

In 2004 - 2005 POMRAC took part in work of two Workshops of GIWA (Program GIWA UNEP) on the problems of preservation of the environment devoted to NOWPAP region. POMRAC secretariat and POMRAC National Experts have prepared two GIWA reports in which priority problems of environmental condition of NOWPAP region are determined. Charges on these actions are carried out at the expense of additional funds (outside of the voted POMRAC budget).

In 2005 POMRAC took part in preparation of recommendations for expansion of a network of biosphere reserves of region for improvement of background monitoring system of the environment (Program MAB UNESCO) and in work of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Workshop of East Asia Biosphere Network. Charges on these actions are carried out at the expense of additional funds (outside of the voted POMRAC budget).

In January, 2006 POMRAC prepared materials on Amur River pollution which resulted from chemical facility accident in Jilin, China in November, 2005. In March, 2006 Director of POMRAC reported on this problem on special session of Khabarovsky krai administration.

During the accounting period POMRAC website was supported.