

UNEP/EC Workshop on Regional Ocean
Governance, 9-10 November 2015, Brussels

Recap of Day 1



Expected Outcomes

- Substantive contribution to the European Commission Communication on International Ocean Governance under preparation ;
- Contribution to a wider ocean governance strategy ;
- Exchange of views on regional governance frameworks, based on work under the regional seas, in particular related to marine spatial planning among other tools as well as monitoring mechanisms; and
- Preparation of recommendations for action that may be taken up by UNEP and the European Commission

Day 1 discussion

- *There is no need for new or additional mechanisms as there is a wide number of existing frameworks and the current governance landscape at Regional level is effective at addressing regional governance level*
- *A mapping of existing regional mechanisms, processes, actors and their mandate, and expected impact, stakeholders and comparative advantage. Actions and advocacy at national, regional and international level, (deep sea fisheries and marine litter)*
- *Current regional mechanisms should focus on implementation, some need strengthening and reinforcing across the different sectors*
- *Communication across sectors is not effective therefore networking is essential to bridge that gap*
- *Sharing good practices of interaction between national level and regional level implementation and the importance of mainstreaming*

Day 1 discussion

- There is a need for inclusive engagement of wider stakeholders in ocean governance including private sector and civil society including more innovative approaches (community based monitoring ...)
- Regional governance is a reflection of national governance sovereignty and freedom of access
- Regional level diversity is a reflection of national level heterogeneity of institutions and processes
- Reflecting on the comparative advantages of actions at the three levels: National and regional and international levels should be differentiated

Day 1 recap

- No single regional ocean governance mechanism can handle all ocean issues in an integrated manner, but cooperation among/between them may bridge the gaps.
- Efficiency of each mechanism can be improved
- UNEP, EC and other international organisations are recommended to carry out a mapping/gap analysis of existing ocean governance related projects/programmes/initiatives in order to identify synergies to build on towards integrated regional ocean governance.
- UNEP and EC are recommended to work with other international and regional organisations to compile good practices for collaboration, or/and mapping and comparing the existent practices.

Recap of Day 1

- All intersectoral cooperation should be objective driven however OSAPR NEAFC model started with practical dialogue between the two sectors and built up objectives as a result of the dialogue. This can be a model to learn from.
- Intersectoral cooperation needs and entry point such as blue economy, Ecosystem based approach, food security, CC.
- Ecosystem Approach is underlying principle for operational intersectoral cooperation
- There are good models that exist between the regional seas and regional fisheries bodies.
- Regional regional fisheries bodies and other regional mechanisms are the implementation mechanisms of global conventions and other international agenda, such as IMO conventions, CBD and CMS.

Recap of Day 1

- Mapping and overlay of all human activities in the oceans may be carried out which could form a basis for intersectoral cooperation
- Strengthen exchange of lessons learnt/twinning of between Regional Seas frameworks

Recap Day 1

- The regional seas and other regional ocean mechanisms together use the indicators for SDGs and coordinate and mutually support the use of these indicators with the member States.
- Advantage of the regional approach for SDG implementation is facilitating country implementation and harmonization of country actions targeting specific marine ecosystems
- Multiple regional mechanisms such as regional economic communities (EC, AU, UNECE) can play a role in the review and follow up of SDG implementation. However this regionalization may not coincide with marine regions. Ocean specific regional review and follow up mechanisms may be developed.

Recap Day 1

- The SDGs and associated targets could easily be integrated into the regional targets, such as Good Environment Status, regional seas ecological objectives, etc. The regional mechanisms however may need to review their existing targets and objectives in order to match with meeting the SDGs. The example of the MSSD revealed the feasibility and usefulness of taking regional marine approach on SD.
 - Proposal to develop similar regional SD strategies in other marine regions and highlighting alignment and visualization of the regional marine strategy with SDGs