Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Oceans and Coasts

The Role of Regional Ocean Governance
Starting point

- Ocean sustainability represents a unique challenge that States cannot tackle individually.

- Regional organisations, mechanisms and instruments already play a crucial role in delivering ocean sustainability.

- Cooperation and coordination through existing regional frameworks is recognized in the 2030 Agenda.
Scope & Objectives

- Provide an overview of different regional approaches and frameworks for ocean sustainability
- Assess how different types of regional ocean governance efforts already contribute to SDG14 targets
- Showcase regional ocean governance approaches from different marine regions
- Provide options to advance regional oceans governance as key element for the implementation of SDG14.
## Case studies: SDG14 targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Showcase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>WIO-LAB</td>
<td>Advance cooperation, legal base, awareness, innovation to tackle land-based pollution</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>Baltic MSP Roadmap</td>
<td>Develop transboundary coherent MSP based on EBM</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>Coral Triangle Initiative</td>
<td>Advance cooperation, capacities, awareness, research on ocean acidification for informed decisions</td>
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<td>14.4</td>
<td>Fish-I Africa</td>
<td>Promote cooperation and exchange to strengthen control and enforcement on IUU</td>
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<td>14.6</td>
<td>Xiamen Declaration</td>
<td>Promote transparency &amp; elimination of harmful subsidies</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.a</td>
<td>PIMPAC</td>
<td>Develop capacity surrounding the Micronesia Challenge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.b</td>
<td>RFLP</td>
<td>Promotion of fisheries co-management, knowledge base, management plans, job diversification</td>
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### Case studies: ROG in practice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Showcase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baltic Sea</td>
<td>EUSBSR</td>
<td>Integrated framework to complement and improve alignment, coordination and cooperation of existing policies and institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEA</td>
<td>OSPAR-NEAFC collective arrangement</td>
<td>RFMO-RSC cooperation for dialogue and coordination of conservation and management measures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>Micronesia Challenge</td>
<td>Leader-driven initiative to achieve CBD targets through co-creation, joint management and capacity building</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIO</td>
<td>Consortium for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems</td>
<td>Stakeholder Partnership to support synergy in work programs and share information amongst stakeholders</td>
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Draft Conclusions

Regional ocean governance helps States to:

- Tackle ocean sustainability challenges based on EBM
- Coordinate, cooperate and exchange across “silos”
- Develop a shared understanding of challenges to ocean sustainability
- Trigger new initiatives to strengthen or complement existing policies and measures
- Ensure transparent and inclusive decision-making
- Promote capacity development

=> Matters for the delivery of SDG14 targets and the SDG14 goal
Draft Conclusions

Regional ocean governance “secret of success”:

- Strong political will and ownership of national actors
- Shared perception of a common challenge
- Legal framework requiring/supporting regional action
- Competent and well-equipped regional secretariats
- Stakeholder involvement via national coordination points
- Tailor-made support and capacity building to ensure level playing field among actors
- Targeted and aligned measures across all scales
- Flexible approach adaptable to national diversity
Draft Conclusions

Regional ocean governance is continuously evolving with competent organizations and mechanisms facing many challenges:

- Diverse range of national dynamics, interests and capacities
- Room for manoeuvre confined by other supranational regimes with overlapping or superordinate mandates
- Results more labour-intensive and time-consuming discouraging leadership and active engagement
- Limited human and financial resources
- Unclear or weak legal frameworks
- Lack of a comprehensive knowledge base
Draft Recommendations

Regional ocean governance should be further strengthened to unfold their full potential to support States in 2030 Agenda delivery

- Support and expand steps already taken by States and Regional Ocean Governance Organizations
- Develop tailor-made and context-specific regional partnerships for sustainable oceans
- Establish a forum for “inter-regional” and “region-to-global” cooperation
Thank you!

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