



**Northwest  
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Action Plan**

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Northwest Pacific Action Plan  
Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center

The Fourteenth NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting  
Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 26-27 October 2017

**REPORT OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC FOCAL POINTS MEETING**

## Background

1. The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) and three Resolutions were adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 14 September 1994). Resolution 1 identified five areas of priority for implementation of the Action Plan, one of which was NOWPAP/3: Establishment of a collaborative regional monitoring programme.

2. Following the decision of the 3<sup>rd</sup> NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting, the responsibility for NOWPAP/3 (Regional Monitoring Programme) was jointly shared by the Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Center (CEARAC) and the Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Center (POMRAC). The POMRAC is one of the four Regional Activity Centers (RACs) created 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 NOWPAP. Initially POMRAC had responsibility to implement activities related to atmospheric deposition of contaminants and river and direct inputs of contaminants.

3. Following the results of discussions at the First NOWPAP/3 Meeting (Beijing, China, 21-22 May 2001), the 7<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting (Vladivostok, 20-22 March 2002) approved the resolution 3.6, "the demarcation of the responsibilities and activities between CEARAC and POMRAC". Subsequently POMRAC was allocated with the responsibility to implement activities related to Working Group (WG) 1 "Atmospheric Deposition of Contaminants" and WG 2 "River and Direct Inputs of Contaminants".

4. The 4<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting (Qingdao, China, 25-26 April 2006) decided to implement several activities related to Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management in NOWPAP Region in 2006/2007, namely:

- to create the Working Group for Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM WG),
- to organize the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of ICARM WG,
- to prepare National Reports and Regional Overview on ICARM.

5. During January-June 2007 the NOWPAP POMRAC Working Group for Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM WG) was established.

6. The 10<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM has approved plan of future actions "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 following preparation of the State of Marine Environment Report in the NOWPAP Region (SOMER). After that, POMRAC might consider focusing on activities related to Integrated Coastal and River Basin Management (ICARM) that includes land-based sources of pollution. Preparation

of SOMER and all activities related to ICARM should be implemented in close collaboration with all NOWPAP RACs.

7. The 11<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting was held in Tianjin city, China on 9-10 October, 2013. The Meeting has reviewed and discussed major POMRAC activities in 2012-2013; discussed draft "Regional overview of persistent toxic substances (PTS) in the coastal environment of the NOWPAP region"; draft of the second "State of Marine Environmental Report" for the NOWPAP region; activities of the Working Group on Integrated Coastal and River Basin management (ICARM WG), including ICARM Guidelines; and the draft workplan and the budget of POMRAC activities for the 2014-2015 biennium and planned activities of its Working Groups.

8. The 12<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC FPM (4-5 September 2014, Busan, Republic of Korea) reviewed and discussed major POMRAC activities in accordance with the decisions of the 18<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP IGM. After lengthy discussion the preliminary list of EcoQOs and POMRAC workplan for 2014-2015 biennium were approved by correspondence.

9. The 13<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM was held in Vladivostok, Russia on 19-20 May 2016 to review the progress of its current activities and to discuss the activities for the 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".

10. The 14<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM was held in Vladivostok, Russia on 25-26 October 2017 to review the progress of its current activities and to discuss the activities for the 2018-2019 biennium. Focal Points and experts of the NOWPAP Members, namely Japan, Republic of Korea, People's Republic of China, and Russian Federation participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC FPM. NOWPAP RCU representatives as well as representatives of DINRAC, MERRAC, CEARAC and local representatives of partner organizations, such as PICES and WESTPAC also participated in the meeting (annex 1).

### **Agenda Item 1. Opening of the Meeting**

11. The 14<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting was opened at 9:30 am at the Azimut Vladivostok Hotel in Vladivostok, Russia, 25 October 2017 by the Director of POMRAC, Dr. Anatoly KACHUR. He welcomed all meeting participants and wished fruitful work to the meeting, announcing the major topics for consideration, namely Workplan and budget of POMRAC for 2018-2019 biennium and NOWPAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2018-2023.

12. NOWPAP Coordinator, Dr. Lev NERETIN, also greeted the participants of the 14<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM, and extended his gratitude to the secretariat of POMRAC for organizing this meeting.

13. Dr. Kachur gave the floor to Academician Petr BAKLANOV, the scientific supervisor of the Pacific Geographical Institute FEB RAS which hosts the POMRAC. Acad. Baklanov wished all participants well-being and successful implementation of NOWPAP activities, including those involving conservation of good status of transboundary ecosystems and issues related to environmental assessment and protection.

## **Agenda Item 2. Organization of the Meeting**

### **2.1. Election of the officers**

14. The meeting was invited to elect the Chairperson and the Rapporteur for the 14<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting. As it had been decided during the previous POMRAC Focal Points Meetings, the duty of the chairperson for the FPM would be performed on a rotational basis. It was decided that this time the Chairperson should be Dr. Jongseong RYU, POMRAC Focal Point of the Republic of Korea, and the Rapporteur – Dr. Vladimir SHULKIN, POMRAC Focal Point of Russia.

### **2.2. Organization of work**

15. The Chairperson explained to the participants the rules of procedure of this Meeting, including the use of English as working language and making all decisions by consensus. He also presented the provisional list of the documents (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 14/Inf. 1). After that, he asked all participants to introduce themselves to each other.

## **Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the Agenda**

16. Dr. Kachur presented the Provisional Agenda (NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM14/1) with the Annotated Provisional Agenda (NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM14/2). The two documents were adopted with changes, because the Report on NOWPAP MTS was added to the list as agenda item 4.2.

## **Agenda Item 4. Overview of the progress made in the intersessional period after the 13<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting**

### **4.1. Report of NOWPAP RCU representative on implementation of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan after the 13<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting**

17. Dr. Ning LIU, the Programme Officer of NOWPAP, reported to the meeting on the progress of the entire NOWPAP activities during the intersessional period after the 13<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC FPM (NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM14/3). In his report, Dr. Liu described the progress of each NOWPAP RAC, listed the events of partner organizations where NOWPAP participated in the past year (including YSLME,

WESTPAC, APEC, PICES etc.), and mentioned that the total annual contribution of member countries for the NOWPAP trust fund reached \$US 500,000 in 2017.

#### **4.2. Report of the NOWPAP RCU on the Draft NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023**

18. Dr. Neretin has presented to the meeting participants the draft MTS of NOWPAP for 2018-2023 (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 14/inf.5), which should be presented for consideration and adoption at the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM (December 2017). He specifically focused on the four thematic areas and six operating principles of the MTS, concerning integration of the planned activities and their results into cost-effective and collaborative model. He explained the role of NOWPAP in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda adopted by UN members, stressed the importance of support to ICARM activities in NOWPAP, and prevention of regional land- and sea-based pollution. He also listed major activities of all RACs within the strategy, including preparation of SOMER 3 (planned to be supervised by POMRAC). After the presentation, the Chair invited participants to hold a general discussion.

19. Dr. Seong-Gil KANG, the Director of MERRAC, asked Dr. Neretin whether he circulated this draft MTS to member states for their pre-review before next IGM and why the issue of climate change was not listed in the MTS. Dr. Neretin explained that the climate change is not included into priority areas of NOWPAP; however, SOMER 3 and other activities would consider the issue of climate change, for example regarding its impact on biodiversity.

#### **4.3. Report on the implementation and the budget expenditures of POMRAC activities in the period after the 13<sup>th</sup> NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting**

20. The Chair invited Dr. Kachur to report on the implementation of POMRAC activities in 2016/2017 (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 14/4). The report covered the venue and results of the 13<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM, development of Regional Overview “Targets and Indicators for Ecological Quality Objectives used in NOWPAP member states”, RAP MALI implementation and the events with participation of POMRAC (mainly participation in the meetings of other RACs and meetings and sessions of the partner organizations, such as PICES, YSLME, APEC, etc.).

#### **4.4. Report on the implementation of RAP MALI in 2016-2017**

21. Mr. Nikolai KOZLOVSKII, representative of POMRAC, reported on the implementation of RAP MALI in 2016/2017 (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 14/4/1), mainly focusing on the preparation and publishing of the “Research report on Microplastic Content and Migration in the Coastal Water of the Peter-the-Great Gulf” in the end of the biennium.

#### **Agenda Item 5. Discussion on the review and adoption of the “Regional overview of possible Ecological Quality Objective indicators for the NOWPAP region”**

22. Dr. Shulkin presented the Regional Overview compiled by the International Consultant based on the National Inputs prepared by the nominated national experts. This Regional Overview has been disseminated among RCU, RACs, POMRAC experts and Focal Points, and NOWPAP National Focal Points for the comments. The comments and notes were adopted and taken into account in the current version (UNEP/NOWPAP/POMRAC/FPM 14/ Inf. 4). The meeting was invited to discuss and adopt the “Regional overview of possible Ecological Quality Objective indicators for the NOWPAP region”.

23. Dr. Osamu MATSUDA, POMRAC Expert of Japan, mentioned that it would be desirable to consider closer alignment of NOWPAP ecological quality objective (EcoQO) indicators with relevant SDG indicators. Dr. Neretin supported this assertion.

24. Dr. Kang pointed out that application of SDG indicators in the NOWPAP region from next year is too premature, stressing that the SDG indicators were adopted just several months ago at UN level and relevant assessment methodologies were not set up at global level.

25. Dr. Feng YAN, the Director of NOWPAP DINRAC, recommended to take into account the necessity to find the link between SDGs and EcoQOs, focusing on classification of indicators, quantitative methods and accessibility of the data sources, for example national reports.

26. After the discussion, member states adopted this Regional Overview and agreed on publishing it.

## **Agenda Item 6. Discussion of the future POMRAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium**

### **6.1. Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators. Phase 1**

27. Dr. Shulkin presented the proposal on the activity of POMRAC for EcoQOs issue in 2018-2019 biennium (annex 2). This activity is supposed to continue the development and elaboration of Ecological Quality indicators focusing initially on closer alignment with the SDG 14 and 15 indicators. The meeting was invited to hold a general discussion after the presentation.

28. Dr. Kang made several comments on the direction of the future work and on the methodologies for its implementation. He mentioned that the result of the previous project to review availability of suggested EcoQO indicators in this region (implemented by POMRAC in 2016/2017) was that most of suggested Indicators could not be applicable in this region at the present stage because of absence of relevant data from member states, so there is a need to clarify the exact purpose of this new project on EcoQOs and applicability of its future results. He also mentioned that the methodologies to apply SDG indicators have not yet been set up globally, so it might be too premature for NOWPAP to apply the concept of SDG indicators at the regional

level. Instead, POMRAC should try to overcome the barriers to apply the EcoQOs concept in the NOWPAP region. He offered two options as the direction of future work on EcoQOs in NOWPAP region: 1) search for new possible indicators, and 2) develop the draft regional strategy how to facilitate the NOWPAP members to adopt suggested EcoQO indicators at the national level. He also suggested that relevant OSPAR practice would be a good example for future's POMRAC activity on application of each EcoQO indicator in the NOWPAP region.

29. Dr. Shulkin responded that firstly despite some differences in the monitoring methodology there are still a lot of data available for the assessment of ecological problems at the regional level, and, secondly, the main goal of the proposed project is to compare EcoQO indicators with SDG indicators, not to apply SDG indicators themselves. The expertise of OSPAR and other international organizations was taken into account in the current activity and will be considered in the future activities.

30. Dr. Genki TERAUCHI, the representative of NOWPAP CEARAC, commented that CEARAC has the experience and the expertise in assessment of eutrophication in the NOWPAP region, and showed his interest in developing EcoQOs indicators related to coastal eutrophication with POMRAC. He also requested POMRAC to consider allocation of some budget for CEARAC depending on amount of work to be involved.

31. The Chair agreed with the necessity to define which EcoQOs can be applied within NOWPAP, because each country has its own legislative aspects and assessment criteria. National approaches can be extended to achieve the purpose of this project.

32. Dr. Neretin reaffirmed the importance of using the information existing in RACs related to EcoQO indicators and closer cooperation with all RACs in implementing this activity.

33. After a discussion, POMRAC Focal Points have adopted this proposal as future activity of POMRAC for 2018-2019.

## **6.2. Assessment of trends in river and direct Inputs of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment in the NOWPAP region during the last decade**

34. Dr. Shulkin presented the proposal for the activity of POMRAC in 2018-2019 biennium (annex 3) connected with analysis of the changes in river and direct inputs of contaminants to the sea during last decade.

35. After a discussion, the proposal for this activity was adopted by the POMRAC Focal Points.

## **6.3. Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian part of NOWPAP area**

36. Mr. Kozlovskii presented proposal for this activity for 2018-2019 (annex 4). The main goal of this project is to collect existing data on microplastics abundance and composition in the river runoff and coastal waters within the NOWPAP region and to obtain background information on the distribution of different kinds of microplastics in the river runoff and coastal waters of the Russian part of the NOWPAP region.

37. Dr. Kachur mentioned that additional funding for this activity would be available from the Russian Academy of Sciences.

38. Mr. Katsunori YANO, POMRAC Focal Point of Japan, raised a question about overlap among the other RACs, especially with CEARAC. Dr. Neretin answered that this activity is complimentary to other planned NOWPAP activities addressing microplastics, including assessment of national programs on microplastics by CEARAC, NOWPAP support to GESAMP Working Group 40, and proposal by China on harmonization of microplastic related methodologies. Furthermore, Dr. Neretin mentioned the ongoing work by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan on harmonization of methodologies for microplastics assessment.

39. After a discussion, the proposal for this activity was adopted by POMRAC Focal Points.

#### **Agenda Item 7. Review of workplan and budget of POMRAC activities for the 2018-2019 biennium**

40. Dr. Kachur introduced to the meeting the Workplan and Budget for POMRAC in 2018-2019 biennium for the future adoption at the 22<sup>nd</sup> NOWPAP IGM (December 2017, Toyama, Japan). The meeting was invited to review and provide guidance to the workplan (annex 5 and annex 6).

41. Mr. Yano asked to clarify the priority of the POMRAC activities in 2018-2019 in case that NOWPAP IGM does not approve this budget plan. Dr. Kachur prioritized POMRAC proposals in the following order: 1) EcoQOs issue, 2) Microplastics issue, 3) River and Direct Input issue.

42. The workplan and budget were adopted by POMRAC Focal Points after a discussion.

#### **Agenda Item 8. Arrangements for the 15th NOWPAP POMRAC FPM**

43. Dr. Kachur proposed that the 15th NOWPAP POMRAC Focal Points Meeting would be held in spring/summer 2018 in Vladivostok or Khabarovsk, Russia on the condition that the funding for POMRAC activities will not be reduced. Otherwise, the meeting might be organized in China or elsewhere in the NOWPAP member countries.

#### **Agenda Item 9. Other matters**

44. The meeting was invited to raise any other issues relevant to POMRAC activities.



45. Dr. Neretin mentioned about the possibility to coordinate current activities on biodiversity conservation planned for implementation by PGI FEB RAS (hosting organization of POMRAC) with activities of NEASPEC. Dr. Kachur answered that there is a possibility of cooperation of NOWPAP with NEASPEC on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

**Agenda Item 10. Adoption of the report of the meeting**

46. The draft report of the meeting was prepared by the Secretariat and checked by the Rapporteur for consideration and adoption. After consideration by the participants, the report was adopted.

47. POMRAC secretariat will circulate the adopted report to the meeting participants within two weeks.

**Agenda Item 11. Closure of the meeting**

48. The meeting was closed by the Chairperson 26 October 2017 at 13:00.

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**Annex 2**

## **Workplan and budget for the Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators. Phase 1**

### **PROPOSAL OUTLINE**

- 1. Project title: Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators. Phase 1.**
- 2. Leading RAC: NOWPAP POMRAC**
- 3. Participating NOWPAP members: China, Japan, Korea and Russia**
- 4. Supporting RACs: NOWPAP CEARAC, MERRAC, DINRAC**
- 5. Project period: 2 years (2018-2019)**
- 6. Total budget: US\$ 47,000**

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

#### **Project goal**

After adoption of sustainable development goals (SDGs) by the UN General Assembly in December 2015, NOWPAP activities related to Ecological Quality Objectives (EcoQOs) for the northwest Pacific also have to be aligned with the SDG indicators.

SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” and SDG 15 “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss” are the goals specifically most closely related to the proposed NOWPAP EcoQOs. For the time being only 4 indicators of these SDGs are directly reflected by the operational criteria and indicators of NOWPAP EcoQOs:

- 1) 14.1.1. “Index of coastal eutrophication” – by indicators of EcoQO 3: **Eutrophication adverse effects are absent**
- 2) 14.1.1. “Floating plastic debris density” – by indicators of EcoQ 5: **Marine litter does not adversely affect coastal and marine environments**
- 3) 14.4.1 “Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels” – by indicators of EcoQO 1: **Biological and habitat diversity are not changed significantly due to anthropogenic pressure**



- 4) 15.5.1. “Red List Index” – by indicators of EcoQO 1 **Biological and habitat diversity are not changed significantly due to anthropogenic pressure** and Eco QO 2 **Alien species are at levels that do not adversely alter the ecosystems**

The goal of this project is to analyze the national numerical targets (where they exist) on the NOWPAP EcoQO indicators and suggest (and then discuss) possible regional EcoQO targets aligned to the extent possible with the above mentioned SDGs indicators.

Other two SDG-14 indicators (14.2.1 “Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches” and 14.5.1 “Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas”) are covered by other NOWPAP activities (ICARM, EBM, etc.).

### **Brief description of the project implementation**

Each of the above mentioned SDG indicators has different background, availability of information, and implementation potential in each NOWPAP country. Obviously different experts from all NOWPAP countries and all NOWPAP RACs should be brought together for the project implementation. For each indicator the following aspects should be studied and presented:

- 1) Scientific background including analysis of advantages and limitations of indicator , taking into account international knowledge and experience within the NOWPAP region;
- 2) Availability of relevant information, including international and national official sources;
- 3) Assessment of possibility of applying each indicator, taking into account existing national legislation.

The template (proposed structure) of National Inputs will be prepared by POMRAC Secretariat after adoption of its 2018-2019 work plan by the NOWPAP Intergovernmental Meeting in 2017.

The preparation of National Inputs with information on above mentioned 3 aspects for each of the above mentioned SDG indicators will be a core of this project. The regional synthesis prepared after an analysis of these National Inputs (and preferably after a regional workshop)

will be the main output of this project. This synthesis report will be reviewed by NOWPAP RACs, RCU, NFPs, and then published and circulated between relevant stakeholders.

Possible phase 2 of this project will be discussed later, based on the success of the phase 1.

**Implementation plan**

Activities	2018				2019			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1. Finalization of workplan								
2. Nomination of experts and signing MoUs								
3. Preparation of National Inputs								
Workshop for about US\$ 20,000 to discuss possible regional targets								
4. Compilation of National Inputs and preparation of draft regional synthesis (report)								
5. Review, adoption, publication and dissemination of regional report								

**Project budget**

Activities	Budget allocation (US\$)
Experts from each NOWPAP member state (collecting data and preparing National Inputs)	22,000 (5,500x4)
Workshop (travel and accommodation of experts, etc.)	18,000
Compilation of National Inputs and preparation of draft regional synthesis (report)	5,000
Printing of regional synthesis	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$ 47,000</b>

## **Workplan and budget for the Assessment of trends in river and direct Inputs of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment in the NOWPAP region during the last decade**

### **PROPOSAL OUTLINE**

- 1. Project Title:** Assessment of trends in river and direct Inputs of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment in the NOWPAP region during the last decade.
- 2. Leading RAC:** NOWPAP POMRAC
- 3. Participating NOWPAP members:** China, Japan, Korea and Russia
- 4. Supporting body of the project:** NOWPAP CEARAC, MERRAC, DINRAC, etc.
- 5. Project period:** 2 years (2018-2019)
- 6. Total budget:** US\$ 29,000

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

#### **Project goals**

Regular assessment of the state of the marine environment is one of the major goals of UNEP NOWPAP as a whole, and NOWPAP POMRAC in particular. Current and proposed new NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) also include regular assessments as a key activity. River and direct inputs of chemical substances are very important factors related to many environmental problems in marine and coastal areas. This is the reason why preparation of the *Regional Overview on River and Direct Inputs of Contaminants into the Marine and Coastal Environment in the NOWPAP Region* (hereinafter RDI RO) was one of the initial activities of POMRAC. That RDI RO has been published in 2006 and was based on the data of 2002-2004. The necessity to update this information is obvious, especially taking into account the effects of global changes.

The main goal of this project is to compile present (up-to-date) information on the river inputs and direct inputs of chemical substances and to estimate the trends during the last decade. This goal is closely connected with analysis of existing monitoring schemes and methods used

in the NOWPAP countries. Comparison of the monitoring schemes and methods, including the environmental standards (used now and those used before 2004 is a second major goal of this project.

### **Brief description of the project implementation**

Project will be implemented through the National Inputs prepared by experts nominated by POMRAC FPs in accordance with the structure presented at and approved by the POMRAC FPM. Regional overview will be prepared by compilation and synthesis of these National Inputs with the same overall structure. Regional Overview is suggested as a main output of the project. This overview will be reviewed and commented by NOWPAP RACs, RCU, NFPs, and then published and circulated among relevant stakeholders (government officials, scientific community) and general public.

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 15<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM (in 2018). That FPM will also discuss sources of information for the regional overview.
- The National Inputs will be prepared by either the 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 March 2019.
- An experienced consultant from the region, hired by POMRAC, will conduct a preliminary compilation and harmonization of the four National Inputs and will also provide comparative analysis, short introduction and summary.
- The 16<sup>th</sup> POMRAC FPM (in 2019) will discuss and agree the Regional Overview. When approved, the Regional Overview will be published as a POMRAC technical report.

Preliminary structure of National Inputs and Regional Overview will include:

- **Executive Summary**
- **Introduction** (goals, brief general information on river and direct inputs, geographical scope including trends of hydrological/climatic conditions during the last decade)
- **Social and economic situation in 2001-2016** (short overview of relevant social

and economic aspects related to river and direct inputs of contaminants)

- **National monitoring and assessment activities** (related to river and direct inputs of contaminants, 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 direct inputs of contaminants** (based on the most recent available data)
- **Assessment of trends in river and direct inputs during the last decade**
- **Conclusions**
- **Data sources** (publications, websites and other information sources)

### Implementation plan

Activities	2018				2019			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1. Preparation of detailed workplan								
2. Nomination of experts and signing MoUs								
3. Preparation of National Inputs								
4. Synthesis of National Inputs and preparation of draft Regional Overview								
5. Review, adoption, publication and dissemination of Regional Overview								

### Project budget

Activities	Budget allocation (US\$)
Experts from each NOWPAP member state (collecting data and preparing National Inputs)	22,000 (5,500x4)
Compilation of National Inputs and preparation of draft regional synthesis (report)	5,000
Printing of regional synthesis	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$ 29,000</b>

## Workplan and budget for POMRAC Marine Litter Activities for the 2018-2019 biennium

### PROPOSAL OUTLINE

1. **Project title:** Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian part of NOWPAP area.
2. **Leading implementing RAC:** NOWPAP POMRAC
3. **Participating NOWPAP members:** People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation.
4. **Supervising body of the project:** NOWPAP POMRAC
5. **Project period:** January 2018 - December 2019.
6. **Total budget:** US\$ 46,000.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### Goals of the project

Pollution by plastic microparticles (microplastics) is recognized as an issue of increasing concern in the NOWPAP region though data about microplastics abundance and transport are very limited. Especially limited information is available for the Russian part of the NOWPAP region. Rather low population density, modest level of industrial development, and restricted research/monitoring capabilities are the reasons for that limitation. It is suggested that the abundance of microplastics in the coastal waters within the Russian part of the NOWPAP region could reflect the regional "background" pollution level. At the same time, comparison with the data on microplastics obtained in coastal waters of other NOWPAP member states might allow to assess regional distribution of microplastics.

The main goal of this project is to collect existing data on microplastics quantity and composition in the coastal waters within the NOWPAP region and to obtain background information on the distribution of different kinds of microplastics in the coastal waters of the Russian part of the NOWPAP region.

Another goal of this project is to obtain data on the concentrations of microplastics in the rivers of the Russian part of the NOWPAP region and try to assess the microplastics input to the sea with river runoff. Collecting similar existing data from other NOWPAP countries might allow to estimate the role of river runoff in the microplastics transport. The compilation and regional synthesis of the data on this issue is expected to be done in the next (2020-2021) biennium.

### **Brief description of the project implementation**

Understanding of microplastics abundance and transport in the NOWPAP region is at the very initial stage. Therefore methodological aspects of the research and assessment are of utmost importance for this project. Hence, involvement of proper experts in the joint workshop, field surveys, training courses and intercalibration exercises will be critical for the success of this project.

Collection of existing data on microplastics abundance in rivers and coastal waters of China, Japan and Korea will be done by the nominated national experts and submitted as National Inputs. Limited surveys in the key areas and intercalibration exercises necessary for the harmonization of methodological approaches are also possible, pending availability of additional financial support or in-kind contributions from participating institutions.

Seasonal study of microplastics concentrations in Tumen river, Suifunhe river and Ussury river (which are the transboundary rivers between Russia and China) will be carried out by the nominated experts. Additional synchronized surveys will be carried out in coastal waters of the Peter the Great Bay (Russia) for the determination of migration ability of microplastics particles of different genesis. The samples taken during these surveys will be studied jointly with the experts of other NOWPAP countries.

The National Inputs and the results of Russian case study will be presented as technical reports at the workshop and will be published as workshop proceedings.

**Workplan**

Activities	2018				2019			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1. Finalize the workplan								
2. Sign MOUs with experts								
3. Collect information on microplastics in river and coastal waters within the NOWPAP region								
4. Seasonal surveys of microplastics in rivers and coastal areas within the Russian part of the NOWPAP region								
5. Preparation of National Inputs on microplastics in the NOWPAP countries								
6. Microplastics WS								
7. Discussion and adoption of National Inputs at the 16th POMRAC FPM (for possible preparation of Regional Overview on microplastics in the NOWPAP region during next biennium)								

**Project budget**

Activities	Budget allocation (US\$)
Experts from each NOWPAP member state (collecting data and preparing National Inputs)	16,000 (4,000x4)
Workshop (travel and accommodation of experts, etc.)	18,000
Seasonal surveys within the Russian part of the NOWPAP region	10,000
Finalization of the National Inputs by national experts	2,000 (500x4)
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$ 46,000</b>



### **POMRAC Workplan and Budget for 2018 - 2019 Biennium (Option A)**

Taking into consideration the output and outcomes of the past activities on fields of WG 1, WG 2 and WG ICARM as well as the directions of the Draft NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023,

Taking into account the abovementioned the responsibilities and activities of POMRAC in 2018-2019 should focus on the following issues:

7. Joint Activity for WG1, WG2 and ICARM WG with cooperation with RACs, RCU and relevant organizations (OSPAR, PEMSEA, PICES, WESTPAC, YSLME and others): Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators (Phase 1) with regional workshop in 2019.
8. Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian coastal waters.
9. Joint Activity for WG1, WG2 and ICARM WG with cooperation with RACs: the Assessment of trends in river and direct Inputs of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment in the NOWPAP region during the last decade.

Taking into account the abovementioned, **the following POMRAC activities are suggested** for the 2018-2019 biennium:

- to organize the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Focal Points Meetings;
- to organize Regional Workshop “Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators (Phase 1)” (in cooperation with RCU, RACs and other relevant organizations);
- Development of the Regional Overview “Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators (Phase 1)”;
- Development of Report: Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian coastal waters.
- Development of the Regional Overview the Assessment of trends in river and direct Inputs of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment in the NOWPAP region during the last decade.

**Table 1. Budget 2018-2019 from Trust fund of NOWPAP (Option A)**

		<b>2018</b> (in US \$)	<b>2019</b> (in US \$)	<b>Total</b> (in US \$)
<b>20</b>	<b>SUB-CONTRACTS COMPONENT</b>			
2201	Joint activity of WG1, WG2, ICARM WG: Development of the Regional Overview "EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators (Phase 1)";	22,000	7,000	29,000
	Organization of Regional WS "Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators (Phase 1)";	0	18,000	18,000
2202	Development of Report: Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian coastal waters.	21,000	7,000	28,000
	Organization of Regional WS "Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian coastal waters".	0	18,000	18,000
2204	Development of 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	22,000	7,000	29,000
2204	Cooperation, coordination of POMRAC activities, and communication	6,000	6,000	12,000
2205	Website update	500	500	1,000
2206	Activities within the NOWPAP RAP MALI: Research on micro-plastics content and migration in the Peter the Great Gulf.	3,000	3,000	6,000
	<b>2999 Component total:</b>	<b>74,500</b>	<b>62,500</b>	<b>137,000</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>MEETING COMPONENT</b>			
	<u>3300 Meetings/conferences</u>			
3301	POMRAC Focal Points Meeting	20,000	20,000	40,000
	<b>3999 Component total</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>EQUIPMENT COMPONENT</b>			
	<b>4999 Component total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT</b>			
	<u>5200 Reporting cost</u>			
5201	Publicity Activities	0	2,000	2,000
	<u>5300 Sundry</u>			
5301	Communications	1,500	1,500	3,000
5304	Other			
	<b>5999 Component total</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>99</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>96,000</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>186,000</b>

### **POMRAC Workplan and Budget for 2018 - 2019 Biennium (Option B)**

Taking into consideration the output and outcomes of the past activities on fields of WG 1, WG 2 and WG ICARM as well as the directions of the Draft NOWPAP MTS 2018-2023,

Taking into account the abovementioned the responsibilities and activities of POMRAC in 2018-2019 should focus on the following issues:

10. Joint Activity for WG1, WG2 and ICARM WG with cooperation with RACs, RCU and relevant organizations (OSPAR, PEMSEA, PICES, WESTPAC, YSLME and others): Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators (Phase 1) with regional workshop in 2019.
11. Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian coastal waters.

Taking into account the abovementioned, **the following POMRAC activities are suggested** for the 2018-2019 biennium:

- to organize the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Focal Points Meetings;
- to organize Regional Workshop “Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators (Phase 1)” (in cooperation with RCU, RACs and other relevant organizations);
- Development of the Regional Overview “Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators (Phase 1)”;
- Development of Report: Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian coastal waters.

**Table 1. Budget 2018-2019 from Trust fund of NOWPAP (Option B)**

		<b>2018</b> (in US \$)	<b>2019</b> (in US \$)	<b>Total</b> (in US \$)
<b>20</b>	<b>SUB-CONTRACTS COMPONENT</b>			
	2201 Joint activity of WG1, WG2, ICARM WG: Development of the Regional Overview "EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators (Phase 1)";	22,000	7,000	29,000
	Organization of Regional WS "Development of regional NOWPAP EcoQO targets aligned with SDG indicators (Phase 1)";	0	18,000	18,000
	2202 Development of Report: Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian coastal waters.	21,000	7,000	28,000
	Organization of Regional WS "Microplastics abundance in river runoff and coastal waters of the NOWPAP region with a case study in the Russian coastal waters". (back to back with 16 POMRAC FPM)	0	17,000	17,000
	2204 Cooperation, coordination of POMRAC activities, and communication	4,000	4,000	8,000
	2205 Website update	500	500	1,000
	2206 Activities within the NOWPAP RAP MALI: Research on micro-plastics content and migration in the Peter the Great Gulf.	3,000	3,000	6,000
	<b>2999 Component total:</b>	<b>50,500</b>	<b>56,500</b>	<b>107,000</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>MEETING COMPONENT</b>			
	<u>3300 Meetings/conferences</u>			
	3301 POMRAC Focal Points Meeting	20,000	16,000	36,000
	<b>3999 Component total</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>36,000</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>EQUIPMENT COMPONENT</b>			
	<b>4999 Component total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT</b>			
	<u>5200 Reporting cost</u>			
	5201 Publicity Activities	0	2,000	2,000
	<u>5300 Sundry</u>			
	5301 Communications	500	500	1,000
	5304 Other			
	<b>5999 Component total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>99</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>71,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>146,000</b>