

Regional Seas Governance Mechanisms: NOWPAP example

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Existing regional governance mechanisms

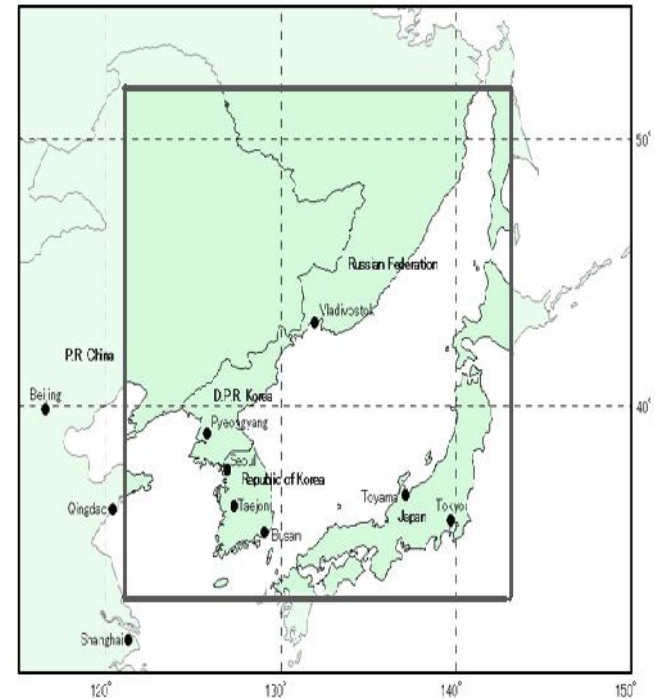
- GEF- and other donor-funded projects: limited duration, low sustainability
- Regional Fisheries Commissions: main focus is on fisheries only
- Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans: long-term, wide scope, but success rate is different in different parts of the World

17 Regional Seas Programmes - 140 Countries



UNEP Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP)

- Established in 1994
- Part of UNEP Regional Seas Programme
- Member states: China, Japan, Korea, Russia
- Geographical coverage: from 33° to 52° N and from 121° to 143° E
- Overall goal: Protection of the marine and coastal environment in the region



NOWPAP geographic coverage

NOWPAP impact in the region

- **Established intergovernmental mechanism** allowing member states to address marine environmental issues of regional concern. This mechanism is similar to other regional mechanisms for addressing environmental issues related to e.g. acid rain monitoring (EANET) or air pollution and biodiversity conservation (NEASPEC), but with focus on marine environment quality.
- **Established sustainable institutional infrastructure** to implement activities in the region: Intergovernmental Meeting + Trust Fund + Regional Activity Centers with their networks of experts + Regional Coordinating Unit. Unlike projects, which have limited life span, NOWPAP is a long-term intergovernmental mechanism.
- **Established close partnership relations** with several projects and organizations in the region (to avoid duplication and achieve mutual benefits): PEMSEA, YSLME, PICES, IOC WESTPAC and others.



Northwest Pacific Action Plan



NOWPAP Structure



CEARAC

Japan

-Special Monitoring and
Coastal Assessment

DINRAC

China

- Data and Information Network

MERRAC

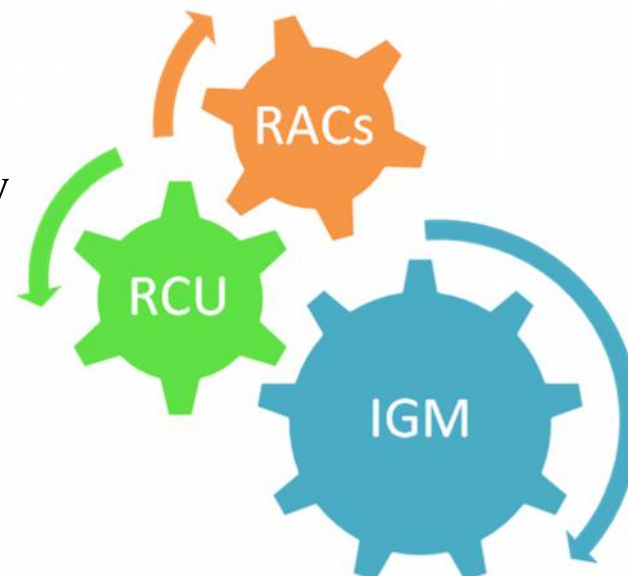
Korea

- Marine Environment Emergency
Preparedness and Response

POMRAC

Russia

- Pollution Monitoring



How NOWPAP RACs work

- Supported by member states (staff salaries, equipment, travel)
- Annual meetings of Focal Points (appointed by member states) – advisory role
- Terms of Reference defining their focal areas of work (approved by member states)
- Networks of experts implementing projects and activities

NOWPAP impact in the region

- **Raised awareness** of national and local authorities as well as general public of marine environmental issues of a regional concern: marine litter, harmful algal blooms, oil spills, input of pollutants with rivers, biodiversity conservation, etc.
- **Enhanced capacity** of experts from member states in dealing with marine environmental problems (e.g., using remote sensing data, countermeasures against algal blooms, response to spills of oil and hazardous chemicals, data and information exchange).
- **Developed regional agreements** (adopted by member states) and guidelines to address marine litter, spills of oil and hazardous chemicals, eutrophication, algal blooms, etc.



NOWPAP future work

- With the new **Medium-term Strategy** adopted by member states in 2012, NOWPAP will continue dealing with regular assessments of the state of marine environment, integrated coastal and river basin management, climate change impacts, pollution prevention and reduction, biodiversity conservation, etc.
- NOWPAP will also continue **working together with other organizations, programs and projects** in the region such as PEMSEA, YSLME, COBSEA, PICES, IOC WESTPAC and others.

