



UNEP Regional Seas Programme

Reynaldo F Molina
UNEP/COBSEA

Workshop on Coastal and Ocean Governance in the Seas of East Asia
PEMSEA East Asian Seas Congress, 18 November 2015
Danang, Vietnam

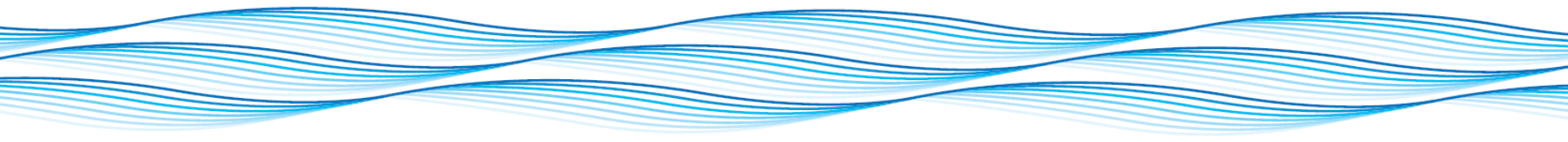
UNEP Regional Seas Programme

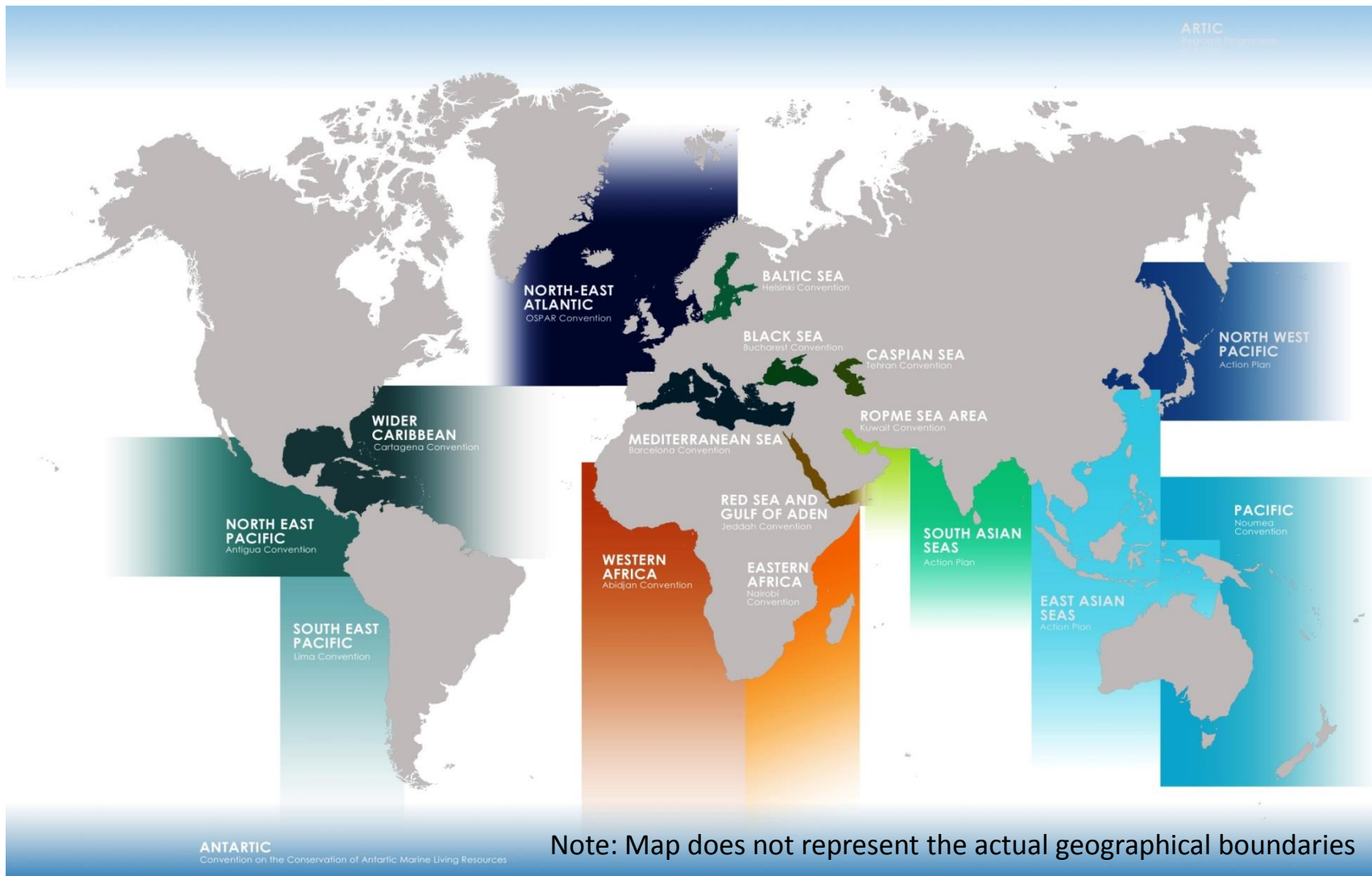
Established in 1974 to address the degradation of oceans and seas through the sustainable use and management of marine and coastal resources and engaging littoral countries in specific actions to protect shared marine environment.

Provided a legally binding framework to protect the marine environment at the regional level

Promoted the implementation of cross cutting policies fostering transboundary cooperation amongst countries

Governed by member states but UNEP coordinates 18 Conventions and Action Plans





- 143 countries; 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs)
- 14 RSCAPs under the auspices of UNEP: 7 administered by UNEP; 7 administered by intergovernmental organizations
- 4 RSCAPs under general UNEP coordination

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Seeks programmatic activities in the Action Plans (basis for regional cooperation) and supportive thematic action plans (marine litter action plans, action plans on land-based sources of pollution, marine biodiversity action plans, etc)

Has agreed Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) mainly through GEF funded projects

Follows Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD) – aims to strengthen RSP at the global level particularly in addressing global priorities and processes



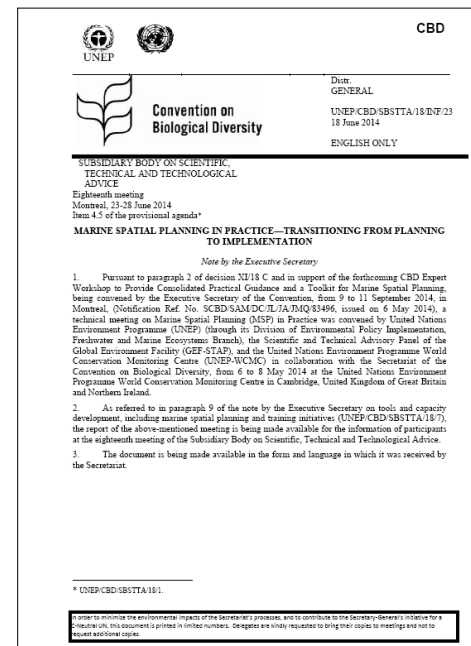
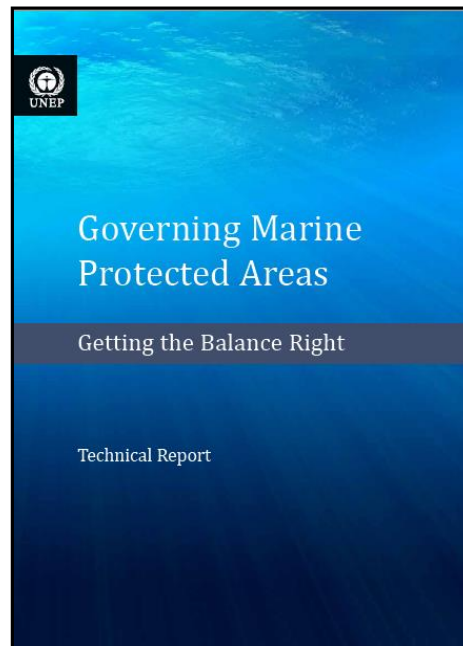
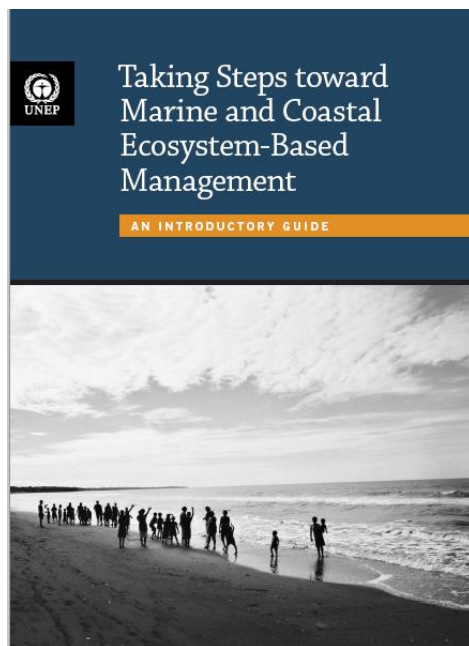
Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016

1. Effectively apply Ecosystem Based Management
2. GPA: Protection from Land Based Activities
3. Strengthen capacity for coastal and marine governance
4. Promote resource efficiency and productivity
5. Strengthen coordination and capacity for state of marine environment reporting, in particular the World Oceans Assessment
6. Strengthen mechanisms for MEA, UN and IFI collaboration



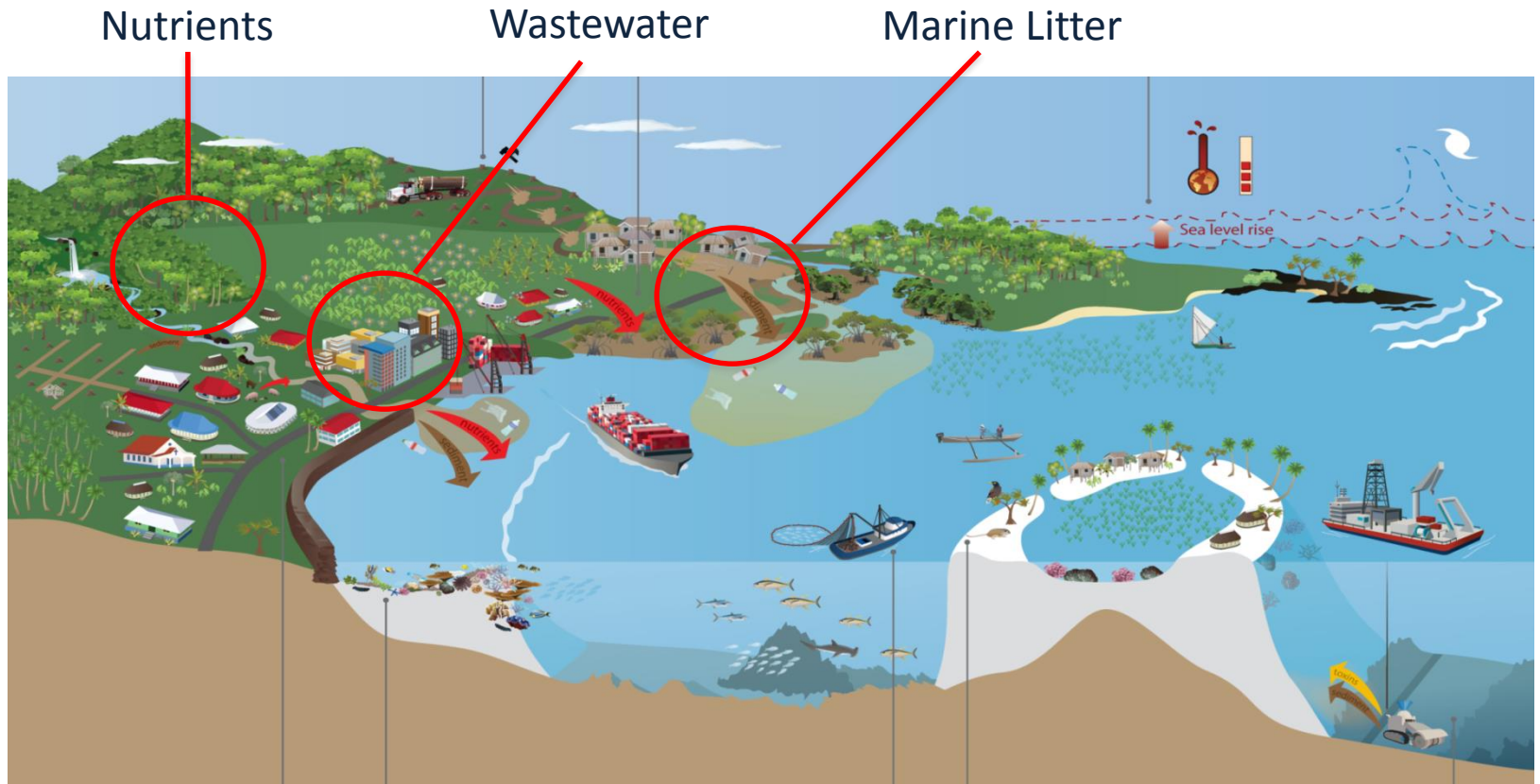
Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016

1. Effectively apply Ecosystem Based Management



Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016

2.GPA: Protection from Land Based Activities

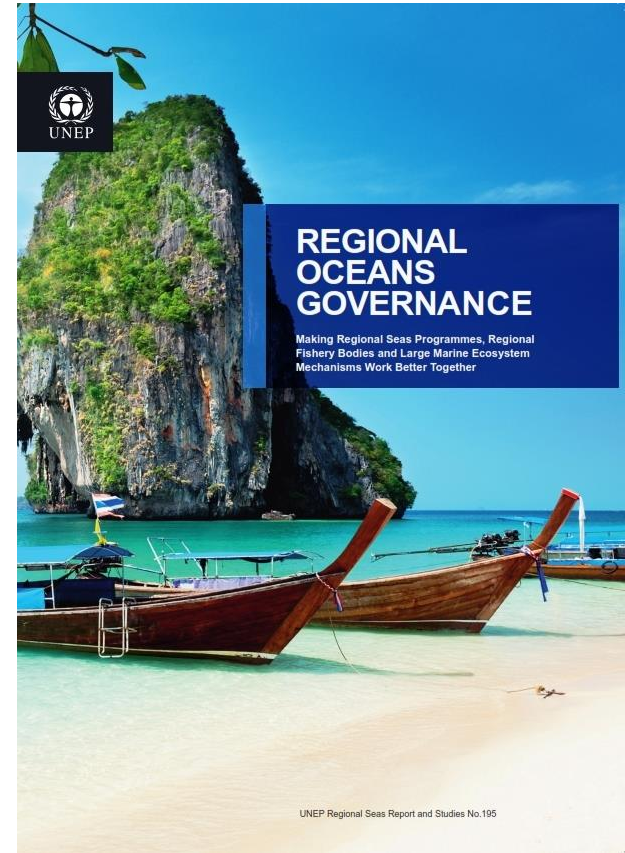


Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016

3. *Strengthen capacity for coastal and marine governance*

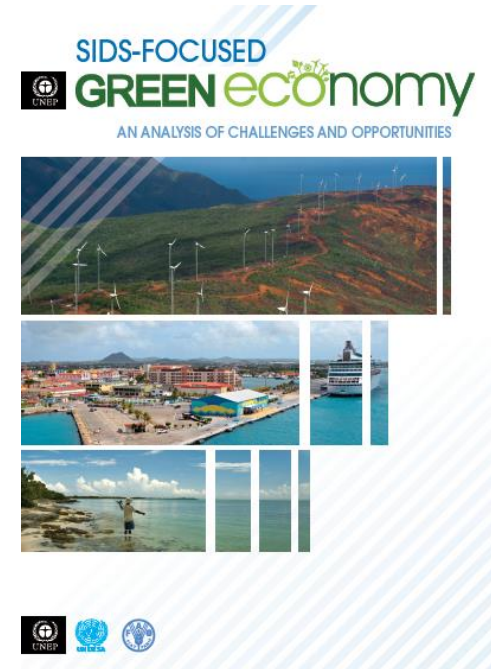
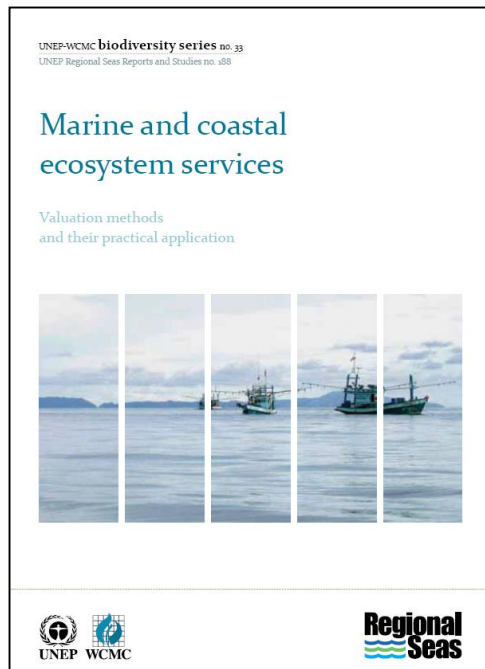
Review of the Regional Ocean Governance

- Analysis of the legal, institutional and scientific basis of regional mechanisms and respective mandates
- Examined cooperation and coordination:
 - Among RSPs / RFBs / LMEs
 - Between RSPs, RFBs and LMEs
- Recommendations for making the regional system more coherent, effective and efficient



Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016

4. *Promote resource efficiency and productivity*



Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016

5. Strengthen coordination and capacity for state of marine environment reporting, in particular the World Oceans Assessment

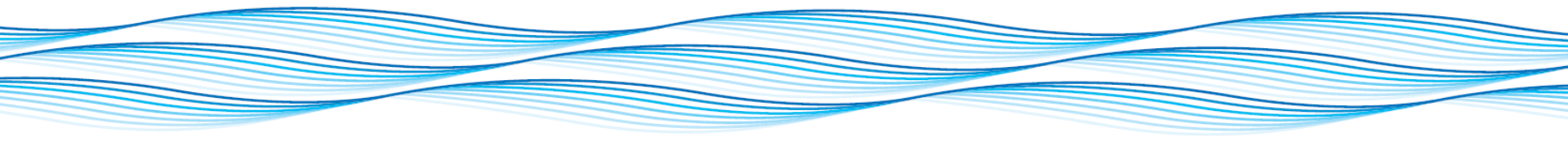
- 5 Capacity building workshops: **South Pacific** (2011) **Eastern and South Eastern Asian Seas** (February 2012; September 2012) ; **Western Indian Ocean** - Nairobi Convention (August 2012, December 2012) ; **Wider Caribbean** region (November 2012) ; **Pacific** (February 2013) ; **South Atlantic** (2014).
 - Several workshops with CBD to identify Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)
 - State of the Environment report for some regions
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Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016

6. Strengthen mechanisms for MEA, UN & IFI collaboration

- Collaborations with CBD, CMS and CITES - "cooperation frameworks" to deliver global commitments at regional/national level on marine issues.
- Strengthen coordination and collaboration with RFBs and LMEs
- How to contribute to SDG on oceans and 2030 agenda

UNEP is developing the new Strategic Direction for 2017-2020 in line with the SDG Goals and Targets



Successes

One of the most comprehensive initiatives for the protection of the marine and coastal environment - well established in the oceans governance landscape

Provided a forum for equitable participation by Member States in management processes of major seas of the world - promoted the idea of a “shared sea”

Helped place marine and coastal management issues on the political agenda and supported the adoption of environmental laws and regulations

Identified as a regional implementation platform for implementing global conventions, MEAs and global programmes



Challenges

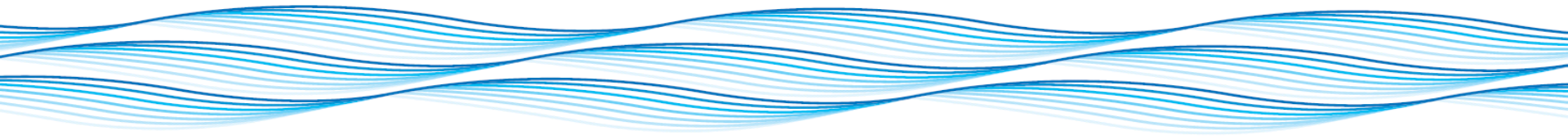
- Lack of adequate funding – many still have the same institutional framework with limited financial and human resources
- Implementation of regional agreements is far from systematic and comprehensive - Disconnection between the number of regional agreements
- Lack of necessary interaction with the fisheries sector and other socioeconomic sectors
- Lack of political will, political instability in some states or weak enforcement mechanisms
- Public administrations do not have the capacity or the means to design and implement strong environmental policies
- Lack of coordination and even conflicting policies between sectoral policies



Recommendations and Options

To make the existing regional ocean governance system more coherent, effective and efficient, and better use of scarce available resources:

- Strengthen existing regional oceans governance mechanisms
- Create new regional oceans governance mechanisms (including to replace existing ones) as necessary
- Enhance cooperation and coordination between existing as well as new mechanisms



Related Links

Regional Ocean Governance Report

<http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/water/regionalseas40/Portals/50221/Region%20Ocean%20Governance%20pub.pdf>

RSP Publications and Reports

<http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/water/regionalseas40/Resources/SeriesReports/tabid/1060437/Default.aspx>

RSPs and LMEs Linkages

http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/publications/brochures/pdfs/LMEs_brochure.pdf

RSPs at 40

<http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/water/regionalseas40/Resources/RegionalSeasReport/tabid/1060396/Default.aspx>

