



United Nations  
Environment  
Programme



**Group of Experts for the  
Assessment of Assessments of  
the Regular Process for Global  
Reporting and Assessment of  
the State of the Marine  
Environment, Including  
Socio-Economic Aspects**



**Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission  
of United Nations  
Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural  
Organization**

GRAMME/GOE/3/2

English only

**Regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects**

**Group of Experts for the “Assessment of Assessments”**

Copenhagen, Denmark 15-17 April 2008

**Third Meeting of the Group of Experts for the start-up phase, Assessment of Assessments of the Regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects**

### **Report of the Secretariat**

#### *Summary*

The present report provides an account of the Third meeting of the Group of Experts for the “Assessment of Assessments” of the Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, held from 15 to 17 April 2008 at the Headquarters of the European Environment Agency in Copenhagen, Denmark. The meeting was convened subsequent to a Preparatory meeting held from 4-5 March 2008, at the same venue.

The third meeting of the GoE focused on putting together the first draft of the AoA, which will be sent out for Peer-review by the end of May 2008. The meeting agreed on the outlines for the report and assigned responsibilities to the individuals of the Group.

The GoE agreed that the first draft of the Introduction and Part II of the AoA report, along with the outlines of Parts I and III, will be sent out for peer-review by the end of May 2008.

## **I Agenda Item 1 – Opening and Organization of the meeting**

### **A. Welcome and opening**

1. The meeting was opened at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 15 April, 2008 by Co-Chair, Jaqueline McGlade. Ivar Baste, on behalf of the lead agencies, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and IOC of UNESCO, also welcomed the group of experts and introduced the draft agenda that the GoE had before it – which set out the work plan and organization of the meeting.

## **B. Adoption of agenda**

2. The Group of Experts adopted the agenda for the meeting, which is set out in Annex I to the present report.

## **C. Attendance**

3. The meeting was attended by 12 experts, six (6) experts were unable to attend the meeting. The co-chair of the AHSG, Elva Escobar attended the meeting as a representative of the AHSG. Other observers present at the meeting were the GESAMP Officer – Fredrick Haag, GESAMP Vice-chair – Tim Bowmer, GESAMP Expert – Rick Boelean. Other invited experts included, Kenneth Sherman, Director, US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Alex Rogers, Scientific Director of the International Programme on the State of the Oceans (IPSO), Kim Selkoe and Ben Halpern, Nat'l. Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis. The list of participants, including the observers present, is contained in Annex II

## **II. Agenda Item 2 - Introduction of observers and presentation of work**

4. Presentations were given by Kenneth Sherman (on Large Marine Ecosystems); Alex Rogers (on the International Programme of the State of the Ocean (IPSO) and Ben Halpern and Kim Selkoe (on *A Global Map of Human Impact on Marine Ecosystems* (published in Science – 15 February 2008). The presenters explained the philosophy and scope of these on-going global assessments/initiatives.

The GoE agreed that while there should be reference made to these processes, the GoE should think about how to reference such activities and how the AoA would guide the reader through recent work such as, but not limited to these.

5. All three power-point presentations are available on the VO.

## **III Agenda Item 3- status of contributions received based on the work assigned at the Preparatory meeting (March 2008) and of the way forward, including how gaps will be addressed, timing, authorship, attribution and peer review**

6. The timeline of activities and milestones for the AoA process have been agreed at the GoE III meeting as follows:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Part 0   | Co-chairs and Secretariat to finalize by <b>first week of May 2008</b>   |
| Part I   | Regional summaries to be finalized by <b>end of April 2008</b> and supra-regional summaries to be finalized by <b>mid-May 2008</b> |
| Part II  | Draft to be finalized by the <b>end of April 2008</b>  |
| Part III | First draft will be available by <b>end of July 2008</b>   |

#### **IV Agenda Item 4 – Finalization of first order drafts of the AoA for initial review**

7. It was agreed that Elva Escobar would discuss with the AHSG, on how to deal with the document sign-off of the report, in time for the ICP 9
8. An outline of Parts I and III and a draft of parts 0 and II will be made available for peer-review by the AHSG III, the ICP 9 and other selected reviewers.

#### **V Agenda Item 5 – Consideration of Part 0**

9. The following was decided:

- Text describing Part I, II and III at the end of the Introduction needs some revision.
- The GEO conceptual framework would need to be revised to fit this AoA process, if used, but in the meantime, it was decided that it be removed from Part 0. A suggestion was made for the need of a diagram to describe the logical flow of the AofA.
- Need to strengthen the explanation of the niche that the RP fills. See suggestions of the brainstorming session during the Prep meeting – refer to Annex III below. These have been used in the drafts of both Part II and Part III, so there is a need to cross-check once drafts are final.
- Regional break-down will be included in part 0 as an appendix.

#### **VI Agenda Item 6 – Consideration of Part I**

10. The following was discussed and decided:

- Not all Part I regional summaries, based on the revised outline, have been submitted and need to be by the end of April.
- Jake and Andy have prepared a revised outline for Part I, which will be circulated
- All experts must check their Regional summaries before submitting a final version – see Consistency check in Annex IV below. This should be completed by end of April and posted on the VO.
- (In Annex IV (a), the revised outline has been elaborated on, and includes notes on the requirements for each section).
- Experts were assigned responsibilities to finalize the supra-regional summaries – see Annex V below. These need to be completed by mid May and posted on the VO.

#### **VII Agenda Item 7 – Consideration of Part II**

11. The following was agreed:.

- Definition of Assessment - An Assessment “Brings together knowledge from wide areas of knowledge and makes it useful for decision making.” This was the definition that Part II would use as a generic definition as it justifies the breadth of information included in the individual and regional templates.
- Part III would then use a more specific definition, possibly expanding it. Suggestions included: Assessment of change of the marine environment, and the significance of these changes to the environment and to human society
- The final draft of Part II would be finalized by Lee and Jill by the end of April and sent for editing.

## **VIII Agenda Item 8 – Consideration of Part III**

12. The meeting discussed and decided the following;

-Modify the Conceptual Framework that was in the Part O draft and make it specific to the marine environment.

-Part III outline prepared by Alan and Lee was discussed in two working groups. Based on these discussions, they will revise the outline.

-The Secretariat is tasked to put together a full outline of the report – which will contain the outlines of Parts I, II and III.

## **IX Agenda Item 9 – Organization of authorship, referencing, peer review process and identification of peer reviewers**

13. The GoE discussed the documents on these issues and agreed that

-Authors that have contributed to Part I will be acknowledged. Members of the GoE should therefore send to the Secretariat, the names and full contact details of these authors and contributors so that an official letter can be sent out to them.

-The peer-review at the end of May will be a passive review – sent out to the AHSG, ICP members and other selected peer-reviewers – please provide the Secretariat with names if you would like them to be added to the peer-review list.

## **X Agenda Item 10 – Review of supporting structures and activities (GRAMe Database, Virtual Office and Brochure)**

14. Comments were provided on the draft of the AoA brochure. Any editorial comments should be submitted to the Secretariat by the 25<sup>th</sup> April for incorporation into a new draft.

15. The GRAMeDatabase has been updated with an additional 130 expert reviewed individual assessments. Funding from Defra (UK) will facilitate the further development of the database until October 2009 and ensure that this tool can respond to the needs of the GoE and other processes relating to marine assessment. Experts provided guidance on the proposed workplan for the next phase of development.

16. The virtual office will remain the principal method of communication and information sharing within the GoE.

17. The new website for the Assessment of Assessments has been launched at <http://www.unga-regular-process.org/>. Any comments/suggestions should be sent to the Secretariat.

18. The meeting revised the **AoA Schedule** taking into account the deadlines set during the meeting (see Annex VII).

**1. Early June 08: Mid-term Passive review.**

Full text of Parts 0 and II and outlines of Parts I and III to be made available on the web. Peer-review period is 4 weeks after the ICP meeting – late/end of July

2. Develop all parts of the AoA report, which should be available for the GoE 4 – all drafts to be done by **early October 08**.

Final Part 0, Revised drafts of Part 1, final Part II and first PART III text. These will assist the Co-chairs to prepare an Outline and First draft of the Summary for Decision Makers report (to be done by Co-chairs).

3. GoE 4 –in first week of November (tentatively 4-6 November 08) at the office of IMO where:

-All Parts will need to be signed-off

4. External Peer-review – **end of November 08**

-send all Parts and SDM for peer-review.

-comments received by **mid January 09**

5. **GoE 5 in February/March 09** to review all comments and finalize drafts and sign-off report and SDM

6. In **May 09**, AHSG-4 meeting which will include a few members of GoE – for the Approval of SDM and Acceptance of the report before the ICP in June 2009.

**XI Agenda Item 11 – Recommendations for Ad Hoc Steering Group and ICP. Review and signature of the draft letter**

18. Alan has prepared a draft proposal for a Report to the AHSG III and to ICP 9– see Annex VI.

**XII Agenda Item 12 – Next Meeting**

19. The Group of Experts agreed that the fourth meeting of the GoE will take place early November 2008 at the IMO headquarters in London. The objective of this meeting will be to sign-off on drafted material for parts 0, I, II and III, and to consider the outline of the Summary for Decision Makers.

**XIII Closure of the meeting**

20. The meeting was closed at 16:30 hrs on Thursday 17 April 2008 by Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and Mr. Ivar Baste, Chief, Scientific Assessment Branch, Division of Early Warning and Assessment, UNEP.

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## ANNEX I

### **Third Meeting of the Group of Experts for the start-up phase, Assessment of Assessments of the Regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects**

#### **Proposed organization of work**

**15 April 2008**

**9:00-9:30 am**

Registration (see address of meeting venue below)

**9:30 – 10:00 am**

1. Opening of the meeting by Co-chair and opening remarks by the Secretariat
2. Adoption of the agenda

**10:00. - 11:00 a.m**

4. Introduction of the Observers who have been invited to the meeting. They will each give a presentation on their work, to be followed by discussions on future involvement in the Assessment of Assessments.

- Kenneth Sherman, Director, US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – on *Large Marine Ecosystems*
- Alex Rogers, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London – on the *International Programme of the State of the Ocean (IPSO)*
- Kim Selkoe and Ben Halpern, Nat'l. Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis - on their work on *a Global Map of Human Impact on Marine Ecosystems* (published in *Science* – 15 February 2008)

**11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

3. Revisit the schedule and organization of authorship, referencing, peer review process (timeframe and identification) of peer reviewers, preparation of second order draft, and first draft SDM

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**

4. Finalization of first order drafts of the AoA for first peer review
  - The first order drafts of the AoA report will be sent out for external peer-review by end of May 2008. The meeting should therefore agree on work flow and identify responsibilities and additional expertise needed to complete the drafts by the end of May 2008.
- a). Consideration of Part 0 Introduction (10 pages)
  - Review the present draft
  - Agreement on orientation, process, responsibilities (CLAs), peer reviewers and timeframe (including preparation of second order draft)

**Lunch break**

**2:00 - 6:00pm**

- b) Consideration of Part I
  - Status of underlining material (regional summaries (21) and supra regional perspectives (7)) and how to address gaps, finalization, peer review (external or internal?) and presentation (website

- or annex?)
- Synthesis of regional summaries and supra regional perspectives: - Consideration of draft outline by Andy and Jake
- Working groups (on outline sections)

\* \* \*

## **16 April 2008**

**9:00 am – 1:00pm**

- b) Consideration of Part I (continued)
- Working groups

**Lunch break**

**2:00-3:00 pm**

- b) Consideration of Part I (continued)
- Agreement on orientation, process, responsibilities (CLAs), peer reviewers and timeframe (including preparation of second order draft)

**3:00 - 4:30 pm**

- c) Consideration of Part II:
- Presentation of Part II draft by J. Jaeger/ L. Kimball
- Review of revised version of Part II draft
- Agreement on orientation, process, responsibilities (CLAs), peer reviewers and timeframe

**4:30 – 6:00 pm**

- d) Consideration of Part III:
- Presentation from Julian on the Global Forum on Ocean, Coasts and Islands in Hanoi, Vietnam
- Presentation of Part III draft
- Agree on working groups

\* \* \*

## **17 April 2008**

**9:00 a.m.-1:00 pm**

- d) Consideration of Part III (continued):
- Working groups

**Lunch-break**

**2:00-3:00 pm**

- d) Consideration of Part III (continued):
- Agreement on orientation, process, responsibilities (CLAs), peer reviewers and timeframe (including preparation of second order draft)

**3:00-6:00 pm**

5. Approval of the Brochure<sup>1</sup>
6. Review of GRAMED Database (to be presented by Emily Cochran)
7. Review of the Virtual office and the dedicated Website
8. Recommendations (including revision of schedule) for Ad Hoc Steering Group and ICP. Review and signature of the draft letter
9. Inter-sessional actions and responsibilities and date and venue of next meeting

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<sup>1</sup> Incorporate revised schedule

## ANNEX II

### Third Meeting of the Group of Experts for the start-up phase, Assessment of Assessments of the Regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects

#### List of Participants

The list of participants provides details of the experts, members of the Secretariat and observers present at the meeting, as well as Apologies received.

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**Apologies:**

Wajih Naqvi, India

Kwame Koranteng, Ghana (Co-chair)

Beatrice Ferreira, Brazil

Franklin McDonald, Jamaica

Haiqing Li, China

Rolph Payet, Seychelles

**Third Meeting of the Group of Experts for the start-up phase, Assessment of Assessments of the Regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects**

**Brain-storming session during the Preparatory meeting of the GoE – in March 2008.**

Why a regular process/ what needs should be addressed?

1. Understanding the system as whole: the interaction between the marine system and society at multiple scales (Understanding interconnectivities)

- human environment interactions
- status, trends and outlooks for marine environmental change
- regional and national interdependencies
- links with other environmental change processes
- through a continues learning
- better monitoring and observing practices and use of indicators
- hot and cold spots
- need to prevent, mitigate and adapt to unprecedented marine changes – this is knowledge intensive and requires enhanced capacities, networking and analysis

2. [Provide a consistent framework for] promoting the interaction between science and decision making for governance and better to protect the oceans

- [frame ongoing activities in the area of assessment and reporting on the marine environment]
- adaptive, flexible and responsive to technological, scientific and societal developments
- incorporates evaluation and continues learning
- identify gaps in knowledge and process
- multi-stakeholder interaction
- analyze governance deficits at scale and for specific drivers and pressures (i.e. subsidies)
- identify options for actions and best practices
- A framework may improve the cost efficiency of assessments

3. Provide advice, networking support and capacity building to strengthen ongoing thematic, regional and national assessments

- Provide advice to other thematic and sub-global assessments on tools and data needs
- Identify areas and topics where capacity building is needed
- Provide advice to other thematic and sub-global assessments on tools and data needs

### CONSISTENCY CRITERIA for the Regional Summaries:

- Names of regions should follow the table which shows the break-down agreed (Editor)
- Section headings should be correctly addressed (title matches text) – (Editor)
- Consistent way to address review comments (Lead author responsibility and authors and reviewers have communicated). All comments to be addressed or explained

- **Name of region**

- Countries to be in an Annex (Editor)

- **Broad ecological characteristics**

- Basic oceanography (Editor)
- Identification of significant ecological features (e.g. coral reefs) - (Editor)
- Referencing of ecological summary - (Editor)
- Sentence on principle uses/activities - (Authors and reviewers to add)

- **Institutions undertaking assessments**

- Ensure that LME's, Regional Seas, GESAMP, Regional Fisheries, GIWA, GEO, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and others are included and have been cross referenced (Editor)
- Mention that there is major assessment work being done by national institutions – without listing these institutions (Editor)
- Should not be repetition between sections 3, 4 and 5 of the outline – assign appropriate text in each section (Editor)

- **Data -** Authors/Reviewers and Editor will check consistency

- Data holders should be referred to
- Distinguish whether there is a central data repository
- Availability and accessibility of data to be mentioned
- Supra-regional institutions to be mentioned if used in the assessment and if they are data holders

- **Assessments -** Authors/Reviewers and Editor will check consistency

- Refer to the big assessment programmes – LME, Regional Seas, GESAMP, Regional Fisheries organizations, GEO, GIWA and ensure that they are appropriately referenced (reference list to be made consistent by the Secretariat/Editor; refer to relevant chapters in the LME report (2008))
- The extent to which regions have gone beyond the EEZ. Are they addressing high seas issues?
- what types of assessments are available (to the extent possible): status-trends/ thematic/indicator assessments?
- Make some comment on what is known about the socio-economic drivers

- **Prioritized issues**

- No need to harmonize Authors/Reviewers to agree and Editor will check consistency

- **Capacity to undertake assessments**

- Is expertise available, does the infrastructure exist, is data accessible, are resources for regular assessments available ... have these points been included? and distinguish that *existing capacity* and *capacity needs* have been reflected Authors/Reviewers and Editor to agree and Editor will check consistency

**An elaborated Outline for the Regional summary text (with notes on issues that need to be consistently addressed)**

-At the Preparatory meeting in March 2008, the GoE revised the outline and requested that all regional summaries follow this revised outline.

-At the GoE III in April 2008, the GoE developed '**consistency criteria**' to ensure coherency when drafting Part I. This resulted in a one page note called "Consistency criteria" which is shown below. Please ensure that before finalizing your summary, all issues in this "Consistency check" have been addressed.

-Annex IV(a) which follows immediately after this, is an elaborated version of the revised outline, prepared by Gunnar, which provides explanations of what is required under each section.

6<sup>th</sup> March revised outline + revised 18 April by Gunnar Sander

**Outline for regional summary text: Reviewing the state of assessments in each region**

**Background**

**Use of this text in the report:**

The regional texts based on the outline below will be an appendix to Part 1 of the report and will be sent for external review by the end of May. In Part I, we will summarize the findings across the regions. The content here first of all builds upon the content of the regional template, but also the individual templates. However, experts must also use all their available knowledge

**Way forward:**

Almost all experts now have updated the regional texts following the headings of the outline. Some have also received reviews from colleagues in the GoE, The understanding of the content under each heading however still is different, and many of the texts have placed information under headings where it should not be (especially the distinction between 3, 4 and 5 has proven to be difficult). There is therefore still a need for the experts and reviewers to ensure consistency, that you really address the issues under each heading in the outline below. The group discussing consistency made some additional explanations based on what we saw in the texts.

The following procedure was recommended from the group discussing this at GoEIII:

- The internal review process according to the matrix from the secretariat and updates of the texts by the experts continue and must be finished within **30 April 2008**. We advice you to contact relevant regional organisations for comments, e.g regional seas organisations if possible.  
Review comments and the way the authors have addressed them should be available at the VO under the headings for each region. Authors should explain at least the comments not taken into account.
- Review by a professional editor  
We have recommended that the secretariat hire a professional editor who will take over the texts for consistency editing. The authors will receive the texts and may also be asked for additional information.
- External review:  
These texts will be a part of our first draft that will be sent for external review end of May.

**Length:**

In total, 4, maximum 5 pages, written with 12 pt Times New Roman with normal margins. The *indicative* length of each section is given below. Shorter text is appreciated as long as the issues are being addressed. If you have written far above the indication of the length for a section, please reduce.

**References:**

Each author can use up to 10 references that are relevant for this text. That can be individual assessments, literature about regional organisations (descriptive or evaluations by e.g. political scientists) etc. In the text, use numbers. At the end, list numbers and give a full, traditional reference behind each number.

*Note:* For each region, we should also have a list of all the assessments that have been identified (not to be included here). Usually, we have only evaluated some of them in individual templates. The complete list should be incorporated into the updated GRAME database as a valuable resource for further work in the region

**Outline with explanations****1. Name of the region (5 lines)**

Basic geography: Which seas or LME's are included ?,  
The full list of of countries will come in an annex.

**2. Broad ecological characteristics of the region (10 – 20 lines)**

-This should include basic oceanography, identification of significant ecological features and some main characteristics of the ecosystem.

-A few characteristics of the humans place in the ecosystem should also be included, like population, urban areas and some major human activities (industrialized, fishery etc).

-Write short, and include reference to main literature with ecological summary.

**3. Institutions undertaking assessments (1 page):**

This is meant to describe the institutions as such with an emphasis on how they work with assessments. Select first of all institutions that actively have produced assessments last (couple of) decade(-s) and describe in a few line for each.

- Name and type of institution; note especially if the institution is legally binding, and if there is an obligation to undertake assessments
- Short history of and some main features of their assessment work, including relationship to decision-making bodies (like conventions) taking measures.  
(Note: the content of the assessments is to be described in section 5)

Other institutions may be mentioned more briefly and can be e.g. scientific organisations and networks that provide data (Note: the coverage of data is to be described in section 4, here we ask for institutional information).

Regional organizations (regional seas, regional fisheries, GIWA, LME, regional scientific organizations etc) should have the highest priority in the text. When major assessment work is done nationally, more emphasis must be placed on the national efforts, though without being detailed about the individual institutions (if many, use rather generic terms like “governmental fisheries organizations in X-land” etc). International organizations may also be important in some cases.

To separate institutions in the text, use bold fonts for their names. Always give full name before abbreviations are being used.

**4. Data (1/3 – 1/2 page):**

Data is an important building block for assessment. *Regardless of the eventual use of data in assessments*, we ask for a *broad characteristic of what types of data that exist*: which parts of the

marine system is covered well? And the reverse: what are the gaps or biases geographically and thematically? Availability and accessibility of data is an important aspect. Refer to central data repositories or major data holders. Build upon the last part of the regional template (where you have ticked in boxes) and give an oral description here. State this separately for:

#### 4.1 Data about the ecosystems;

Data about the ecosystem components and human impacts on them

#### 4.2 Socioeconomic data;

This can be data about human activities/pressures on the marine environment, (eventually also driving forces behind their development) or impacts of changing ecosystems on human society and wellbeing

### **5. Assessments (1 – 1 ½ page):**

The major question is to get an overview of *which parts of the marine system that has been assessed*. This can mean that you have to lump several assessments into broader characteristics. Mention big assessment programmes and give references (note the separate list of assessments for the GRAMED). Geographical coverage of the assessment work should also be addressed, especially to which extent assessments go beyond EEZ, addressing high seas issues. Like for the institutions, include first all the most current assessments when you describe what has been covered. Distinguish between:

#### 5.1 Thematic/sectorial or “narrow” assessments of

- a) Activities/pressures on the ecosystem, or socioeconomic impacts of changes in the ecosystem
- b) Compartments of the ecosystem (fish stocks, coral reefs etc)
- c) Policies and measures; effectiveness evaluation and/or new options

5.2 Integrated or broader assessments combining the themes in 5.1. Since “integration” may mean different things, be precise in describing what you mean, e.g. “whole ecosystem with effects from fisheries and shipping and advice on policy measures” etc.

Like for the data, it is also interesting to indicate gaps and biases in assessments coverage in addition to the “positive findings”.

Additional information that may be useful, could be some characteristics of approaches or methods being used (indicators, scientific assessments etc).

### **6. Prioritized issues (10 – 15 lines):**

What seem to be the 3-5 *most important* issues in the region, based on the assessments we have had access to, or your own knowledge? This is mostly meant to be a *short* listing with some characteristics and will give an indication of what future assessments and management will (or should!) concentrate on.

### **7. Supra regional issues (10 – 15 lines)**

Some issues within the region may have clear links to neighbouring regions (pollution, migration species, fishing fleets etc) and global systems. If there are such issues, list the 3-5 *main issues* with some short description, and which other regions they are related to.

### **8. Capacity of the region to undertake assessments (1/2 page):**

This is the overall conclusion of the existing assessment capabilities in the region, based on the questions above. If a global marine assessment were to be undertaken, what type of contribution would be likely from this region? Are there institutions and expertise that can undertake the work, do they have the infrastructure and data, are resources for regular assessments available, what types of outcome are they likely be able to produce etc? You should also describe the capacity needs: What must be improved, where will support be needed?

## **Global/Thematic Summaries – PART I**

Assignment of responsibilities

### **I. GLOBAL INTEGRATED ASSESSMENTS**

GIWA, MEA, GEO, GESAMP, LMEs, IPCC

-Secretariat to compile summaries

-All experts should also check that these global integrated assessments are included in your regional summaries as applicable.

### **II. GLOBAL THEMATIC ASSESSMENTS**

1. Shipping including oil

**A. Simcock**

2. Invasive alien species

**J.Alder J.Rice, R.Payet & A. Simcock**

3. Fisheries and Aquaculture

**J.Alder, J.Rice, A.Rosenberg +FAO**

4. Climate change: warming, ocean circulation, sea level rise, acidification:

**J.Church, R. Bustamente, J. Barbieri**

5. Biodiversity: ecosystems (corals, mangroves, sea mounts), mammals, genetic resources:

**L.Kimball, R.Bustamente**

6. Physical Alteration, Habitat loss

**J. McGlade, G. Sanders, J Rice**

7. Land based pollution using GPA definition

**M.Huber + GESAMP**

8. Land ocean interaction in the Coastal Zone

**J.Jaeger, L.Mee**

9. Tourism

**J. Jaeger, L. Mee**

10. Open Ocean Pollution, including atmospheric inputs

**GESAMP (done)**

REVISED DRAFT OF 17 APRIL 2008 (Alan Simcock)

## **UNGA 60/30 PROCESS REPORT BY THE GROUP OF EXPERTS TO THE AD HOC STEERING GROUP**

### **Introduction**

1. Part XI of UN General Assembly Resolution 60/30 launched the start-up phase, the “assessment of assessments”, of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, by establishing a group of experts. The resolution also established an *ad hoc* steering committee to oversee the execution of the “assessment of assessments”.
2. UN General Assembly Resolution 60/30 included in the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Steering Committee the function of ‘provid[ing] for an open-ended mid-term review of the work and progress made so far, in order to give all States Members of the United Nations an opportunity to comment on and contribute to the development of the ongoing work carried out under the “assessment of assessments”’.
3. This report by the Group of Experts is intended to provide the Ad Hoc Steering Committee with the basis on which to discharge this function.

### **Work carried out so far**

4. The Group of Experts began by adopting a programme of work, which was considered and endorsed by the Ad Hoc Steering Committee at its meeting in June 2007.
5. In line with that programme of work, the main efforts of the Group of Experts have so far been directed at:
  - a. identifying relevant existing assessment processes in the various regions of the world’s oceans and seas;
  - b. identifying relevant existing assessment processes in relation to global, trans-regional and supra-regional issues<sup>2</sup>;
  - c. analysing the way in which those assessment processes have been carried out, in relation to:
    - (i) the coverage of the different aspects of the marine environment and human activities affecting it, and
    - (ii) an agreed list of factors that strengthen the influence of assessments through enhancing scientific credibility, policy relevance, legitimacy and usefulness;
  - d. drawing conclusions on:
    - (i) the strengths and weaknesses of what existing assessment processes can contribute to a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects;
    - (ii) principles and design factors that are relevant to the implementation and future conduct of a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects;
  - e. agreeing the framework for the report of the Group of Experts, which will be the main component of the report by the lead agencies (United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) to the UN General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 94(d) of UN General Assembly Resolution 60/30.

<sup>2</sup> “Global” issues are those that affect the world’s oceans and seas as a whole. “Supra-regional” issues are those which affect more than one region.

6. The list of regions of the world's oceans and seas established by the Group of Experts for the purposes of organising their work on the "assessment of assessments" is set out at Annex A to this report. This annex also sets out the areas of the open ocean used by the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Protection (GESAMP) in their input to the work of the Group of Experts.

7. The World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (with support from the United Kingdom) has established a database (<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/gramed/>) on which are recorded the existing assessment processes that have been identified for each region as relevant to the work of preparing the "assessment of assessments", together with the factual information that has been collected on these processes in relation to the analyses described in paragraph 5(c) above.

8. Regional summaries of this material have been produced, together with summaries of the analyses on global, trans-regional and supra-regional issues. These are listed at Annex B. Copies of this material can be obtained by any Member State of the United Nations from the secretariat of the Group of Experts.<sup>3</sup>

### **Development of the report.**

9. The outline of the report has been agreed. This is attached at Annex C, including some annotations to explain the material that will be developed to flesh out this framework.

10. The current draft of the introduction of the report is attached at Annex D.

11. The principles to be applied and the design features to be used have been developed substantially. The current draft of the section of the report dealing with this is attached at Annex E.

### **Action requested**

12. The Ad Hoc Steering Group is invited:

a. to take note of this report;

b. to use it as the basis for the open-ended mid-term review of the work and progress made in the "assessment of assessments" by inviting all Member States of the United Nations to comment on it and adding such further contributions as they consider would be helpful<sup>4</sup>.

13. In order to facilitate a report by the lead agencies to the ninth meeting of the UN Informal Open-Ended Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, under its agenda item 4 ("I tem 4. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination"), the Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea of the UN Secretariat is invited to make this report available as part of the background documentation for that meeting.

### **ANNEXES**

Annex A: Marine regions and open ocean areas used for the purposes of the "assessment of assessments".

Annex B: List of analytical summaries on marine regions and global, trans-regional and supra-regional issues.

Annex C: Framework of Report by the Group of Experts.

Annex D: Current draft of the Introduction to the Report.

Annex E. Current draft of the section on Evaluation of Assessments: Best Practices.

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<sup>3</sup> The Secretariat of the Group of Experts can be contacted at: [salif.diop@unep.org](mailto:salif.diop@unep.org) ; [neeyati.patel@unep.org](mailto:neeyati.patel@unep.org) ; [J.Barbiere@unesco.org](mailto:J.Barbiere@unesco.org)

<sup>4</sup> Comments can be sent to the Secretariat of the Group of Experts at: [salif.diop@unep.org](mailto:salif.diop@unep.org) ; [neeyati.patel@unep.org](mailto:neeyati.patel@unep.org) ; [J.Barbiere@unesco.org](mailto:J.Barbiere@unesco.org)

## Deadlines!

## ANNEX VII

Part 0 - Introduction	Revisions/Comments to be posted on the VO for Part 0 by <b>end of April</b> after so that the <b>Co-chairs</b> and <b>Secretariat</b> can finalize the draft and send for Editing by the first week of May
Part I annotated outline	To be available by end of April
Part I: Regional Summaries	<b>All Experts</b> to post a final draft of their summary by <b>end of April</b> so that they can be edited. Final drafts must be checked for consistency. Please refer to the <b>Consistency Criteria</b> above.
Part I: Global/thematic summaries	<b>Experts</b> assigned to finalize the summaries to post a final draft on the VO by <b>mid-May</b> so that they can be edited
Part I draft	Part I of the report will be drafted by <b>Jacqueline, Andy and Jake</b> and they need to have the final summaries to begin their work. A first draft of Part I will be ready by <b>mid-July</b>
Part II draft:	<b>Lee and Jill</b> to make a few changes and post a revised, final version of Part II by <b>end of April</b> so that Editing can begin
Part III: Outline	Being revised by <b>Alan</b> and <b>Lee</b> , and will be finalized by the <b>end of this week</b>
Part III draft:	<b>Lee</b> and <b>Alan</b> to take the lead in producing a first draft by <b>end of July</b> . In the interim, <u>discussions amongst the GoE should continue through an exchange of emails</u>
As requested, the Secretariat will post a document which contains all Outlines of Parts I, II and III by the <b>end of this week</b> .	
Contributing authorship	<b>All experts</b> , to post on the VO, by <b>mid-May</b> , a list of contributors who have assisted you in your work. Please provide FULL names and contact details. Once received, the Secretariat will send out official letters to these contributors.

-The drafters of the various sections and the Editor may contact you if they have questions (between May and June). Please let the Secretariat know if you are unavailable at this time.