

# Preface

This report presents the results of the United Nations Environment Programme/Global International Waters Assessment (UNEP/GIWA) of the Oyashio Current region. The report is a contribution to UNEP/GIWA by Russia and was funded by the Pacific Geographical Institute, Far East Branch of the Russian Academy of Science (FEB RAS). The assessment was conducted in collaboration with the General Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (Japan), the Pacific Geographical Institute, the V.I. Il'ichev Pacific Oceanological Institute and the Pacific Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (TINRO-Centre) (Russia).

A select number of local experts with a range of specialist backgrounds participated in three workshops hosted by the Pacific Geographical Institute in Vladivostok, Russia. A list of those consulted in the compilation of this report is presented in Annex I.

The report presents the results of the workshops, desk research, information development and policy analysis. The GIWA methodology examines five concerns: Freshwater shortage, Pollution, Habitat and community modification, Unsustainable exploitation of fish and other living resources, and Global change. During the GIWA workshops for the Scaling and scoping (held 12-14<sup>th</sup> September 2001 and 9-11<sup>th</sup> April 2003) and the Causal chain analysis and Policy options analysis (18-20<sup>th</sup> February 2004), the transboundary issues of these concerns were assessed, the priority concerns were traced back to their root causes, and a policy analysis was executed.