

Contents

Executive summary	9
La Plata River Basin	9
South Atlantic Drainage System	11
Acknowledgements	13
Abbreviations and acronyms	14
Regional definition	18
Boundaries of the Patagonian Shelf region	18
Physical characteristics	19
Socio-economic characteristics	27
Assessment	34
La Plata River Basin	
Freshwater shortage	35
Pollution	40
Habitat and community modification	47
Unsustainable exploitation of fish and other living resources	52
Global change	55
South Atlantic Drainage System	
Freshwater shortage	58
Pollution	61
Habitat and community modification	66
Unsustainable exploitation of fish and other living resources	68
Global change	72
Priority concerns: La Plata River Basin & South Atlantic Drainage System	74
Causal chain analysis	76
Uruguay River Basin upstream of the Salto Grande Dam	
System description	76
Impacts	80
Immediate causes	81
Root causes	82

Buenos Aires Coastal Ecosystem – Argentinean-Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone	
System description	86
Causal model and links	90
Root causes	93
Conclusions	96
Policy options	98
<hr/>	
Uruguay River Basin upstream of the Salto Grande Dam	
Definition the of problem	98
Construction of policy options	99
Performance of selected policy options	100
Final considerations	103
Buenos Aires Coastal Ecosystem – Argentinean-Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone	
Definition of the problem	105
Construction of policy options	106
Identification of recommended policy options	108
Performance of selected policy options	109
Conclusions and recommendations	113
<hr/>	
La Plata River Basin	113
South Atlantic Drainage System	115
Further research recommended for the Patagonian Shelf region	117
References	118
<hr/>	
Annexes	128
<hr/>	
Annex I List of contributing authors and organisations involved	128
Annex II Detailed scoring tables	131
Annex III Detailed assessment worksheets for causal chain analysis	139
Annex IV List of important water-related programmes and assessments in the region	152
Annex V List of conventions and specific laws	153
Annex VI Tables	160
<i>The Global International Waters Assessment</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>The GIWA methodology</i>	<i>vii</i>
<hr/>	