



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2010/AOMM3/006**

Agenda Item: 4.2

## **Sustainable Development and Protection of the Marine Environment**

Purpose: Consideration  
Submitted by: United States



**3<sup>rd</sup> APEC Oceans-Related Ministerial Meeting  
Paracas, Peru  
11-12 October 2010**

## ISSUE NOTE

### Sustainable Development and Protection of the Marine Environment

#### Issue:

Diverse studies on the actual state of the marine environment and its resources show a continuous degradation of the ecosystem's health. 80% of the fish populations are considered over-exploited or fully exploited. Furthermore there is a worrying decline of the marine biodiversity, mainly caused by bad management practices, climate change and marine pollution, especially from land-based sources. Conserving the ecosystems integrity requires the adoption of urgent responses and priority actions in the APEC region. Tools like the ecosystem based management and the implementation of the Bali Plan of Action provide a great opportunity to move forward in the cure of the Pacific Ocean's health.

#### Background:

APEC has demonstrated its continuing commitment to addressing the challenges of sustainable development and protecting the marine environment through this meeting, building on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> AOMMs, and the efforts of the APEC MRCWG and FWG.

APEC Member Economies have demonstrated their leadership and commitment at the domestic, regional and international levels, to healthy oceans, including employing ecosystem based approaches, protecting marine biodiversity, and combating marine pollution.

#### Key Questions for Economies to Consider:

How can APEC Economies address the challenges of sustainable development and protection of the marine environment? What is working? What are the challenges?

What role can APEC play in supporting these efforts?

How can we, collectively, help each other in our domestic efforts?

Is there value in working together toward shared objectives? How could we do that?