



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2015/SOM1/OFWG/052rev1**  
Agenda Item: X

## **Meeting Report - 4th OFWG Meeting**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: Lead Shepherd



**APEC**  
PHILIPPINES  
2 0 1 5

**4<sup>th</sup> Oceans and Fisheries Working Group Meeting**  
**Clark, Philippines**  
**28-30 January 2015**

**Meeting Report**  
**ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION**  
**4th MEETING OF THE OCEAN AND FISHERIES WORKING GROUP (OFWG)**  
**Fontana Hotel, Gallery 1, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines**

Sixteen APEC Economies attended: Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia, New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States; and Viet Nam. Observers included representatives from the Policy Partnership for Food Security (PPFS) and the APEC Philippines Vice Senior Official. A representative of the APEC Secretariat Communications Unit also attended. The meeting was chaired by the OFWG Lead Shepherd (LS) Atty. Asis Perez of the Philippines. An Executive Summary of the meeting is attached as **Appendix A**.

28-30 January 2015

Day 1: 28 January 2015

**Session I - Opening Session**

A. Welcoming Remarks by OFWG Lead Shepherd

The OFWG Lead Shepherd, Atty. Asis Perez, welcomed the participating the economies to the Philippines. He expressed his appreciation to the APEC Secretariat and the member economies for supporting his nomination as Lead Shepherd. Lead Shepherd emphasized that we consider all sectors in our work and the guidance of our APEC leaders to assist one another and ensure that no member economy of APEC is being left behind—this is inclusive growth and how we will ensure a better Asia-Pacific.

B. Opening of the APEC 4th Oceans and Fisheries Working Group meeting by Official from the Philippines

Undersecretary Manuel D. Gerochi of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources opened the 4<sup>th</sup> APEC OFWG meeting, greeting delegates and noting the importance of the topics discussed by the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group and how they contribute to building resilient economies.

C. Introduction of Delegation Leads (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The head delegates introduced themselves to the group.

D. Appointment of Rapporteur (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The United States volunteered as rapporteur and the working group approved.

E. Formation of Committee to assist with drafting of Summary Report (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

A committee was formed to assist the rapporteur in the drafting of the meeting report: China, Japan, Philippines, and Papua New Guinea.

## F. Adoption of the Agenda (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The agenda was adopted by consensus after a few additions from the floor: One additional presentation on blue economy by the United States and one on IUU fishing by Malaysia.

The final agenda can be found in document 2015/SOM1/OFWG/001rev1.

## **Session II – APEC 2015 Priorities**

### A. Presentation on APEC 2015 Priorities from SOM Vice-Chair (Philippines)

SOM Vice-Chair, Mr Ferdinand Cui, welcomed delegates and reminded delegates of the 1996 Leaders Vision in Subic. The SOM Vice-Chair expressed the similarities with the current host year themes “Building inclusive economies, building a better world” and its four thematic priorities: 1) Enhancing Regional Economic Integration Agenda, 2) Fostering SME’s Participation in Regional and Global markets, 3) Investing in Human Capital Development, and 4) Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities. The SOM Vice-Chair highlighted the importance of enhancing the regional economic integration agenda, the participation of SMEs, and the need to invest in human capital development.

## **Session III – Developments in APEC since the 3<sup>rd</sup> OFWG Meeting in May 2015**

### A. Overview of Outcomes of APEC Leaders Meeting 2014 and 4<sup>th</sup> APEC Oceans-Related Ministerial Meeting (AOMM4) and implications for the OFWG (China)

China presented agreements and directives made during the various APEC 2014 meetings with implication for the OFWG. It was noted that the APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting (AELM) of 2014 attached more importance to ocean-related cooperation, evidenced by ocean issues making rank 1 funding priority for the first time. The speaker expressed China’s appreciation to all the member economies and Secretariat for their contributions to success of 2014, and highlighted relevant meetings and outcomes in 2014, including the AOMM4 preparatory meeting, OFWG3, AOMM4 (including the Xiamen Declaration), the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report, OFWG common view on Blue Economy, and Leaders Declarations as contributing toward ocean issues.

Members of the working group acknowledged China’s successes and efforts during their host year.

### B. Overview of intersessionally endorsed actions and documents since OFWG 3 (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The Lead Shepherd, with assistance from the Secretariat gave a brief overview of the intersessionally endorsed actions.

### C. APEC Secretariat Report on Relevant Developments in APEC (Secretariat)

Secretariat highlighted recent developments in APEC, including the success of concept notes, new ECOTECH medium term priorities for 2015-2019, new capacity building guidelines, and the increasing positive views of APEC by those outside the organization. The Secretariat noted that the OFWG did well in 2014 compared with most other groups, both in funding projects and gaining attention of leaders.

### D. Follow-up on APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report (China)

China reported that the report was completed by the working group last year and was distributed to groups within APEC and is in process of distributing it, along with a letter of recommendation by the APEC Executive Director, to 35 relevant international organizations. China provided a brief history of report, noted recognition within APEC and Chinese media, and encouraged economies to submit and update economy reports. It was noted that the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Centre (AMSDC) would like to continue serving the coordinating and publishing work and that updated economy reports would have no deadline and are welcome at any time. The group and Lead Shepherd lauded the work of China and noted the usefulness of the report in APEC and beyond.

## **Session IV - Information Sharing**

### A. Information Sharing by APEC Economies (5 minutes per economy)

Delegates from thirteen economies provided brief reports on key ocean and fisheries issues relevant to their economies, and on recent progress made on issues relevant to the OFWG. Members reported on progress made in areas of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, marine conservation, marine disaster risk reduction, food security and safety, marine science technology and cooperation, domestic legislation, blue economy efforts, and international cooperation. Some economies also provided written Economy Reports to the Secretariat (Documents 2015/SOM1/OFWG/010; 2015/SOM1/OFWG/016; 2015/SOM1/OFWG/021; 2015/SOM1/OFWG/031; 2015/SOM1/OFWG/032; 2015/SOM1/OFWG/043; 2015/SOM1/OFWG/044; 2015/SOM1/OFWG/047; 2015/SOM1/OFWG/050) and others were encouraged to submit written reports to the Secretariat.

### B. Annual Review 2014 from the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Centre (China)

China reviewed the work of the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Centre (AMSDC) in 2014, noting that the major activities in 2014 included: Engagement in AOMM4, Promotion of Blue Economy cooperation among the APEC economies through hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> APEC blue Economy Forum, compilation of Marine Sustainable Development Report, and other outreach

and capacity building activities. China outlined the APEC self-funded Blue Economy Model Program. AMSDC is planning a training workshop on Marine Sustainable Planning in 2015.

C. Updates on APEC Ocean and Fisheries Information Centre (Indonesia).

Indonesia gave a brief update on progress of the establishment of the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Information Centre (AOFIC), highlighting that the goal was to strengthen economic cooperation on ocean-related information, the objectives were to promote and facilitate efficient and effective exchange and utilization of oceanographic and marine fisheries information in the region. Speaker noted that the website is: [www.aofic.id](http://www.aofic.id). A member economy asked how APEC member economies could provide data or access data at the center. Indonesia responded that the Indonesian agency in charge of the center (Indonesia Ministry for Marine Affairs and Fisheries) is developing a toolkit on how APEC member economies can engage and will provide to APEC members soon.

## **Session V – OFWG Operations**

- A. Discussion on the possible establishment of Friends of the Chair groups to assist the Chair in developing the Annual Work Plan and Strategic Plan (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The Lead Shepherd suggested that a Friends of The Chair group be formed to draft the 2015 work plan, which is ideally due to the parent committee by SCE1, and the next Strategic Action Plan, which is due at the end of the year. The US, Philippines, and China volunteered and supported this. Japan also expressed willingness to engage. Later Peru also joined the group.

B. Work Plan

- a. Discussion of progress on implementing the OFWG 2014 Annual Work Plan (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The APEC Secretariat presented the outcomes of the OFWG 2014 Annual Work Plan.

- b. Overview and roadmap for 2015 activity: OFWG 4, OFWG 5 and High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy (OFWG Lead Shepherd and Philippines)

Philippines informed the OFWG that a draft roadmap for 2015 activities has been drafted (Document 2015/SOM1/OFWG/020), and requested the member economies to review and send their inputs on the document via email. China expressed their willingness to make more contribution to 2015 activity and explore the possibility of co-hosting some events in coordination with the Philippines, such as the workshop for the APEC Blue Economy Model Program (Phase I) and the 4<sup>th</sup> APEC Blue Economy Forum.

- c. Discussion of development of the 2015 OFWG Annual Work Plan (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

With the development of the Friends of the Chair group, further discussion on this item took place in that group and later in the agenda.

### C. Strategic Plan

- a. Discussion of progress on implementing the OFWG Strategic Plan 2013-2015. (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

At the request of the Lead Shepherd, the Secretariat went through the OFWG Strategic Plan, noting significant actions on the majority of items.

- b. Consideration of the consultant's comments on the current OFWG Strategic Plan and discussion of development of the next OFWG Strategic Plan. (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The Secretariat noted that the OFWG will be undergoing independent assessment in 2015, including consultation with each member economy. A member economy raised a point that perhaps we should wait for the results of the assessment. The Lead Shepherd asked the Friends of the Lead Shepherd group to consider this during the evening drafting session.

## **Session V – OFWG Operations (Continued)**

### D. Projects

- a. Presentation on 2015 Ranking Criteria, new Prioritization Template, and available Project Funding (Secretariat)

The APEC Secretariat presented the project management updates which included important recent decisions of the Budget Management Committee (BMC), guidelines and assistance APEC Secretariat may provide member economies. The Secretariat reminded the group of the dates and deadlines of the approval process and provided advice on the preparation of concept notes. The new prioritization template was also discussed, which takes into account ranking criteria and a scoring guide. The Secretariat noted willingness to provide assistance to the OFWG to ensure the best possible change funding in a competitive funding environment and informed the meeting that training sessions on concept note preparation will be conducted by the APEC Secretariat for any interested economies in Clark from 31 January 2015 for several days.

- b. Update on projects underway

a. Japan (OFWG 02 2014)

Japan gave an update on their project to host a workshop on climate change impacts on ocean and fisheries resources. The workshop, now scheduled to take place 9 May 2015 in Boracay, Philippines before the fifth OFWG meeting. Many member economies spoke up in support of the project and the importance of the working group addressing climate change impacts on fisheries. Japan sought endorsement of the proposed non-member speaker list to participate in the workshop. After brief discussion, the list was endorsed. Clarification was sought regarding how other participants could engage in the meeting. The Secretariat confirmed that participants outside of those on the endorsed list need to be members of their respective economies SOM2 delegations—if additional non-member participants, including observers, are requested, then they need to be endorsed by the working group prior to their participation.

b. United States (OFWG 03 2014)

The United States gave an update on their approved 2014 project: Assessing the economic value of green infrastructure in Coastal Ecosystems to Disaster Risk Reduction, Response, and Coastal Resilience in the APEC Region. It was noted that the Emergency Preparedness Working Group recently endorsed their engagement in the project. Several clarifications were sought on the process and next steps. The United States responded to each, noting that the study will be regional and not based on scoring individual economies and that engagement with experts would take place virtually. They noted the feedback that surveys sent should be done as soon as possible and allow sufficient time for translation and compilation of responses. Papua New Guinea, a co-sponsor of the project, spoke in support of the project.

c. Self-funded Projects, if any

No self-funded projects were presented.

c. Discussion of any proposed new APEC-funded projects for Session 1 2015 (All Members invited to outline new project proposals)

Several APEC members gave oral and powerpoint presentation on anticipated project proposals for 2015:

- Korea: Marine Ecosystem Assessment and Management in the Asia-Pacific Region Phase V and APEC Preparedness, Response and Assessment of Oil Spills (PRAOS) in the APEC Region, Phase 2.

- Indonesia: Promoting small-scale fishers and fisheries industries to the global value chain
- Peru: Peru presented two projects: 1) Improve supply chain of marine products aiming to maintain the health of fish stocks, strengthen food security and enhance trade and 2) Green technology as a way for sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- United States: Training the Trainer Aquaculture Workshop focused on emerging animal diseases and food safety.
- Papua New Guinea: Climate Change, Food Security and Resilient Communities
- China: APEC Marine Sustainable Development Centre (AMSDC) training workshop on Marine Spatial Planning and Blue Economy.

The United States also brought to the groups attention a concept note being put forward through the APEC Transportation Working Group on Marine Pollution, noting that they would send out the concept note to the working group for information purposes at a later date.

- d. Discussion of any proposed new self-funded projects for 2015 (All Members invited to outline new project proposals)

No proposed self-funded projects were presented.

E. Independent Assessment 2015 (OFWG Lead Shepherd and Secretariat)

The Secretariat provided some detail on the independent assessment process that will be completed by a consultant in 2015. He noted this was standard practice within APEC and that the OFWG was one of four SCE working groups chosen for assessment this year. The consultant will attend the May 2015 OFWG meeting to observe and meet with members and may contact delegations during the intersessional period to finalize the draft. The draft would then be shared with SCE for its consideration, with SCE's comments then forwarded back to the OFWG for its final consideration. The report would then be adopted by SCE and the OFWG tasked to implement agreed recommendations and report back to SCE in 2016.

**Day 2: 29 January 2015**

**Session VI – Food Security**

- A. A System of Surveillance of Fishing Vessels and Monitoring Production Activities (Russia)

Russia discussed their economy's fishery monitoring system, including its purpose, legal bases, main working task, data flow, data exchange and harmonization with international efforts in combating IUU fishing.

## B. Malaysia Efforts on Combatting IUU Fishing

Malaysia presented various initiatives in combating IUU Fishing including related policies, legislations and capacity building program. They also shared their efforts with the Regional Plan of Action Secretariat (RPOA), Australian Fisheries Management Authority and recent participation in the Interpol Fisheries Crime Working Group.

One economy noted the possibility of linking RPOA initiatives, particularly on port state measures, with member economies in the region. Another economy cited the need to develop capacities in implementing in-country national strategies in combating IUUF, and explored possibility of working with SEAFDEC on the said capacity building program.

Korea also shared on their initiatives related to combating IUU fishing which include vessel monitoring system, catch certification scheme, early warning system and amendment of their national fishery with emphasis on strengthening sanctions for violators. Korea suggested for APEC member economies to review ratification process for Port State Measures in acceding to international commitments on combating IUU fishing.

## C. Presentation on PPFS/OFWG collaboration (TBC, PPFS Representative to OFWG or OFWG Representative to PPFS)

The Lead Shepherd informed the meeting of his role as both OFWG Lead Shepherd and PPFS Chair. He added that the Philippines will draft the content of the discussion and the process flow for the PPFS meeting.

Two economies sought inquiries on how the food security section of the PPFS roadmap and the work on food security of both the OFWG and PPFS would be incorporated in the HLPD for food security and the blue economy. The Lead Shepherd and the Philippines noted that the issues would be considered, but the exact incorporations were not determined, as ABAC also needed to be consulted.

During the discussion, Chinese Taipei shared its project on strengthening public-private partnership to reduce losses in food chain which will prioritize fisheries and livestock during the year. They also expressed interest to hold a workshop in Iloilo to which New Zealand, China, and Philippines supported. The United States congratulated Chinese Taipei on the initiative and noted that a survey on the topic of food loss in fisheries was completed last year with input from PPFS members. The United States agreed to send an update to the group on the outcome of that survey in order to inform Chinese Taipei's efforts to address the topic this year.

## D. Update on OFWG Food Security Action Plan draft (Drafting Group lead, United States)

The USA presented the draft OFWG Food Security Action Plan which remained unchanged since the last working group meeting. They shared potential topics for consideration and solicited further inputs and which may

be included in the plan and noted some specific suggestions from member economies to improve the draft. The United States proposed that the drafting team meet to discuss further details and finalize a draft for potential endorsement at the May meeting in Boracay. Philippines, Japan, Korea, Russia, Papua New Guinea, Korea, China, Chile and Peru agreed to join in the substantive discussion in the action plan .

Philippines supported the action plan's finalization during the OFWG5 in May noting that the finalized document will serve as an input to the HLPD in October and will hopefully reflect an inclusive food security agenda of all the member economies. The Philippines stressed the importance of private sector participation in the joint PPFs policy dialogue.

## **Session VII – Sustainable Development and Protection of the Marine Environment**

### 1. Preparedness, Response and Assessment of Oil Spill (PRAOS), Phase I (OFWG 01 2014 A, Korea)

Korea presented their project on preparedness, response and assessment of oil spill in the APEC region. The presentation covered project background, implementation and future plans. Korea sought sought co-sponsorship for the Phase 2 of the project.

Member economies congratulated Korea for the initiative.

### 2. Results of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative High Level Meeting (Korea)

Korea presented results of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative high level meeting. The major achievement was the establishment of platform for high level policy discussions on coastal and marine biodiversity preservation, policy and plans. The SOI Pyeongchang Statement and its relevance to APEC was also discussed. The need to emphasize the importance of marine biodiversity within the APEC OFWG work plan was addressed.

### 3. Marine Biodiversity Strategy (Japan)

Japan informed the group of the establishment of the Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (2011) which provides policy directions on conservation measures and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.

Members congratulated Korea and Japan, and reiterated importance of protecting marine biodiversity in the region. Vietnam also proposed to develop new project on marine biodiversity in the future. Philippine expressed support to Japan and interest in exploring possible collaboration.

### 4. Update from the OFWG/CD Marine Pollution Virtual Working Group (United States)

United States presented updates from the Marine Pollution Virtual Working Groups, which is a joint Chemical Dialogue and OFWG construct. The presentation focused on the issues, APEC's role, strong political support, 2015 work plan and next steps. The United States sought feedback on ideas for the 2015 work plan and encouraged representatives to join the virtual working group.

The key next step for the OFWG is to continue its participation and support to the VWG activities. It was also emphasized that the 2015 work plan of the VWG will be presented to the OFWG for consideration and would, if endorsed, serve as input in the development of the 3-year strategic plan.

One economy requested a copy of the proposed terms of reference and priority action areas so that the group could comment. The United States agreed to send it to the Working Group.

## **Session VIII– Blue Economy**

### **A. Innovative Approach to Blue Economy (Japan)**

Japan's presentation centered on the innovative synergy triangle, which included technology, strategic planning and adaptation policy. Japan solicited comments from economies on their views on the innovative concept.

China and Vietnam suggested further sharing of the concept and research results in future meetings.

### **B. China's Research and Experiences for the Development of Blue Economy (China)**

China introduced their research on blue economy. The presentation covered China's understanding of the blue economy, its classification, elements in assessing its performance, and its roadmap to the development of blue economy in China. China proposed to do more of both theoretical research and concrete pragmatic programs and projects, with economic related elements.

During the comment portion, one member economy observed that the process of understanding blue economy still has a long way to go, especially amongst developing economies. The economy proposed development more regional cooperation, and requested Korea, Japan, China to assist developing economies along this line. Another economy expressed their support discussing blue economy cooperation and suggested coming up with concrete terms in future meetings.

The Lead Shepherd encouraged researchers and stakeholders of economies to collaborate and share ideas on the matter.

C. The APEC Blue Economy Model Program (Phase I) (OFWG 02 2013S, China)

China shared the highlights of the 3rd Blue Economy Forum and the outline of the Blue Economy model program, including a case study from Xiamen. China encouraged other economies to share their experiences during the proposed experience-sharing workshop that they hope will take place in 2015.

During discussion a question was raised regarding integration of fishermen into the planning of the Xiamen project. China responded that fishermen were actively engaged in the decision-making process of the Xiamen project.

Hong Kong, China as co-sponsor, expressed their continued support to the initiative and inquired as to whether the model can be shared to all other economies, to which China agreed.

The Lead Shepherd observed that there are number of proposed activities under the OFWG for the year, thus suggested China coordinate with the Philippines and other member economies on timing and inform the group as soon as possible. Philippines informed the Lead Shepherd that the discussions were already taking place.

D. Update on the Establishment of APEC Mainstreaming Ocean Related Issues Steering Council (Indonesia)

Indonesia informed the group that an invitation has been sent to the Lead Shepherds of various working group, including OFWG, to discuss ocean related issues. He encouraged the economies to participate on the meeting that is scheduled on 5 February 2015. Several member economies congratulated Indonesia for their initiative and leadership on the topic.

In response to an inquiry about an updated draft work plan, Indonesia responded that the document will be distributed during the steering committee.

APEC Secretariat Program Director informed the he had been directed by the Executive Director to provide support to the steering council.

On coordination concerns raised by one member economy, Indonesia responded that coordinations were done through the SCE, who will then circulate to all concerned lead shepherds, who will consequently circulate to their respective member economies.

E. Importance of Healthy Oceans and Coasts to our Economy (United States)

The United States gave a presentation outlining the evolution of the term blue economy, in APEC and in other organizations and regions. They gave a brief overview of their National Ocean Policy and the subsequent implementation plan. The US encouraged the OFWG, when discussing the topic, to consider actions that are based on conservation and science-based management of

resources and are unique to APEC so that value is added to the global work on this topic. A question was raised as to whether or not the US was seeking to change the common view agreed upon by the working group in 2014, to which the US replied that it did not propose changing that view. China noted the similarities between the priorities and points identified in the US presentation and those in the Chinese presentation and encouraged exploration on bilateral and APEC-wide collaborations on these topics through the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Centre (AMSDC).

### **Session IX – Climate Change**

#### A. Additional presentations as OFWG 02 2014

Japan presented the program details of the climate change workshop on 9 May 2015 in Boracay, Philippines, emphasizing the goals and objectives of the workshop which will contribute to the APEC 2015's 4<sup>th</sup> priority, "building the sustainable and resilient community." and discussed the agenda items and its respective resource persons.

### **Day 3: January 30, 2015**

### **Session X – Looking Ahead**

#### A. Endorsement of the 2015 OFWG Work Plan

The OFWG discussed and endorsed the 2015 work plan.

#### B. Meeting Report- 4th OFWG Meeting

The meeting report and attachment A were discussed and endorsed.

#### C. Date and Venue for the 5th OFWG Meeting (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The date and venue of the next meeting will be on 10-12 May 2015 in Boracay Island, Philippines.

#### D. Development of list of intersessional work and potential agenda topics for the 5<sup>th</sup> OFWG Meeting 2015 (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The group discussed and agreed to the intersessional work which is outlined in the Executive Summary found in Appendix A.

### **Session XI - Closing Session**

The SOM Vice-Chair expressed his appreciation to the efforts and achievements made by the OFWG. He wished everyone a safe trip back to their respective economies.

Director Mundita Lim of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the DENR congratulated the Chair for successfully facilitating the meeting. She also acknowledged the presence of the SOM Vice-Chair in the meeting. She also thanked APEC Secretariat and the member economies and underscored the convergence of the working groups of APEC in contributing to the achievement of the goals of OFWG.

The APEC Secretariat congratulated the Lead Shepherd for successfully facilitating the meeting and the warm hospitality extended to the participating member economies.

The Lead Shepherd congratulated and thanked the OFWG member economies for taking part in ensuring that the agenda of the meeting will be accomplished, particularly the endorsement of the 2015 OFWG work plan. He looked forward to a continued collaboration among the member economies to ensure inclusivity.

## **ATTACHMENT A – OFWG SCE FORA REPORT**

### **Executive Summary**

#### **Summary**

The 4th APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) met in Clark, Philippines in January of 2015. Discussions were organized around the five pillars of the OFWG Strategic Plan: Sustainable Development and Protection of the Marine Environment, Strengthening Food Security, Promoting Free and Open Trade and Investment, and Enhance Understanding of the Impacts of Climate Change, and OFWG Operations, as well as an additional category of “Blue Economy.” These discussions included the review of the outcomes of the 2014 Oceans and Fisheries Related Cooperation, reports from economies on their economy’s ocean and fisheries-relevant activities since OFWG3, updates on past and upcoming OFWG-endorsed projects, presentations on ideas for concept notes in 2015, information sharing activities and perspectives on blue economy. Additional discussions included the Philippines preparations for the 2015 High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy and how the working group can engage in those preparations.

#### **Recommendations**

The group highlighted the need to raise awareness of the key role ocean and fisheries resources play in supporting robust economies, recognizing the impacts of climate change and disasters, blue economy and combating IUU Fishing. The group encouraged itself to work intersessionally via e-mail. In addition, the Lead Shepherd sought to coordinate on upcoming meetings and provide further information on those meetings as soon as possible in order to facilitate travel and other planning amongst members.

#### **Endorsed/Agreed During Clark OFWG Meeting January 28-30, 2015:**

1. The OFWG will consider the 2015 independent assessment recommendations and SCE comments in “OFWG Strategic Plan 2013-15 – Discussion Points” (2014/OFWG/SOM2/003) when it rewrites the Strategic Plan in 2015.

2. The OFWG endorsed the proposed non-member participant list for the APEC Project, Workshop on Climate Change Impact on Oceans and Fisheries Resources implemented by Japan (OFWG 02 2014).
3. The OFWG endorsed the 2015 Work Plan.
4. The OFWG endorsed meeting for OFWG 5 from 10-12 May in Boracay, Philippines.

Proposed Intersessional Actions:

1. OFWG member economies will provide input to the Coastal Ecosystem Valuation survey (OFWG 03 2014).
2. The OFWG will review the proposed Terms of Reference and 2015 Work Plan for the Marine Debris Virtual Working Group.
3. The OFWG member economies will work to finalize the draft Food Security Action Plan by the following process: the OFWG Food Security Action Plan drafting group will review and provide comments to the drafting chair by mid-March; then OFWG member economies will review and make their comments on the draft Food Security Action Plan produced by the chair by 1 May 2015.
4. OFWG member economies will work for updating of Part 2 of the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report, on a voluntary basis.
5. OFWG member economies will cooperate and participate in the Workshop on Climate Change Impacts on Ocean and Fisheries Resources held on 9 May 2015 in Boracay Island (OFWG 02 2014)
6. The Lead Shepherd will provide an update to the OFWG on the status and progress of the Mainstreaming Oceans Initiative, including distribution of the draft work plan for comment.
7. OFWG member economies will engage in preparations for the High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy, including providing comments to the Philippines on the proposed action plans.