



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2015/SOM2/OFWG/005

Agenda Item: IV A a

Ocean and Fisheries Working Group Endorsed Work Plan for 2015

Purpose: Information

Submitted by: APEC Secretariat

Forum Doc No. 2015/SOM1/SCE-COW/011



APEC
PHILIPPINES
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**5th Oceans and Fisheries Working Group Meeting
Boracay, Philippines
10-12 May 2015**

Endorsed Work Plan for 2015 Ocean and Fisheries Working Group

1. Proposed Work Plan for 2015 in Response to Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SCE Priorities and Decisions, and to ABAC recommendations.

In 2015, the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) will conduct a sequence of initiatives that aim to respond to APEC Leaders' Declarations, Ministerial statements, the decisions of Senior Officials, as well as SCE priorities. The OFWG will continue to implement the directives provided in the Seoul Oceans Declaration (2002), the Bali Plan of Action (2005), the Paracas Declaration (2010), and Xiamen Declaration (2014) through priority targets to ensure concrete actions.

To respond to these priorities and decisions¹, the OFWG will:

- 1.1. Promote OFWG contributions to the High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy, in order to achieve the APEC 2015's 4th priority, "Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities";
- 1.2. Strengthen the role of sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture in food security and related trade, including the promotion of inclusive growth strategies, and combating IUU fishing;
- 1.3. Promote Blue Economy relevant cooperation on the basis of OFWG common view on Blue Economy;
- 1.4. Carry out ecosystem-based management approaches and programs, to ensure the effective sustainable management of coastal and marine environment including biodiversity;
- 1.5. Promote comprehensive Asia-Pacific connectivity to strengthen economic, social and local resilience by improving understanding of the potential impacts of disasters, and of climate change on oceans and coasts;

¹ In Response to:

Medium-term ECOTECH priorities for 2015-2019:

1. Developing human capital through capacity building; 2. Developing and strengthening the dynamism of SMEs; 3. Harnessing technologies for the future and supporting innovation; 4. Inclusive growth - addressing the social dimension of globalisation, health, gender; 5. Regional economic integration; 6. Structural reform; 7. Safeguarding the quality of life through sustainable growth; and 8. Human security.

2015 APEC Priorities

Enhancing Regional Economic Integration Agenda; Fostering Participation of SMEs in Regional and Global Markets, Investing in Human Capital Development, and Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

2011 Leaders' Declaration- "The Honolulu Declaration"

"We firmly resolve to support the strong, sustained, and balanced growth of the regional and global economy."

2010 Leaders' Declaration- "Yokohama Declaration"

Under the green growth agenda, stated among others: "We will ensure the sustainable development of our oceans, seas, and coasts, including their resources and the conservation of the marine environment".

2010 APEC Leaders' Growth Strategy – 2010

Under the Five Growth Attributes, Leaders have considered the "Sustainable Growth", which relates to the MRC stating: "We seek the growth compatible with global efforts for protection of the environment and transit green economies". One of the related actions is: "Promote conservation and more sustainable management of...marine resources..."

2010 APEC Ministerial Meeting- Joint Statement - Yokohama

"The oceans and their resources are essential to the livelihoods and economic well-being of the people of the Asia-pacific region and the food security. We welcomed the Paracas Declaration, to focus efforts on sustainable development and conserving the marine environment..."

2010 APEC Oceans- Related Ministerial Meeting "Paracas Declaration- Paracas Action Agenda"

Ministers compromised to focus their efforts on the following four main areas: 1) sustainable development and protection of the marine environment; 2) Impact of climate change on the oceans; 3) Free and open trade and investment; 4) The role of the oceans in food security.

2010 APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security – Nigata

"We shared the view that effective resources management of marine fisheries and sustainable development of aquaculture production, fishery resources will continue to be secure and promising source of food supply. We acknowledged the outcome of AOMM3 held in Paracas, Peru..."

2014 APEC Oceans- Related Ministerial Meeting "Xiamen Declaration"

Ministers vigorously discussed and confirmed their cooperation on the following four main areas: 1) Coastal and marine ecosystem conservation and disaster resilience; 2) The role of the ocean on food security and food-related trade; 3) Marine science, technology and innovation; 4) Blue Economy. Also reaffirming the commitments made in 2002 Seoul Declaration, 2005 Bali Plan of Action and 2010 Paracas Declaration – Paracas Action Agenda".

- 1.6. Strategically orient the OFWG project submission and evaluation process to align with Leaders/Ministers/SOM decisions, SCE priorities, as well as the OFWG Strategic Plan. The group will also explore opportunities for developing self-funded projects;
 - 1.7. Continue working to enhance coordination with other APEC sub-fora and refining efforts to mainstream ocean issues; and
 - 1.8. Promote enhanced capacity building.
2. Anticipated Activities and/or Proposed Work Plan with outside organizations in response to Leaders' and Ministers' calls for greater engagement with A) business sector and B) Other Organizations/Stakeholders, including the IFIs and relevant international and regional Organizations.
- 2.1. Private sector
 - Identify opportunities for OFWG participation in the promotion of trade of both sustainable fisheries products and sustainable aquaculture products
 - Identify opportunities for the OFWG engage and seek input from the private sector on its understanding of the blue economy and address sustainable aquaculture, sustainable fisheries management, IUU, and marine pollution issues in the APEC region.
 - Identify potential partners as part of the OFWG project submission and evaluation process.
 - Identify representatives that could attend the next OFWG meeting (subject to APEC guidelines on non-member participation in APEC activities).
 - 2.2. WB, FAO, and regional organizations
 - Strengthen the role of sustainable fish and aquaculture products in food security, including the promotion of inclusive growth strategies.
 - Identify representatives that could attend the next OFWG meeting (subject to APEC guidelines on non-member participation in APEC activities).
 - Identify organizations or representatives that could contribute to OFWG projects (subject to APEC guidelines on non-member participation in APEC activities).
 - Share outcomes of OFWG project with appropriate organizations.
 - 2.3. NGOs, Research Institutions, Universities and Public Sector
 - Advance sustainable growth through the sharing of information and the promotion/support of best management practices about sustainable development and protection of the marine environment.
 - Improve understanding of the impacts of climate change on oceans and coasts, (not limited to Fisheries, but also economic, social and local community impact).
 - Identify representatives that could attend to the next OFWG meeting (subject to APEC guidelines on non-member participation in APEC activities).
3. Identify cross cutting issues and explain how they will be coordinated across APEC Fora.
- 3.1. ABAC, CTI, and other fora
 - Identify opportunities for OFWG participation in the promotion of trade of both sustainable fisheries products and sustainable aquaculture products.
 - Explore further opportunities for engagement across the science and business sectors.
 - 3.2. APEC Food System, FOTC, PPFS, HWG
 - Strengthen the role of sustainable fisheries products and sustainable aquaculture products in food security, including the promotion of inclusive growth strategies.
 - Identify representatives to represent the OFWG at the meetings of these various groups, as appropriate.
 - Invite representatives of the aforementioned groups to attend OFWG meetings to engage as appropriate.
 - 3.3. ASC, HRDWG
 - Advance sustainable growth through sharing of information and the promotion/support of best management practices about the sustainable development and protection of the marine environment.

4. Capacity building activities planned for 2015
 - 4.1 Further promote and enhance the capacity building in the OFWG activities including through its projects; "Preparedness, Response and Assessment of Oil Spills in the APEC Region, Phase I (OFWG 01 2014)", "Workshop on the Climate Change Impacts on Oceans and Fisheries Resources (OFWG 02 2014)", in a manner of human capital development.
 - 4.2 Consider developing a project to create a training module on aquaculture
 - 4.3 Consider developing a training program on marine and coastal management
 - 4.4 Support capacity building that promotes innovative development for ocean and coastal science, technology and management
 - 4.5 Encourage APEC Marine Environmental Center (AMTEC), APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center (AMSDC), and APEC Ocean and Fisheries Information Center (AOFIC) to further contribute the OFWG capacity building activities.

5. Expected Outcomes/Deliverables For 2015

High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy.

- 5.1. Actively participate in High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy in order to elevate and raise awareness of OFWG priorities.
- 5.2. Contribute to the High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy output and other relevant documents, as appropriate.

Identify opportunities for OFWG participation in the promotion of trade of both sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture products.

- 5.3. Consider developing a project proposal focusing on small scale fisheries and artisanal fisheries.
- 5.4. Identify private sector needs on fisheries and aquaculture products trade and services among APEC economies.
- 5.5. Work to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- 5.6. Engagement with other relevant APEC fora on promoting transparency in fisheries assistance programs/subsidies.

Strengthen the role of sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture in food security, including combating IUU fishing, and the promotion of inclusive growth strategies that address the social dimension of globalization and gender.

- 5.7. Near-term actions addressing the role of fisheries and aquaculture in APEC Region food security.
- 5.8. Invite representatives of the aquaculture industry to attend the OFWG meeting.
- 5.9. Continue to promote the importance of fisheries in the APEC PPFS working groups.
- 5.10. Draft, review, and endorse the OFWG Food Security Action Plan in coordination with PPFS.
- 5.11. Work to improve livelihood and support coastal fishery communities

Advance sustainable growth and enhance APEC economies understanding of the oceans and their economic and social value with the OFWG common view on Blue Economy, through sharing the information of best management practices about sustainable development and protection of the marine environment, taking account of harnessing technologies and safeguarding the quality of life.

- 5.12. Update and Disseminate the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report, participate in the further work for the Report.
- 5.13. Utilize the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center to support sustainable development related activities such as promoting blue economy cooperation.
- 5.14. Continue to implement the Phase 1 of the APEC Blue Economy Model Program Initiative.
- 5.15. Advance efforts to address marine pollution in the APEC region including through private sector, consistent with APEC priorities, through private sector engagement by inviting representatives of the private sector to attend the OFWG meeting.
- 5.16. Explore the possibility to enhance and facilitate the approaches of Blue Economy.

Promote comprehensive Asia-Pacific connectivity to strengthen economic, social and local resilience by improving regional understanding of the potential impacts of natural disasters, human-induced disasters, and the impacts of climate change on oceans:

- 5.17. Successfully complete the (OFWG 01 2014 A), "Preparedness, Response and Assessment of Oil Spills in the APEC Region, Phase 1".
- 5.18. Effectively implement the OFWG project: "Workshop on the Climate Change Impacts on Oceans and Fisheries Resources" in May.
- 5.19. Effectively implement the OFWG project: "Assessing the Economic Value of Green Infrastructure in Coastal Ecosystems to Disaster Risk Reduction Response and Coastal Resilience in the APEC Region".
- 5.20. Build APEC support for and integration of APEC regional institutions, including Indonesia's APEC Ocean and Fisheries Information Center and Korea's APEC Climate Center with the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Center in Monaco.
- 5.21. Strengthen ocean related data and information sharing and working with other APEC sub-fora to support search and rescue cooperation;
- 5.22. Identify opportunities for real-time information sharing and further development of early warning systems for potential disasters impacting oceans and coastal areas.

Information sharing on outcomes of projects completed in 2014

- 5.23. Fifteenth APEC Roundtable Meeting on the Involvement of the Business/Private Sector in the Sustainability of the Marine Environment (Chinese Taipei).
- 5.24. Report on the 3rd APEC Blue Economy Forum.

Continue working to enhance OFWG projects submission

- 5.25. Continue to develop both self-funded capacity building proposals, and proposals for APEC-funded projects.
- 5.26. Enhance coordination among OFWG members to develop and prioritize OFWG project submissions.
- 5.27. Continue to support the elevation of Ocean-related issues to rank 1 in APEC funding criteria.

Mainstreaming Ocean-Related Issues

- 5.28. Continue active engagement on addressing cross-cutting oceans issues under the Mainstreaming Ocean-Related Issues initiative work plan.

Other expected achievements

- 5.30 Summary report of the 4th and 5th APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group Meeting.
- 5.31 Draft the OFWG Strategic Plan 2016-2018 with due consideration to the Discussion Points (2014/SOM2/OFWG/003) already tabled at the OFWG3, and the SCE comments on the Independent Assessment's recommendations.
- 5.32 2016 OFWG Work Plan

Expected Outcomes	
Continue to support the elevation the Ocean-related issues to rank 1 in APEC funding criteria	Done
Continue to develop both self-funded capacity building proposals, and proposals for APEC-funded projects.	00 - Ongoing
Enhance coordination among OFWG members to develop and prioritize OFWG project submissions.	00 - Ongoing
Prioritize efforts to facilitate collaboration across APEC sub-fora on oceans issues	00 - Ongoing
Identify near-term actions addressing the role of fisheries and aquaculture in various APEC Food Security processes	00 – Ongoing
Improve understanding of the impacts of climate change on oceans, (not limited to Fisheries, but also economic, social and local community impact)	05 – May
Identify opportunities for private sector's involvement in the Blue Economy cooperation.	00 – Ongoing
Identify private sector needs on fisheries and aquaculture products trade and services among APEC economies	00 – Ongoing
Finalize OFWG input into the HLPD on Food Security and Blue Economy agenda	00 - Ongoing
Contribute to HLPD on Food Security and Blue Economy	00- TBA
Lead Shepherd/OFWG representation at HLPD on Food Security and Blue Economy	00- TBA
OFWG member economies endorsement of Mainstreaming Ocean-related Issues Initiative work plan.	00- TBA
Advance the information sharing on promotion of the sustainable development and conservation in line with the OFWG common view on Blue Economy.	00 – Ongoing
Advance implementation of Phase 1 of the APEC Blue Economy Model Program Initiative	00- Ongoing
Invite PPFS Representative to attend OFWG meeting to jointly present on Food Security Action Plan	Done
Invite members of the private sector aquaculture industry to attend the OFWG meeting.	On-going
Invite members of the private sector to attend the OFWG meeting to discuss efforts to address marine pollution in the APEC region.	Done
Invite ABAC to attend the OFWG meeting	Done
Continue updating the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report.	00- Ongoing
Complete summary report of the 4th APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group Meeting	03 – March
Complete summary report of the 5th APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group Meeting	06 - June
Review, and endorse the OFWG Food Security Action Plan in coordination with PPFS	05- May
Complete 2016 OFWG Work Plan	12- December