



Re-orientation of ROPME Programme Activities

Draft

(Current and proposed future programmes)

By
ROPME Secretariat

**Implementation of the
Decision of the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the
ROPME Council (CM16/31-e)**

28 Nov. 2013, Jeddah, KSA

**“ ROPME’s Programme Activities to be re-oriented toward
UNEP’s Regional Seas Strategic Directions during the period of 2016 – 2020,
and to be continued as further enhanced afterwards “**

Implementation of the Decision of the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the ROPME Council (CM16/31-e)

28 Nov. 2013, Jeddah, KSA

“ ROPME to invite the participation of Senior Scientists from Member States and UNEP Regional Seas to review and revise ROPME Programme Activities with reference to the emerging environmental issues and the challenges facing the Region due to the potential threat of urbanization, industrialization, coastal manipulation and the increase in the volume of maritime traffic. The revised Programme Activities are to be prepared with an established Long-Term Strategy, an elaborated Action Plan and new Strategic Directions for the future ”

Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2013-2016):

- ❑ *Introduction and application of the Ecosystem Approach (EA) and Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) for the integrated management of the marine and coastal environment of the RSA.*
- ❑ *Implementation of the Manila Declaration of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, especially in the core partnership areas of wastewater, nutrients and marine litter.*
- ❑ *Strengthening capacities at the national level on marine and coastal governance, in order to enable coordination and coherence with systems such as the Large Marine Ecosystem approach and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.*
- ❑ *Supporting the provision of tools to decouple economic growth from environmental pressures in the marine and coastal environment by promoting resource efficiency and productivity, including assessing the value of the services provided by these key) ecosystems*
- ❑ *Strengthening coordination and building necessary capacities at the national level to improve Regional knowledge and trends on the status of the marine environment.*
- ❑ *Strengthening collaboration mechanisms to address common regional objectives, partnerships and co-ordinate Regional implementation of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, global and Regional initiatives.*

Identified Key Environmental Challenges and Opportunities in the RSA

Challenges
1. Impacts of Urban Development
2. Impacts of Land-Based Activities
3. Impacts of Sea-Based Activities
4. Physical Alterations and Destruction of Habitats
5. Climate Change
6. Over-Exploitation of Living Marine Resources
7. Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

Opportunities
1. Compliance with Regional and National Environmental Policies and Regulations
1. strengthening the capacity of National and Regional institutions to fulfill their mandates
3. Integrated Coastal Area Management
4. Adoption of the Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) approach
5. Implementation of Regional Protocols
6. Awareness and Regional Partnership

ROPME Strategic Objectives :

Based on collective vision and taking into account of the re-oriented programmes of ROPME, the activities will be geared towards achieving the following:

- **Establishment of an effective, efficient, sustainable and *integrated environmental management in RSA,***
- **Development of *environmental governance in RSA which is integrated while promoting the sharing of environmental and socio-economic benefits,***
- **Regulating the coastal development activities through *Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM),***
- **Establishment of an *ecological network* for marine ecosystems including *Special Habitats, Sensitive Areas and Protected Areas* that are representative and connected, in accordance with the *Regional Guidelines,***
- **Enhancement of *conservation and restoration* of threatened/damaged ecosystems and populations of species,**
- **Increasing the allocation of financial resources for better management of marine environment of RSA.**

Direction 1:

Effectively apply an **ecosystem approach** in the management of the marine and coastal environment

<i>Action by Regional Seas Secretariats</i>	<i>Action by UNEP</i>
<p>a. Contribute towards articulation of <u>Sustainable Development Goal</u> on oceans.</p> <p>b. <u>DPSIR approach</u>, including ocean acidification and the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>c. <u>Streamlining EBM into RSPs work programmes and their member states by sharing lessons learnt on ecosystem based approaches, including, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), Integrated coastal area management (ICAM), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and adaptation strategies (EBA).</u></p>	<p>a. Identify areas/indicators related to Sustainable Development Goal on oceans.</p> <p>b. Build capacities on application of EBM principles at the Regional/National level.</p> <p>c. Guidance on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) implementation at local, national, trans-boundary level.</p>

Direction 1:

Effectively apply an **ecosystem approach** in the management of the marine and coastal environment

Action by ROPME Secretariat

<u>Current Activities (2014- 2015)</u>	<u>Proposed Activities (2016- 2020)</u>
<p>a. Development of a Concept Note and Road Map for TDA, in co-operation with GEF, UNEP, UNESCO, RECSO and IDB <i>(In progress)</i></p> <p>b. Preparation of Strategic Directions for Sustainable ROPME Sea Area <i>(In progress)</i></p> <p>c. Meetings of Regional Task Force on Climate Change Dimension <i>(Planned)</i></p> <p>d. Technical Workshop on monitoring and assessment of SDS in the Marine Environment of RSA, in cooperation with NFP-I.R. Iran <i>(Planned)</i></p> <p>e. Regional Workshops on Ecosystem Based Management Approach, in co-operation with UNEP <i>(Planned with UNEP !?)</i></p> <p>f. Development of second phase of RIIS for ecosystem based application modules, marine scientific models and networking with other information systems (models include coral reefs, invasive species, marine turtles, radiation, mangroves, HABs) <i>(In progress)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Outline a capacity-building programme for the application of EBM principles at the National and Regional levels2. Compile the existing data, encourage monitoring and harmonize protocols to establish databases for habitats and species. Strengthen the networks of taxonomists and promote the governance built on an effective and in depth research3. Prepare biodiversity checklist on the Marine Species of the ROPME Sea Area4. Develop and provide technical tools including guidelines, standards and indicators for the protection of the marine environment as well as MPAs5. Provide assistance to the relevant National Authorities in conducting management effectiveness evaluations based on existing methodologies for Marine Environment Management (MEM) as well as MPAs6. Compile and disseminate information on lessons learnt in the context of marine environment management, including success and failure stories7. Develop long term programmes for coral reef and mangrove conservation and management

Direction 2:

Contribute to the implementation of the **Manila Declaration** of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), in particular the **partnerships** on wastewater management, nutrients and marine litter

<i>Action by Regional Seas Secretariats</i>	<i>Action by UNEP</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Support the implementation of the GPA through the Land-based Sources of Pollution (LBS/A) Protocols and its annexes.b. Develop Regional Action Plans with respect to one or more GPA priorities and Regional partnerships.c. Coordinate launches for regional chapters of the three Global Partnerships (Nutrients Management, Marine Litter and Wastewater, as appropriate).d. Facilitate support and awareness rising to civil society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Coordinate launches for regional chapters of the Global Partnerships on Nutrients, Marine Litter and Wastewater, as relevant to each regionb. Work with Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) to develop nutrient management plans.c. Support LBS/A Protocol ratification and implementation through resource mobilization, awareness-raising, capacity-building, sharing of lessons learned and on-the-ground activities (i.e. demonstrations projects)

Direction 2:

Contribute to the implementation of the **Manila Declaration** of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA), in particular the **partnerships** on wastewater management, nutrients and marine litter

Action by ROPME Secretariat

<u><i>Current Activities (2014- 2015)</i></u>	<u><i>Proposed Activities (2016- 2020)</i></u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Brainstorming Regional Workshop on GPNM for HABs-Nutrients management stakeholders of Member States, in cooperation with GEF and UNEP <u>(Planned)</u>b. Regional Expert Meeting on the impacts of HABs in the process of desalination <u>(Planned)</u>c. Survey of Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (LBA) <u>(In progress)</u>d. Workshop on the environmental aspects of offshore operations, in cooperation with IPIECA, E&P Forum and oil companies in the <u>(In progress)</u>e. Workshop on E&P Protocol and its Guidelines <u>(In progress)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop Regional regulations for the waste discharge and/or degree of treatment for major land-based and sea-based sources of pollution2. Establish a Regional mechanism for early detection, prediction and alarming of HABs, and develop an early warning mechanism for mass marine mortality3. Coordinate case studies and pilot projects on systems research into climate change process in RSA and on multi-theme early warning for HABs, pollution, coastal damage, etc.4. Develop tools and policies for implementation of marine environment programmes, measures, guidelines, criteria and standards (such as discharge of sewages, etc) in RAS5. Organize training courses on the analyses of HABs biotoxins in the marine environment and push forward for assigning a Regional Reference Laboratory on HABs – biotoxins6- Implementation of the ROPME-GCC joint pilot project entitled, 'Mitigating Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and related marine mortality in the ROPME Sea Area'

Direction 3:

Strengthen capacities at the regional level and national level on marine and **coastal governance**

<i>Action by Regional Seas Secretariats</i>	<i>Action by UNEP</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Strengthen relationships with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).b. Formalizing partnerships and demonstrating joint working relationships with relevant regional and organizations, such as river basin organizations, Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) projects, as appropriate.c. Provisions of inputs into international processes.d. Disseminating information, among members and parties, on joint actions promoting RSCAPs at all level and promoting these actions.e. Identifying suitable financial mechanisms to implement RSCAPs and their Protocols.f. Facilitate intra and inter-regional cooperation and support and/or initiate networks. (i.e. Marine Protected Area (MPA) networks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Enhance visibility of the RSCAPs in terms of its governance mandate and to communicate outcomes of the regional governance review.b. Strengthen and facilitate inter-regional cooperation.c. Facilitate partnerships between RSCAPs and RFMOs.d. Identifying suitable financial mechanisms to implement RSCAPs and their Protocols.e. Inclusion of RSCAPs inputs into international processes, i.e. (Barbados +20)f. Further consideration to UNEP Governing Council Resolution of oceans and role of the RSCAPs vis-à-vis Rio+20

Direction 3:

Strengthen capacities at the regional level and national level on marine and **coastal governance**

Action by ROPME Secretariat

<u><i>Current Activities (2014- 2015)</i></u>	<u><i>Proposed Activities (2016- 2020)</i></u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Protection and Sustainable Management of Fisheries Resources <i>(Planned)</i>b. Training capabilities: Support of the ROPME Training Centre at Satellite Ground Station <i>(Achieved)</i>c. Disseminating data and information among Member States through orientation of ROPME Integrated Information System (RIIS) and its phases development <i>(In progress)</i>d. Providing training and data networking in Member States through ROPME Integrated Information System (RIIS) <i>(In progress)</i>e. Cooperation between ROPME and Regional/International Organizations <i>(In progress)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Define projects to receive funds from international entities to study the effects of large scale phenomena on the ecology of ROPME Sea Area. These may include but not limited to the studies such as '<u>Effect of climate change on the ecology of ROPME Sea Area</u>' as well as 'water balance between inner and middle ROPME Sea Area'.2. Upgrade ROPME Integrated Information System (RIIS) with additional specialized modules for coral reefs, mangroves, fisheries, marine turtles, marine mammals, invasive species, HABs, marine mortality, radiation, hazardous wastes and Red List of Species. Ensure that Regional databases on RSA are integrated with relevant international environmental databases.

Direction 4:

Support the provision of tools to decouple economic growth from environmental pressures in the marine and coastal environment by **promoting resource efficiency and productivity**, including assessing the value of the services provided by these key ecosystems.

<i>Action by Regional Seas Secretariats</i>	<i>Action by UNEP</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Raise awareness, promote and implement, as appropriate, economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services to support management decision making and policy settings.b. Foster key partnerships on specific green economy actions between governments, private sector and civil society.c. Develop regional policies on resource efficiency, in support to the 10-year framework programme for sustainable consumption and production (SCP), as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Raising awareness on the utilization of market-based instruments and economic valuation to support management decision making and policy settings.b. Technical assistance through regional/national workshops related to resource efficiency, with particular emphasis on identification of fiscal policies that promote green sectoral transformations related to the marine and coastal environment.c. Technical assistance at the national level in the preparation of scoping studies related to sectoral transformative policies in the marine and coastal environment (enabling conditions, identifying and capturing value, and sectoral transformation/reform).d. Disseminate methodologies for economic valuation of marine and coastal ecosystem services, in-line with The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for Oceans, in the RSCAPs through regional workshops.

Direction 4:

Support the provision of tools to decouple economic growth from environmental pressures in the marine and coastal environment by **promoting resource efficiency and productivity**, including assessing the value of the services provided by these key ecosystems

Action by ROPME Secretariat

<u>Current Activities (2014- 2015)</u>	<u>Proposed Activities (2016- 2020)</u>
<p>a. Preparation of Strategic Directions for Sustainable ROPME Sea Area <i>(Planned)</i></p> <p>b. Regional Workshops on Ecosystem Based Management Approach, in cooperation with UNEP <i>(Planned)</i></p> <p>c. Development of a Protocol concerning the conservation of Biological Diversity and the Establishment of Protected Areas <i>(In progress)</i></p> <p>d. Environmental Awareness for major target groups on new Directions of Environment for Sustainable Development in line with Rio+20 outcomes <i>(In progress)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Revise the Kuwait Action Plan (KAP) in line with RIO+20 outcomes and the Regional Seas Strategies Directions of UNEP2. Conduct campaigns to promote environmental awareness for decision makers, the general public and users of the sea to improve general and political commitments for better protection of coastal waters.3. Facilitate the establishment of Monitoring/Evaluation mechanisms for the actions outlined in the strategic directions in order to produce regular information on the progress of policies and results achieved by Member States4. Assess the values of ecosystem services using Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity approaches on coastal and marine issues. Provide local people with a better understanding of national economic services of marine ecosystems.

Direction 5:

Strengthen coordination and build necessary capacities at the Regional and National levels to improve global knowledge and trends on the **status of the marine environment**, contributing to the World Oceans Assessment (Regular Process)

<i>Action by Regional Seas Secretariats</i>	<i>Action by UNEP</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Planning and implementing, regional monitoring and assessment activities, as appropriate.(i.e. State of Marine Environment / Status reports or their equivalent)b. Technical assistance to member states on integrated assessment in the marine and coastal environment, including support to World Oceans Assessment, as appropriate.c. Assist in building capacities at the national/regional level on integrated assessments on the marine and coastal environment, with particular emphasis to aligning as appropriate to regional priority issues as identified by the outline of the World Oceans Assessment.d. Support the Group of Experts, including regional and national experts, as appropriate, of the World Oceans Assessment.e. Promote the coordination of regional chapters of the World Oceans Assessment through the platform of the RSCAPs.a. Mechanism to sustain environmental data at regional and national level, capitalizing on strategic synthesis efforts (WOA).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Assist in building capacities at the regional level on integrated assessments on the marine and coastal environment, with particular emphasis on regional priority issues as identified by the outline of the World Oceans Assessment.b. Technical assistance to RSCAPs in the organization of workshops on the World Oceans Assessment.c. Support the Group of Experts of the World Oceans Assessment.a. Promote the coordination of regional chapters of the World Oceans Assessment through the platform of the RSCAPs.

Direction 5:

Strengthen coordination and build necessary capacities at the Regional and National levels to improve global knowledge and trends on the **status of the marine environment**, contributing to the World Oceans Assessment (Regular Process)

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<i><u>Current Activities (2014- 2015)</u></i>	<i><u>Proposed Activities (2016- 2020)</u></i>
<p>a. Regional meetings of SOMER Team <i><u>(Achieved)</u></i></p> <p>b. Participation in the meetings of UNEP-GEO <i><u>(Planned)</u></i></p> <p>c. Designation of Regional and International experts for the preparation of Upcoming SOMER <i><u>(Planned)</u></i></p> <p>d. Quality Control/Quality Assurance and Monitoring of Contaminants in the Marine Environment of the ROPME Sea Area <i><u>(In progress)</u></i></p> <p>d. Meetings (2) of the Scientific Committee for the Four Season Oceanographic Cruise 2016 <i><u>(one Achieved)</u></i></p> <p>e. Study of water circulation at the Strait of Hormuz <i><u>(In progress)</u></i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Strengthen coverage, reputability and reliability of habitats and species inventories with the view of providing reliable information to improve the representativeness and connectivity of the Marine Environment network.2. Establish Regional Reference accredited laboratories to ensure reliable test results for contaminants in water, sediment and biota3. Develop an Integrated Marine Monitoring System for the RSA with particular focus on Pollution Hot Spots. Enhance “Ocean Data and Information Network” for RSA.4. Compile the existing data, encourage monitoring and harmonize protocols to establish databases for habitats and species. Strengthen the networks of taxonomists and promote the governance built on an effective and in depth research.

Direction 6:

Strengthening collaboration mechanisms to address common regional objectives, partnerships and co-ordinate Regional implementation of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, global and Regional initiatives.

Action by Regional Seas Secretariats	Action by UNEP
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Mapping existing and potential partnerships with relevant <u>MEAs</u>, UN Agencies and IFIs.b. Initiate and operationalize Inter and Intra Regional collaborations.c. Support and streamline reporting with relevant MEAs, UN Agencies and IFIs.d. RSCAPs engagement in the <u>Coral Reef Partnership and Blue Carbon Partnership</u>, carrying out regional policy assessments, as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Fundraising to support integration through partnership demonstration projects.b. Identifying opportunities for RSCAPs in global initiatives (private sector, Global Partnership for Oceans, Oceans Compact, etc.)c. Demonstrating, promoting and communicating contributions of the RSCAPs to global initiatives, MEAs and relevant partners.d. Coordinate blue carbon policy assessments by developing a common approach.e. Coordinate Coral Reef Partnership

Direction 6:

Strengthening collaboration mechanisms to address common regional objectives, partnerships and co-ordinate Regional implementation of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, global and Regional initiatives.

Action by ROPME Secretariat

<u>Current Activities (2014- 2015)</u>	<u>Proposed Activities (2016- 2020)</u>
<p>a. Brainstorming Regional Workshop on GPNM for HABs-Nutrients management stakeholders of Member States, in cooperation with GEF and UNEP <i>(Planned)</i></p> <p>b. Cooperation between ROPME and Regional/International Organizations: Participation in Regional/International Meetings and Environmental Initiatives and enhancing partnership with Environmental Entities <i>(In progress)</i></p>	<p>1. Coordination of Participation of Member States in the Global Partnership of UNEP-GPA such as nutrients management, wastewater, litter, coral reef and blue carbon programmes</p> <p>2. Organize campaigns to promote awareness for decision makers and other stakeholders to improve understanding of the Global Partnership Programmes and initiatives for better protection of the marine ecosystem</p>



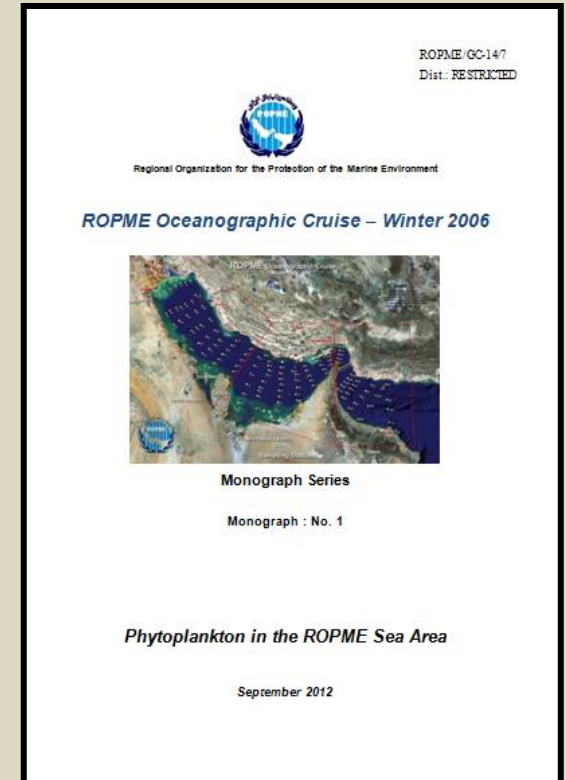
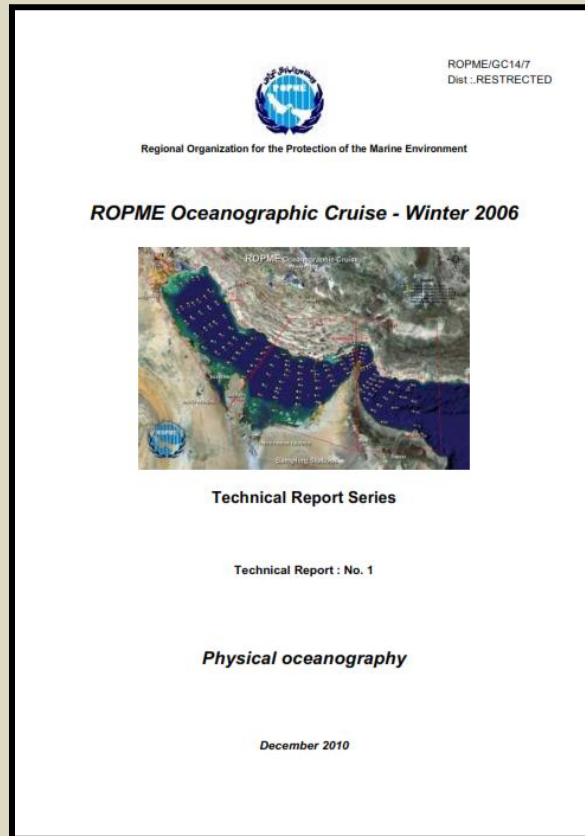
Recent ROPME Publications

ROPME Oceanographic Cruise - Winter 2006

Publications

Technical Report Series:

1. Physical Oceanography
2. Contaminants in Marine Sediments
3. Nutrients
4. Chlorophyll-a
5. Phytoplankton
6. Zooplankton
7. Decapods Larvae
8. Ichthyoplankton
9. Tintinnids
10. Meiobenthos
11. Macrobenthos




Monograph Series:


1. Phytoplankton
2. Zooplankton
3. Meiobenthos
4. Foraminifera
5. Macrobenthos



ROPME Mussel Watch Manual

 **Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)**
Mussel Watch Programme

Manual for
Site Selection, Sampling, Biological Investigations and Chemical Analyses
Final Draft



December 2013

Contents (cont.)

ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES

II	ANALYSIS OF TRACE METALS	Page
II.1	QUALITY ASSURANCE BASIS FOR OBTAINING QUALITY DATA	
II.1.1	Planning	
II.1.2	Quality Assurance	
II.1.3	Definitions of some Relevant Statistical Terms	
II.1.4	Use of Reference Materials (RM)	
II.1.5	Analytical Quality Control Charts (AQCCs)	
II.1.6	Documentation and Reporting of Data	
II.2	CLEANING OF LABORATORY GLASSWARE FOR TRACE METAL ANALYSES	
II.2.1	Laboratory Materials	
II.2.2	Cleaning Procedures	
II.3	SAMPLE PREPARATION PROCEDURES	
II.3.1	Laboratory Equipment	
II.3.2	Chemicals	
II.3.3	Reagents	
II.3.4	Initial Preparation	
II.3.5	Digestion of Sediment for Determination of Trace Metals by AAS	
II.3.6	Digestion of Sediment for Determination of Total Mercury by Cold Vapor AAS	
II.3.7	Digestion of Sediment for Determination of Methyl Mercury (MeHg)	
II.3.8	Digestion of Biological Material for Determination of Trace Elements by Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry (AAS)	
II.3.9	Digestion of Biological Material for Total Mercury Analysis by Cold Vapor AAS	
II.3.10	Extraction of Methyl Mercury in Biota	
II.4	INSTRUMENTATION	
II.4.1	Preparations of Standard Solutions	
II.4.2	Determination of Trace Metals in Sediments and Biota	

Contents (cont.)

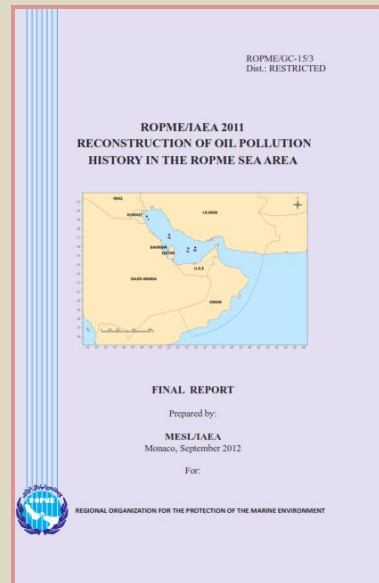
ANALYTICAL PROCEDURES

III	ANALYSIS OF PETROLEUM AND CHLORINATED HYDROCARBONS	Page
III.1	QUALITY ASSURANCE BASIS FOR OBTAINING QUALITY DATA	
III.2	CLEANING OF LABORATORY GLASSWARE AND MATERIALS	
III.3	SAMPLING	
III.3.1	Sediments	
III.3.2	Biota	
III.4	SAMPLE PREPARATION	
III.4.1	Laboratory Apparatus and Equipment	
III.4.2	Chemicals and Reagents	
III.5	DETERMINATION OF DRY WEIGHT	
III.6	ANALYSIS OF SEDIMENTS	
III.6.1	Petroleum Hydrocarbons	
III.6.2	Chlorinated Hydrocarbons and PCBs	
III.7	ANALYSIS OF BIOTA	
III.7.1	Petroleum Hydrocarbons	
III.7.2	Chlorinated Pesticides and PCBs	
III.8	MEASUREMENTS	
III.8.1	Determination of pH's by UVF	
III.8.2	Determination of Chlorinated Hydrocarbons by Gas Chromatography	
III.8.3	Determination of Aliphatic and Aromatic Hydrocarbons by GC-FID and GC-MS	
IV	REFERENCES	

Reconstruction of Pollution History in the ROPME Sea Area

Objectives

- To provide a more comprehensive characterization of contamination with depth to assess the current status and possible future changes
- To verify the historic loading of pollutants to the RSA (in recent decades) and how they have changed the environment
- To provide a sufficient (better) base for possible management alternatives
- To elucidate the factors controlling pollution, and their combination and interaction
- To evaluate the countermeasures (effectiveness of waste water treatment, regulation of chemicals, etc.)
- To link the results with the current activities (sources of producing certain contaminants)



Planned Study :

- Radiation
- Organotin contaminants
- Cysts

Historical Points:



Structure of the enhanced ROPME-SOMER Guidelines

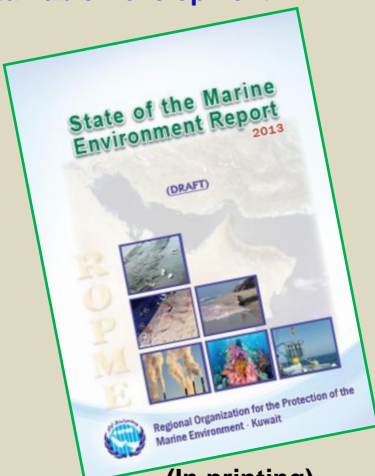


SOMER 2003 (a Scientific literature Report)

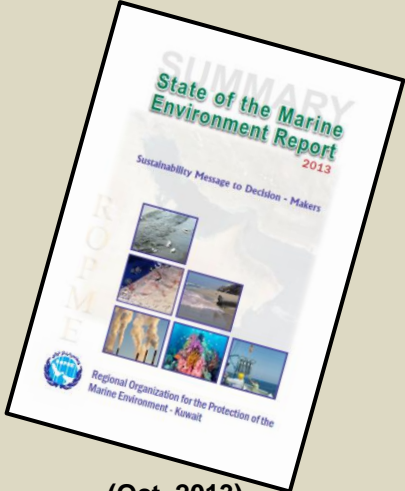
1. Background
2. Major Environmental Issues in the RSA
3. Environmental Characteristics of the RSA
4. Marine Resources of the RSA
5. Socio-Economic Activities and Structures Affecting the RSA
6. Contamination of the RSA
7. Major Accidents and Episodic Events
8. Marine Pollution Control, Emerging Issues and Strategies for Sustainable Development

SOMER 2007 (a tool for environmentally sound decision)

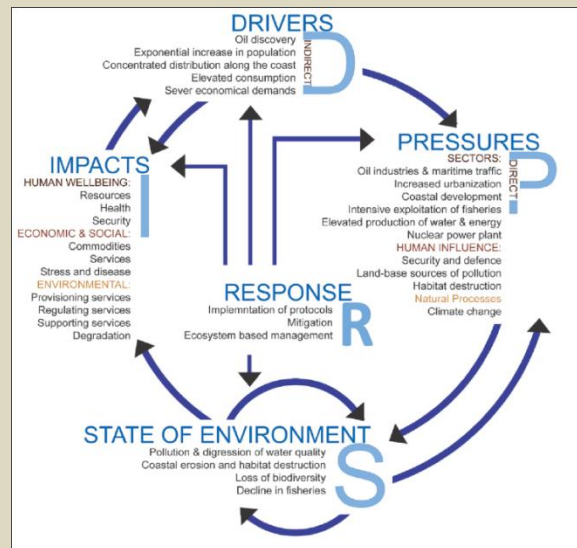
1. Introduction
2. Socio-economic interface in the RSA
3. State and trends in the marine environment
4. Inter-linkages
5. Challenges and opportunities
6. Emerging issues
7. Future outlook of RSA
8. Policy options for the RSA



(In printing)



(Oct. 2013)



***THANK YOU
FOR
YOUR ATTENTION***