

Rational & Background for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment *

Outline of the First Integrated Assessment Report

Jackie Alder
UNEP

** Based on talk by Peter Harris*

Rational

- Marine monitoring & research – tools for understanding changes in oceans
- Effectiveness of response measures
- Relative significance of ocean problems & their causes
- Potential consequences of options for future actions
- No systematic/agreed approach with agreed baselines and reference points
- Capacity building to utilize data & expand data collection/analysis
- Need forum to integrate information

Background

Year	Event	Decision
2002	WSSD	Oceans under permanent review-env & socio-economic
2002	UNGA	Resolution to endorse WSSD decision
2005	UNGA	Assessment of Assessment - prep for Regular Process Ad Hoc Working Group and GoE (UNEP & IOC sec support)
2009	AHWG meeting	AoA Report Released & course of action
2010/11	AHWG meetings	Modalities for implementation

Outline of the First Report of the Regular Process

- Draft prepared in late 2010
- Discussed/revised at two meetings of the AHWGW in Feb and June 2011
- Draft version of report outline, with states comments, available online at:
http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/global_reporting.htm
- Intention is to seek further comments at the regional workshops

Outline of the First Integrated Assessment Report

UNGA endorsed in resolution 64/71, and reaffirmed in resolution 65/37, the recommendations of the AHWGW that the output of the first cycle of the Regular Process (by 2014) should be:

- **an integrated assessment of the oceans**
- **agreed cross-cutting thematic issues
(food security)**
- **a baseline for future global assessments**

Outline of Report

Part

- I. Summary for decision-makers
- II. The Context of the Assessment
- III. Ecosystem Services
- IV. Cross-cutting issue – food security
- V. Other human activities
- VI. Biodiversity and habitats
- VII. Overall evaluations

Part II. Context of the Assessment

- **Planet, oceans and life** - *a broad, introductory survey of the role played by the oceans and seas in the life of the planet, the way in which they function, and humans' relationships to them.*
- **Mandate, information sources, and method of work** – *Mandate from the United Nations, existing assessments (AoA report), DPSIR, procedures for data integration, approach to the science/policy interface, selection of contributors, establishment of baselines, dealing with uncertainties, quality assurance of data*

Part III. Ocean ecosystem services

- **Provisioning services** – food, construction materials, renewable energy, coastal protection
- **Hydrological cycle** - sea level, salinity, nutrients, heat transport
- **Sea/air interaction**- air quality, meteorological events, acidification
- **Primary production**- distribution, causes and effects, surface layer
- **Ocean-sourced carbonate production** – sediment supply to atolls
- **Aesthetic, religious and spiritual ecosystem services**
- **Scientific understanding and conclusion**

Part IV. Cross-cutting theme - food security

- **Oceans and seas as source of food** - *living marine resources implications for food security*
 - **Capture fisheries** - *commercial fish and shellfish stocks, artisanal or subsistence fishing, IUU fishing, projections of fish stocks*
 - **Aquaculture** - *Scale and distribution of aquaculture, fish ranching and stock rebuilding, projections*
 - **Seaweeds and other sea-based food** - *Scale and distribution, projections*

Part IV. Cross-cutting theme - food security, continued

- **Economic aspects of fisheries** – value, cost of fishing, trade, importance to national economies
- **Social aspects of fisheries** – employment, well being of coastal communities, seafood content of diet
- **Environmental aspects** - overfishing, natural processes, bycatch, foodweb and habitat alterations
- **Capacity building needs**
- **Conclusions**

Part IV. Human Activities

Which activities to examine?

1. Is the activity economically important or significant to human society?
2. Does the activity threaten marine ecosystems?

Shipping

Ports

Submarine cables & pipelines

Land-based inputs

Offshore hydrocarbon industries

Other marine-based energy

Offshore mining

Use of Genetic resources

Solid waste disposal

Marine debris

Physical changes

Tourism & recreation

Defence

Desalinization

Scientific research

Each activity to be a separate chapter

For each activity (chapter), consider:

- location and scale of activity
- economic benefits
- employment and social role
- environmental consequences
- links to other activities
- capacity-building needs
- *extent of discussion of regulatory framework (policy aspects) and management still to be settled*

Part VI. Biodiversity and Habitats

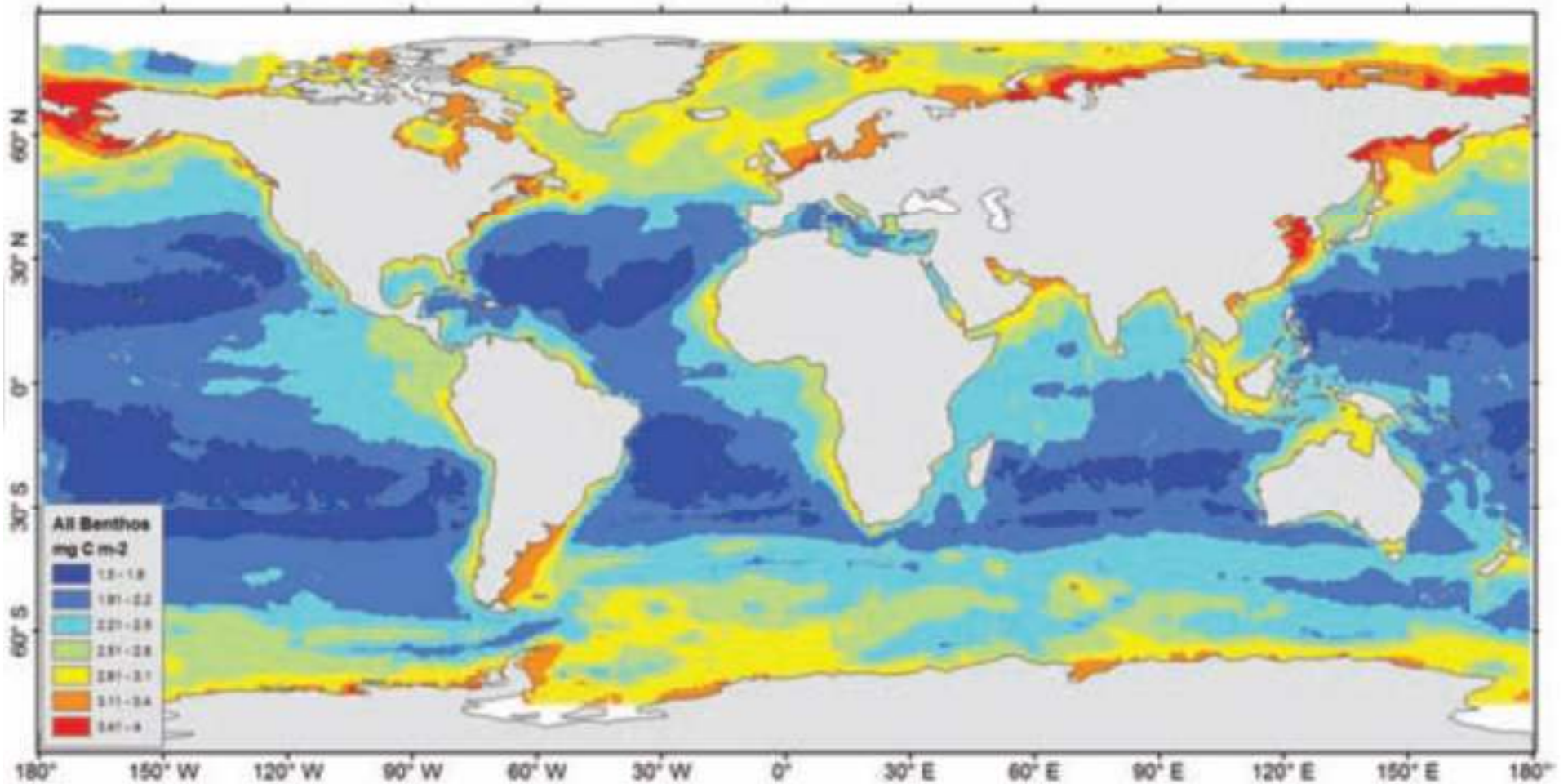
- Not feasible to look at everything
- Overall assessment of biodiversity
- Survey of issues identified by competent authorities



Overall assessment of biodiversity

- **Main gradients of diversity** - *for species, communities and habitats (coastal to abyssal, equatorial to polar, substrate type, salinity).*
- **Extent of assessment of marine biological diversity**
- **Overall status of major groups of species and habitats** - *Summary, by major group and marine region, of the status, trends and threats, including the cumulative effects of pressures*

Estimated seafloor biomass

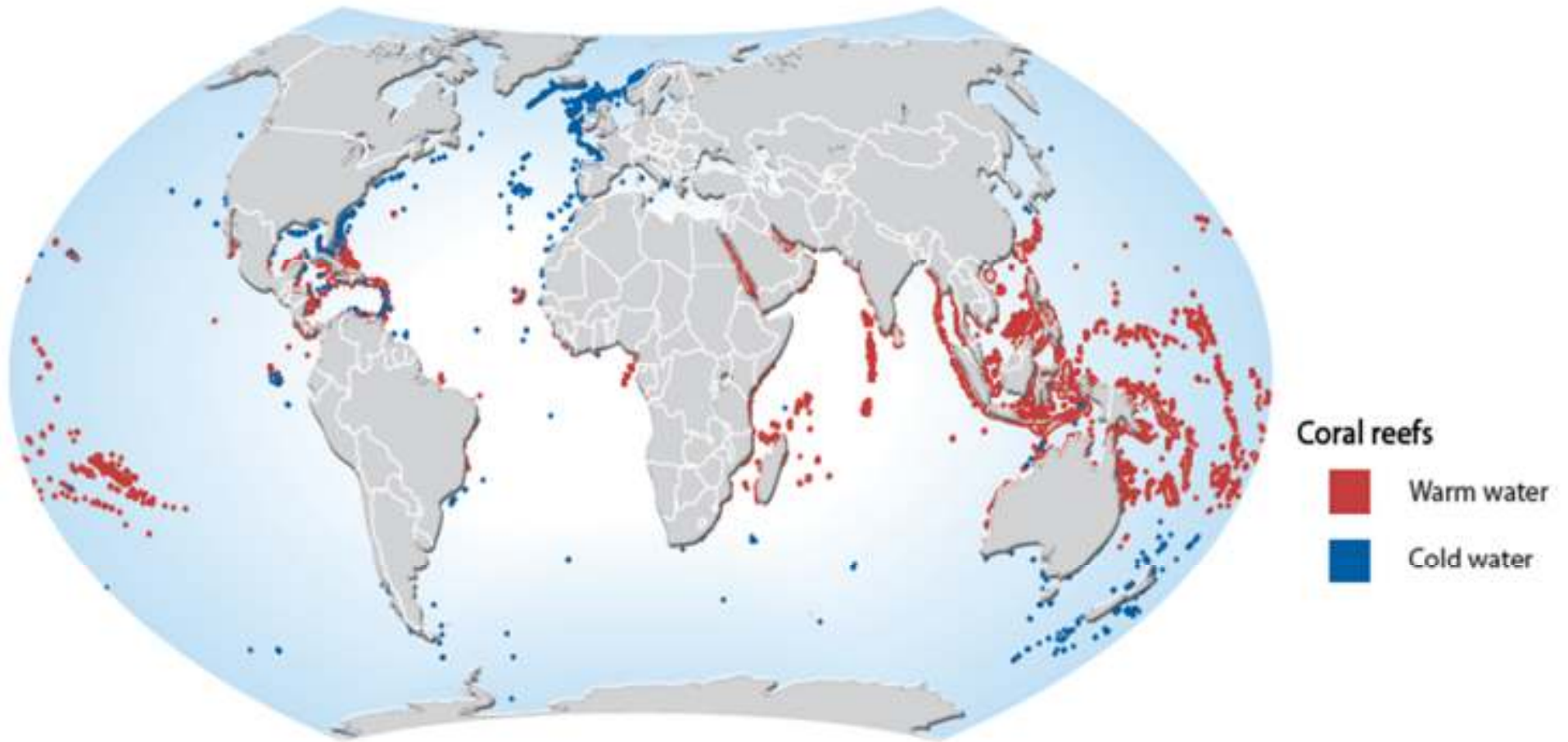


Global marine biodiversity – Census of Marine Life: <http://www.coml.org/>

Aspects identified for special protection

- Ecologically and Biologically Sensitive Areas (EBSAs) and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs)
- Other species and habitats identified by a competent authority as needing protection

Specific Habitats



Other species and habitats

- Inter-regional migratory species (*Bonn Convention*)
- Regional conventions (*Marine mammals*)
- Action under regional seas programmes
- National action

Part VII. Overall evaluations

- What can we say about the overall human impact on the seas?
 - baseline for comparison in future Assessments
- How do we value the benefits from the oceans and seas for humans?
 - baseline for comparison in future Assessments