

Responding to Oil and HNS Spills

Home to one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, the NOWPAP region is highly vulnerable to oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) spills at sea. The Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre (MERRAC) <http://merrac.nowpap.org> based in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, established jointly by UN Environment and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), promotes regional cooperation in responding to marine pollution emergencies through the NOWPAP Regional Oil and HNS Spill Contingency Plan (RCP). Full-scale oil and HNS spill response exercises are held regularly by maritime authorities of the member states.

Marine Litter

NOWPAP has been responding since 2005 to the growing threat of marine litter in the Northwest Pacific. This includes data collection, assessments, development of best practices, and regional coordination.

Participation of all stakeholders is central to the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP MALI) adopted by member states in 2008. Sectoral guidelines for marine litter management focused on the fishing, shipping and tourism industries have been published. Public awareness and participation have been mobilized through annual International Coastal Clean-up Campaigns organized in each NOWPAP country since 2006.

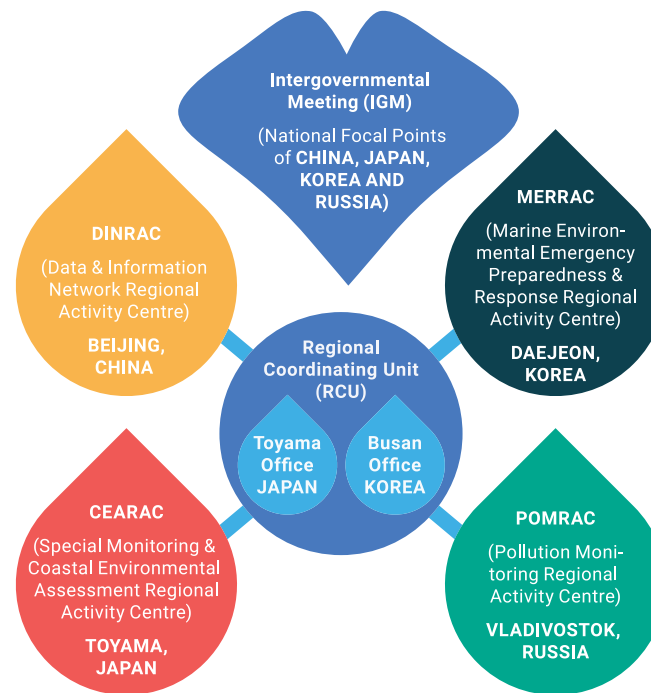
Governments, the private sector and civil society have been involved in the reduction, monitoring and removal of marine litter from Northwest Pacific coasts and seas.

Since 2015, marine litter issues in the region are discussed annually in the NOWPAP and TEMM (Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting involving China, Japan and the Republic of Korea) Joint Marine Litter Workshops.

Data and Information Management

The Data and Information Network Regional Activity Centre (DINRAC) <http://dinrac.nowpap.org> is located in Beijing and promotes regional cooperation and exchange of information on the Northwest Pacific marine and coastal environment. DINRAC maintains the following databases (available at the DINRAC website): on major environmental data, on NOWPAP coastal and marine environmental Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing applications, on marine litter, on coastal and marine nature reserves, NOWPAP publications, and NOWPAP institutions and experts. DINRAC also hosts the Northwest Pacific Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter.

NOWPAP Structure



www.unenvironment.org/nowpap



NOWPAP
Northwest Pacific Action Plan

United Nations
Environment Programme

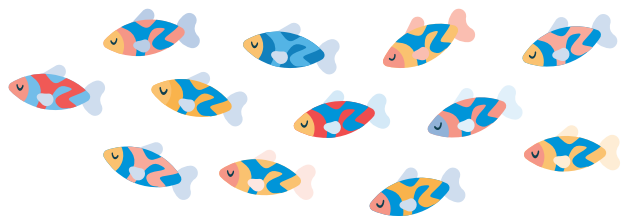
Northwest Pacific Action Plan



NOWPAP

The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region (NOWPAP) is part of the over four-decade-old UN Environment Regional Seas Programme that addresses the accelerating degradation of the world's seas and coasts through a unique "shared seas" approach engaging neighbouring countries in comprehensive and specific actions to protect their shared marine environment.

NOWPAP was set up in 1994 by Japan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation as an intergovernmental mechanism to support "the wise use, development and management of the coastal and marine environment so as to obtain the utmost long-term benefits for the human populations of the region, while protecting human health, ecological integrity and the regions sustainability for future generations". Its geographical scope extends from 121°E to 143°E longitude, and from 33°N to 52°N latitude.

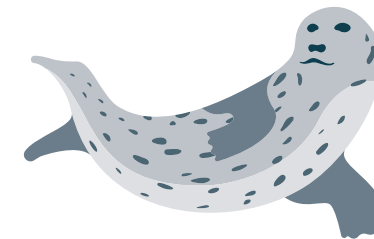


Medium-term Strategy 2018-2023

Northwest Pacific marine ecosystems are among the world's most vulnerable to human impact. **The NOWPAP Medium-term Strategy (MTS) for 2018-2023**, endorsed by Member States in June 2018, envisions "a resilient Northwest Pacific marine and coastal environment, supporting sustainable development for the long-term benefit of present and future generations". The MTS envisages a leadership responsibility for NOWPAP in the regional implementation of the ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular **SDG 14** "Life Below Water" and **SDG 17** "Partnerships for the Goals" as well as **SDGs 6, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 15**.

Working through its four Regional Activity Centres (RACs), each located in a Member State and coordinated by the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) which has offices in Japan and the Republic of Korea, NOWPAP will implement MTS 2018-2023 focusing on the following areas:

- Integrated coastal and river basin planning and management for healthy and productive coastal and marine ecosystems.
2030 Impact: SDG 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.
- Regular assessments of the state of the marine environment.
2030 Impact: Evidence-based policy making and assessments fully integrating the environmental dimension of sustainable development of the coastal and marine areas in support of SDGs 6, 12, 14, 15 and 17.
- Developing and adopting effective measures for mutual support in marine pollution emergencies and in mitigating coastal and marine pollution.
2030 Impact: SDG 14.1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.
- Biodiversity conservation.
2030 Impact: SDGs 14.1., 14.2 & 14.5: By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.
- Strengthening regional cooperation through partnership building and resources mobilization.
2030 Impact: Enhanced and effective regional cooperation in sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment.



Protecting Biodiversity

The Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre (CEARAC) <http://cearac.nowpap.org> based in Toyama, assesses threats to the Northwest Pacific's marine and coastal biodiversity from invasive species and harmful algal blooms, eutrophication, habitat modifications and other pressures.

CEARAC assessments have generated significant new technical data to support national policy responses to environmental threats from eutrophication, hypoxia, harmful algal blooms (HABs), marine litter and to pressures on seagrass habitats.

NOWPAP work in biodiversity conservation will be capped with the development of a Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation by the year 2023.

Monitoring Pollutants

The Pollution Monitoring Regional Activity Centre (POMRAC) <http://pomrac.nowpap.org>, based in Vladivostok, leads NOWPAP monitoring of marine pollutants, in particular those from atmospheric and riverine sources as well as direct inputs of contaminants to the marine and coastal environment.

POMRAC publishes the NOWPAP flagship *State of the Marine Environment Report (SOMER)*. The third SOMER to be published in the next few years will be a holistic assessment of atmospheric and land- and sea-based pollution threats to Northwest Pacific marine and coastal ecosystems.

POMRAC has also developed Ecological Quality Objectives as benchmarks to assess threats to the region's marine and coastal environment from anthropogenic pressures, alien species, eutrophication, contaminants and marine litter. Sectoral targets and indicators related to SDGs indicators for the Ecological Quality Objectives are being formulated.