

Annex VI: Regional Summary Template

REGION:

Check-List of Questions

Coverage

- 1 (a) What parts of the region have been covered by assessments of one or more aspects of the biological/physical/chemical marine environment?
(b) Which aspects of the marine environment do those assessments cover?
(c) How frequently have those aspect-specific assessments been carried out, or are planned to be carried out?
- 2 (a) What parts of the region have been covered by sector-specific assessments?
(b) For which sectors of human activities did the assessments examine the pressures on the marine environment created by those sectors?
(c) For which sectors of human activity did the assessments examine the impacts on humans of changes in the marine environment?
(d) Are the groups and areas most vulnerable to changes in the marine environment and environmental services addressed in the assessments?
(e) How frequently have those sector-specific assessments been carried out, or are planned to be carried out?
- 3 If there has been a significant attempt at integrated ecosystem assessments, what parts of the ecosystem and what areas of the region do they cover?
- 4 If there has been a significant attempt at integrated ecosystem assessments, what has been the timescale and how frequently will it be repeated in future?
- 5 How far does the assessments mentioned in the answers to the previous questions cover the high seas (that is, the area outside national jurisdiction)?

Assessment Practices

- 6 In addition to collections of information held at the global level, what information is available at the regional level?
- 7 Do assessments in the region generally rank the severity of problems (either for aspects of the marine ecosystem or for sectors of human activity), or otherwise identify priorities for future action?
- 8 Do assessments in the region generally evaluate options for future policy (rather than simply describing the state of affairs), and their likely outcomes?
- 9 Do regional assessments generally indicate gaps in the information needed for them? What are the major gaps that have been identified by the regional assessments?
- 10 Do regional assessments generally identify significant gaps in the scientific understanding of the relevant processes that need to be addressed in order to improve the assessment?
- 11 Does the region have effective arrangements to preserve and maintain databases on the information needed for assessments?
- 12 What regional organisations have been involved in assessment activity, and what other regional organisations exist which could participate?

ANSWERS

Section A (Optional)

REGION:

ISSUES RELATED TO THE NON-HUMAN MARINE ENVIRONMENT		Data-based assessment(s) for much or all of the region	Data-based assessment(s) for only some parts of the region
A	<i>Physical and chemical background of the marine environment</i>		
A1	Hydrography (sea bed)		
A2	Hydrology (salinity, currents)		
A3	Influence of major freshwater inputs		
A4	Water quality – nutrient levels		
A5	Water quality – contamination and pollution		
A6	Water quality – turbidity		
A7	Other issues relevant to physical and chemical background covered by the assessment (please mention what these are)		
B	<i>Marine Fauna and Flora</i>		
B1	Primary production		
B2	Plankton abundance and diversity		
B3	Fish populations – wild commercial fish stocks		
B4	Fish populations – other populations of demersal and pelagic fish		
B5	Fish populations – mariculture		
B6	Benthic fauna – wild commercial stocks of molluscs and crustacea		
B7	Benthic fauna – other populations of molluscs and crustacean		
B8	Benthic fauna – mariculture of molluscs and crustacea		
B9	Benthic flora – seaweed		
B10	Marine Reptiles		
B11	Marine mammals		
B12	Seabirds		
B13	Marine fauna and flora – identification of threatened and/or endangered species		

Assessment(s) based on expert opinion and/or traditional knowledge for much of the region	Assessment(s) based on expert opinion and/or traditional knowledge for some parts of the region	Data/ information known to exist, at least in some parts of the region, but no assessment process	It is known that little or no data has been collected in the region	It is not known what data/ information exists about the region
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ISSUES RELATED TO THE NON-HUMAN MARINE ENVIRONMENT		Data-based assessment(s) for much or all of the region	Data-based assessment(s) for only some parts of the region
B14	Other issues relevant to marine fauna and flora covered by the assessment (please mention what these are)		
C	<i>Marine habitats</i>		
C1	Coral reefs		
C2	Other spawning, breeding or nursery areas		
C3	Identification of threatened and endangered marine habitats		
C4	Other issues relevant to marine habitats covered by the assessment (please mention what these are)		
<p>Habitats issues which it may be relevant to include under C4 include: coastal wetlands, mangroves, sea grass beds, sponge beds, seamounts, deep-sea trenches, mid-ocean ridges, hydrothermal vents, cold seep/gas hydrate communities and pelagic (open ocean) hotspots.</p>			

Section B (Optional)

REGION:

ISSUES RELATED TO INTER-RELATIONS BETWEEN HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT		Data-based assessment(s) for much or all of the region	Data-based assessment(s) for only some parts of the region
D	<i>Food</i>		
D1	Scale of commercial capture fisheries (amounts taken of target species)		
D2	Pressures from commercial capture fisheries (amounts taken of non-target species and physical impact of fishing gear)		
D3	Scale of mariculture		

Assessment(s) based on expert opinion and/or traditional knowledge for much of the region	Assessment(s) based on expert opinion and/or traditional knowledge for some parts of the region	Data/ information known to exist, at least in some parts of the region, but no assessment process	It is known that little or no data has been collected in the region	It is not known what data/ information exists about the region

Please add any further comments that are necessary to give a good but brief impression of the thematic coverage of regional assessments relating to the non-human marine environment.

Assessment(s) based on expert opinion and/or traditional knowledge for much of the region	Assessment(s) based on expert opinion and/or traditional knowledge for some parts of the region	Data/ information known to exist, at least in some parts of the region, but no assessments process	It is known that little or no data has been collected in the region	It is not known what data/ information exists about the region

ISSUES RELATED TO INTER-RELATIONS BETWEEN HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT		Data-based assessment(s) for much or all of the region	Data-based assessment(s) for only some parts of the region
D4	Economic and social aspects of fisheries and mariculture (such as economic value of products and employment)		
D5	Proportion of fisheries and mariculture landed within the region		
E	<i>Human health</i>		
E1	Impacts on human health from contaminated sea- water and/or contaminated fish and shell-fish		
E2	Impacts on human health and well-being from hydrological events (e.g. the El Niño phenomenon, hurricanes, typhoons, tsunamis)		
F	<i>Energy</i>		
F1	Offshore wave and wind energy generation: environmental aspects (scale and impact on the marine environment)		
F2	Offshore wave and wind energy generation: social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)		
F3	Oil and gas extraction from the seabed: (environmental aspects (scale and aspect on the marine environment)		
F4	Oil and gas extraction from the seabed: social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)		
G	<i>Solid mineral extraction</i>		
G1	Extraction of aggregates (sand and gravel) from the seabed: environmental aspects (scale and pressure on the marine environment)		
G2	Extraction of aggregates (sand and gravel) from the seabed: social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)		
G3	Extraction of other solid minerals from the seabed: (environmental aspects (scale and pressure on the marine environment)		
G4	Extraction of other solid minerals from the seabed : social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)		

Assessment(s) based on expert opinion and/or traditional knowledge for much of the region	Assessment(s) based on expert opinion and/or traditional knowledge for some parts of the region	Data/ information known to exist, at least in some parts of the region, but no assessments process	It is known that little or no data has been collected in the region	It is not known what data/ information exists about the region
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ISSUES RELATED TO INTER-RELATIONS BETWEEN HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT		Data-based assessment(s) for much or all of the region	Data-based assessment(s) for only some parts of the region
<i>H</i>	<i>Waste disposal</i>		
H1	Discharge of liquid waste from land to sea – municipal waste water		
H2	Discharge of liquid waste from land to sea – industrial		
H3	Discharge of liquid radioactive waste from land to sea		
H4	Disposal of solid land-generated waste dumped at sea		
H5	Disposal of dredged material from navigational dredging		
<i>J</i>	<i>Coastal change</i>		
J1	Siltation		
J2	Creation of artificial coastline structures (sea defences, port and harbour construction, etc)		
J3	Land reclamation (including changes to Ramsar Convention wetlands)		
<i>K</i>	<i>Maritime transport</i>		
K1	Maritime freight movement (particularly tonnage)		
K2	Maritime traffic (particularly numbers of ship movements)		
K3	Discharges and emissions from normal operation of vessels (as covered by MARPOL)		
K4	Pressures on the marine environment from maritime catastrophes (shipwrecks, groundings and collisions)		
K5	Impacts on other human activities from maritime catastrophes (shipwrecks, groundings and collisions)		
<i>L</i>	<i>Land-based development</i>		
L1	Pressures from urban and industrial development		
L2	Pressures from agricultural development (including forestry and horticulture)		
L3	Coastal tourism activities: environmental aspects (scale and pressure on the marine environment)		

Assessment(s) based on expert opinion and/or traditional knowledge for much of the region	Assessment(s) based on expert opinion and/or traditional knowledge for some parts of the region	Data/ information known to exist, at least in some parts of the region, but no assessments process	It is known that little or no data has been collected in the region	It is not known what data/ information exists about the region

ISSUES RELATED TO INTER-RELATIONS BETWEEN HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT		Data-based assessment(s) for much or all of the region	Data-based assessment(s) for only some parts of the region
L4	Coastal tourism activities: social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)		
M	<i>Other</i>		
M1	Marine litter		
M2	Other pressures from human activities on the marine environment covered by the assessment (please mention the types of human activities covered)		
M3	Other impacts on humans from changes in the environment covered by the assessment (please mention the types of human activities covered)		

Where impacts on humans are covered, please identify any cases where the most vulnerable groups or areas are identified.

Please add any further comments that are necessary to give a good but brief impression of the thematic coverage of regional

Assessment(s) based on expert opinion and/or traditional knowledge for much of the region	Assessment(s) based on expert opinion and/or traditional knowledge for some parts of the region	Data/ information known to exist, at least in some parts of the region, but no assessments process	It is known that little or no data has been collected in the region	It is not known what data/ information exists about the region
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Annex VII: Individual Assessment Template

REGION:

NAME OF THE ASSESSMENT:

Check-List of Questions

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 1 What organisation carried out the assessment?
- 2 Was the assessment a result of an initiative by the body carrying it out? If not, what body took the initiative that resulted in the assessment?

ORIENTATION

- 3 What is the context and purpose of the assessment?
- 4 Were there explicit objectives for the assessment? If so, what are they?
- 5 What is the relation of the assessment to the cycle of determining the problems, adopting measures and evaluating progress?

COVERAGE AND SOURCES

- 6 What area does the assessment cover?
- 7 What were the reasons for selecting the area covered?
- 8 What period of time does the assessment cover?
- 9 How often will assessments of this kind be produced?
- 10 What aspects of the marine ecosystem are covered by the assessment?
- 11 What aspects of human activities and pressures that impact on the marine environment are covered by the assessment?
- 12 On what information is the assessment based?
- 13 Where environmental, economic or social data were used, what arrangements were made for subsequent access to this data by the public or by experts?
- 14 Where environmental, economic or social data were used, are metadata available on these data series?

PROCESS

- 15 How did the assessment control is the quality of the data used in it?
- 16 Were models of aspects of the marine environment developed and used in the assessment?
- 17 Did the assessment use any form of indicators?

Check-List of Questions

- 18 If the assessment was based (wholly or partly) on traditional knowledge, what practices were used to control its quality?
- 19 If the assessment was based (wholly or partly) on expert opinion, what practices were used to control its quality?
- 20 Was any particular conceptual framework used to organise the assessment?
- 21 How were decisions made on which scientific specialisms should be involved, and how these scientific specialisms should be brought in?
- 22 How was interaction organised during the assessment process between scientific, economic and social disciplines and policy makers?
- 23 How were non-official stakeholders enabled to participate in the assessment?
- 24 Did differences of opinion arise over the conclusions of the assessment? If so, how were these resolved?
- 25 Was there a peer review of the assessment during the assessment process, and/or before the final text was published?
- 26 Were any specific arrangements made to link the assessment with other contemporary international or national processes?
- 27 Were specific efforts made to strengthen institutional, scientific or technical capacity for the assessment?

COMMUNICATIONS

- 28 In what form was the output of the assessment presented?
- 29 In which languages is the assessment available?
- 30 How were the results of the assessment made public?

CONTENT ON FUTURE ACTIONS

- 31 Did the assessment rank the severity of problems or otherwise identify priorities for future action?
- 32 Did the assessment evaluate options for future policy, and their likely outcomes?
- 33 Did the assessment indicate gaps in the information needed for it?
- 34 Did the assessment indicate gaps in the scientific understanding of the relevant processes that need to be addressed in order to improve the assessment?

REVIEW

- 35 Was there a review of the assessment process in order to draw lessons for future assessments?

Check-List of Questions

EXPERT EVALUATION

- 36 Is the published assessment easy to understand and accessible to non-specialist readers?
- 37 To what extent does the assessment give confidence that it provides sound conclusions that apply to the whole of the area covered?
- 38 Does the assessment appear to have been timely in relation to policy development and the adoption of measures?
- 39 Are there any particular strengths or weaknesses in the assessment that are relevant to the Assessment of Assessments?
- 40 Does the assessment appear to have been influential in policy making and the adoption of measures?

Section A

REGION:

NAME OF THE ASSESSMENT:

	ISSUES RELATED TO THE NON-HUMAN MARINE ENVIRONMENT	Covered in detail	Covered in general terms	Not relevant
A	<i>Physical and chemical background of the marine environment</i>			
A1	Hydrography (sea bed)			
A2	Hydrology (salinity, currents)			
A3	Influence of major freshwater inputs			
A4	Water quality – nutrient levels			
A5	Water quality – contamination and pollution			
A6	Water quality – turbidity			
A7	Other issues relevant to physical and chemical background covered by the assessment (please mention what these are)			
B	<i>Marine Fauna and Flora</i>			
B1	Primary production			
B2	Plankton abundance and diversity			
B3	Fish populations – wild commercial fish stocks			

	ISSUES RELATED TO THE NON-HUMAN MARINE ENVIRONMENT	Covered in detail	Covered in general terms	Not relevant
B4	Fish populations – other populations of demersal and pelagic fish			
B5	Fish populations – mariculture			
B6	Benthic fauna – wild commercial stocks of molluscs and crustacea			
B7	Benthic fauna – other populations of molluscs and crustacean			
B8	Benthic fauna – mariculture of molluscs and crustacea			
B9	Benthic flora – seaweed			
B10	Marine Reptiles			
B11	Marine mammals			
B12	Seabirds			
B13	Marine fauna and flora – identification of threatened and/or endangered species			
B14	Other issues relevant to marine fauna and flora covered by the assessment (please mention what these are)			
C	<i>Marine habitats</i>			
C1	Coral reefs			
C2	Other spawning, breeding or nursery areas			
C3	Identification of threatened and endangered marine habitats			
C4	Other issues relevant to marine habitats covered by the assessment (please mention what these are)			
<p>Habitats issues which it may be relevant to include under C4 include: coastal wetlands, mangroves, sea grass beds, sponge beds, seamounts, deep-sea trenches, mid-ocean ridges, hydrothermal vents, cold seep/gas hydrate communities and pelagic (open ocean) hotspots.</p> <p>Please add any further comments that are necessary to give a good but brief impression of the thematic coverage of the assessment relating to the non-human marine environment.</p>				

Section B

REGION:

NAME OF THE ASSESSMENT:

ISSUES RELATED TO INTER-RELATIONS BETWEEN HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT		Covered in detail	Covered in general terms	Not relevant
<i>D</i>	<i>Food</i>			
D1	Scale of commercial capture fisheries (amounts taken of target species)			
D2	Pressures from commercial capture fisheries (amounts taken of non-target species and physical impact of fishing gear)			
D3	Scale of mariculture			
D4	Economic and social aspects of fisheries and mariculture (such as economic value of products and employment)			
D5	Proportion of fisheries and mariculture landed within the region			
<i>E</i>	<i>Human health</i>			
E1	Impacts on human health from contaminated sea-water and/or contaminated fish and shell-fish			
E2	Impacts on human health and well-being from hydrological events (e.g. the El Niño phenomenon, hurricanes, typhoons, tsunamis)			
<i>F</i>	<i>Energy</i>			
F1	Offshore wave and wind energy generation: environmental aspects (scale and impact on the marine environment)			
F2	Offshore wave and wind energy generation: social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)			
F3	Oil and gas extraction from the seabed: (environmental aspects (scale and aspect on the marine environment)			
F4	Oil and gas extraction from the seabed: social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)			
<i>G</i>	<i>Solid mineral extraction</i>			
G1	Extraction of aggregates (sand and gravel) from the seabed: environmental aspects (scale and pressure on the marine environment)			

ISSUES RELATED TO INTER-RELATIONS BETWEEN HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT		Covered in detail	Covered in general terms	Not relevant
G2	Extraction of aggregates (sand and gravel) from the seabed: social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)			
G3	Extraction of other solid minerals from the seabed: (environmental aspects (scale and pressure on the marine environment)			
G4	Extraction of other solid minerals from the seabed : social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)			
H	<i>Waste disposal</i>			
H1	Discharge of liquid waste from land to sea – municipal waste water			
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ISSUES RELATED TO INTER-RELATIONS BETWEEN HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT		Covered in detail	Covered in general terms	Not relevant
<i>L</i>	<i>Land-based development</i>			
L1	Pressures from urban and industrial development			
L2	Pressures from agricultural development (including forestry and horticulture)			
L3	Coastal tourism activities: environmental aspects (scale and pressure on the marine environment)			
L4	Coastal tourism activities: social and economic aspects (such as economic value and employment)			
<i>M</i>	<i>Other</i>			
M1	Marine litter			
M2	Other pressures from human activities on the marine environment covered by the assessment (please mention the types of human activities covered)			
M3	Other impacts on humans from changes in the environment covered by the assessment (please mention the types of human activities covered)			
Where impacts on humans are covered, please identify any cases where the most vulnerable groups or areas are identified.				
Please add any further comments that are necessary to give a good but brief impression of the thematic coverage of the assessment relating to human activities that interact with the marine environment.				

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AC	Advisory Committee/Arctic Council
ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrel
ACIA	Arctic Climate Impact Assessment
ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area
ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AEON	Antarctic Environmental Officers Network
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AHSG	Ad Hoc Steering Group
AIS	Alien Invasive Species
AMAP	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (Arctic Council)
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
ATCM	Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings
AoA	Assessment of Assessments
ASCABOS	A Supporting Program for Capacity Building in the Black Sea Region towards Operational Status of Oceanographic Services
ASMO	Environmental Assessment and Monitoring Committee (OSPAR)
BALTEX	Baltic Sea Experiment
BENEFIT	Benguela Environment Fisheries Interaction and Training
BSC	Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution
BSEP	Black Sea Environment Programme
BSERP	Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project
CAFF	Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (Arctic Council)
CAML	Census of Antarctic Marine Life
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CARICOMP	Caribbean Coastal Marine Productivity Programme
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Consultative Committee
CCAMLR	Commission/Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCAS	Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals
CCSBT	Commission/Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CD	Compact Disc
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (FAO)
CEMP	CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Programme
CEP	Committee on Environmental Protection
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CI	Conservation International
CIESIN	Centre for International Earth Science Information Network
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Wild Species of Migratory Animals or Convention on

	Migratory Species
CNSHB	Centre National des Sciences Halieutiques de Boussoura
COBSEA	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia
CoML	Census of Marine Life
COMNAP	Council of Managers of the National Antarctic Programmes
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPPS	Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur
CRO	Centre de Recherches Océanologiques
CRODT	Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar Thiaroye
CROP	Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CWP	Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (FAO)
DIVERSITAS	An International Programme of Biodiversity Science (ICSU/IUBS/UNESCO/SCORE)
DOALOS	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (United Nations)
DPSIR	Drivers-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses (assessment framework)
EC	Executive Committee of European Community/Commission
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ECOOPS	European Coastal Sea Operational Observing and Forecasting System
EEA	European Environment Agency
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EG	Expert Group
ENSO	El Niño-Southern Oscillation
EQO	Environmental Quality Objective
EROS	European River Ocean System
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro
EVI	Environmental Vulnerability Index
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEC	Foundation for Environmental Conservation
FFA	South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency
FIGIS	Fisheries Global Information System (FAO)
FIRMS	Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FAO)
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GCOP	Global Carbon Observing Programme
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GEOSS	Global Earth Observation System of Systems
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIWA	Global International Waters Assessment (GEF)

GloBAL	Global By-catch Assessment of Long-lived Species project
GLOBALLAST	Global Ballast Water Management Programme (GEF/UNDP/IMO)
GMSA	Global Marine Species Assessment
GoE	Group of Experts
GOODS	Global Open Oceans and Deep Seabed biogeographic classification
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System (IOC)
GPA	Global Programme of Action for Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities
GRAMED	Global and Regional Marine Assessment Database (UNEP-WCMC)
HELCOM	Helsinki Commission (Baltic)
HERMES	Hotspot Ecosystems Research on the Margins of European Seas
HMAP	History of Marine Animal Populations (CoML)
IABIN	Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAS	Institute for Advanced Studies (UNU)
IASC	International Arctic Science Committee
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)
ICAM	Integrated Coastal Area Management
ICC	Inuit Circumpolar Council
ICCAT	International Commission/Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICEF	International Conference on Environmental Future
ICES	International Council for Exploration of the Sea
ICLARM	International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management
ICP	Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (see also UNICPOLOS)
ICRAN	International Coral Reef Action Network
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
ICRW	International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling
ICSEAF	International Commission for the South-East Atlantic Fisheries
ICSEM	International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea
ICSU	International Council for Science
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IEA	Integrated Ecosystem Assessment
IEG	Institute for Economic Growth (India)
IFB	Institut Francais de la Biodiversity
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
IHO	International Hydrographic Organization
IMap	Interactive Map
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IMoSEB	International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity
INWEH	International Network on Water, Environment and Health (UNU)
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO)
IODE	International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IOC)
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPACC	Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee

IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISA	International Seabed Authority
ISC	international steering committee
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN)
ISME	International Society for Microbial Ecology
ISSC	International Social Science Council
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUBS	International Union of Biological Science
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (Fishing)
IWC	International Whaling Commission/Convention
JCOMM	Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
LOICZ	Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone
LRTAP	Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution
MA	Millennium (Ecosystem) Assessment
MAB	Man and the Biosphere (Programme) (UNESCO)
MAC	Marine Aquarium Council
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MAQ	Management Group (for OSPAR's QSR 2010)
MARPOL 73/78	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (1973) and 1978 Protocol
MBRS	Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MED POL	Programme for the Assessment and Control of Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean Region
MEOW	Marine Ecoregions of the World
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MRB	Management and Review Body
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MTS	MAP Technical Reports Series
MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
MTSG	Marine Turtle Specialist Group (IUCN)
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
NAMMCO	North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
NAP	National Action Plans
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NEAFC	Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NIOMR	Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US)
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NOWPAP	North West Pacific Action Plan

NRC	National Research Council (US)
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OBIS	Ocean Biogeographic Information System
ODINAFRICA	Ocean Data and Information Network in Africa
ODINBLACKSEA	Ocean Data and Information Network for the Black Sea
OLDEPESCA	Latin American Organization for Fishery Development
OMZ	Oxygen Minimum Zone
OSPESCA	Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano
OSPAR	OSPAR Commission
IHDP	International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change
PADH	Physical Alterations and Destruction of Habitats Programme of the GPA
PAME	Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (Arctic Council)
PDO	Pacific Decadal Oscillation
PEMSEA	Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
PERSGA	Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
PICES	North Pacific Marine Science Organization (Pacific ICES)
PPs	Permanent Participants (Arctic Council)
ppt	parts per thousand
Project GLOBAL	Global Bycatch Assessment of Long-lived Species
QSR	Quality Status Report (OSPAR)
RAIPON	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North
RECOFI	Regional Commission for Fisheries
RFB	Regional Fishery Body
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
RLA	Red List Authority (IUCN)
ROPME	Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment
RSP	Regional Seas Programme (UNEP)
SeaWiFs	Sea-viewing Wide Field-of-view Sensor
SACEP	South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
SAP	Strategic Action Programme (GEF LMEs)
SAP BIO	Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Region
SAP MED	Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities in the Mediterranean Region
SAS	South Asian Seas
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (CBD)
SC	Scientific Committee
SCAR	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research
SCBD	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
SCOPE	Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (ICSU)
SCOR	Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (ICSU)
SCORE	Scientific Committee on Ocean Research Satellite Equipment
SDM	Summary for Decision Makers
SDS-SEA	Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia
SEADATANET	Pan-European infrastructure for Ocean and Marine Data Management
SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization

SESAME	Southern European Seas: Assessing and Modeling Ecosystem Changes
Sfp ODBMS	Science for Peace Operational Database Management System
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOFIA	The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (FAO)
SOPAC	Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission
SPICOSA	Science and Policy Integration for Coastal System Assessment-
SPM	Summary for Policy Makers (IPCC)
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (under negotiation)
SSC	Species Survival Commission (IUCN)
SSG	Sharks Specialist Group (IUCN)
START	Global Change System for Analysis Research and Training
SWOT	State of the World's Sea Turtles
Tacis	Technical Aid to Commonwealth of Independent States
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (GEF LMEs)
TK	Traditional Knowledge
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TOR	Terms of Reference
TRAFFIC	The wildlife trade monitoring network
TSU	Technical Support Unit
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICPOLOS	United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNU-IAS	United Nations University - Institute of Advanced Studies
UNWTO	UN World Tourism Organization
VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem
WAFRI	West African Fisheries Research Institute
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP)
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN)
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission
WDPA	World Database on Protected Areas
WHO	World Health Organization
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WOC	World Ocean Council
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
YSLME	Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem

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