



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

**Report for
Independent Assessment of the
Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG)**

August 2015

Executive Summary

1. The APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) is an active APEC working group reporting to the Senior Officials Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE). The APEC OFWG was originally formed in 2011 as a result of the successful merger between the Fisheries Working Group (FWG) and the Marine Resources Conservation Working Group (MRCWG).
2. Overall, the OFWG have delivered a number of outputs, including projects and publications that have all been in accordance with relevant APEC Leaders' and Ministerial Statements, Declarations and instructions since 2010. In particular the OFWG have delivered substantially on the 3rd APEC Oceans-related Ministerial Meeting Statement 2010 (i.e. the Paracas Declaration and associated Action Agenda).
3. The main findings of this independent assessment of the OFWG are as follows:
 - a) the OFWG's outputs have been in line with APEC Leaders' and Ministerial Statements, Declarations and instructions;
 - b) all current projects can be mapped back to APEC Leaders' and Ministerial Statements, Declarations and instructions;
 - c) the OFWG is the smallest APEC SCE subfora in terms of the number of member economies regularly attending meetings (an average of 15 economies contrasting with an average of 17 for other subfora), the number of projects undertaken, and their average monetary value;
 - d) the APEC OFWG should be continued as a separate subfora;
 - e) the OFWG has a broad mandate relating to the sustainability of marine ecosystems and fisheries. Some economies consider this should become more targeted to focus on enhancing economic development and trade in oceans and fisheries related products and services;
 - f) the outcome of the 4th APEC Oceans-related Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement 2014 (the Xiamen Declaration - Towards New Partnership through Ocean Cooperation in the Asia Pacific Region) provides a platform for a new OFWG strategic plan. This new strategic plan provides an opportunity to reengage with those economies that have been unable to prioritise participation in the OFWG priority over recent years;
 - g) the level of cooperation and flow of information between the OFWG and other groups, especially within APEC, has improved considerably in recent years;

- h) the members of the OFWG feel that the group engages on a collegial basis and all member economies can express their interests and influence the direction of the work; and
 - i) the Lead Shepherd and APEC Program Director are undertaking their duties in a professional and responsive manner, and are providing very good leadership and the basis for consensus decision making.
4. There are four recommendations arising from this independent review which are detailed in Section 3 of the report. In summary the main recommendations are:
- a) The SCE should consider and provide feedback to the OFWG on the following topics:
 - i. strategic direction – within the context of the 4th APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement 2014 (the Xiamen Declaration), the extent to which the OFWG should give greater priority to economic development and trade in oceans and fisheries products and services; and
 - ii. project proposals – the extent to which OFWG project proposals may be better formulated and positioned so as to increase their chances of approval;
 - b) the OFWG Terms of Reference should be updated to take into account:
 - iii. the Xiamen Declaration;
 - iv. the outcome of a discussion on the best method to use to appoint a Lead Shepherd; and
 - v. any direction that the SCE give to the OFWG in relation to focusing its work primarily around the economic development and trade in oceans and fisheries products and services;
 - c) the OFWG should undertake a strategic planning exercise to cover the period from 2016-2020 in order to identify and prioritise its work. This exercise should result in a formal strategic plan for the whole 5-year period, or alternatively a rolling strategic plan based on a 3-year planning horizon that is updated annually; and
 - d) APEC member economies should reconfirm their delegations and participation in the work of OFWG, especially during the upcoming period when the new strategic plan will be developed and approved.

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Section 1 Methodology

1. On 28 January 2015, the APEC Secretariat commissioned GED Advisory to undertake an independent assessment of the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) (SCE/IA/2015 OFWG). This is the fourth review of an APEC subfora carried out by GED Advisory. The others have been the APEC Standards and Conformance Subcommittee (SCSC), the APEC Energy Working Group (EWG) and the APEC Health Working Group (HWG).
2. The Senior Officials Steering Committee on ECOTECH (SCE) has a requirement for a periodic independent review of the operations and structure of APEC working groups to ensure economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) activities are targeted, effective, efficient, and make the best use of scarce resources. Independent assessments across APEC subgroups have taken place since 2006. The last independent assessment of the APEC OFWG was completed in 2011¹.
3. The output of independent assessments is a report providing recommendations designed to ensure that the working group is responsive to APEC's current priorities and contributes to the achievement of APEC's overall vision and objectives.
4. The specific subject for this independent assessment is the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG). The Terms of Reference for the OFWG is included in Annex 1. In accordance with the contracted Scope of Work, the following items have been considered in preparing this report:
 - a) review key APEC policy documents, including Leaders' and Ministers statements, OFWG records of meetings, key project documentation and activities to assess the outcomes and how OFWG supports the main objectives/goals of APEC and their impacts in APEC member economies;
 - b) evaluate whether OFWG is operating effectively and efficiently;
 - c) evaluate whether the group's Terms of Reference, strategic plan or operations could be modified to better respond to APEC ECOTECH priorities and contribute to the achievement of APEC goals;
 - d) identify ways to strengthen OFWG's strategic priorities and direction for future work;

¹ See Final Report of the 2011 Fisheries Working Group (FWG) and Marine Resources Conservation Working Group (MRCWG) Independent Assessment (2011/SOM3/SCE/021).

- e) provide recommendations on how the forum can better focus and more efficiently and effectively manage its tasks and assure that its capacity building activities are providing benefits according to Leaders' and Ministers' priorities;
 - f) identify ways to develop synergies among the work of the forum and other relevant APEC groups;
 - g) identify opportunities and provide recommendations for greater collaboration with non-APEC parties, including the private sector, civil society and other international organizations; identify ways for OFWG to tap resources for programs; and
 - h) explore how OFWG can better take into account the APEC commitment to give gender greater consideration in accordance with directions outlined by the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy.
5. In addition to a comprehensive literature research to address the above items, GED Advisory held a series of interviews with APEC OFWG delegations in the margins of the APEC OFWG meeting held in Boracay, The Republic of the Philippines on 10-12 May 2015. All delegations from APEC member economies in attendance were covered at this time. For those delegations not interviewed at that time a questionnaire was sent for their response. Overall comments were received from 18 APEC member economies.

Section 2 Alignment with APEC Priorities

A. Alignment of OFWG Outputs with APEC priorities

6. While the topic of oceans and fisheries is not specifically mentioned in the Bogor goals, it is a subject that has been identified in APEC's subsequent priorities as set out in various statements, declarations and instructions such as:
 - a) APEC Leaders' Statements and Declarations, including the APEC Leaders Growth Strategy (2010);
 - b) APEC Ministerial Statements;
 - c) Paracas Action Agenda 2010;
 - d) Medium Term Priorities from the 2010 SOM Report on ECOTECH;
 - e) Annual APEC objectives; and the
 - f) Xiamen Declaration 2014.

7. Excerpts from these statements, declarations and instructions that are relevant to ocean and fisheries are included in Annex 2, Annex 3 and Annex 4.

8. Of particular relevance to the period covered by this independent assessment is the Paracas Action Agenda 2010 which set out the following APEC priorities for oceans and fisheries as follows:
 - a) sustainable development and protection of the marine environment, including;
 - understanding of the marine environment through contributions to regional assessments and cooperation on activities related to the monitoring and control of marine ecosystems and invasive species;
 - sustainable management of the marine environment through capacity building, information sharing of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) approaches; domestic marine and coastal spatial planning; Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); collaboration and support for Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Arrangements (RFMO/As), the Program of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity, FAO and the UNEP's Regional Seas Programs; and establishment of the APEC Research and Training Centre for Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Management (APEC RTC-EBM);
 - a focus on pollution, including implementation of the UNEP's Global Program of Action (UNEP-GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; developing partnerships with stakeholders and the use of market-based incentives;

regional cooperation to prevent and combat marine pollution in cases of emergency, particularly for releases of noxious and hazardous substances and oil spills;

b) impact of climate change on the oceans, including:

- cooperation in the gathering and sharing of scientific knowledge on climate change and its impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems, fisheries, and aquaculture; and
- improving the capacity of coastal communities, fishing industries, and resource managers to respond and adapt to climate change;

c) free and open trade and investment, including:

- the issue of subsidies in the fisheries sector;
- the development of standards, guidelines, and recommendations by FAO, Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Office of Epizootics amongst others;
- development and use of traceability tools (e.g. trade tracking, other trade-related tools, port state measures related to traceability), including in RFMOs/As, in order to address challenges associated with effective conservation and management of fisheries and oceans resources;
- support the harmonization efforts of the FAO to have best practice guidelines for catch documentation schemes and traceability in an effort to avoid differing unilateral import requirements; and
- improving the control of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;

d) the role of oceans in food security, including:

- recognition that productive fisheries and aquaculture require healthy, well-managed ecosystems;
- sustainable management of small pelagic fish for human consumption;
- information sharing about research and technology related to the sustainability of fisheries and capacity building on safety of the aquaculture supply chain;
- support ongoing cooperative and sustainable management of international fisheries, including within the framework of relevant RFMO/As, including the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean and negotiations on a North Pacific RFMO;
- consider ratification and implementation of the "Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing"; and
- increasing efficiencies and reducing losses in the supply chain (for example, from improper handling and storage), in order to maximize the economic, social and nutritional benefits to the people of the region; and

- e) cooperation, including collaboration, and the sharing of knowledge and best practices, both among APEC economies and more broadly, and the associative links with RFMO/As and other relevant fora.
9. In 2014 the APEC priorities for oceans and fisheries were refreshed in the form of the Xiamen Declaration that was the result of the 4th APEC Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting (AOMM4) held on 28 August 2014. This Declaration identified four priority areas going forward:
- a) coastal and marine ecosystem conservation and disaster resilience;
 - b) the role of the ocean on food security and food-related trade;
 - c) marine science, technology and innovation; and
 - d) the Blue Economy.
10. OFWG outputs include:
- a) strategic, medium term and annual work plans;
 - b) meeting agendas and working documents;
 - c) meeting minutes and follow up actions;
 - d) reports to the APEC SCE;
 - e) various projects, including capacity building projects; and
 - f) communication actions, including:
 - i. news releases;
 - ii. feature stories;
 - iii. speeches;
 - iv. publications; and
 - v. media/outreach opportunities.
11. In 2013 the OFWG adopted its Strategic Plan 2013-2015 (2015/SOM1/OFWG/006) which demonstrated a close alignment with the stated APEC priorities for oceans and fisheries (see Annex 5). The Strategic Plan includes vision and mission statements, objectives and associated key performance indicators. Section 5 *Prioritized Implementation Schedule* lists specific actions under each objective and an estimated start and completion date, and resources column.
12. In reviewing the Strategic Plan it is noted that it does not explicitly cover the following subjects that were identified as part of the Paracas Action Agenda 2010:
- a) fishing subsidies;

- b) ocean pollution;
- c) development and use of traceability tools; and
- d) differing import controls for fish products amongst APEC member economies.

It is noted the Xiamen Declaration provides a fresh opportunity to address subsidies and pollution as both of those topics are mentioned.

13. In relation to actually implementing the Strategic Plan 2013-2015 the OFWG have made progress on all identified actions, and it is anticipated they will have completed most actions by the end of 2015.
14. During the past two years the APEC OFWG has recorded 11 communications (e.g. New Releases, Feature Stories, Speeches, Internal Publications, Media/Outreach opportunities and Outreach Publications), which is the average number of communications for APEC SCE subfora. Further details are included in Annex 6.
15. Based on reported attendances², an average of 44 persons attend OFWG meetings from just 15 member economies. This figure is the smallest of any of the subgroups of the SCE, and contrasts with the average for all APEC SCE subfora which is an average of 76 attendees from 17 member economies for each meeting. However that average does include the heavily attended working groups, such as the Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG), Telecommunications and Information Technology Working Group (TELWG) and the Transportation Working Group (TPTWG), each of which regularly have more than 120 participants.
16. Overall the APEC OFWG outputs are found to be aligned with the stated APEC priorities for oceans and fisheries.

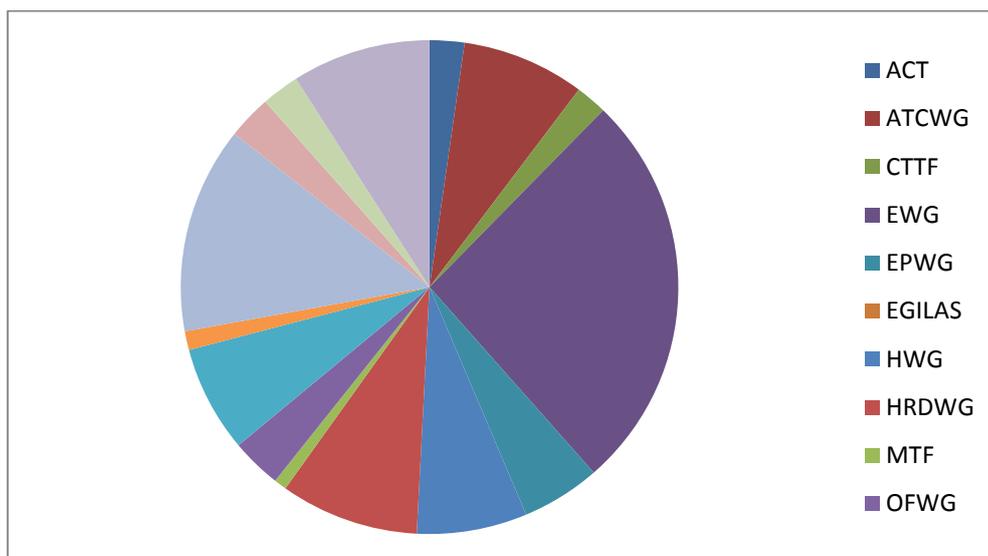
² See 2015/SOM1/SCE/003.

B. Alignment of Forum Projects with APEC Priorities

17. All the OFWG projects since 2010 have been aligned with the stated APEC priorities for oceans and fisheries, as illustrated in the mapping exercise contained in Annex 6.
18. The APEC OFWG has had 8 projects approved since 2010. This is below the average of 20 projects undertaken by each of the SCE subfora since that time. However that SCE subfora average drops to 15 projects if the EWG tally of 97 projects is excluded.
19. As identified in Figure 2.1 the OFWG is one of the APEC SCE subfora with the least number of APEC funded projects (3% of the total). This includes the projects previously undertaken by the FWG and MRCWG.

Figure 2.1 Number of Projects from 2008 Undertaken by APEC SCE subfora

n = 488

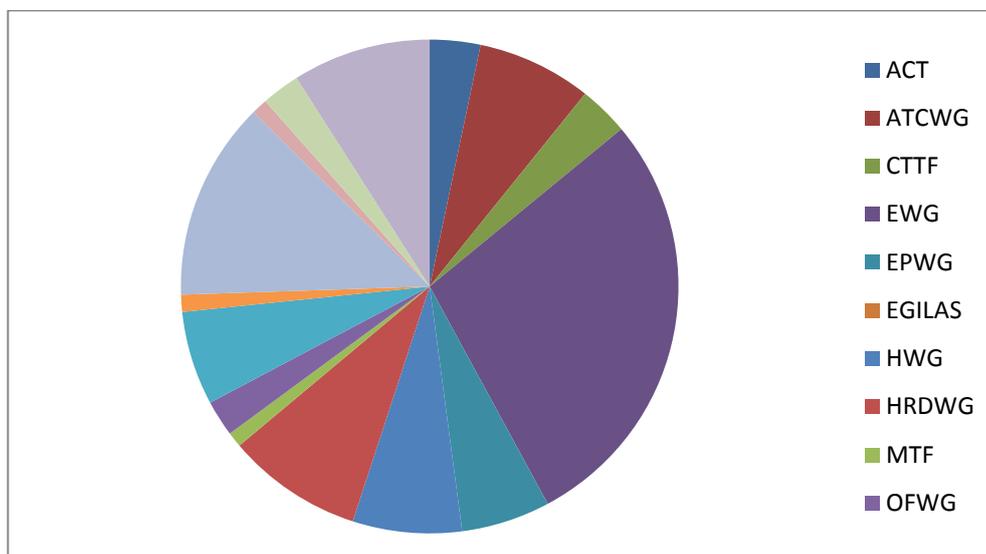


Source: 2015/SOM1/SCE/003 Report of the APEC Secretariat Executive Director on the Alignment of Fora Work Plans with APEC's Overall Vision and Objectives

20. Figure 2.2 shows that the OFWG features proportionately in terms of the total USD value of projects undertaken by APEC SCE subfora since 2008. This includes the projects previously undertaken by the FWG and MRCWG

Figure 2.2 Value of Projects Undertaken from 2008 by APEC SCE subfora

n = USD 49.18 million



Source: 2015/SOM1/SCE/003 Report of the APEC Secretariat Executive Director on the Alignment of Fora Work Plans with APEC's Overall Vision and Objectives

21. The APEC OFWG have undertaken 12 projects since 2008, totalling USD 1,160,861, an average of USD 72,554 per project. This is below the average for projects undertaken by APEC SCE subfora which is USD 95,757 per project.
22. It is noted that while the issue of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing has featured in several APEC Leaders and Ministerial Statements it does not appear any specific projects have been approved in this regard.
23. Comments received back from a majority of OFWG members point to resource limitations which mean they cannot be involved in all OFWG projects. Given this it may be appropriate to encourage Ministerial Meetings to be more critical before adding tasks and instructions to the OFWG agenda, and ensuring that their own member economies do have sufficient resources to effectively participate and undertake relevant work.
24. In relation to the APEC commitment in the Partnership on Women and the Economy, OFWG project proposals should more explicitly take into account [Annex I Guide on Gender Criteria](#) of the Guidebook on APEC Projects, including promoting women's economic empowerment through the following five pillars:

- a) access to capital and assets, including through such sources as land and personal property, participation in the workforce, and financial services;
- b) access to markets, including markets for labour and for goods and services produced by women-owned enterprises;
- c) skills, capacity building, and health, so women are physically capable of a range of economic pursuits and are prepared both educationally and technically for success in the workforce, in business, and in entrepreneurship
- d) leadership, voice, and agency, through which women are valued as contributors, professionals, and leaders in the private, not-for-profit, and public sectors; and
- e) innovation and technology, so women have the same opportunities as men to benefit from and participate in development and implementation of scientific advances and new technologies.

C. Forum Operations

Structure of the forum

- 25. The OFWG is a single level working group with all matters being considered and decided at the whole working group meeting. Given the volume and nature of the work undertaken this is satisfactory.
- 26. Since its formation in 2011 from the merger of the FWG and MRCWG the OFWG has been led through a Lead Shepherd position. The first Lead Shepherd from the USA provided strong direction from the Chair and this has contributed to a solid start for the new group and a general feeling that the merger has proven to be successful.
- 27. The selection of a new Lead Shepherd was contended and a further issue arose as to the desirability of a formal Deputy Lead Shepherd person. This situation was resolved through a new candidate being found from the Philippines as Lead Shepherd, and the establishment of a non-exclusive 'Friends of the Chair' group in favour of a formal Deputy Lead Shepherd position. The Lead Shepherd position is for 2 years.
- 28. Looking forward several APEC OFWG members suggested adopting the approach used by some other APEC subfora, whereby the Lead Shepherd is appointed each year by the host economy. The Lead Shepherd from the previous year becomes a vice-chair, and the host of the following

year nominates a second vice-chair that will become Lead Shepherd in the following year. In this way there are always 3 persons involved in the leadership function in addition to the Program Director, and selection for those leadership positions are not contentious because it is simply determined by the sequence of host economies.

29. Member economies do feel they have adequate influence on the direction of the OFWG, including the ability to raise ideas and issues and to have them discussed in a collegial and respectful manner.
30. Many member economies expressed their interest in developing the new strategic plan for the OFWG and it will be important for all member economies to take the time to engage at this point. Engaging now will ensure the future work of the group remains relevant to as many member economies as possible.
31. In terms of gender balance there appeared to be an even balance of participation from both genders observed during the OFWG meeting.

Terms of reference

32. The current Terms of Reference of the OFWG are included in Annex 1. A number of aspects have arisen that mean it is now appropriate to review the terms of reference. These aspects include:
 - a) the adoption of the Xiamen Declaration in 2014; and
 - b) the consideration of the leadership arrangements mentioned above.
33. In reviewing the Terms of Reference it is recommended that APEC SCE take a decision and give direction to the OFWG regarding its orientation – at present the OFWG have a general mandate to focus on ocean ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture and their sustainable management in the region. While this is in line with the 2010 The APEC Leaders' Growth Strategy (ECOTECH Priorities – particularly the 'Sustainable Growth' attribute), it is noted there are other agencies that work at international and regional levels that also fulfil this broad mandate. As such consideration could be given to more narrowly focusing the OFWG to work towards promoting economic development and trade which can be derived from oceans, fisheries and aquaculture.
34. It is noted that the Terms of Reference should not be changed too often as it sets the overall framework within which the OFWG should work over a sustained period of time. Within this

framework the OFWG can then seek to identify, discuss, agree and prioritise specific activities and include these within their Strategic Plan, project prioritisation process and annual work plans.

Compliance with APEC policies

35. The work of the OFWG is undertaken in accordance with APEC Revised Guidelines for Lead Shepherd/Chair and Deputy Lead Shepherd/Chair of APEC Working Groups and SOM Task Forces (2012/SOM1/SCE-COW/004) and the Policy on Scheduling of Sub-fora Operations to Enhance Effectiveness (2012/SOM1/SCE-COW/005).

Candidate for streamlining / merger with other APEC fora

36. The OFWG is not considered to be a candidate for streamlining or merger with other APEC fora.
37. However, participation in the OFWG both in terms of the number of delegates and the number of economies regularly attending is the lowest of any SCE subfora. It is noted that there appears to be a high turnover in the delegations of some economies. In discussing this issue with economies there appears to be three main reasons for this:
 - a) lack of interest because the OFWG agenda does not focus enough on topics of interest to the economy (e.g. greater focus on trade facilitation or removal of subsidies);
 - b) lack of coordination between relevant Ministries within the economy, resulting in an inability to consistently select delegation members to attend meetings, or simply defaulting to representation through local embassy officials; and
 - c) lack of priority and funds to attend meetings.
38. Given that all economies that provided comments for this independent assessment, including those that do not always participate in meetings, have indicated that the APEC OFWG does provide a useful forum for exchanging ideas, there is no suggestion that the OFWG should be disbanded.
39. Rather, the development of the next strategic plan and the revision of the OFWG Terms of Reference over the coming 12 months should reconfirm the scope of the group and seek to reengage with those economies that have not recently participated. This is an important opportunity to ensure the relevance of the group for the APEC member economies.

Comments from OFWG members on OFWG operation

40. During the course of this independent assessment a series of interviews took place with OFWG members in the margins of OFWG meeting held from 10-12 May in Boracay, The Republic of the Philippines. A questionnaire was also sent out to those OFWG members that were not interviewed at that time.
41. OFWG feedback on the operation of the OFWG is included in Annex 7. The feedback can grouped under the following headings and is summarised below:
- a) agenda setting;
 - b) projects;
 - c) coordination and duplication;
 - d) support activities.
42. In considering the feedback the following aspects must be kept in mind.
- a) APEC is not a treaty based organisation;
 - b) any commitments are voluntary and non-binding;
 - c) APEC have a consensus based approach to decision making;
 - d) there is a wide variation in economic size, level of development and the type of issues that are of importance to APEC member economies;
 - e) APEC member economies have different cultures and approaches to decision making and communication;
 - f) economies vary in terms of government or private ownership, investment, and service delivery in the ocean and fisheries sector;
 - g) that the OFWG is collegial and supportive in nature; and
 - h) APEC provides an important forum for informal discussions at regional, multi-plural and bi-lateral levels. These informal discussion help build consensus and can positively contribute to subsequent discussion and negotiations in more formal treaty based organisations (e.g. World Trade Organization etc.).

Agenda setting

43. All economies feel they have had the opportunity to be involved in the agenda setting for the OFWG, and that where this opportunity has been taken it has been done collegially and based on mutual respect.

44. There is a confirmed need to establish a new Strategic Plan now that the existing OFWG Strategic Plan 2013-2015 has been largely completed. Four issues derived from the Paracas Declaration appear not to have been explicitly addressed in the current plan and thus could be reconsidered during the formulation of the new strategic plan. These issues are:
- a) fishing subsidies (it is noted that there appears to be a reluctance from some economies to engage on this topic – as a path forward it may be appropriate for the OFWG to learn from the experience of the EWG and how they have addressed a similar sensitive topic in the case of reducing fuel subsidies);
 - b) ocean pollution (it is noted work is now proceeding on this topic through the efforts of the Virtual Working group on Marine Debris which should be supported by all member economies);
 - c) development and use of traceability tools; and
 - d) differing import controls for fish products amongst APEC member economies (experience from the Customs Subcommittee may be useful in this regard).
45. Furthermore the following issues arose through discussion with delegations and APEC Secretariat staff:
- a) getting back to the trade and investment agenda of APEC – removing barriers to intra-regional trade in fisheries and marine products, and increasing investment;
 - b) looking at ways that wholesale and retail supply chains can be encouraged and controlled to ensure seafood comes from sustainable sources – including source of origin, chain of custody and labelling programs (experience of the Standards and Conformance Subcommittee (SCSC) could be reviewed in this regard, especially in terms of the use of voluntary action plans (VAPs) whereby member economies notify their intention and progression on adopting an agreed list of recognised international standards – eventually resulting in the same set of standards applying across all APEC member economies);
 - c) the connection between national, regional and municipality water management policies and actions and impact on coastal resources;
 - d) supporting the livelihood of coastal communities;
 - e) sharing best practice on medium to long term rehabilitation of coastal economies that suffer disasters (different from a disaster preparedness or short term emergency response focus);
 - f) enhancing the biodiversity of marine environments;
 - g) fish and marine resource rehabilitation and replenishment;
 - h) collaborative control of IUU fishing;

- i) consideration of the role of gender in oceans and fisheries management and the desirability of holding a workshop on this topic inviting suitable experts from organisations that are addressing this issue (e.g. World Bank, FAO, European Commission).
46. It will be important for the OFWG to give sufficient time to explore the above topics during its strategic plan development and to prioritise some key topics taking into account the resources that economies are able to realistically commit in the coming years. The focus on developing a strategic plan to ensure the OFWG remains relevant to APEC member economies needs to be given equal, if not greater, effort to that being put into the upcoming HLPD.

OFWG projects

47. All OFWG projects are considered to be within the APEC stated priorities for oceans and fisheries, and the APEC process for project formulation, proposal, approval, implementation and reporting is understood and supported.
48. Comments received from OFWG members indicated they would like to receive more feedback from the BMC and SCE as to why projects were not approved so that adjustments can be made in subsequent proposals.
49. It is noted project proposals may be improved in the future by linking their outcomes more closely with cross-cutting APEC themes, and the host economy annual priorities. Chances of success may also be improved if the projects could be either fully or partially presented as being funded from the accounts that are dedicated to certain areas, rather the general APEC project funding account.
50. Several economies noted that the projects proposed and undertaken should mostly focus on capacity building and involve multiple APEC economies at one time. The PRAOS project (OFWG 01 2014A) was regarded as a good example of this.

Coordination and duplication

51. It is acknowledged that there is a potential for duplication in the work of the OFWG and the work of other APEC subfora. Oceans is recognised as being a cross sectorial issue.

52. In relation to duplication with other bodies, there is some commentary that some of the projects orientated toward sustainability duplicate the work of NGOs, World Bank, FAO, UN and RFMO/As, but it is also noted by other economies this duplication can be productive because APEC's informal nature allows members to discuss policy and technical matters outside of the context of formal treaty negotiations and treaty organisations.

Support activities

53. All members expressed their satisfaction with the performance of the current Lead Shepherd and of the work of the APEC Program Director who provides the ongoing secretariat function for the APEC OFWG.

54. APEC OFWG members considered the current balance of discussion of policy topics, economy reports, project consideration and project reporting at face-to-face meetings is appropriate.

55. APEC OFWG members also expressed satisfaction with the current APEC Secretariat website and the AIMP for document uploads.

D. Cooperation

56. Cooperation is taking place extensively both within APEC subfora and with outside stakeholders. The Paracas and Xiamen Declarations related to oceans and fisheries specifically mention the importance of cooperation with other APEC subfora, and relevant international and regional bodies.

57. Within APEC the Mainstreaming Ocean Issues Steering Council has been formed with representatives of the EPWG, EWG, HRDWG, OFWG, PPFs, SCSC, TPTWG and the TWG.

58. The link with food security will be further addressed through the upcoming High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and the Blue Economy, and the OFWG Food Security Action Plan, both being undertaken in collaboration with the PPFs.

59. A Virtual Working group on Marine Debris has been established with the APEC Chemical Dialogue.

60. Research and information sharing is being facilitated on oceans and fisheries matters through the APEC Marine Environmental Centre (AMTEC), APEC Marine Sustainable Development Centre

(AMSDC) and the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Information Centre (AOFIC), and through the development of the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report.

61. Engagement with the private sector takes place annually with the APEC Roundtable Meeting on the Involvement of Business/Private Sector in Sustainability of the Marine Environment (2015/SOM2/OFWG/007), and through occasional ABAC attendance at OFWG meetings.
62. Engagement and information sharing with external stakeholders primarily takes place indirectly through members within delegations. Developments in these organisations are often reported and highlighted through member economy reports.
63. Several member economies noted that closer engagement with bodies such as the UN FAO Committee on Fisheries and with RFMO/As would be useful. In achieving this outcome it may be appropriate for OFWG members to discuss how this might be achieved in the context of APEC Guidelines on Managing Cooperation with Non-Members.

Section 3 Recommendations and Implementation Advice

#	Recommended action	Implementation Advice
1	<p>The SCE should consider and provide feedback to the OFWG on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategic direction – within the context of the 4th APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement 2014 (the Xiamen Declaration), the extent to which the OFWG should give greater priority to economic development and trade in oceans and fisheries products and services; and • project proposals – the extent to which OFWG project proposals may be better formulated and positioned so as to increase their chances of approval. 	<p>Some of the OFWG members consider the broad mandate of the OFWG under the ‘Sustainable Growth’ agenda has meant there has been insufficient focus on topics related to economic development and trade in relation to oceans and fisheries products and services. The OFWG have achieved several outputs that are appropriately aligned with the goals of sustainable marine ecosystem management, but it is felt by some member economies more could be done in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fishing subsidies; • development and use of traceability and supply chain management tools; and • differing import controls for fish products amongst APEC member economies. <p>This is one of the factors that have resulted in low levels of engagement and attendance at OFWG meetings. It would be appropriate for the SCE to provide some signal to the OFWG as to whether its focus should more specifically address these topics, albeit within the framework of the Xiamen Declaration 2014.</p> <p>Similarly, OFWG members would appreciate some feedback on how to better position their project proposals in the future. It is noted that none of the project proposals in the first round in 2015 were approved even though oceans and fisheries were considered to be Rank 1. Given the anticipated ongoing focus on oceans and fisheries topics for the upcoming host economies it is important that some APEC funding is made available to augment contributions from project sponsors and co-sponsors.</p>
2	<p>The OFWG should be maintained as a separate subfora of the SCE and its Terms of Reference updated.</p>	<p>The OFWG should establish a small temporary task group to update and propose the revised Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference should be updated to reflect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the 2014 4th APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement (the Xiamen Declaration - Towards New Partnership through Ocean Cooperation in the Asia Pacific Region);

#	Recommended action	Implementation Advice
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the outcome of a discussion on the best method to appoint a Lead Shepherd, including having a the Lead Shepherd being appointed by the host economy each year and two vice-chairs being the immediate past Lead Shepherd, and the anticipated incoming Lead Shepherd for the following year; and any direction that the SCE give to the OFWG in relation to focusing its work primarily around the economic development and trade in oceans and fisheries products and services.
3	The OFWG should establish a new strategic plan for the period 2016-2020 in order to identify and prioritise its work.	Through the use of the Friends of the Chair, the OFWG should develop a new Strategic Plan that reflects the direction given in the Xiamen Declaration, and also gives consideration to the list of topics that have been identified in this independent assessment report (see paragraphs 43 and 44). This strategic planning exercise should cover the period from 2016-2020 in order to identify and prioritise the work over the longer term. This exercise should result in a formal strategic plan for the whole 5-year period, or alternatively a rolling strategic plan based on a 3-year planning horizon that is updated annually.
4	APEC member economies should reconfirm their delegations and participation in the work of OFWG, especially during the upcoming period when the new strategic plan will be developed and approved.	All APEC member economies are encouraged to engage in the development of the next OFWG Strategic Plan and attend the OFWG meetings. Over the next few years many of the host economies have a strong economies ties to oceans and fisheries issues and there is a special opportunity for multiyear priorities and action agendas to be established. Each APEC member economy, especially those hosting in the coming years, should discuss the implementation of the Xiamen Declaration and the topics mentioned in paragraphs 42 and 43 amongst its relevant Ministries and Departments and come into OFWG strategic plan discussions with topics and ideas for action. These can then be discussed and agreed with the other OFWG members over the next 6-9 months.

Acronyms

ABAC	APEC Business Advisory Council
ACT	APEC Anti-corruption and Transparency Experts Working Group
AIMP	APEC Information Management Portal
AMSDC	APEC Marine Sustainable Development Centre
AMTEC	APEC Marine Environmental Centre
AOFIC	APEC Ocean and Fisheries Information Centre
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
ATCWG	APEC Agricultural Technology Cooperation Working Group
BTF	APEC Biofuels Task Force
CCAMLR	Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CTI	APEC Committee on Trade and Investment
CTTF	APEC Counter Terrorism Task Force
ECOTECH	APEC's economic and technical cooperation agenda
EGILAT	APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade
EPWG	APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group
EWG	APEC Energy Working Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FOTC	Friends of the Chair
FWG	APEC Fisheries Working Group (merged with MRCWG in 2011 to form OFWG)
G2G	government-to-government
HRDWG	APEC Human Resources Development Working Group
HWG	APEC Health Working Group
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

MPA	Marine Protected Area
MRCWG	APEC Marine Resources Conservation Working Group (merged with FWG in 2011 to form OFWG)
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MTF	APEC Mining Task Force
OAA	Osaka Action Agenda
OFWG	APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group
PEMSEA	Partnership in Environmental management for the Seas of East Asia
PPFS	APEC Policy Partnership on Food Security
PPSTI	APEC Policy Partnership on Science, Technology and Innovation
PPWE	APEC Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy
RFMO/As	Regional Fisheries Management Organisations/Agreements
SCE	APEC SOM Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation
SCSC	APEC Subcommittee on Standards and Conformance
SMEWG	APEC Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group
SOM	APEC Senior Officials Meeting
TELWG	APEC Telecommunications and Information Technology Working Group
TPTWG	APEC Transportation Working Group
TWG	APEC Tourism Working Group
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WOC	World Ocean Council

References

APEC documents

2011/SOM3/SCE/021 Final Report of the 2011 Fisheries Working Group (FWG) and Marine Resources Conservation Working Group (MRCWG) Independent Assessment

2015/SOM1/SCE/003 Report of the APEC Secretariat Executive Director on the Alignment of Fora Work Plans with APEC's Overall Vision and Objectives

2015/SOM2/OFWG/004 OFWG Terms of Reference

2015/SOM2/OFWG/005 OFWG Endorsed Work Plan 2015

2015/SOM2/OFWG/006 Strategic Plan 2013-2015 - Ocean and Fisheries Working Group

2015/SOM2/OFWG/024 Coordination of Mainstreaming Ocean Related Issues

2015/SOM2/OFWG/035 Draft OFWG Food Security Action Plan

Annex 1 OFWG Terms of Reference

Endorsed by OFWG on 12 May 2014 and included in recent meeting documents as 2015/SOM1/OFWG/004.

Vision

Well-managed ocean ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture that provide optimal economic value to support the livelihood of communities and food security in APEC member Economies.

Scope

The scope of the Working Group will be ocean ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture undertaken in a balanced and integrated manner, with a focus on ecosystem-based management to ensure the sustainable use and long-term conservation of those resources. Specifically the Working Group will focus on the implementation of the Paracas Declaration and subsequent guidance from the APEC Ministers, noting that this builds upon the Seoul Oceans Declaration and the Bali Plan of Action.

Method of Work

The Working Group's mission and objectives will be delivered through the following mandate, which will frame the development and delivery of work consistent with APEC parameters:

1. Exchange of information and help foster institutional capacity building in a focused regional setting;
2. Advance the discussions and development of best practices and solutions to common resource management problems such as the impacts of climate change;
3. Develop projects, which will be managed and evaluated by the Working Group according to Leaders' and Ministers' directives, and the projects' adherence to the SCE guidelines and procedures;
4. Develop a regional approach and improved coordination for the implementation of various instruments (e.g. International Plans of Action);
5. Facilitate trade and investment opportunities that promote sustainable use of fisheries, aquaculture, and marine ecosystem resources;
6. Cooperate and partner with other APEC working groups, international organizations, and the private sector where interests intersect.
7. Ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources as well as protection of marine ecosystems needed to support fisheries and aquaculture.
8. Encourage and support common approaches to preventing illegal fishing and related trade.

The Working Group will periodically discuss and agree on its priority issues, drawn from issues identified by APEC leaders, ministers, and senior officials.

Project proposals submitted for consideration by APEC economies should address the agreed priority issues and achieve the group mandates. Project proposal should be submitted and endorsed in accordance with The Guidebook for APEC Projects.

If a project is not endorsed by consensus, the sponsor may conduct the project through self-funding and present the results of the project to the OFWG or other APEC groups for information, but cannot label it as an APEC OFWG-endorsed project.

Structure

1. Membership

All member economies of APEC are members of the Working Group. Member economies are encouraged to identify a focal point to facilitate the operations of the Working Group. Invitation and

participation of non-members at the meetings and activities of the Working Group shall be in accordance with current APEC guidelines.

2. Lead Shepherd

i. Selection and Term

The Working Group will select, by consensus, an individual who will serve (on a voluntary basis) a two-year term as Lead Shepherd in accordance with SCE recommendations. The Lead Shepherd's term will be coordinated with the APEC calendar year, beginning at iSOM.

In the case that the Lead Shepherd is unable or unwilling to serve a full term, nominations will be accepted from member Economies for an individual to serve as Interim Lead Shepherd for the remaining term of the departing Lead Shepherd (hereto referred to as the "interim period"). The duties of the Interim Lead Shepherd shall be the same as those of the Lead Shepherd. Nominations will be accepted for the new Lead Shepherd position, who will assume the position after the conclusion of the interim period. Time served as the Interim Lead Shepherd will not be counted against the normal term limits applied to an OFWG Lead Shepherd.

ii. Duties

The duties of the Lead Shepherd will be performed consistently with the "Revised Guidelines for Lead Shepherd/Chair And Deputy Lead Shepherd/Chair of APEC Working Groups And SOM Task Forces," as updated from time to time.

The Lead Shepherd of the Working Group will represent or designate a competent person to represent the Working Group to participate, as appropriate, in various APEC fora and other related regional and international meetings and fora.

At the request of the Lead Shepherd, a "Friends of the Chair's group" (FoTC) may be established on a voluntary basis to support the Lead Shepherd's work.

The duties of the Lead Shepherd are further described in Annex 1.

3. Program Director

The APEC Secretariat will provide support to the Working Group through a Program Director or other arrangements put in place by the Secretariat from time to time.

4. Working Group Meetings

The Working Group meeting will be held in person once a year and other meetings/communication may be held if necessary. The meeting will be held in the margins of a SOM.

5. Periodic Review of the Working Group

The Working Group will voluntarily review its mandates and operation as work is completed, or as new issues develop. The Working Group will develop a strategic plan and annual work plans, as required by APEC. In addition, and as part of recommendation 12 of the SCE Fora Review, the Working Group will be independently assessed every four years according to the Independent Assessment Schedule endorsed by the SCE.

The Working Group will review its achievements and project outcomes from time-to-time against its objectives and priorities and welcomes review from the SCE. The group will report annually through the SCE Fora Report or as requested by SOM.

Critical Relationships

The Working Group will work closely with other international or regional organizations, as appropriate, to promote the objectives of the Working Group. This collaboration contributes to the

consideration of APEC priorities and objectives, such as trade and investment liberalization. It also provides a unique role for the Working Group in regional implementation while avoiding duplication. The Working Group encourages private sector participation and cooperation in the forum's activities, especially through their involvement in member economies' projects. The Working Group will continue dialogue and strengthen cooperation with international financial institution (IFIs) through the current framework of the APEC-IFI Dialogue. The Working Group will collaborate with other APEC working groups and endeavor to develop projects that will address APEC objectives in alignment with APEC priorities.

Annex 1 – Duties of Lead Shepherd

a) Lead Shepherd Duties

- Coordinate the schedule and chair OFWG meetings as well as prepare reports of the meetings.
- Foster constructive and active dialogue at OFWG meetings.
- Lead the implementation of the action program and other activities to fulfill instructions given by APEC Leaders, Ministers and Senior Officials and report to Senior Officials on the development of these issues.
- Coordinate the development of a medium-term strategic plan aligned with the organization's overall objectives.
- Ensure the timely submission of annual workplans to the first SCE meeting of each year.
- Attend the annual SCE Committee-on-the-Whole (COW) meeting, held on the margins of the first SCE meeting of each year, to update the SCE on forum activities and ensure that these are in line with APEC priorities.
- Oversee the development of activities ensuring that the forum's work is responding to Leaders' and Ministers' priorities.
- Liaise with the APEC Secretariat, other APEC fora and international organizations to enhance the quality of activities, including project proposals with well-defined outcomes, and track the progress of project implementation.
- Invite ABAC or other relevant non-governmental actor(s) to contribute to the forum's plenary meeting agenda and activities (e.g., seminars, workshops).
- Oversee the prioritization/ranking of the forum's project proposal concept notes using the APEC-wide funding criteria in advance of the deadline for each project approval session.
- Once forum projects are approved, ensure that the Project Overseer works with the APEC Secretariat Communications team to provide a short statement on the activity to be published on the APEC website, if appropriate.
- As major project milestones or deliverables are completed (e.g. workshops, reports, etc), ensure that the Project Overseer provides a statement (e.g. press release, article, etc.) on the outcomes of the activity to be published on the APEC website and that he/she works with the APEC Secretariat Communications team, as well as local and international media, to promote and encourage media coverage of APEC project related activities.
- Once projects are fully completed, ensure that Project Overseers work with the APEC Secretariat Communications team to provide a write-up of the project's accomplishments and planned follow-up.
- Ensure that mandatory monitoring and final completion and evaluation reports on relevant APEC-funded projects are submitted by Project Overseers and that the relevant Program Director in the APEC Secretariat provides such reports in a timely manner to the BMC.
- Act as the spokesperson and key advocate for the OFWG, actively working to build synergies with other APEC fora, as well as relevant international organizations, and actively promoting the practical efforts that fora are undertaking to advance APEC priorities.
- Ensure that the forum webpage, as appropriate, is linked to the APEC Secretariat website and remains up-to-date, providing a current reflection of the forum's priorities and activities.

- The lead shepherd will consult and involve the deputy shepherd in the running of the working group to ensure that the experience and expertise of the deputy shepherd is benefited from and that they are adequately prepared to take over as lead shepherd.

Annex 2 Relevant excerpts from APEC's priorities

APEC's priorities are set out in various APEC Declarations, Statements and instructions. Those related to oceans and fisheries are set out below.

Leader's Declarations

1994 Leaders' Declaration (Bogor Declaration)

- Strengthening the open multilateral trading system.
- Enhancing trade and investment liberalization in the Asia-Pacific.
- Intensifying Asia-Pacific development cooperation.

2010 Leaders' Declaration

- APEC's Road Thus Far
- Current Opportunities and Challenges
- The Way Forward for APEC
 - Our vision of an APEC community
 - Economically-integrated community: A community that promotes stronger and deeper regional economic integration
 - Robust community: A community with higher quality growth
 - Secure community: A community that provides a more secure economic environment
 - Paths toward our vision of an APEC community
 - Path toward an economically-integrated community
 - Path toward a robust community
We will ensure the sustainable development of our oceans, seas, and coasts, including their resources, and the conservation of the marine environment.
 - Path toward a secure community
 - Economic and technical cooperation for progress in all paths
- APEC Membership
- Conclusion

2010 The APEC Leaders' Growth Strategy

- Formulating a Growth Strategy to Match a Changing Economic Environment
- Five Growth Attributes
 - Balanced Growth: We seek growth across and within our economies through macroeconomic policies and structural reforms that will gradually unwind imbalances and raise potential output.
 - Inclusive Growth: We seek to ensure that all our citizens have the opportunity to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from global economic growth.
 - Sustainable Growth: We seek growth compatible with global efforts for protection of the environment and transition to green economies
 - Enhance energy security and promote energy-efficiency and low-carbon policies.
 - Develop a low-carbon energy sector.
 - Improve access for environmental goods and services (EGS) and develop EGS sectors.
 - Promote green jobs education and training.
 - Promote private investment in green industries and production processes.
 - Promote conservation and more sustainable management of agriculture and natural resources.

APEC will focus in particular on forest management, soil conservation, marine resources conservation, watershed management, sustainable agriculture, and adaptation measures for water-related risks such as fresh water supplies and flood control.

- Innovative Growth: We seek to create an economic environment that promotes innovation and emerging economic sectors
- Secure Growth: We seek to protect the region's citizens' economic and physical well-being and to provide the secure environment necessary for economic activity
- Action Plan for the APEC Growth Strategy
 - Development of Integrated Work Elements to Implement the APEC Growth Strategy
 - Structural Reform
 - Human Resource and Entrepreneurship Development
 - Green Growth
 - Knowledge-Based Economy
 - Human Security
 - Multi-year Follow-up and Implementation

2012 Leaders' Declaration

- Trade and Investment Liberalization, Regional Economic Integration
- Strengthening Food Security
 - ... *Enhancing cooperation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and associated trade; working towards sustainable management of marine ecosystems; improving capture fisheries management and sustainable aquaculture practices; and facilitating sustainable, open and fair trade in products of fisheries and aquaculture...*
 - ... *We will also take the following steps to promote our food security goals:*
 - *Enhancing cooperation to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and associated trade; working towards sustainable management of marine ecosystems; improving capture fisheries management and sustainable aquaculture practices; and facilitating sustainable, open and fair trade in products of fisheries and aquaculture.*
- Establishing Reliable Supply Chains
- Intensive Cooperation to Foster Innovative Growth
- Looking forward

2013 Leaders' Declaration

- Supporting the Multilateral Trading System and Attaining the Bogor Goals
- Promoting Connectivity
- Sustainable Growth with Equity
 - 17. *We agreed to take further steps toward empowering, engaging and opening opportunities for our stakeholders to fully participate in our economic growth, by considering the following concrete actions:..*
 - e. *promote the crucial role of farmers and fishers, particularly small holders and women, in the achievement of food security, by strengthening their capacities, to take an important role in the supply chain, and creating a solid partnership between government and private sector;*
 - 18. *We recognized that resource scarcity presents an immense challenge that limits our ability to pursue economic growth and we were mindful of the grave economic consequences of natural and human-caused disaster, particularly to the most vulnerable members of society. In response to these challenges, we will take the following steps:..*
 - d. *pursue cross-sectoral work under the APEC Initiative on Mainstreaming Ocean-related Issues, including those in line with priorities outlined by our ocean-related Ministers, that will maintain the health and sustainability of our oceans and coastal resources for the benefit of food security, poverty eradication,*

preservation of traditional culture and knowledge, conservation of biodiversity and facilitation of trade and investment;

- Looking Forward

2014 Leaders' Declaration

- I Advancing Regional Economic Integration
 - Pursuing Free and Open Trade and Investment
 - Advancing Global Supply Chain Development and Supply Chain Connectivity
 - Strengthening Economic and Technical Cooperation
 - 25. *We endorse the APEC Strategic Plan on Capacity Building to Promote Trade and Investment Agenda which adopts a strategic, goal-oriented and multi-year approach. We instruct officials to take the Strategic Plan as a guide to develop and implement more tailor-made capacity building programs that contribute to the core trade and investment liberalization and facilitation agenda of APEC.*
 - II Promoting Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth
 - 29. *We endorse the APEC Accord on Innovative Development, Economic Reform and Growth (Annex C) which identifies Economic Reform, New Economy, Innovative Growth, Inclusive Support and Urbanization as the five pillars for promoting experience sharing, policy dialogue, capacity building and practical cooperation.*
 - Economic Reform
 - New Economy
 - 33. *We recognize that New Economy represents the trend of economic growth and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. We support the efforts to promote economic restructuring and upgrading in traditional industries, explore new and promising economic growth areas such as the Green Economy, the Blue Economy, and the Internet Economy, and promote green, circular, low-carbon and energy-efficient development.*
 - 34. *We are encouraged by the progress of APEC's ocean-related cooperation and welcome the Xiamen Declaration issued at the 4th APEC Oceans Ministerial Meeting this year, and instruct our Ministers and officials to fully implement the Declaration. We acknowledge the Xiamen Declaration's statement on the Blue Economy. We welcome the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report. We encourage the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group to work with APEC fora to advance Blue Economy cooperation.*
 - Innovative Growth
 - Inclusive Support
 - 46. *We endorse the Beijing Declaration on APEC Food Security issued at the Third APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security. We welcome APEC Action Plan for Reducing Food Loss and Waste, the APEC Food Security Business Plan (2014-2020), and the APEC Food Security Roadmap toward 2020 (2014 version) and the Action Plan to Enhance Connectivity of APEC Food Standards and Safety Assurance. We note the G20's work on food security in 2014. We call on APEC economies to seek common ground to build an open, inclusive, mutually-beneficial and all-win partnership for the long-term food security of the Asia-Pacific region. We will strengthen APEC agricultural science and technology innovation and cooperation to advance sustainable agricultural development and support sustainable fisheries.*
 - Urbanization
 - III Strengthening Comprehensive Connectivity and Infrastructure Development
 - IV Looking Forward
-

Annual Ministerial Meetings

2010 APEC Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement

- The Global Economy
- Bogor Goals
- Regional Economic Integration
- APEC Leaders' Growth Strategy
- Human Security
- Welcoming Sectoral Initiatives
 - Energy Security
 - Women's Empowerment
 - Human Resources Development
 - Tourism
 - Small and Medium Enterprises
 - Fisheries and Marine Environmental Protection and Resources Management

45. The oceans and their resources are essential to the livelihood and economic well-being of the people of the Asia-Pacific region and to food security in the region. We welcomed the commitment made by Ministers at the APEC Oceans-Related Ministerial Meeting in October in Paracas, Peru, to focus efforts on sustainably developing and conserving the marine environment, promoting free and open trade and investment in sustainably managed fisheries and aquaculture, addressing the adverse effect of climate change on oceans, and taking steps to ensure that fisheries and aquaculture will continue to be a secure source of food.

46. We welcomed the establishment of the "APEC Research and Training Center for Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Management" (APEC RTC-EBM) in China to address the capacity building needs in managing and understanding marine biodiversity. The establishment of the Center was endorsed at the above-mentioned Oceans-Related Ministerial Meeting.

- Information and Communication Technology
- Strengthening Economic and Technical Cooperation
- Engaging Stakeholders in APEC
- Strengthening APEC

2010 APEC Oceans-Related Ministerial Meeting, including the Paracas Declaration - Healthy Oceans and Fisheries Management Towards Food Security

We the APEC Oceans-Related Ministers will focus our efforts on the following four sub-themes:

- 1. Sustainable Development and Protection of the Marine Environment.*
 - *conserving the integrity of marine ecosystems*
 - *understanding and implementation of ecosystem-based management*
- 2. Impact of Climate Change on the Oceans.*
 - *understanding of the nature and magnitude of changes and their effects*
 - *policy approaches will best allow our people and economies to adapt to these changes.*
- 3. Promote Free and Open Trade and Investment.*
 - *unjustified barriers to trade of fisheries products if inconsistent with international obligations*
 - *free and open trade and investment*
- 4. The Role of Oceans in Food Security.*
 - *fish provides a significant portion of animal protein consumption in the region, especially in low-income food-deficit economies*
 - *food security is threatened by fishing overcapacity, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, maritime crime and piracy, marine invasive species, climate change and other stressors.*

2011 APEC Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement

- Strengthening Regional Economic Integration and Expanding Trade
- Promoting Green Growth
- Advancing Regulatory Convergence and Cooperation
- Addressing Key Cross-Cutting Issues
 - Addressing Women and the Economy
 - Strengthening Health Systems
 - Advancing Sustainable Development of Oceans
We reaffirmed our commitment in 2010 to ensure the sustainable development of oceans and fisheries. We welcomed the establishment of the Oceans and Fisheries Working Group by merging two pre-existing groups, and instructed officials to ensure that discussions regarding oceans and fisheries reflect their crucial role in climate change and food security.
- Promoting Economic and Technical Cooperation
- Strengthening APEC as an Institution

2012 APEC Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement

- Trade and Investment Liberalization, Regional Economic Integration
 - Strengthening the multilateral trading system
 - Advancing trade and investment liberalization
 - Addressing next generation trade and investment issues
 - Trade in services liberalization and facilitation
 - Investment facilitation
 - Regulatory coherence and cooperation
 - Promoting information and communications technologies
 - Implementing Cross-Border Privacy Rules
 - Promoting trade in environmental goods
 - Promoting green growth
23. ... We are committed to combating illegal wildlife trafficking, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and associated trade by strengthening international cooperation, capacity building, and enforcement efforts.
 - Strengthening energy security
 - Improving financial literacy
 - Promoting structural reforms agenda
- Strengthening Food Security
 - Implementing the Kazan Declaration on APEC Food Security
 - Sustainable agriculture
 - Policy Partnership on Food Security
 - Agricultural technical cooperation and capacity building
 - Strengthening food safety through capacity building and encouraging regulatory cooperation
 - Application of innovative biotechnologies for food security in APEC
 - Study on Food Security policies in APEC
 - Asia-Pacific Food Security Information Platform
 - Supporting sustainable management of marine ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture
35. We support work to ensure the implementation of initiatives on sustainable management of marine ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture. We support the efforts on combating IUU fishing and associated trade, and on addressing sustainability of ocean and marine resources through a holistic approach. We recognize that fisheries and aquaculture are significant components of marine ecosystem that remains essential to the livelihood and economic well-being for many APEC economies

and instruct officials to deepen the work in this sphere. We encourage efforts to mainstream ocean related issues in supporting regional economic integration in line with the Leaders' Growth Strategy.

- Establishing Reliable Supply Chains
- Intensive Cooperation to Foster Innovative Growth
- Strengthening APEC as an Institution

2013 APEC Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement

- State of the Region
- APEC in the Evolving Cooperative Architecture
- Attaining the Bogor Goals
- Promoting Connectivity
- Sustainable Growth with Equity
 - Empowering Women and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)
 - Promoting Financial Inclusion
 - Promoting Labour and Social Protection
 - Promoting Sustainable Healthcare
 - Sustainable Growth with Equity
 - Mainstreaming Ocean-Related Issues

69. We underlined the linkage of oceans to the economy, and highlighted in particular that sustainably managed oceans resources contribute to long-term economic benefits. We welcomed the APEC initiative on mainstreaming ocean-related issues and the work plan to promote cross-cutting and cross-fora collaboration to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth. We instructed officials to develop and implement the work plan that will complement our efforts to promote ocean-related issues in APEC. We noted that the work plan will include cooperation on, among others, exchanging best practices in combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing; sustainable fisheries management and trade, including trade in sustainably harvested fisheries products and aquaculture; new and renewable energy; tourism; science and technology; transportation and marine connectivity. We reaffirmed our commitments on oceans issues at Rio+20, and welcomed the work by the international community to address overfishing and overcapacity.

- Strengthening Food Security and Safety
- Promoting the Application of Innovative Biotechnologies
- Enhancing Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation
- Promoting Sustainable Forest Management
- Combating Wildlife Trafficking
- Promoting Clean and Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development Mining and Metallurgy
- Improving Energy Efficiency
- Fighting Corruption and Ensuring Transparency
- Strengthening APEC

2014 APEC Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement

- Foreword
- Advancing Regional Economic Integration
- Promoting Innovative Development Economic Reform and Growth
 - Economic Reform
 - Internet Economy
 - Ocean Cooperation

52. We welcome the Xiamen Declaration endorsed at the 4th APEC Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting. We acknowledge the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) views on Blue Economy and the outcomes of the APEC Blue Economy Forums hosted by China. We encourage APEC economies to

develop environmentally-friendly ocean-related economic activity as an approach to the sustainable management of marine resources, such as marine renewable energy, and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture through innovation. We endorse the APEC Ocean Cooperation in the Asia Pacific Region (Annex G). We support the establishment of the Steering Council of Mainstreaming Ocean-Related issues in APEC. We also welcome the APEC project “Workshop on the Climate Change Impact on Oceans and Fisheries Resources”.

- Energy
- Forestry and Wildlife
- Mining
- Science and Technology
- Small and Medium Enterprises
- Human Resource Development and Skills Training
- Women
- Food Safety and Security
- Disaster Management
- Anti-Corruption
- Counter Terrorism
- Health
- Urbanization
- Strengthening Comprehensive Connectivity and Infrastructure Development
- Strengthening APEC
- Annex G - APEC Ocean Cooperation in the Asia Pacific Region

APEC members share one ocean, and they account for over 80% of global aquaculture production. The ocean is an important conduit for 90% of world trade, and connects people, markets and livelihoods, as well as providing ecosystem services and playing an important role towards fulfilling economic recovery and prosperity of the Asia Pacific region.

APEC recognizes the need to conserve and sustain the ocean so that it can continue to meet the needs of the present without damaging the interests of future generations. It is also mindful of increasing challenges both from natural and human factors, such as over-exploitation of resources in the context of increasing human demands, increasing pollution, loss of biodiversity, and the impacts of global climate change and natural disasters. APEC is an important platform for regional economic integration and growth, and a well-placed platform for discussion and cooperation related to the ocean.

We acknowledge and seek to build upon previous work in this area, which came out of guidance from APEC Leaders’ Declarations, APEC Leaders’ Growth Strategy, and the 2013 Joint Ministerial Statement and commitments made in the 2002 Seoul Ocean Declaration, the 2005 Bali Plan of Action, the 2010 Paracas Declaration and Paracas Action Agenda, and in particular the Xiamen Declaration, which is the outcome document of the 4th APEC Ocean-related Ministerial Meeting (AOMM4) held in Xiamen, China, on 28 August, 2014. We also commend the progress made by the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group in these years

We confirm that “for the purposes of APEC, the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group views Blue Economy as an approach to advance sustainable management and conservation of ocean and coastal resources and ecosystems and sustainable development, in order to foster economic growth”. We also recognize the importance of the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report, which provides an overview of marine sustainable development activities within APEC.

While progress has been made in APEC, particularly over the past few years, we also recognize that the world’s oceans and seas still require better understanding and coordinated action and the urgent need for ocean cooperation due to the complex and trans-boundary nature of ocean and coastal issues and challenge. We support the call made by APEC Ocean-Related Ministers in the Xiamen Declaration for the establishment of more integrated, sustainable, inclusive and mutually beneficial partnership through ocean cooperation among APEC members, that implements previous commitments and focuses efforts on collaborative and concerted actions in the following four priority 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; and (4) Blue Economy.

We welcome the Xiamen Declaration and support the actions within it in the hopes of supporting healthy and productive oceans and coasts in the APEC region.

Annex 3 Paracas Action Agenda 2010

Given the Paracas Declaration, in which we focus on four main areas: sustainable development and protection of the marine environment; impact of climate change on the oceans; free and open trade and investment; and the role of oceans in food security to address key oceans-related challenges and reaffirming the commitments made in the 2002 Seoul Ocean Declaration and reaffirming and extending the 2005 Bali Plan of Action, we manifest our commitment to strengthen their implementation through the following actions:

1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

1.1 Understanding of the Marine Environment

We ask the appropriate APEC working groups, as necessary, to seek ways to promote cooperation among APEC economies to contribute towards regional assessments in the APEC region and understanding the marine ecosystem.

We request the appropriate APEC working groups, as necessary, to consider cooperation on activities related to the monitoring and control of marine invasive species, building on existing initiatives and previous APEC projects.

1.2 Sustainable Management of the Marine Environment

We encourage and promote capacity building, information sharing and experience dissemination on implementing Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) approaches among APEC economies in order to protect human health, provide economic and social benefits, and contribute to food security in the APEC region. To that end, we promote and support activities regarding domestic marine and coastal spatial planning, improving the management and effectiveness of existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and their connectivity in networks and the creation of new MPAs based on the best scientific information available and in collaboration, as appropriate, with relevant international organizations including Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and Arrangements (RFMO/As), in order to protect and prevent significant adverse impacts to marine biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems and to promote sustainability of fisheries and other marine resources.

We support efforts by APEC economies to develop programs for the conservation of marine biodiversity such as the implementation, as appropriate, of the Program of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the measures agreed in FAO, RFMO/As and other relevant fora which aim to reduce the continuing loss of biodiversity.

We encourage partnerships with UNEP's Regional Seas Programs, and other relevant fora in the Pacific, as appropriate, such as the Coral Triangle Initiative, to promote coordinated and effective protection of the marine environment throughout the APEC region.

We welcome the establishment of the "APEC Research and Training Center for Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Management" (APEC RTC-EBM), addressing the capacity building needs in managing and understanding marine biodiversity.

1.3 Pollution

We encourage APEC economies to reduce both sea and land-based sources of marine pollution and marine debris, both domestically and regionally, by inter alia implementing, as appropriate, the UNEP's Global Program of Action (UNEP-GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and

in addressing these issues consider partnerships with stakeholders and the use of market-based incentives, and other activities and initiatives.

We support greater efforts towards regional cooperation to prevent and combat marine pollution in cases of emergency, particularly for releases of noxious and hazardous substances and oil spills, and encourage the appropriate APEC working groups, as necessary, to determine the feasibility of developing a regional or sub-regional contingency plan for combating marine pollution by oil and other hazardous substances.

2. IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE OCEANS

We support initiatives by APEC economies to cooperate in the gathering and sharing of scientific knowledge on climate change and its impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems, fisheries, and aquaculture.

We encourage APEC economies to promote greater cooperation on climate change mitigation and adaptation, with other APEC economies and more broadly.

We also encourage increased efforts by APEC economies to improve the capacity of coastal communities, fishing industries, and resource managers to respond and adapt to climate change.

We promote an increase in stakeholder participation and public awareness about the impacts of climate change on the oceans and their resources.

We express our strong and active support for the ongoing UNFCCC process.

We recognize the contribution of the 2009 World Ocean Conference in elevating attention to the role and importance of oceans in climate change, and welcome the Manado Oceans Declaration.

We will pursue efforts through appropriate APEC working groups and other APEC fora to improve understanding of the role of the oceans in climate change through dedicated research and observations and work together to support community resilience and planning for adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change.

3. PROMOTE FREE AND OPEN TRADE AND INVESTMENT

We stress the importance of the fisheries subsidies negotiations as part of the World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda and urge the APEC economies to actively commit to a successful and effective outcome of these negotiations, in line with the 2005 WTO Hong Kong Ministerial mandate to strengthen disciplines on subsidies in the fisheries sector, taking into account the importance of the fisheries sector for poverty reduction, job creation, and food security.

We recognize the efforts of the relevant international organizations such as FAO, Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Office of Epizootics and other international and regional organizations to promote within these organizations the development of standards, guidelines, and recommendations with respect to sanitary and phytosanitary issues in fisheries.

We support the further development and implementation, as appropriate, of traceability tools (e.g. trade tracking, other trade-related tools, port state measures related to traceability), including in RFMOs/As, in order to address challenges associated with effective conservation and management of fisheries and oceans resources such as IUU fishing.

We encourage APEC economies to support regional and global efforts to harmonize traceability tools and to minimize as much as possible the costs of their implementation. To further such harmonization efforts, we

support the development of FAO best practice guidelines for catch documentation schemes and traceability in an effort to avoid differing unilateral import requirements.

We support trade and investment facilitation measures that are consistent with sustainable resource management.

4. THE ROLE OF OCEANS IN FOOD SECURITY

Given the importance of fisheries and aquaculture products to food security in APEC economies, we promote the sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture resources both domestically and internationally through, inter alia, application of science to management, implementation of ecosystem approaches, and a precautionary approach to fisheries, and ensuring that sufficient institutional capacity is in place.

Recognizing that productive fisheries and aquaculture require healthy, well-managed ecosystems, we note that the priorities and actions proposed under "Sustainable development and protection of the marine environment" will also support food security.

We support initiatives by APEC economies that incorporate sustainably managed small pelagic fish for human consumption. These initiatives contribute to the achievement of a more competitive and stable supply of fish and fisheries products, and thus food security, in the region.

We further support initiatives by APEC economies regarding information sharing about research and technology related to the sustainability of fisheries and capacity building on safety of the aquaculture supply chain.

We support ongoing cooperative and sustainable management of international fisheries, including within the framework of relevant RFMO/As. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the "Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean" and encourage APEC economies, as appropriate, to take the necessary steps to become party to the convention and participate in the work of the RFMO to be established by that Convention. At the same time, we encourage the early completion of negotiations for the creation of the North Pacific RFMO.

We call upon all APEC economies to improve cooperation internationally and with competent international organizations to eliminate IUU fishing and piracy activities, recognizing the damages and losses they inflict upon the fisheries sector and food security in the APEC region; and to consider ratification and implementation of the "Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing".

We commit to align the capacity of the world's fishing fleets with the productivity of their target fish stocks, recognizing the special circumstances and requirements of developing economies and their interests in developing their fisheries consistent with relevant international instruments.

We support initiatives by APEC economies that aim at increasing efficiencies and reducing losses in the supply chain (for example, from improper handling and storage), in order to maximize the economic, social and nutritional benefits to the people of the region.

We support free and open trade in a transparent, rules-based multilateral trading system which contributes to food security, both directly by allowing efficient movement of safe fisheries and aquaculture products to where they are most needed, and indirectly by contributing to economic growth, poverty alleviation, and employment.

5. COOPERATION

As a common theme for action across all of these areas, we support wherever possible mechanisms for cooperation, collaboration, and the sharing of knowledge and best practices, both among APEC economies and more broadly. This includes, inter alia, the establishment of networks of cooperation in research and development of sustainable marine resources, fisheries, and aquaculture within the APEC economies and the establishment of associative links with RFMO/As and other relevant fora.

Annex 4 Xiamen Declaration 2014

2014 - APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement

Xiamen Declaration - Towards New Partnership through Ocean Cooperation in the Asia Pacific Region

We, the APEC Ocean-Related Ministers, gathered in Xiamen, China on 28 August 2014 for the fourth APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting (AOMM4), under the theme “Towards New Partnership through Ocean Cooperation in the Asia Pacific Region”;

Acknowledging that the recovery of the global economy continues to face uncertainty, that the goal of the APEC Leaders’ Growth Strategy is still far from being fulfilled, and that most APEC member economies are exploring new economic growth opportunities to address the negative impact of the international financial crisis. Given the key role of the APEC region in the world economy and that the efforts by APEC members in promoting sustainable economic growth are vital to local, sub-regional, regional and global economic prosperity;

Considering that APEC members share one ocean, and they account for over 80% of global aquaculture production, and more than 65% of the harvesting and processing of the world’s capture fisheries, and that the ocean is an important conduit for 90% of world trade, and connects people, markets and livelihoods, as well as providing ecosystem services and plays an important role towards fulfilling economic recovery and prosperity of the Asia Pacific region;

Considering further the need to conserve and sustain the ocean so that it can continue to meet the needs of the present without damaging the interests of future generations, and also mindful of increasing challenges both from natural and human factors, such as over-exploitation of resources in the context of increasing human demands, increasing pollution, loss of biodiversity, and the impacts of global climate change and natural disasters;

Keeping in mind APEC Leaders’ Declarations, APEC Leaders’ Growth Strategy, the 2013 Joint Ministerial Statement and commitments made in the 2002 Seoul Ocean Declaration, the 2005 Bali Plan of Action, the 2010 Paracas Declaration and Paracas Action Agenda;

Confirming that “for the purposes of APEC, the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Working Group views Blue Economy as an approach to advance sustainable management and conservation of ocean and coastal resources and ecosystems and sustainable development, in order to foster economic growth”;

Recognizing the importance of the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report, which provides an overview of marine sustainable development activities within APEC;

Recognizing further that the world’s oceans and seas require better understanding and coordinated action and the urgent need for ocean cooperation due to the complex and trans-boundary nature of ocean and coastal issues and challenges;

Therefore we, the APEC Ocean-Related Ministers, call for the establishment of more integrated, sustainable, inclusive and mutually beneficial partnership through ocean cooperation among APEC members, that implement previous commitments, and focuses efforts on collaborated and concerted actions in the following four priority 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; and (4) Blue Economy.

Coastal and marine ecosystem conservation and disaster resilience

1. Recognize that coastal and marine ecosystems provide foundations for sustainable economic growth, and that healthy coastal and marine ecosystems also play a critical role in mitigating hazards by reducing vulnerability, and thus increasing the resilience of coastal communities to climate change and marine and coastal disasters. We further recognize the need for holistic approaches and integrated partnerships to address the cumulative impacts on the marine environment and living and non-living resources, given the degree of interconnectivity in natural systems.
2. Reaffirm our strong support to enhance coastal and marine biodiversity conservation, domestically and regionally, including in trans-boundary areas, through the protection of endangered species, restoration of coastal wetlands, mangroves, sea grasses, tidal flats, coral reefs and other critical habitats including for fish restocking, as well as collaboration in the conservation of large marine ecosystems, and encourage implementation of regional efforts that contribute to meeting global goals and targets to conserve coastal and marine areas, including to conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, including through effectively managed marine protected areas (MPAs) and other area-based conservation measures, by 2020.
3. Intend to scale up ecosystem-based management approaches and programs, both domestically and regionally, by inter alia implementing conservation and management measures and tools including MPA Networking, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), integrated water resources management, land-sea integration and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM), to restore ocean and coastal health while optimizing sustainable coastal and ocean use.
4. Encourage cooperation on the reduction and mitigation of marine pollution, including from land-based sources and oil spills, and through continuation and expansion of efforts to reduce marine debris, including working with the APEC Chemical Dialogue through the joint Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris, and welcome the APEC project “Preparedness Response and Assessment of Oil Spill in the APEC region, Phase I”.
5. Support efforts by APEC members, as appropriate to increase participation in, and the implementation of, global and regional ocean-related programs such as the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment Including Socioeconomic Aspects (United Nations World Ocean Assessment).
6. Recognize the importance of strengthening the resilience of local coastal communities and businesses to disasters, including through community awareness programs, capacity building, public communication, early warning systems, coastal and marine ecosystem based management approaches, ocean-related data and information sharing and working with other APEC sub-fora to support search and rescue cooperation, and the active involvement of the private sector and communities in emergency planning, response, recovery and restoration efforts.
7. Encourage collaboration within APEC on identifying, monitoring, addressing and preparing for impacts of climate change, ocean acidification and habitat change on ocean resources including on fisheries and aquaculture, through data and information sharing and best practices across relevant APEC sub-fora. We welcome the APEC project “Workshop on the Climate Change’s Impact on Oceans and Fisheries Resources”.
8. Encourage APEC members to participate in relevant cooperative networks focused on climate change and ocean acidification.
9. Encourage the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) to work closely with the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) to address the impact of climate change on fisheries, aquaculture, and

coastal communities, including through the development of education outreach programs and an APEC-wide work plan on disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and relevant information sharing.

The role of the ocean on food security and food-related trade

10. Reaffirm the importance of strengthening partnerships on a bilateral and multilateral basis to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, through measures to keep IUU catches from entering into market, if appropriate, as well as address destructive fishing practices, improve capture fisheries management and sustainable aquaculture practices, implement ecosystem based management approaches, manage by-catch, especially of protected and vulnerable species, reduce excess fishing capacity, enhance transparency in fishing regulations, and promote contributions of small scale fisheries and aquaculture to food security. Recall the 2010 Niigata Food Security Declaration, the 2012 Kazan Food Security Declaration, and the 2013 Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) Roadmap.

11. Encourage the OFWG and PPFS to work in close coordination to ensure all APEC food security efforts consider the entire food system from crops to fisheries, including through the finalization of the draft Food Security Action Plan, as well as to share the outcome of this declaration with the 3rd APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security to be held in China in September 2014.

12. Encourage APEC members to urgently take the measures necessary, including through regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements, as appropriate, to maintain or restore all fish stocks at least to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield, in the shortest time feasible, as determined by their biological characteristics.

13. Encourage the application of environmentally sound and integrated multi-trophic aquaculture technologies for reduction of nutrient pollution, and sustainable aquaculture to enhance food security.

14. Call on relevant APEC members to ratify or accede to and effectively implement the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Agreement on Port State Measures, and to improve tracking of fishing vessels, including through increasing the coverage of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Network and realization of the 2012 Kazan Food Security Declaration.

15. Welcome the Pathfinder Interim project on the "Enhancement of Partnerships among APEC Economies on Combating IUU Fishing and Associated Trade by Undertaking Voluntary Obligations on Nonproliferation Flags of Convenience Practices".

16. Encourage supporting sustainable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, including by providing access by small-scale and artisanal fishers to fisheries and markets, and in this regard we welcome the completion and adoption of the FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (June 2014) addressing the needs of developing economies and take note of FAO's intent to host a workshop to plan implementation of the Guidelines.

17. Recognize the policies of APEC economies to support small scale fisheries and aquaculture in order to maintain and improve livelihoods in these sectors.

18. Take note of the outcomes of the "Workshop on Fisheries and their Contribution to Sustainable Development in APEC economies: Small Scale and Artisanal Fisheries to support Food Security".

19. Encourage APEC members to facilitate trade in fish and fishery products among APEC members to achieve resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth, to support food security.

20. Encourage APEC members to exchange best practices on minimizing losses and waste in post-harvest handling and processing. In particular we support “APEC Multi-Year Project on Strengthening Public-Private Partnership to Reduce Food Losses in the Supply Chain”, in which the focus in 2015 will be on fishery products. We call on APEC members to contribute to the project’s development of methodology for data collection, toolkits and best practices.

21. In light of the Rio+20 outcome document, particularly paragraph 173, we encourage APEC members to further improve the transparency and reporting of existing fisheries subsidies programmes through the WTO, and to eliminate subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and over-fishing, and to refrain from introducing new such subsidies or from extending or enhancing existing such subsidies, without prejudice to the WTO Doha negotiations.

22. Encourage APEC members to actively conduct capacity building and sharing of best practice for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to improve their capability in contributing to food security.

Marine Science, Technology and Innovation

23. Recognize that science, technology and innovation are vital to understanding the ocean, and essential to supporting a science-based approach to decision-making and adaptive management, and to upgrading the traditional marine industry, cultivating emerging sectors and stimulating innovative growth. It should be noted that different economies and different communities have different level of capacity.

24. Encourage APEC members to take steps to facilitate the conduct of joint marine scientific research, to advance science, technology and innovation through sharing of data and information, scientific knowledge, technology dissemination, and capacity building projects, based upon mutually agreed terms and conditions.

25. Support science, technology and innovation cooperation in marine disaster risk reduction and resilience, including through improved timely forecasting and warning dissemination capabilities for tsunamis, tropical cyclones and other hazards, through establishment and coordination of tsunami early-warning centers in this region, and through information and knowledge sharing on marine disasters and the potential impacts among APEC members.

26. Encourage the promotion of science, technology and innovation cooperation in environmentally-friendly marine technologies, including marine renewable energy technology, as appropriate and in coordination with the APEC Policy Partnership on Science Technology and Innovation (PPSTI) and the APEC Energy Working Group (EWG).

27. Encourage the exploration of possible means to facilitate the mobility of marine researchers and students, and encourage ocean-related universities and colleges to become involved in APEC education cooperation, noting with appreciation the Chinese Government Marine Scholarship Program.

28. Encourage APEC members to raise public awareness of ocean-related issues, especially among youth and future generations, through methods such as incorporating ocean education into school curricula and through the proposal for APEC economies to promote public engagement on ocean-related issues through science museums and aquariums, and marine eco-tourism, for example, by designating a regional Ocean Day for APEC.

29. Affirm that youth and women are major parts of the community that should be targeted in the implementation of capacity building and should be given the opportunity to participate in the management of marine resources and sustainable fisheries campaign from an early age.

30. Encourage APEC members to take steps to narrow the science, technology and innovation gap among members through information and data sharing, technology dissemination, capacity building projects, based

upon mutually agreed terms and conditions. Explore possible ways to strengthen ECOTECH in APEC ocean-related cooperation.

Blue Economy

31. Further recognize the potential linkages between Blue Economy, sustainable development and economic growth, in particular, the close linkage to ocean and coastal conservation efforts, innovative development, and economic reform and growth, which is one of the three priorities of APEC 2014.

32. Recognize the key role of APEC as an important platform for regional economic integration and growth, as well as recognize the recent discussion and various initiatives related to Blue Economy and efforts to explore its potential by APEC members, therefore, we call for cooperation on Blue Economy in the Asia-Pacific region.

33. Reaffirm our strong support to take actions to promote connectivity and communication among APEC members to facilitate the flow of goods, services, trade and investment.

34. Encourage APEC members to enhance policy and institutional support for ecosystem-based management, and the utilization of economic incentives and market-based instruments as appropriate, to create efficiencies and maximize sustainable economic yields from the ocean.

35. Take note of the fact that development of Blue Economy requires an enhanced understanding of the ocean and increased technological capability to develop and utilize marine resources through innovation.

36. Value the involvement of the private sector in the development of and cooperation on Blue Economy, in accordance with APEC views and priorities, and encourage APEC members to solicit input from the private sector including small and medium enterprises and their needs and ideas regarding activities linked to Blue Economy through policy dialogue and public private partnerships.

37. Encourage the information, experience and best practices sharing on Blue Economy related cooperation, through the initiative to explore the possibility to enhance and facilitate the approaches of the Blue Economy proposed by APEC members such as the APEC Blue Economy Model Program (Phase I).

38. Encourage APEC members to develop environmentally-friendly ocean-related economic activity, under the OFWG views on the Blue Economy, as an approach to the sustainable management of marine resources, such as marine renewable energy, and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, through innovation.

39. Direct the OFWG to update the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report, and encourage APEC members to update their economy reports in Part II periodically.

40. Acknowledge the outcomes of the APEC Blue Economy Forums hosted by China. Encourage members to make contributions to such forums on a voluntary basis.

41. Encourage the OFWG to update the Mapping Exercise periodically to reflect progress on APEC ocean-related cooperation.

42. Acknowledge the OFWG views on Blue Economy, encourage the OFWG to work with other relevant APEC sub-fora to advance Blue Economy cooperation, and recognize that the initiatives summarized in the previous paragraphs are examples of such cooperation.

43. Keep in mind the guidance of Leaders to pursue cross-sectoral work under the APEC Initiative on Mainstreaming Ocean-Related Issues. Encourage members to mainstream ocean-related issues in their domestic planning and policy making process, as appropriate, in accordance with their circumstances and priorities.

Cooperation and Appreciation

44. Encourage cross-cutting collaboration to promote cooperation on ocean-related issues among relevant APEC sub-fora, including the OFWG, PPFS, EWG, Transportation Working Group (TPTWG), Tourism Working Group (TWG), and Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC), etc., and relevant international organizations.

45. Value the contributions of the APEC Marine Environmental Training and Education Center (AMTEC) in Korea, APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center (AMSDC) in China, support the establishment of the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Information Center (AOFIC) in Indonesia, and encourage them to make more contributions towards capacity building and work closely with each other to promote APEC ocean-related cooperation and avoid duplication of efforts.

46. Express our appreciation to China for its hard work and kind hospitality in hosting the fourth APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting.

47. Finally, we will bring the outcomes of this meeting to the attention of our Leaders at their meeting in November 2014 in Beijing, China.

Annex 5 Excerpts from APEC OFWG Strategic Plan 2013-2015

OFWG Vision

Well-managed ocean ecosystems, fisheries and aquaculture that provide optimal economic value to support and improve the livelihood of communities and food security in APEC member Economies.

OFWG Mission Statement

OFWG's mission is to foster sustainable economic growth, development and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. The OFWG economies will do this by working to facilitate free and open trade in the region and promoting the sustainable use of fisheries, aquaculture, and ocean ecosystem resources and related goods and services. A healthy ocean ecosystem is essential for maximizing the quality and economic value of these resources, promoting food security, food safety and sustainable development. The OFWG will promote cooperation amongst its members, governments, academia, private industry, and regional and international organizations to advance this process. The OFWG pursues its work through research, capacity building, information sharing and dissemination, cooperation with other APEC fora and other organizations, and through continued implementation of the directives in the Seoul Oceans Declaration (2002), the Bali Plan of Action (2005), and the Paracas Declaration (2010) as well as responding to future guidance from APEC leaders and ministers.

Priority Areas and Objectives

Priority area	Objectives	Actions
Free and Open Trade and Investment	Maximize APEC members' access to the economic benefits derived from sustainable use of the oceans	Action: Capacity building and exchange of best practices to combat IUU-Fishing. Action: Capacity building to improve the value chain for small scale fisheries and aquaculture.
Sustainable Development and Protection of the Marine Environment	Promote sustainable conservation, management and use of fisheries, aquaculture and ocean ecosystems in the APEC region to ensure long-term economic benefits	Action: Initiate OFWG dialogue on sustainable management of marine resources and protection of marine ecosystems. Identify appropriate tools to achieve these goals (e.g., ecosystem based management, coastal marine special planning, the use of marine protected areas), and discuss priority areas for future action Action: Implement the advanced training of APEC marine spatial planning for the Pacific Rim Action: Engage in OFWG capacity building activities such as exchanges of information on best practices, development of reports to disseminate information, and workshops
	Improve APEC economies understanding of the oceans and their economic and social value	Action: Formulate the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report

Priority area	Objectives	Actions
Food Security	Enhance APEC economies understanding of the role of fisheries, aquaculture and oceans resources in regional food security	<p>Action: Develop an Action Plan detailing a long term strategy for OFWG work to address food security aligned the APEC food system</p> <p>Action: Initiate communication and information exchange with bodies engaged in the APEC food security dialogue</p> <p>Action: Continue work to increase OFWG members' capacity to combat IUU fishing</p> <p>Action: Advance work on inclusive growth (small scale fisheries and resource-limited aquaculture)</p>
Climate Change	Enhance APEC economies understanding of the impacts of climate change on oceans (not limited to Fisheries and other environmental issues, but also economic, social and local community impact)	<p>Action: Develop a discussion paper to identify key issues relative to the impacts of climate change on APEC region fisheries, aquaculture and oceans resources;</p> <p>Action: Initiate OFWG dialogue on the impacts of climate change on APEC region fisheries, aquaculture and oceans resources. Develop a strategy to address these impacts through capacity building (e.g., on mitigation), and increased participation in appropriate APEC fora.</p>
OFWG Operations	Enhance public and private sector partnerships, including participation and communication in OFWG work	<p>Action: Discuss possible ways to enhance public and private sector participation and communication in OFWG work. Identify future actions;</p> <p>Action: Support the activities of APEC marine sustainable development center</p>
	Enhance the effectiveness of the OFWG and its role in APEC	<p>Action: Begin a dialogue among OFWG members regarding the concept of blue economy</p> <p>Action: Discuss specific ways to increase the effectiveness of the OFWG and enhance its role in APEC. Identify future actions</p>
	Enhance effectiveness of OFWG project work	Action: Discuss ways to improve the effectiveness of OFWG project work and possible alternatives to APEC funding. Discuss other tools/mechanisms for achieving OFWG goals and identify future actions
	Enhance cross-fora collaboration to support the mainstreaming of ocean-related issues in APEC	Action: Discuss ways to increase cross-fora collaboration to support mainstreaming ocean related issues in APEC. The Mapping exercise of APEC Ocean-related Activities, as prepared by APEC Secretariat, could serve as a basis for developing the discussions.

Annex 6 APEC OFWG Projects and Publications since 2010

Projects

Project year	Project Title	Project number	Proposing economy	APEC priority
2014	The Third Blue Economy Forum	OFWG 01 2014S	China	2014 Leaders' Declaration 2014 AMM Statement 2014 Xiamen Declaration OFWG Strategic Plan 2013-15
2014	Assessing the Economic Value of Green Infrastructure in Coastal Ecosystems to Disaster Risk Reduction and Response and Coastal Resilience in the APEC Region	OFWG 03 2014A	United States	Xiamen Declaration 2014 Paracas Action Agenda 2010
2014	Preparedness, Response and Assessment of Oil Spill (PRAOS) in the APEC Region, Phase I	OFWG 01 2014A	Korea	Paracas Action Agenda 2010
2014	Workshop on the Climate Change's Impact on the Oceans and Fisheries Resources	OFWG 02 2014	Japan	Xiamen Declaration 2014 OFWG Strategic Plan 2013-15 APEC Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement 2011 Paracas Action Agenda 2010
2013	Marine Ecosystem Assessment and Management in the Asia-Pacific Region	OFWG 01 2013	United States	Paracas Action Agenda 2010
2013	APEC Blue Economy Model Program Initiative, Phase 1	OFWG 02 2013S	China	2014 Leaders' Declaration 2014 AMM Statement 2014 Xiamen Declaration OFWG Strategic Plan 2013-15
2013	Workshop on Fisheries and their Contribution to Sustainable Development in APEC Economies - Small-Scale and Artisanal Fisheries to Support Food Security	OFWG 01 2013S	Indonesia	2014 Xiamen Declaration 2013 Leaders' Declaration OFWG Strategic Plan 2013-15
2013	The 15th APEC Roundtable Meeting on the Involvement of the Business/Private Sector in the Sustainability of the Marine Environment	OFWG 03 2013S	Chinese Taipei	2014 Xiamen Declaration 2013 Leaders' Declaration OFWG Strategic Plan 2013-15

2012	Advanced Training on Marine Spatial Planning for the Pacific Rim	OFWG 01 2012A	China	OFWG Strategic Plan 2013-15 Paracas Action Agenda 2010
2011	Seminar on Satellite Data Application for Sustainable Fishery Support in APEC	FWG 01 2011S	Russia	OFWG Strategic Plan 2013-15 Paracas Action Agenda 2010
2011	Marine Ecosystem Assessment and Management in the Asia-Pacific Region Phase 3 – Pilot APEC LME Project	OFWG 01 2011	United States	Paracas Action Agenda 2010
2010	Potential Contribution of Small Pelagic Fish to Food Security within the Pacific Region	FWG 01 2010A	Peru	Paracas Action Agenda 2010

Publications

2014

APEC Marine Sustainable Development Report

2013

Report on APEC Advanced Training on Marine Spatial Planning for the Pacific Rim

Workshop IV Report on Large Marine Ecosystems

Potential Contribution of Small Pelagic Fish to Food Security within the Asia-Pacific Region

2012

Marine Ecosystem Assessment and Management in the Asia-Pacific Region Phase III – Pilot APEC Large Marine Ecosystems

Report for Workshop on Satellite Data Application for Sustainable Fishery Support in APEC

2011

Final Report for Workshop on Market-Based Improvement in Live Reef Fish Food Trade

APEC Transboundary Marine Spatial Management Final Report

A Guide to APEC Transboundary Marine Spatial Management

Best Practices Methodology for assessing changing conditions of Large Marine Ecosystems in the APEC region

2010

Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the Context of Broader Marine

Annex 7 APEC OFWG comments

The following comments have been provided by APEC OFWG members during interviews in the margins of the OFWG meeting held from 10-12 May 2015 in Boracay, The Republic of the Philippines and in responses to a questionnaire.

Terms of reference, direction and agenda setting

- The merger of the previous FWG and MRCWG is considered to be a success.
- The existing terms of reference were supported, but it was generally recognised these should be reviewed at this time to take into account the Xiamen Declaration 2014 and help inform the development of the next OFWG strategic plan.
- It would be very appreciated if this report could clarify how between OFWG's TOR and its Strategic Plan are related.
- Economies of all sizes do believe there is adequate opportunity for input and comment on OFWG direction, and the forum provides a good opportunity to address issues faced in common by developing economies.
- Quite inclusive and open WG.
- Main issues are able to be put forward and there is a chance to have the ideas discussed.
- Smaller economies do feel they have sufficient influence.
- Agreement that the process for setting direction and the opportunity to have input on strategic direction and work plans is appropriate, including the distribution of drafts and intercessional agreements.
- It is important to be aware of, and take into account, the work of other international organisations.
- Disparate views were expressed as to whether the OFWG should stick to focusing on regional issues that have a potential to benefit all APEC member economies, or should allow for more sub-regional, bilateral or even national issues to feature in discussions and projects.
- The discussion on the blue economy needs to have some boundaries as it runs the risk of lacking prioritisation and the OFWG group's focus could get spread too thinly so as not to achieve anything.
- Big success last year and now looking forward know on implementing the Xiamen Declaration – the current leadership is doing a good job of keeping up the momentum
- Use of intercessional discussion and approvals works well and allows for other work to be considered and completed.
- APEC serves as a useful incubator of ideas as its non-binding nature means that economies may be more willing to participate in new initiatives.
- We consider that APEC should focus on those matters which are at the heart of its mandate: to facilitate free and open trade and investment opportunities in the region which contribute to sustainable economic growth.
- An increased focus on fisheries subsidies and the effect they are having in the Asia Pacific region is important. The significant amount of subsidies spent on fuel and vessel construction means some fleets in the region are able to remain fishing long after it has ceased to be economic for others.
- A greater focus on studying fisheries value chains across the region and increasing returns along the fisheries value chain would also be helpful. Our seafood industries are increasingly globalized and it would be good to have more information available about this.
- Further ideas for discussion/ study could include regional cooperation to prevent and eliminate IUU (illegal, unreported and unregulated) fish from entering fish trade in the region. Recent cooperation between a number of States in the Asia Pacific and EU to apprehend and detain vessels engaged in IUU fishing in the CCAMLR (Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) toothfish

fishery provides an excellent example of regional cooperation on a serious issue. The OFWG could discuss further opportunities for regional cooperation on IUU fishing.

- An increased emphasis on getting more APEC Members to sign up to existing commitments on fisheries and oceans would be positive. Implementation of provisions in agreements such as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and the FAO Port State Measures Agreement contributes to the health of our fish stocks, one of the most significant economic resources for many of the member economies.
- Further topics that should be discussed include:
 - getting back to the trade and investment agenda of APEC – OFWG should also focus on removing barriers to intra-regional trade in fisheries and marine products, and increasing investment;
 - looking at ways wholesale and retail supply chains can be encouraged and controlled to ensure seafood come from sustainable sources – including source of origin, chain of custody and labelling programs;
 - the connection between national, regional and municipality water management policies and actions and impact on coastal resources;
 - supporting the livelihood of coastal communities;
 - sharing best practice on medium to long term rehabilitation of coastal economies that suffer disasters - different from a short term emergency response focus
 - enhancing the biodiversity of marine environments;
 - fish and marine resource replenishment
 - no accepted projects on IUU – this needs to be addressed
- Each host economy needs to focus on completing work and actions already agreed and prioritised.
- National reports are interesting and a positive contribution to the OFWG.
- The process for planning for high level policy dialogues (HLPD) needs further clarification. Sometimes the host may set the annual priorities or agenda to suit what may be interesting to them politically but without sufficient reference to existing strategic direction already set – the high level policy dialogues then become a distraction and disruptor and can result in direction changes that have not been thought through – consistency need to be maintained until existing priorities are achieved.
- There should be a procedure developed for establishing high level policy dialogues, and a joint approval mechanism between APEC subfora when the HLPD involves more than one APEC group – the agenda should be agreed by consensus.

OFWG projects

- Projects do reflect the Leaders and Ministers statements.
- The process used within APEC and the OFWG to formulate projects is well understood and there is familiarity in the use of concept notes and project reporting - APEC Project Guidelines are clear and are understood even for new members - no specific changes were suggested.
- However, OFWG Members are concerned and perplexed as to why the most recent project proposals were not accepted in the 2015 Session 1, especially as the oceans and fisheries topic is supposedly Rank 1.
- OFWG would like greater transparency from BMC and SCE as to why projects were not approved so adjustments can be made in subsequent proposals (during the meeting the Program Director did highlight that there were a large number of project applications and while the OFWG project proposals were of high quality they did not get selected – it was noted that it is important for the justification for projects to be linked to as many contemporary APEC themes as possible, and take into account the priorities set annually by the host economy).
- While the project process was well understood it was criticised for taking too long and if support of the private sector is desirable the process needs to much shorter.

- It was noted that some recurrent projects (e.g. the Round Table with industry, NGOs and other stakeholders) that have been self-funded for many years may now be in jeopardy due to changing priorities in government spending.
- Need more projects that involve hands on training of officials from the different member economies - a good example has been the oil spill training (OFWG 01 2014A).
- The evaluation form has been changed and is now much improved allowing members to be more specific in terms of their proposals and consideration.
- Reporting on projects generally considered appropriate, but could be improved through using a standardised project reporting template.
- Several comments that indicated the balance of projects should lean more towards capacity building of developing member economies and involve hands on exercises with people from as many economies as possible – for example the oil spill response exercise project was held up as a good example (OFWG 01 2014A).
- A project should be strategically proposed and approved not only in terms of capacity building but also policy planning / policy direction in order to implement the appropriate project according to the latest circumstances. In this regard, we would really appreciate it if this independent review could provide us such a point of view so that the chances of approval of OFWG projects could be increased.
- Projects should not be promoted if there is only a few APEC member economies that will directly benefit – such projects should not be being used to build the infrastructure of individual economies.
- More could be done by project proponents to gain cosponsors and to distribute draft concept notes well in advance of the meetings – we should not be spending time word-smithing concept notes during meetings.
- Far too much focus on procedure and process.
- Projects should be coordinated within and across host years.
- More projects should focus on the trade and investment angle, and be linked with work undertaken by CTI and its subfora – APEC is not a fisheries management body.
- Multi-year activities - consider work under agreed priorities and relate projects one to another – limit one-off projects.
- It is important to remember that APEC branded projects must not be used to promote the interests of individual member economies, especially when promoting the projects outside of the APEC region.
- It is a shame that the oceans and fisheries topic does not have a dedicated funding pool from which to draw – perhaps one could be created given the fact this topic is now ranked #1 and it is understood it is likely to remain so for the next few years.
- Need to ensure coordination with other APEC subfora, for example IUU fishing being dealt with ACTWG.

Collaboration and Duplication

- Collaboration within APEC subfora on oceans and fisheries issues has proven difficult in the past and the OFWG have been in somewhat of a silo by themselves. However a number of recent developments have taken place to alleviate this difficulty:
 - mainstreaming oceans issues initiative;
 - formal liaison roles have been identified and taken up by members of the OFWG with other subfora – this has increased the flow of information and knowledge of what is going on;
 - the APEC Secretariat is now taking a more active role in the dissemination of information and it is good to have the current Program Director, Alex Rogers, be given a mandate to oversee cross APEC themes, such as sustainability;
 - in some cases leadership on two of more groups has been undertaken by the same individual – an example is the current OFWG Lead Shepherd is also the Lead Shepherd for the PPFS – this is an excellent way to ensure coordination and collaboration;
 - the use of High Level Policy Dialogues.
- It would be good to have some periodic direct input from the SCE, especially in terms of sharing the SCE view on what are the main priorities and which subjects the group should focus on.

- The OFWG does provide an important forum to give member economies the opportunity to share information and gain the views of others. This helps discussions take place in other more formal treaty organisations such as the IMO, FAO, UN, regional fisheries commissions and agreements, and other fora such as ASEAN.
- Closer cooperation with the UN FAO Committee on Fisheries, as the paramount standard setting body in fisheries matters, would be useful. Issues such as IUU fishing require a joined up approach between international organisations to ensure that objectives and work plans are compatible.
- The collaboration has been good with NGOs, with previous inputs from WWF, UN CITES.
- A number of projects the OFWG undertakes relate to capacity development. While this is certainly important to the Asia Pacific region, care should be taken to ensure that efforts of other organisations (e.g. FAO, World Bank) are not duplicated.
- The merging of the former FWG and MRCWG has had positive implications back in capitals as it has meant communication has had to take place at the national level between environmental, agriculture and fisheries ministries and departments.
- While there is a reliance on the Program Director to disseminate information, more ready access to the work of other groups especially at this concept note stage should be provided. This would help making sure the right experts were involved – examples of work by the EPWG and PPSTI were given.
- Examples of cross collaboration amongst APEC groups include the Virtual Working Group in Marine Debris between OFWG and Chemical Dialogue.
- High level dialogue formulation needs more guidance, especially in terms of the terms used elsewhere in APEC such as concept note, action plan which have other and more formal meanings.
- More work and transparency to link with other APEC groups.
- More should be done to encourage opportunities to encourage cross-fora communication, especially with the Tourism and Transport Working Groups and the Mining Task Force in relation to seabed mining.
- HLPD is duplicating topics already covered by RFMO/As.

Delegations, participation and meetings

- There is a lack of stability and high turnover in most delegations, and many delegations are very new and or have only just joined the work.
- It is often difficult to ensure delegations can focus on the full scope of the terms of reference and there is difficulties in liaison between ministries within the member economy – this leads to many economies not actively joining in discussions and simply going with the flow.
- Where are some of the key economies that have significant oceans and fisheries interests and activities? - they no longer come to OFWG meetings.
- The current balance during the meetings between sharing information through member updates, discussions around specific policy issues, and discussing and reporting on projects is supported.
- There is a core of economies that do have stable delegations and they have been primarily responsible for the ongoing efforts and relevance of the OFWG.
- Having two meetings a year is much better than just one. It allows a work agenda to be set and then an opportunity to see progress before resetting for the following year.
- The delegations that are taking the lead on work items are doing a good job of trying to be inclusive and reach consensus. Their patience and collegial nature is really appreciated.

Gender

- Approximately half of the delegation attending the meeting included women in the delegations.

- Reference should be made to the APEC Guide on Gender Criteria (Annex I of the Guidebook on APEC Projects) - the five pillars referred to in that document may help OFWG members better understand how their work can be relevant to the APEC's Women and the Economy agenda.
- OFWG should consider the work being done by other international as well as national organisations on women's empowerment through fisheries e.g.:
 - <http://genderaquafish.org/tag/world-bank/>
 - <http://www.fao.org/gender/gender-home/gender-programme/gender-fisheries/en/>
 - http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/studies/role_of_women/summary_en.pdf
 - <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X12002175>
 - <http://wif.icsf.net/>
- The OFWG could explore how it's agenda could be enhanced through women's economic empowerment, in line with APEC's Women and the Economy Agenda, by considering inviting a suitable fisheries expert with gender expertise, for instance from the World Bank or FAO or another relevant organization, to participate as a guest in an OFWG meeting or project related workshops as appropriate.

APEC OFWG support

- The Lead Shepherd and Program Director are providing very good leadership at present and should be congratulated.
- The adoption on the Friends of the Chair approach and dropping the need to have a formal Deputy Lead Shepherd is generally supported by the delegations
- In order to provide some continuity in leadership, a suggestion that enables the host to be Lead Shepherd for their host year, and two vice-chairs, being the preceding chair and proceeding chair is generally supported.
- The Program Director and APEC Secretariat (Joyce) is performing very well and professionally. Alex is always responsive and keeps everyone on their toes with gentle reminders etc. – he is also approachable and can give clear information.
- The current Chair runs the meetings very efficiency and sticks to the agenda – he does not get into expressing views, but instead prompts delegations to express their views if he has a concern or feels there is an important point that warrants further discussion.
- It would be better to get the meeting papers earlier to allow for more internal discussions before the meeting – especially for cross-cutting issues that may be dealt with across various ministries and departments.
- Lead Shepard doing a great job especially in relation to accommodate views and consensus positions.
- A two year term for the lead shepherd is the right amount.
- There should be a better performance check system and measurement against stated KPIs.

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