

Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) Proposed Work Plan for 2021

Introduction

In 2021, the Ocean and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) will conduct activities and initiatives that aim to respond to APEC Leaders' Declarations, Ministerial and High-Level statements, decisions of Senior Officials, as well as (SCE) priorities and, where appropriate, ABAC recommendations. The OFWG will continue to implement the Seoul Oceans Declaration (2002), the Bali Plan of Action (2005), the Paracas Declaration (2010), the Xiamen Declaration (2014), High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy's Action Plan (2015), the Piura Declaration on Food Security (2016), the High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture in Response to Climate Change (2017), the 2019 Roadmaps on Marine Debris and on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU), and the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 particularly on the work related to the driver "Strong, Balanced, Secure, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth".

The initiatives to be developed in this Work Plan follow those developed in 2020 and are considered essential to define the framework of the OFWG Strategic Plan (2021-2022) (*on preparation*).

Expected Outcomes/Deliverables for 2021

The OFWG will hold two meetings in 2021. Through these meetings, its intersessional work, and its projects, the OFWG will:

- 1.1. Respond to New Zealand's host year Priorities, especially 'Increasing Inclusion and Sustainability for Recovery'; as well as New Zealand led projects on port state measures, and seabird bycatch mitigation.
- 1.2. Take continued action to improve capacity to address the negative economic impacts of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing on APEC Economies, sustainable fisheries and food security through the progress made in the implementation plan for the Roadmap on Combatting IUU fishing.
- 1.3. Take action to implement initiatives related to COVID-19 recovery related to the sustainable management of marine ecosystems.
- 1.4. Make aquaculture and fisheries sectors more resilient to climate change and addressing the negative impact of IUU fishing.
- 1.5. Develop tools to assess and address the physical and economic impacts of marine litter, marine debris, and derelict/ghost fishing gear on APEC Economies, fisheries, and the marine environment through the progress made in the implementation plan for the Roadmap on Marine Debris.
- 1.6. Promote continued activities within APEC which are in accordance with the common view of Blue Economy as agreed at OFWG 3 2014.
- 1.7. Enhance sectoral public and private partnerships, including the participation and communication in OFWG work.
- 1.8. Develop/enhance cross-fora collaboration to support (among other things): the mainstreaming of ocean-related issues in APEC; recognition of the important roles played by women in fisheries and aquaculture; and recognition of the common challenges faced by the agriculture sector, particularly relative to food security.
- 1.9. Promote enhanced capacity building through further OFWG projects, including self-funded projects.

- 1.10. Take actions to enhance cooperation with the Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS), including through active participation in relevant projects of the PPFS, and contribute to the development of priorities for the 2021 Food Security Minister's Meeting.
- 1.11. Take actions to enhance cooperation with the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (SCCP) to prevent illegal seafood trading among APEC economies, especially for those who joined Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).
- 1.12. Take actions to enhance women's inclusive growth as outlined in the APEC La Serena Roadmap on Women and Inclusive Growth, especially with regard to strengthening women's participation in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
- 1.13. Increase coordination between the OFWG and its three APEC Centers (APEC Marine Environmental Training and Education Center (AMTEC), APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center (AMSDC), and APEC Ocean and Fisheries Information Center (AOFIC)), and explore potential collaboration with other APEC Centers.

Expected Outcomes	Deadline
Continue to develop both self-funded capacity building proposals, and proposals for APEC-funded projects.	Ongoing
Enhance coordination among OFWG members to develop effective OFWG project submissions that are consistent with APEC guidelines and action areas from IP on IUU and Marine Debris	Ongoing
Prioritize efforts to facilitate collaboration across APEC sub-fora on oceans, Food Security, women and inclusive growth, and related issues	Ongoing
Identify opportunities for private sector involvement in OFWG activities	Ongoing
Identify near-term actions addressing the role of fisheries and aquaculture in various APEC Food Security processes	Ongoing
Collaborate with relevant regional and international fisheries bodies, as appropriate, to exchange experiences and best practices, as well as to benefit from their work on combatting IUU fishing, particularly relevant RFMOs and the FAO. This includes the identification of any economic or market-related measure where APEC could contribute	Ongoing
Identify policy drivers of marine debris, and promote the development and implementation of innovative solutions.	
Draft 2020-2021 OFWG Strategic Plan	April
Prepare Fora Report for SCE	August

Itemized Work Plan for 2021

Title	Summary of Specific Plans	Mandate (Leaders/Ministers/SOM/SC CE Priorities and Decisions, Strategic Plans and to ABAC recommendations)	ECOTECH Priorities and/or Host Year Priorities	Cross-fora collaboration (within APEC and beyond APEC)
APEC Centers Affiliated with the OFWG	Support ongoing work and strengthen communication and cooperation among the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center (AMSDC), the APEC Marine Environmental Training and Education Center (AMETEC) and the APEC Ocean and Fisheries Information Center (AOFIC) and the OFWG. Support the APEC Blue Economy Forum and other cooperation platforms run by the centers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Xiamen Declaration 2014 -- High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy's Action Plan 2015 -- Piura Declaration on Food Security 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable growth - Capacity building - Food security 	<p>PPFS</p> <p>PPSTI</p>

<p>Develop actions included in the Implementation Plan of the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris</p>	<p>The implementation plan will outline a course of action for the final 2019 APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris. This implementation plan should be seen as a living document to ensure progress toward achieving the 2019 Roadmap. The Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation has overall responsibility for monitoring and evaluating progress under the Roadmap by the relevant fora and subfora. Senior Officials will report periodically to Ministers on progress, and seek further guidance as appropriate, in line with how the marine debris issue evolves. The 2019-2030-time horizon is commensurate with the scale of the problem. Biennial reviews in 2022, 2024, 2026 and 2028 as well as a comprehensive mid-term assessment in 2025 will be required in order to re-evaluate how best to apply and focus the Roadmap.</p>	<p>--2019 APEC Marine Debris Roadmap --Kazan Declaration on Food Security 2011 -- Xiamen Declaration 2014 --Piura Declaration on Food Security 2016 -- Food Security and Climate Change Multi- Year Action Plan 2018- 2020</p>	<p>Sustainable growth Capacity building Food security</p>	<p>CD TWG EPWG</p>
<p>Develop actions considered in the Implementation Plan for the APEC Roadmap on Combatting IUU Fishing</p>	<p>Following up on the high level policy dialogue and other activities sponsored by PNG (and others) in 2018, the OFWG developed a Road Map with concrete actions to build/enhance capacity to address IUU fishing in the APEC region. This implementation plan will outline a course of action to achieve goals laid out in the IUU fishing roadmap in order to ensure progress toward achieving those goals.</p>	<p>--2019 APEC Roadmap on Combatting IUU Fishing --Piura Declaration on Food Security 2016 --Kazan Declaration on Food Security 2011 --Food Security and Climate Change Multi- Year Action Plan 2018- 2020 AOMMs 1,2,3 (BPOA) & 4</p>	<p>Sustainable growth (Host priority) Capacity building Food security</p>	<p>PPFS FAO APRU TNC</p>
<p>OFWG 02 2019A – Good Practice and Innovative Workshop for Marine Debris Prevention and Management in the APEC Region (Japan) *under consideration(TBC)</p>	<p>This workshop aims to contribute to APEC priorities and targets with two aspects; 1) Sharing the latest good practices of the marine science technologies such as biodegradable plastics or Deep-sea Debris Database, and related policies for marine litter prevention and reduction. 2) Encouraging networking, information sharing and coordination of the efforts related to marine science technologies to tackle marine debris.</p>	<p>Approved project --2019 APEC Marine Debris Roadmap --Food Security and Climate Change Multi- Year Action Plan 2018- 2020</p>	<p>Sustainable growth Capacity building Food security</p>	<p>PPFS CD VWG PPS TI</p>

<p>OFWG 03 2019A – Incentives, Barriers and Policies to Promote Women Inclusion in the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Maritime Sector (Chile)</p>	<p>This Project seeks to address sustainable growth and equitable development within fisheries, aquaculture and maritime sector, APEC members, especially low and lower- middle-income economies, will be able to replicate best practices to overcome the gender gaps and barriers in that field, allowing them to promote and improve the economic and social welfare of their people, while reducing economic disparities between APEC Economies.</p>	<p>Approved project --2019 APEC La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth --Food Security and Climate Change Multi-Year Action Plan 2018-2020 -- Xiamen Declaration 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable growth - Capacity building - Food security - Women and Economy 	<p>PPSTI PPFS CD VWG</p>
<p>OFWG 01 2020A Workshop on Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing: Sharing Knowledge, Experience and Lessons Learned (Malaysia)</p>	<p>This project aims to increase awareness, knowledge, experience and lessons learned on the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data management, analysis and utilization to support the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) programs. It also aims at discussing challenges and problem solving in the implementation of VMS. The outcome will be used to improve data management and MCS staff efficiency at national and regional level.</p>	<p>Approved project - APEC Roadmap on combatting IUU Fishing - OFWG Strategic Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable growth - Capacity building - Food security 	<p>PPFS PPSTI</p>
<p>OFWG 02 2020A Phase 2: Guide on Valuing Fishery by-products: Promotion of Sustainable Artisan Activities and Women Empowerment (Chile and Indonesia)</p>	<p>The project proposes to increase the reuse of by-products in the coastal communities, creating business to improve their income and quality of life. It will benefit especially women which represent near to 50% of this sector and historically collect, fillet and sell the products.</p>	<p>Approved project --2019 APEC La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth --Food Security and Climate Change Multi-Year Action Plan 2018-2020 -- OFWG Strategic Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable growth - Capacity building - Food security - Women and Economy 	<p>PPFS CD VWG PPWE</p>
<p>OFWG 03 2020A Capacity-Building Workshop on Implementation of Port State Measures under the APEC Roadmap on Combatting IUU Fishing (New Zealand)</p>	<p>This project will design an online repository which will house interviews and informational videos relating to key issues of interest identified by Economies. A virtual workshop will also be held in June 2021 to bring together representatives from Member economies, industry, and international organizations to identify issues with implementing PSM, as well as highlight opportunities for future research, capacity building, and best practice.</p>	<p>Approved project - APEC Roadmap on Combatting IUU Fishing endorsed in 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable growth - Capacity building - Food security 	<p>PPFS VWG PPSTI</p>

OFWG 04 2020A APEC Seminar on Promoting Circular Economy and Sustainable Materials Management to Effectively Address Marine Plastic Litter in the Asia-Pacific Region	<p>The project is designed to gather all APEC economies, multi-stakeholders and representatives from related institutions and businesses to(i) assess the capacity of economies in promoting circular economy to address marine plastic effectively; (ii) share best practices and innovations of new sustainable materials; packaging and products that use a single or small number of polymers; (iii) identify policy measures to incentivize circular economy practices in design and support innovations and start-ups, particularly those related to new, biodegradable and compostable plastics; (iv) develop a Compendium of Recommendations encouraging cooperation in potential areas to tackle marine plastic litters, particularly in design phase</p>	<p>Approved project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APEC Viet Nam 2017 Joint Ministerial Statement - APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris endorsed in 2019 - OFWG 2016-2018 Strategic Plan - OFWG 2019-2021 Strategic Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable growth - Capacity building - Harnessing technologies, innovations 	<p>PPFS</p> <p>VWG</p> <p>CD</p>
OFWG 05 2020A Development of a Marine Debris Monitoring Decision Framework for APEC Economies	<p>This project will engage APEC participants and key global experts to develop a marine debris monitoring decision framework to assist APEC economies to practically undertake marine debris monitoring, based on local conditions, capacity, needs and issues. The project will be fundamental for implementing the APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris with significant cross-APEC benefit to working groups addressing this issue and will ultimately enable better comparison of marine debris data across APEC.</p>	<p>Approved project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris endorsed in 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable growth - Capacity building - Harnessing technologies, innovations 	<p>PPSTI</p> <p>VWG</p> <p>CD</p> <p>PPFS</p>
OFWG 06 2020A Developing an APEC Best Practices Framework to Address Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear	<p>This project will engage global experts from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to implement its Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear (VGMFG) in the APEC region. This project will identify key challenges and capacity development needs within the APEC region associated with addressing ALDFG and build APEC capacity to implement instruments, measures and tools to prevent and reduce ALDFG and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing throughout the region.</p>	<p>Approved project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food Security and Climate Change Multi-Year Action Plan 2018-2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable growth - Capacity building - Food security 	<p>FAO</p> <p>PPFS</p> <p>GFG</p>
OFWG 07 2020A Nanoplastics in Marine Debris in the APEC Region – Regional Workshop	<p>The workshop will facilitate the sharing of best practices and scientific and technological methods for identification, characterization, risk assessment, and remediation of micro- and nanoplastics in APEC economies, including reducing/recycling/upcycling of plastics to minimize plastic waste and its impacts on marine and terrestrial environments.</p>	<p>Approved project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris endorsed in 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable growth - Capacity building - Harnessing technologies, innovations 	<p>PPFS</p> <p>CD</p> <p>VWG</p>
OFWG 08 2020A Enhancing Collection and Segregation of Waste to Reduce Marine Litter in the APEC Economies	<p>This project takes a regional approach towards demonstrating improvements in solid waste management, specifically collection and separation. The project will consist of a regional workshop that presents a framework for developing effective on-the-ground waste collection in small to medium sized cities in Southeast Asia.</p>	<p>Approved project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris endorsed in 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable growth - Capacity building - Harnessing technologies 	<p>PPFS</p> <p>PPSTI</p> <p>CD</p> <p>VWG</p>

<p>OFWG 09 2020A</p> <p>Capacity Building on Marine Debris Monitoring by Using Innovative Technologies in APEC Region (Chinese Taipei)</p>	<p>This project aims to share the information on adopting innovative technologies for more efficient monitoring methods, such as using Artificial Intelligence to identify marine debris and building Marine Debris Dynamic Map.</p>	<p>Approved project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris endorsed in 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable growth - Capacity building - Harnessing technologies, - Food security 	<p>PPFS</p> <p>PPSTI</p> <p>CD</p> <p>VWG</p>
<p>OFWG 10 2020A:</p> <p>APEC Sustainable Coastal Cities Symposium (Malaysia)</p>	<p>The geographic coverage of APEC includes many coastal cities that contribute much to the trade, transport, and trans-boundary cooperation between member economies. The APEC Sustainable Coastal Cities Symposium would bring together stakeholders from all 21 APEC member economies to discuss on technologies and policies that are necessary for the persistence and sustainability of coastal cities into the next century.</p>	<p>Approved project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APEC Roadmap on Marine Debris endorsed in 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable growth - Capacity building - Harnessing technologies 	<p>PPFS</p> <p>PPSTI</p> <p>CD</p> <p>VWG</p>
<p>Self –funded project Seabird Conservation and Bycatch Mitigation – Regional Workshop (New Zealand)</p>	<p>This is a NZ funded project to promote seabird conservation in fisheries. In 2021 New Zealand will host a series of webinars that will provide expertise on seabird bycatch mitigation measures, data collection and insights into the economic considerations of implementing bycatch mitigation measures.</p> <p>This initiative will encourage further international cooperation amongst APEC Economies to reduce the threat of bycatch to seabird populations. Options for future activities will be considered at the second 2021 meeting of OFWG.</p>	<p>New Zealand – funded project</p> <p>NZ host year priority</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable growth - Capacity building 	

