



# REALIZING INTEGRATED REGIONAL OCEANS GOVERNANCE

Summary of case studies on regional  
cross-sectoral institutional cooperation  
and policy coherence

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UN ENVIRONMENT REGIONAL SEAS REPORTS AND STUDIES NO. 199

<b>Citation</b>	UN Environment (2017): Realizing Integrated Regional Oceans Governance – Summary of case studies on regional cross-sectoral institutional cooperation and policy coherence
<b>Authors</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>Series</b>	Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 199
<b>ISBN number</b>	978-92-807-3659-5
<b>Job number</b>	DEP/2114/NA
<b>Design</b>	Strategic Agenda
<b>Cover image</b>	©Seaphotoart / Shutterstock
<b>Information</b>	UN Environment Regional Seas Programme P. O. Box 30552, Nairobi 00100 Kenya Tel. +254-20-7624033 <a href="http://www.unep.org/regionalseas">www.unep.org/regionalseas</a>



This document has been funded by the European Commission-UN Environment Programme Cooperation Agreement, signed under the European Commission Strategic Programme for Global Public Goods and Challenges.

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# LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABMT	Area-based Management Tool
ABNJ	Area beyond National Jurisdiction
AIMS	Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AU	African Union
BS	Black Sea
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CPPS	Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur – Permanent Commission of the South Pacific
EBM	Ecosystem-Based Management
EBSA	Ecologically and Biologically Sensitive Marine Area
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FRA	Fisheries Restricted Area
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (of FAO)
H2O	Hilltop-to-Ocean
HELCOM	Helsinki Commission
HNS	Hazardous and Noxious Substance
ICARM	Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IRBM	Integrated River Basin Management
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
JTWG	Danube–Black Sea Joint Technical Working Group
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MERRAC	Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Centre (of NOWPAP)

MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive (of the European Union)
MSSD	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEAFC	North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
NOWPAP	North-West Pacific Action Plan
RECOFI	Regional Commission for Fisheries
ROPME	Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment
R2R	Ridge-to-Reef
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPAMI	Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance
S2S	Source-to-Sea
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas
UN	Environment United Nations Environment Programme
WFD	Water Framework Directive (of the European Union)

# 1 INTRODUCTION

The Regional Seas Programme was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) in 1974. From its initial mandate to reduce pollution, the Regional Seas Programme has evolved over the last four decades to cover regular monitoring and assessment, land-based and sea-based sources of pollution, Specially Protected Areas and biodiversity, oil spill contingency/recovery plans, coastal habitat management, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, marine litter, and legal and institutional frameworks. Currently, the UN Environment Regional Seas Programme coordinates 18 regions, with more than 146 participating countries; of these, 14 Regional Seas

Baltic Sea and North-East Atlantic Regions are also members of the Regional Seas Programme and participate in a global exchange of lessons and information.

The Regional Seas programmes also work with other regional organizations on ocean-related issues. Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) – groups of states or organizations that are parties to an international fishery arrangement – work together towards the conservation and management of fish stocks. RFBs can play a critical role in promoting long-term sustainable fisheries, where international cooperation is required for conservation and management. Many regional or subregional

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