

Annex VI

Requirements and Work to be implemented for the Working Group 4 : Remote Sensing of the Marine Environment

1. Establishment and organization of the Working Group

The Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific (NOWPAP) and three supporting Resolutions were adopted at the First Intergovernmental Meeting (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 14 September 1994). The Resolution 1 approved the five areas of prioritized projects, one of which was "NOWPAP/3 Establishment of a collaborative, regional monitoring programme".

The discussions continued on the details of NOWPAP/3 in the following international experts meetings.

In the Expert Workshop on Establishment of a Collaborative, Regional Monitoring Programme (NOWPAP/3), NOWPAP Members submitted their respective reports on National Monitoring activities. National and Regional Monitoring programmes were reviewed at the Workshop. This Workshop evaluated the proposal on NOWPAP/3 Phase 2, which contained "use of remote sensing data (ocean color)" as one of new monitoring techniques/approaches.

The First Meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee for the Establishment of a Collaborative Regional Monitoring Programme (NOWPAP/3), Beijing, China, 21-22 May 2001, agreed on the update of NOWPAP/3 Phase 2 and prioritized the remote sensing of marine environment (hereinafter referred to as remote sensing) and decided to promote it in the framework of Working Group.

Following the discussions and conclusion of the First CEARAC Focal Points Meeting, Toyama, 25-28 February 2003, technical experts from NOWPAP Member will be invited to the First WG Meeting to be held in the summer of 2003, in order to discuss the Plan of Work for the utilization of remote sensing for NOWPAP region.

2 Nomination of experts for WG4

Each NOWPAP Member will nominate two technical experts on the remote sensing of marine environment. The nomination will be reported to the NOWPAP RCU, tentatively performed by UNEP/DEC in Nairobi, not later than the end of April 2003. It is recommendable that one expert should be familiar with remote sensing and its data processing/analysis (i.e. remote sensor or statistician), and the other with in-situ ocean measurement who is (has been and/or could be) the satellite data user.

When necessary, appropriate experts working for the international organizations could be invited.

3 The Organization of first meeting of WG4

CEARAC also takes care of WG3 HAB, and the remote sensing technology might be relevant to HAB monitoring. However at this initial stage, each WG had better concentrate on the definition of priority fields and agreement on the detailed Plan of Work for immediate activities. Therefore the two Working Groups will be held separately for their first meetings. The joint or

separate organization of their second WG meetings will be investigated and decided after the first meetings.

4. The Provisional Agenda at the WG4 First Meeting

(1) Review of overall status of regional marine environment and understanding of priority subjects of WG4

Individual experts are supposed to submit their own understanding of environmental status in the NOWPAP region and research/monitoring activities by national/ international organizations in the field of remote sensing of marine environment. The establishment of the common understanding of monitoring target and the characteristics of technology is the starting point of overall WG activities.

The review shall be made on the availability of past remote sensing data for the region and other useful past data on marine environment and/or fishery shall also be sought.

The discussion will follow on the identification and definition of feasible and meaningful projects to be implemented by the WG for the time being (if possible with medium / long term strategy) within the framework of NOWPAP.

(2) Prioritization of Projects

Following the discussions in the previous session (1), projects which are suitable and meaningful for the coordination and objectives of NOWPAP Members will be identified. In principle, this could be a forecast of marine environment, mixed with statistical analysis projects of historical satellite remote sensing data and case study projects with in-situ measurement.

The projects should coordinate with activities implemented by the national and international institutes, paying as much efforts as possible for the harmonization and information sharing among relevant institutes in the region.

(3) Plan of Work for 2004-2005

Following the results of discussion made in the above (2), actions for the prioritized projects to be taken before the organization of the Second WG meeting should be clarified. Planning of regional remote sensing projects to be implemented immediately and harmoniously by NOWPAP Members shall desirably be included.

The draft Plan of Work of WG4 for 2004-2005 will be established, which should be submitted to the Second CEARAC FPM, and subsequently to the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP for its authorization.

(4) Finalization of WG4 TOR

Based on the general discussions at the First CEARAC FPM, TOR to define the objectives and responsibility of the WG 4 should be discussed and hopefully finalized. The finalized draft of TOR should be submitted to the Second CEARAC FPM, and subsequently to the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting of NOWPAP for its authorization.