



# First International Workshop on Assessment of Seagrass Distribution in the NOWPAP Region

**Date :** August 3, 2017, 13:00 - 17:00  
**Venue :** Himi Seaside Botanical Garden

**Organizer :** Northwest Pacific Region  
**Supporters :** Toyama Prefecture, Himi City  
NOWPAP RCU



## Purpose of workshop :

Seagrass and seaweed beds provide various ecosystem services such as habitats, spawning and nursery grounds and places of feed production for aquatic biota. They also purify seawater by absorbing nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) and, absorb and fix CO<sub>2</sub> by photosynthesis. Unites Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) call such stored carbon in the seas 'Blue Carbon', and it is recognized to mitigate the climate change. In the coastal areas, however, loss of seagrass and seaweed beds have globally reported by anthropogenic activities such as landfill, and it is urgently required to identify their status and threats.

Northwest Pacific Region Environmental Cooperation Center (NEPC), host organization of Special Monitoring and Coastal Environmental Assessment Regional Activity Centre of Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP CEARAC), has been carrying out a project to understand the distribution of seagrass and threats to seagrass with researchers of the NOWPAP member states (China, Japan, Korea and Russia). National experts involved in this project will get together and discuss applicability and limit of detecting seagrass distribution by analysis of satellite data and develop a future workplan towards assessment of a large scale seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region. in understand seagrass and seaweed beds transboundary coastal areas in the NOWPAP region

We expect participation of those who interested in blue carbon and analysis of satellite images and its application to the marine environment researches.

# Program

| Time   | Title of presentation   |
|--|---|
| <b>Keynote speech</b>  |   |
| 13:00 - 13:30  | UNEP/GRID-Arendal / Dr.Maria Potouroglou<br><i>Carbon Storage potential of Blue Forests: prospects for developing blue carbon initiatives in the NOWPAP region'</i>   |
| 13:30 - 14:00  | Department of Commerce, Yokohama College of Commerce / Dr. Teruhisa Komatsu<br><i>Estimating candidate EBSA for seagrasses and projecting future distribution of seagrasses in Japan</i>                    |
| 14:00 - 14:10  | <b>- Break -</b>  |
| <b>Country reports: Status of seagrass distribution and threats to seagrass in the NOWPAP region</b> |   |
| 14:10 - 14:30  | State Key Laboratory of Tropical Ocean Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences / Dr. Yang Dingtian   |
| 14:30 - 14:50  | Department of Commerce, Yokohama College of Commerce / Dr. Teruhisa Komatsu   |
| 14:50 - 15:10  | Department of Oceanography, Chonnam National University / Dr. Keunyong Kim  |
| 15:10 - 15:30  | Laboratory of Nature Management of Coastal Regions, Pacific Geographical Institutes of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian / Dr. Vasilii Zharikov   |
| 15:30 - 15:40  | <b>- Break -</b>  |
| <b>Case studies towards assessment of seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region</b>                 |   |
| 15:40 - 16:05  | Application Development Group, Research and Development Department, Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan / Dr. Tatsuyuki Sagawa<br><i>Large scale seagrass mapping using satellite images in Japan</i> |
| 16:05 - 16:30  | Organization for Marine Science and Technology, Nagasaki University / Dr. Gregory N. Nishihara<br><i>Monitoring seagrass productivity using low-cost datalogging technology</i>                             |
| <b>Overall discussion towards assessment of seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region</b>           |   |
| 16:30 - 17:00  | Provisional table of contents of the feasibility study towards assessment of seagrass distribution in the NOWPAP region<br>NOWPAP CEARAC / Dr. Genki Terauchi   |