

Regional Seas programmes and their cooperation with regional fisheries bodies

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UN Environment Regional Seas Programme

- Established in 1974 as a UN Environment's flagship programme
- Provide a framework to protect the marine environment through the cooperation of neighboring countries at the **regional sea** level
- Contributes to the implementation of **UN Convention on Law of the Sea**
- *"States shall cooperate, as appropriate on a regional basis, directly or through competent international organisations [...]"* (UNCLOS (Article 197))



18 Regional Seas With 7 administered by UN Environment



UN Environment Regional Seas Programme

- Governed by the **participating countries** through Conference of Parties or inter-governmental meetings
- Function through their **Action Plans**
 - Action Plans are often underpinned by **Conventions**
 - **Protocols** developed under Convention
- **Action-oriented programme**
 - Implementation on the ground to address marine environmental degradation
- Funds come from the participating countries (Trust Fund) plus donor funding for specific action-oriented projects

UN Environment Regional Seas Programme

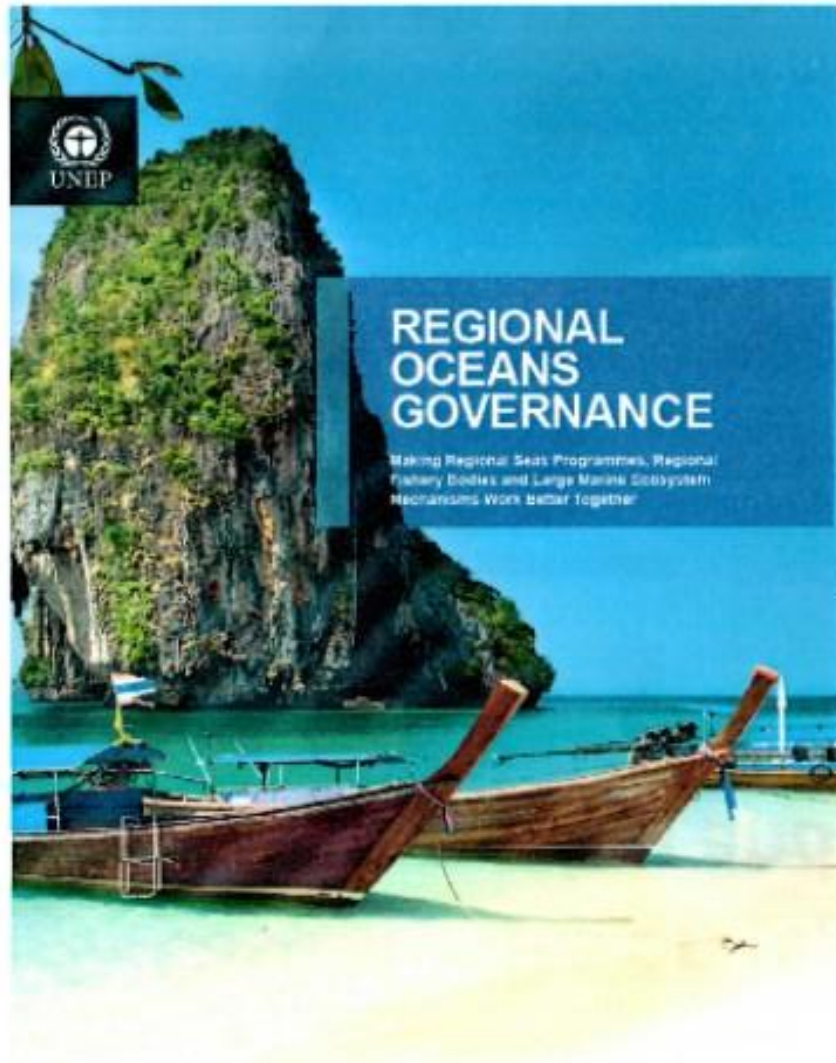
Mandates generally cover:

- Monitoring and assessment of coastal and marine environment and ecosystems;
- Land-based sources of pollution;
- Ship-based emergency pollution;
- Marine and coastal biodiversity and marine protected areas;
- Environment Impact Assessment and Strategic Environment Assessment
- Integrated coastal zone management; and
- National and regional marine environmental legislations.

Regional Ocean Governance

Sector	National level	Regional Level	International level
Navigation	Min of Transport	Regional instruments under IMO	IMO
Fishery	Dept of Fishery	Regional Fishery Bodies	FAO/COFI
Energy	Dept of Energy	Economic commission	IEA, IRENA
Ocean survey	Min of Science	Regional oceanographic commissions	IOC/UNESCO
Environment/ecosystems	Min of Environment	Regional Seas	UN Environment
Industry	Min of industry	Economic commissions	UNIDO
Labour	Min of Labour	Economic commissions	ILO
Underwater cable	Min of Communication	Economic commissions	ITU

Regional Ocean Governance



Cooperation of three regional ocean mechanisms reviewed:

- Regional Seas programmes;
- Regional Fisheries Bodies; and
- Large Marine Ecosystem mechanisms;

United Nations Environment Assembly Invited “Member States and **regional seas conventions and action plans**, in cooperation, as appropriate, with other relevant organizations and fora, such as **regional fisheries management organizations**, to work towards the implementation of, and reporting on, the different ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets” (June 2016)

Case studies on regional cross sectoral cooperation and policy coherence



Ocean Policies and Institutional Arrangements for Cross-sectoral Cooperation

Case studies for achieving Sustainable Development Goals



UNEP Regional Seas Report and Studies No. 204



REALIZING INTEGRATED REGIONAL OCEANS GOVERNANCE

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

UN ENVIRONMENT REGIONAL SEAS REPORTS AND STUDIES No. 199



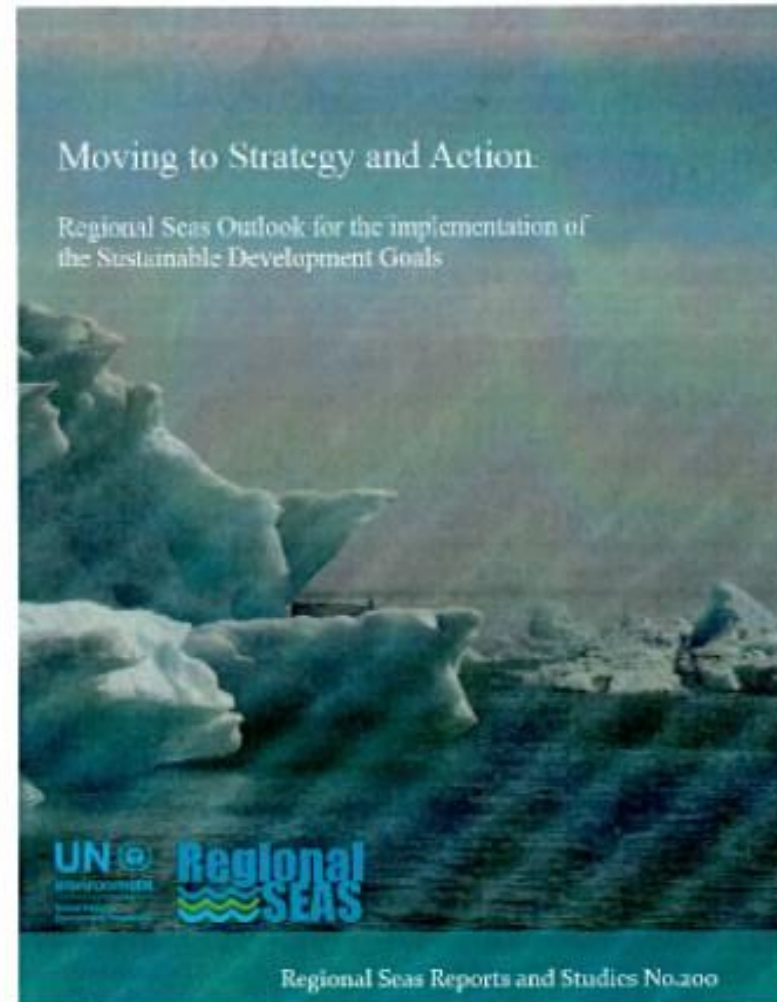
Regional Seas and Sustainable Development Goals

- Regional Seas can support the **implementation** and **follow-up** of the ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals in cooperation with other sectors
- Each Regional Sea will prepare a **proposal** on how they can assist their respective participating countries in implementing the SDGs



Regional Seas and SDGs

- Regional Seas programmes are **mapping** regional targets against SDGs;
- They are harmonizing their indicators with the SDG indicators
- They develop SDG implementation strategies; and
- They serve as regional follow-up and review



Thank you



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