

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION
6th MEETING OF THE OCEAN AND FISHERIES WORKING GROUP (OFWG)
Convention Center Cerro Juli, Arequipa, Peru
5-7 May 2016

Thirteen APEC Economies attended: Chile; People's Republic of China; Japan; Republic of Korea; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Philippines; the Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States; and Viet Nam. Guests were representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Rainbowfish Ocean Technology Co. The meeting was chaired by the OFWG Lead Shepherd (LS) Vice Minister Asis Perez of the Philippines with Official Ennio Fermi from Peru filling in for the Lead Shepherd on the final day of the meeting. An Executive Summary of the meeting is attached as **Appendix A**.

Day 1: 5 May 2016

Session I - Opening Session

A. Welcoming Remarks by OFWG Lead Shepherd

The OFWG Lead Shepherd, Vice Minister Asis Perez, welcomed the participating economies to Peru and highlighted the tasks ahead of the group, continuing on the good work done during OFWG5 in Boracay, Philippines.

B. Opening of the APEC 6th Oceans and Fisheries Working Group meeting by Peru Vice Minister for Fisheries

Peru's Vice Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mr. Juan Carlos Requejo, gave opening remarks highlighting the challenges faced by APEC economies. He focused on fisheries, particularly the need to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, provide support for small-scale fisheries, support innovation and technology in fisheries, and the success of Peru in increasing domestic consumption of fish and fish products.

C. Introduction of Delegation Leads (Lead Shepherd)

The head delegates introduced themselves to the group. A list of participants will follow.

D. Appointment of Rapporteur (Lead Shepherd)

The United States volunteered as rapporteur and the working group approved.

E. Formation of Committee to assist with drafting of Summary Report (Lead Shepherd)

A committee was formed to assist the rapporteur in the drafting of the meeting report: The United States, People's Republic of China, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, and Russia. Other economies were invited to join at any time during the meeting.

F. Adoption of the Agenda (Lead Shepherd)

The agenda was adopted by consensus with a few small additions from the floor. The final agenda can be found in document 2016/SOM2/OFWG/001.

Session II – Developments in APEC since the 5th OFWG Meeting in May 2015

A. Overview of intersessionally endorsed actions and documents since OFWG 5 (OFWG Lead Shepherd/Secretariat)

The Lead Shepherd briefly highlighted the proposed intersessional actions endorsed from OFWG5, noting achievement of providing input to the coastal ecosystem valuation survey, updates on the Mainstreaming Oceans Initiative, engagement in the preparations for the High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy, and the circulation of proceedings of the Workshop of Climate Change Impact on Ocean and Fisheries Resources. One of the items, regarding the broad circulation prior to the concept note deadlines in order to secure feedback and potential co-sponsors, has had mixed results. Economies were encouraged to continue to improve this practice.

B. Update on work of the Mainstreaming Ocean-Related Issues (MOI) Steering Council (OFWG Lead Shepherd)

The Lead Shepherd provided updates on MOI Steering Council, which he attended, highlighting that the updated terms of reference (TOR) was endorsed in the second MOI Steering Council (SC) meeting in Cebu and the continued need to promote cross-fora collaboration. He also gave an overview of inputs from the Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance on their project “Strengthening Chemical Metrology Infrastructure in Food Safety” and Indonesia’s proposals on Exploring APEC Ocean Potentials and Prospects through the establishment of APEC Ocean Information Portal (AOIP) and APEC Connectivity Strategy and Economic Growth and the Jobs in the Marine and Coastal Tourism. Indonesia’s two proposals will be circulated in the Tourism Working Group for its support and endorsement. One economy asked the Lead Shepherd to request that the OFWG see the two proposals for review and potential endorsement, as they are also relevant to the work of the OFWG.

The Steering Committee will conclude at the end of 2016 unless renewed, as outlined in the MOI TOR.

C. APEC Secretariat Report on Relevant Developments in APEC (Secretariat)

The Secretariat highlighted recent developments in APEC, including the endorsement of the OFWG 2016 Work Plan and the OFWG Strategic Plan, instructions from Ministers to implement the Plan of Action from the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Blue Economy and Food Security and the recognition of the OFWG Food Security Action Plan and Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris. Other key outcomes of relevance to the OFWG were noted, such as the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth, the APEC Services Cooperation Framework, the APEC Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, and the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs.

D. Overview of development in 2015 and 2016 work plan of APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center (China)

China reviewed the work of the APEC Marine Sustainable Development Centre (AMSDC) since May 2015 including promotion of the understanding of blue economy amongst APEC economies, strengthening of regional ocean management abilities, and capacity building efforts. China highlighted engagement with several other APEC Centers and regional centers outside of APEC, following the Guidelines on Managing Cooperation with Non-members. This led to a question about names of Centers, how a Center can use the APEC name and what requirements Centers have for reporting and coordination, which the Secretariat answered. The Secretariat noted that the Policy Partnership for Science, Technology, and Innovation (PPSTI) was planning to have a workshop regarding their centers to develop clearer standards for communication and coordination amongst their APEC Centers. The United States noted that the AMSDC had significantly improved their communication on the actions of AMSDC, seeking non-member participation endorsement in trainings, and asking for OFWG endorsement of AMSDC reports bearing the APEC name.

Session III - Information Sharing

A. Information Sharing by APEC Economies

Delegates from all present economies provided brief reports on key ocean and fisheries issues relevant to their economies, and on recent progress made on issues relevant to the OFWG since the May 2015 OFWG5 meeting. Members reported on progress made in areas of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, marine conservation, marine disaster risk reduction, food security and safety, marine science technology, domestic legislation, blue economy efforts, and international cooperation. Some economies also provided written Economy Reports to the Secretariat (Documents 2016/SOM2/OFWG/006, 007, 008, 009, 029, 033, 039, 040, 049) and others were encouraged to submit written reports to the Secretariat.

Afternoon: Joint Session with PPFS

Topic: Public-private action to address climate change impact on food security

The 1st PPFS/OFWG joint session was held by an initiative of Peru, under its host year priority “Fostering the regional food market”, in order to coordinate better the works between agriculture and fishery. After a welcome from both Chairs, the OFWG liaison to PPFS gave a presentation to the group on the OFWG Food Security Action Plan. The joint session then had academics and specialists from various sectors and experiences speak on the challenges of climate change for food security and opportunities of sustainable agriculture. Presenters included Dr. Andy Jarvis (Flagship Leader, CGIAR Research Program for Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security (CCAFS)), Maximo Torero (International Food Policy Research Institute), A.G. Kawamura (Co-Chair, Solutions for the Land), Elena Conterno (National Society of Fisheries, Peru) and David Llanos (Rainforest Alliance). The topics discussed include production of highly nutritious food, data collection, infrastructure, or fishery quota management, among others. Discussions were primarily on traditional agriculture. Capture fisheries was not prominently featured in the joint session between PPFS and OFWG, but several economies raised points of relevance to both capture fisheries and aquaculture.

At the end of the discussion, the US has highlighted its non-paper on “Strengthening APEC Cooperation on Climate Change and Food Security” and tabled a discussion paper on “Development of the APEC CSA initiative”, requesting economies’ support and inputs. The US explained the background and objectives of the “Policy Forum: Towards an APEC Partnership on Climate Change and Food Security” which will be held on June 9-10 in Ho Chi Minh City. Canada expressed its full support to the proposal, while China stated that the Forum should not pursue establishment of a new public-private partnership but focus on the exchange of information and experience.

Day 2: 6 May 2016

Session IV – OFWG Operations

- A. *Work Plan and Strategic Plan. Discussion of progress on implementing the OFWG 2016 Annual Work Plan and OFWG 2016 – 2018 Strategic Plan (OFWG Lead Shepherd, Secretariat)*

The Lead Shepherd reviewed the Work Plan, noting that the next meeting will take place in Piura during Food Security Week. The Lead Shepherd also reviewed the OFWG priorities and activities that support the work plan. The Lead Shepherd discussed upcoming deadlines: Independent Assessment response due to the Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) by July (economies must comment and OFWG must decide if we agree with recommendations) and also the December due date for the draft OFWG 2017 Work plan.

- B. *Independent Assessment of 2015. Discussion of OFWG response to IA recommendations. Endorsement of actions to be taken. (OFWG Lead Shepherd, Secretariat)*

The Lead Shepherd reviewed the 2015 Independent Assessment Recommendations. The assessment process occurs every four years. The Independent Assessment noted that the OFWG is one of the smallest fora in terms of number of economies attending, the number of projects undertaken, and the number of projects funded. But, the report also noted the APEC OFWG should be continued as a separate sub-fora. Three recommendations were discussed: 1) The OFWG should be maintained as a separate sub-fora of the SCE 2.) The OFWG should establish a new strategic plan for the period 2016-2020 , 3.) Economies should reconfirm their delegations participation, especially during strategic plan development. The Secretariat clarified that there is no formal requirement for economies to confirm their participation, but it is up to the individual economy to provide that information. Several economies noted that the OFWG already agreed to a strategic plan through 2018, but that the strategic plan is an open document that if an economy has a change it would like to make, it can send a proposal to the group. The group agreed that the Lead Shepherd should follow up with the SCE and let them know our preference to remain a sub-fora, a preference for a 3 year strategic plan, since one has already been developed and approved and, taking note of recommendation #4, noting that it is up to economies whether or not they will confirm or not confirm their participation in the OFWG. Economies were encouraged to send additional comments to the Lead Shepherd otherwise he will send the agreed points to the SCE.

C. *Projects (Economies)*

a. *Report on outcomes from projects implemented*

i. *Japan (OFWG 02 2014A) – Climate Change*

Japan reviewed the workshop on the Climate Change Impact on Oceans and Fisheries Resources, which was held in Boracay, May 2015. Co-sponsors were Philippines and Vietnam. For addressing climate change impact in the APEC region, the workshop stressed the importance of establishment of framework for sharing experiences and scientific knowledge, enhancing further awareness and policy coherence.

ii. *Chinese Taipei (OFWG 02 2014S) - The 16th APEC Roundtable Meeting on the Involvement of the Business/Private Sector in Sustainability of the Marine Environment*

Chinese Taipei presented on the 16th Business and Private Sector in the Sustainability of the Marine Environment. Participants included Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam for October 2015 meetings. The meeting discussed two topics: Climate change and marine resources, and ocean energy. Recommendations on the two topics were provided.

iii. China (OFWG 02 2013S) – APEC Blue Economy Model Program (Phase I)

China presented the Blue Economy Phase 1 Model. Objectives include: establish Blue economy pilot sites, and forward common understanding of Blue Economy. Participants included experts from: China; Canada; Chile; Hong Kong, China; Thailand, and the United States. The workshop covered the economical benefits of the Blue Economy. China noted its interest in implementing Phase 2 and will submit a concept note. Phase 2 would likely include: further understanding of common view on blue economy, expanding the practice scope and share the blue economy practical experience, and enriching the practice of blue economy further.

iv. China (OFWG 04 2013S) – 2015 APEC Training Workshop on Marine Spatial Planning

China presented on 2013 APEC training workshop on Marine Spatial Planning. There were 32 participants, 8 trainers, 9 APEC economies present, 2 non-members. The objectives were to share best practices of MSP within and beyond the training program. Themes and key activities included: MSP as a framework for developing a sustainable tourism plan, sustainable tourism, managing visitor impacts, adaptive management, hotels, resorts and other lodging facilities, educating local communities on sustainable tourism, function zoning in Seas of China, needs and benefits, blue economy.

b. Update on current projects

i. *United States (OFWG 03 2014A) – Coastal Ecosystem Valuation*

The United States gave a brief update, highlighting some delays due to the low response rate to the survey and noting that a draft of the gap analysis would be shared with the OFWG when complete. They noted that Phase 2, the Valuation Study, would start after the gap analysis was complete, with a final report expected by the end of the year.

ii. *Peru (OFWG 01 2015A) - Manual of Good Practices for Small-Scale Fisheries)*

Peru provided updates on the manual, noting the food quality and safety concerns for small-scale fisheries. The project focuses on determining critical points of the supply chain of fish products for small-scale fisheries.

This project is aimed at determining the critical points of the supply chain of fish products from small-scale fisheries in APEC communities,

developing a handbook for management and quality assurance to reduce economic losses and overfishing and expanding the understanding of the constraints and challenges faced by fishermen.

iii. Chinese Taipei (OFWG 01 2015S) - The 17th APEC Roundtable Meeting on the Involvement of the Business/Private Sector in Sustainability of the Marine Environment)

Chinese Taipei noted that the 17th APEC Roundtable Meeting will be held August 31- September 2 in Chinese Taipei. The themes of the meeting will reinforce past APEC Ocean Declarations by focusing on blue economy and marine debris. While other fora are discussing these issues in APEC, the roundtable will focus on private sector engagement. The deadline for submitting abstracts is August 4th.

iv. China (OFWG 02 2015S) - 4th APEC Blue Economy Forum

China gave a brief history of the Blue Economy Forums and highlighted the upcoming Blue Economy Forum, which will be held June 28-29, 2016 in Haikou China. The theme of the forum will be “Advancing Blue Economy Cooperation: Pathway and Practice. All economies were encouraged to attend and also reach out to their private sector and academic counterparts to encourage attendance.

v. China (OFWG 03 2015S) - Training Workshop on Coastal Eco-Aquaculture Model for Sustaining Food Security

China provided updates on coastal Eco-aquaculture Model for Sustaining Food Security. China noted that aquaculture plays a critical role in food security through integrated farming. A workshop will be held May 31- June 2. Thirty vacancies will be offered to APEC economies.

c. Progress of projects submitted by the OFWG at Session 1 (March 7, 2016), and of any other projects under other APEC fora that may be relevant to the OFWG (Secretariat)

The Secretariat gave a brief update on projects submitted by the OFWG in Session 1. The Secretariat noted that the process for funding continues to be competitive and that Korea’s project on Marine Debris was funded in principle under the Health and Emergency Preparedness Sub-Fund. The other two concept notes are in the Principle Decision Making stage and the outcomes are expected May 11th.

The Secretariat noted that a self-funded project led by the United States under PPFS “Policy Forum: Towards an APEC Partnership” relates to the work of the OFWG.

The last round of concept notes for 2016 are due June 22nd.

Although already secured in funding, Korea gave a presentation on their project “Capacity Building for Marine Debris Prevention and Management in the APEC Region”. The project is set to start in September 2016 and be completed by December 2017. The objectives of the project are to raise awareness of social, economic, and environmental damage and impact caused by marine debris which disrupts and impacts trade, growth and livelihood of the APEC region, strengthen government officials capacity to enhance marine debris management related policies and align actions with international standards by effective management of marine debris.

Peru presented their proposal for a project on “Design of Associative Models of Small Fish Farmers for Developing the Aquaculture in Rural Communities.” The project is expected to produce a model to help increase the supply and quality of aquaculture products, therefore increasing the incomes of fish farmers, with a focus on small-scale farmers, and contributing to improved livelihoods and food security.

Peru then presented their other project, “Strengthening collective associations for marketing in artisanal fisheries.” The project proposes a study related to the commercialization of artisanal fishing products and the design of an organizational scheme of collective association and a guide so economies can implement a scheme. Economies were invited to co-sponsor the project.

d. Discussion of any proposed new APEC-funded projects for Session 2 (June 22, 2016 (All Members invited to outline new project proposals)

Korea gave a presentation on their project “Preparedness, Response, and Assessment of Oil Spill (PRAOS) Phase II”. They briefly gave an outline of Phase I, which was completed in 2014. Phase II will be a training program on environmental impact assessment in marine oil spills, including a real time emergency exercise. The training will take place in Korea over 9 days.

Peru gave a presentation on a concept note they plan to put forward in Session 2 called “Development of Tools of Ecological Risk Assessment of Impacts of Climate Change on Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources.” The project intends to help prioritize research and establish early warning and risk assessments for

each key species based on abundance, distribution, and phenology. The project would consist of a four day workshop, with a final report disseminated to economies.

e. *Discussion of any proposed new self-funded projects*

The United States presented on their anticipated self-funded project, “Overcoming Barriers to Financing Waste Management Systems.” They noted that their project complements other projects on marine debris, such as Korea’s marine debris project and the beta sites project taking place through the Virtual Working Group. The US sought endorsement of the concept note, noting that the Chemical Dialogue would also be reviewing the note for endorsement. Endorsement was given by the OFWG at the meeting, with China and Russia asking to be added as co-sponsors. China suggested that the APEC Senior Finance Officials Meeting channel should be involved in the relevant discussions and the Secretariat agreed to facilitate this communication and coordination.

Chinese Taipei sought endorsement of the self-funded “18th APEC Roundtable Meeting” to be hosted in Chinese Taipei in October 2017. The Philippines and Viet Nam already agreed to co-sponsorship and the proposed themes are: 1) Food security and marine resources and 2) Marine environment protection. Endorsement was given by the OFWG at the meeting. China asked to be added as a co-sponsor for this project.

Session V – Free and Open Trade and Investment

A. *Discussion on the creation of a “Regional Food Market” in response to Peru’s Host year priority*

Peru presented their proposal to support a fully functional, streamlined, and transparent food market through focusing on four thematic clusters of work: Sustainability, market access, investment and infrastructure, and food production and trade-related services. The main deliverable would be the 2016 Food Security Ministerial Meeting, connected to APEC Food Security Week. Several other proposed actions are listed in Document 2016/SOM2/OFWG/025. Peru acknowledged that success of the effort would require cooperation with the private sector. Russia noted their support of the project and noted its importance to the global economy. Vietnam expressed their support, but asked to see a specific plan with activities to provide further support. The Philippines fully supported the creation of the market and noted that it aligned well with the High Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy Action Plan. Chinese Taipei supported, but had suggestions regarding the structure. PNG also offered their support. Peru noted their appreciation of the support of economies and that they would take all suggestions into account.

Session VI – Sustainable Development and Protection of the Marine Environment

A. Update from Virtual Working Group on Marine Debris (Virtual Working Group)

A Virtual Working Group (VWG) representative gave a presentation highlighting items from the 2016 VWG Work Plan and encouraging all OFWG members to participate and engage their appropriate private sector counterparts.

B. China – Update Information on Marine Debris Cooperation

China provided an overview of their recent efforts to address marine debris, including volunteer work and a case study in the Xiamen. Moving forward, a pilot in Xiamen, a life-cycle assessment, legislation/market waste reduction incentive, baseline survey, and forecasting system are anticipated, along with training and the development of new technologies to address the waste management system. China also introduced some latest information of bilateral cooperation on marine debris between China and the United States.

Session VII – Food Security

A. Follow-up from Joint Meeting from Day 1

Some economies noted that the joint meeting was valuable, but that in the future, the agenda needs to be better thought out regarding topics for joint discussion. It was suggested that in the future, the liaisons could play more of a role in developing the agenda for the session, in particular presentations on the unique ways fisheries need to be addressed to promote food security.

B. Follow-up from 2015 High-Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy (Philippines)

The Philippines gave a presentation outlining actions from the 2015 High-Level Policy Dialogue on Food Security and Blue Economy (HLPD). They reviewed the Plan of Action, encouraging economies to continue moving forward on the outlined actions within their own economies, building upon previous APEC commitments and supporting current host year priorities.

C. Presentation on IUU Fishing (Peru)

Peru gave an overview of international and domestic engagement in the fight against illegal fishing in Peru. They emphasized the need to balance control, surveillance, and tracing and provided details on their satellite tracking system. They also highlighted current projects, such as those strengthening regulatory frameworks, improving technology and increasing fixed checkpoints.

D. Presentation on Proposed Rule for a U.S. Seafood Traceability Program (USA)

The United States gave an overview of their proposed rule for a U.S. Seafood Traceability Program, highlighting species that are likely to be covered, reporting data elements, and the coverage of the program. They noted that they are reviewing comments received on the proposed rule, but that the comment period has closed.

Session VIII – Climate Change

A. Presentation on Climate Change and its impacts on hydrobiological resources (Peru)

Peru highlighted some of the latest modeling and warming trends impacting marine resources in the Pacific Ocean in a climate change context. Russia and Chinese Taipei thanked Peru for their proposal, highlighting the connections to Japan's 2015 Climate Change and Fisheries workshop and noting the importance of sharing climate modeling information so economies can make preparations for climate change, food security and the management of marine resources. Peru noted that they had presented a concept note for a workshop on ecological risk assessment tools. Russia said they would like to co-sponsor that concept note.

B. FAO Presentation on Climate Change

A representative of the FAO gave a brief oral presentation, noting the importance of addressing different perspectives and local impacts when discussing climate change, especially climate change impacts on fisheries. He noted three key steps: scoping, analysis, and implementation. He stressed the need to take action yet avoid ineffective initiatives, especially in light of limits in resources, people, data, and information.

C. Presentation on Climate Services and Toolkits (USA)

The United States gave a brief overview of publicly available US and United Nations-led climate services and toolkits, including several related to evaluating the impacts of climate change on fisheries. They noted that while several of the data sources and toolkits are focused on the United States, the information may serve as a template for other economies or allow for comparative studies.

Session IX – Natural disaster/Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Resilience

No presentations were given during this session.

Session X– Blue Economy

A. Updated information of Blue Economy Cooperation (China)

China briefly provided information on their definition of blue economy and how they are addressing the blue economy across several sectors and their relevant discussion with experts from other economies, multilaterally and bilaterally. They also introduced their non-APEC workshop in the second half of 2016 on blue economy and encouraged experts from APEC economies to participate. They noted their willingness to share

information about their ongoing efforts and partner with other APEC economies to further the blue economy.

B. Hadal Exploration, the Frontier of Blue Economy- Rainbowfish Ocean Technology Co. (Guest)

At the invitation of the OFWG, Rainbowfish Ocean Technology Co. presented on their development of hadal¹ technologies and extensive applications. They outlined their innovative approach for exploring the deepest areas of the oceans; an approach they believe has scientific and economic promise. They also noted that their approach provided a new model for private sector engagement in advancing technology. They appealed for more focus on hadal exploration and potential cooperation. They encouraged all APEC economies with interest to reach out for more information.

Session XI - Anticipated Activities with outside organizations (in response to Leaders' and Ministers' calls for greater engagement with business sector and other organizations/stakeholders)

Peru's Technological Institute of Production, a public institute, gave a presentation on the activities they implement with the private sector, mainly in technology transfer to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through a network of CITEs (Innovation and Technology Centers) in different sectors, but also on aquaculture and fisheries. They highlighted their history and how their work aligns with APEC priorities, particularly those of the OFWG.

Session XII - Cross cutting issues and how they will be coordinated across fora

No discussion occurred under this item

Session XIII- Capacity Building activities for 2016

- A. Update from OFWG Centers – APEC Ocean and Fisheries Information Center (AOFIC), APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center (AMSDC) and APEC Marine Environmental Training and Education Center (AMETEC) as contributors to the OFWG capacity building activities

China shared that the AMSDC translated the APEC rules and principles into Chinese for capacity building and to facilitate internal coordination.

Lead Shepherd Asis Perez had to depart early from the meeting, and therefore gave his closing remarks at the end of Day 2. He commended participants for their continued collegiality and commitment to work together.

Day 3: 7 May 2016

¹ Hadal means “of or relating to the zone of the sea greater than approximately 20,000 feet (6,000 m) in depth (chiefly oceanic trenches)”

Session XIV – Looking Ahead

The Summary Report was reviewed, edited, and endorsed.

Peru confirmed the date and venue for OFWG 7: Piura, Peru September 19-21.