

Reccomendations from the participants of the Integrated Regional Oceanic Policies Workshop (IROP) organized by the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)

Taking into consideration the CPPS workshop's objectives about exploring approaches to create an Integrated Oceanic Policies set, which took place in Bogota, Colombia, from Oct 28-30, 2015;

Considering the The Galapagos Commitment for the XXI's Century, in which the participant states declare their will to involve CPPS in the new maritime global challenges for the 21st century;

Acknowledging the discussions and exchanges resulting from the development of the IROP workshop;

Acknowledging the presentations and contributions of the state members of CPPS and other international organizations in such workshop;

The participants of the Legal Affairs –including socio-economic factors- Work Group:

Following the Sustainable Development, Maritime Security, Food Security, Responsible Fisheries principles;

Considering also the present threats to the oceanic integrity such as illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries, amongst others;

The workshop participants recommend that:

1. The General Assembly takes into consideration the design and implementation of an Integrated Regional Oceanic Policy. If such initiative was to be taken, It is highly recommended to establish a draft proposal via an expert group in which the member states are represented ⁽¹⁾

2. The Terms of Reference of the Work Group should address the values, principles and regulations on sustainable development, as well as the Law of the Sea, International Environmental and Maritime Jurisprudence. The participation of law, science, and technical experts should be encouraged, as well as civil society representatives.

(1) It is recommended that the CPPS General Secretariat could prepare a proposal for the next Assembly on the required number of groups.

3. The Assembly should delegate the CPPS General Secretariat to evaluate the possible instrument(s) to host the Integrated Regional Oceanic Policy. The Executive Committee and CPPS should work closely for that matter.

The members of the Legal Affairs –including socio-economic factors- Work Group:

Acknowledging that the CPPS state members have been developing and updating their national oceanic policies;

Observing that the CPPS member states share a large common marine ecosystem which holds economic, social, environmental and cultural development opportunities, which therefore it is necessary to preserve, monitor and protect;

Remembering that the Santiago Declaration of 1952 holds common interests and has been the framework for a long and productive history of regional cooperation;

Being aware of the necessity of encouraging scientific and expertise exchange on common interest topics;

Considering that it is necessary to enforce a regional stand on international forums on these matters.

Acknowledging the importance of cooperation with other regions with different oceanic geographic areas;

Keeping in mind that there already are initiatives and international agreements to be adopted and implemented regarding the conservation and management of the integrated coastal maritime environment, such as “Future we want, Objective 14 on Sustainable Development, the Aichi goals, the Ocean Health Index, amongst others;

Considering that there already are successful regional projects such as ERFEN joint cruises, which are recognized internationally as examples of regional cooperation;

Being aware of the importance of exchanging useful information on knowledge and research in the field of marine science which can include civil society and reinforce of the research framework among the CPPS member states;

Considering that the region is vulnerable to climatic change and natural disaster effects such as El Niño, tsunamis, earthquakes, average sea level increase, coastal erosion and others;

Being aware that marine management requires to enforce and apply the governance concepts in each member state and at regional level as much as it is possible;

Knowing the existence of regional agreements on good sustainable use of the sea and its ecosystems in other regions of the planet, which are indeed a benefit for their associated countries;

Keeping in mind that there are currently effective documents on CPPS such as the Strategic Action Plan, which must be updated and enforced;

Foreseeing CPPS as a strong regional organization which could facilitate access to funding sources for regional applications, and also as the proper channel to establish alliances with other regional initiatives / organizations for exchange of training, experts and expertise;

Acknowledging the importance of having an Integrated Regional Ocean Policy, the following recommendations are presented:

1. Let the CPPS General Assembly consider the need of establishing an Integrated Regional Ocean Policy which can serve as a guide to establish local sea policies for each country according to their competencies.
2. Let such Integrated Regional Ocean Policy include general guidelines such as encouraging the use of sea knowledge in science and technology research / innovation which could support the decision making processes. Let it also include marine spatial planning methodologies; considerate governance for common regional activities; account for the social and economic importance of the sea, suggest procedures for implementation of agreements derived from international instruments and regional initiatives, the inclusion of other emergent topics regarding the marine spaces defined by the Law of the Sea and other pertinent international jurisprudential instruments.
3. As a result of the analysis of the member states' current and developing policies, Three common areas of participation have been established, such as: environmental, social and economic issues. Such areas can be developed by intersessional work groups, including a multidisciplinary and intersectorial group

which builds the framework of the Integrated Regional Ocean Policy ⁽²⁾

Bogota, Oct 30th 2015

(2) It is recommended that the CPPS General Secretariat could prepare a proposal for the next Assembly on the required number of groups.