

## Agenda 3.3.2

Please refer to the Executive Summary Report (IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XV/3s)



# The 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IOC Assembly

## Key accomplishments over the last intersessional period & Major results of the WESTPAC –XV (11-13 March 2025)

Kentaro Ando, Wenxi Zhu, Aileen Tan Hwai, Fadli Syamsudin, Sun-Hyun Nam, Aletta Yñiguez, Vyacheslav Lobanov

IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific, IOC/UNESCO

# Part -1: Actions for the UN Ocean Decade



## 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Decade Regional Conference & 11<sup>th</sup> WESTPAC IMSC (22-25 April 2025, Bangkok Thailand)



- **1,200** on-site participants from **40** countries
- **25** Science Sessions structured around:
  - A. Ocean process and climate change*
  - B. Marine biodiversity, seafood safety and security*
  - C. Ocean and human health*
  - D. Emerging ocean science and cross-cutting issues*
- **1** Special forum with UNEP/GEF SCS SAP
- **12** UN Ocean Decade Incubators
- **13** UN Ocean Decade Workshops
- **1** Townhall and **8** side events
- **5** WESTPAC Outstanding Scientist Awards
- **8** Best Young Scientist Presentations
- **9** Winners for the Coral Reef Restoration Photo Competition

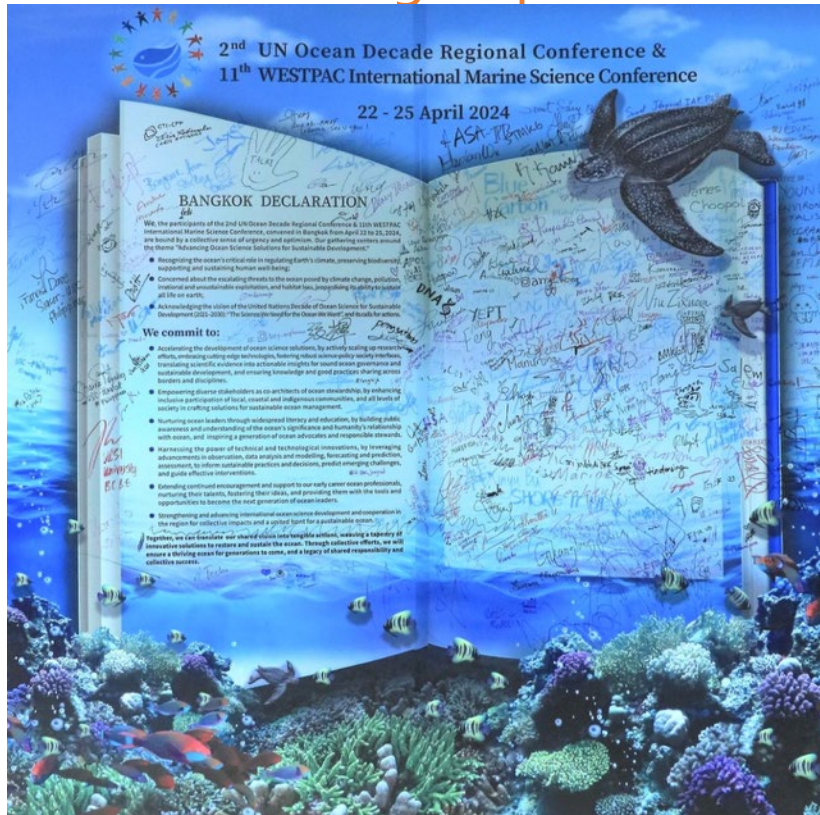
<https://ioc-westpac.org/conference-drew-to-a-close-with-resounding-success/>



# Part 1: Actions for the UN Ocean Decade



## Bangkok Declaration, Youth Statement, and engagement of diverse stakeholder groups



### Bangkok Declaration



#### WESTPAC ECOP/MCOP STATEMENT

Our ocean poses great importance for the global community, but the ocean today presents a sobering reality of prevailing deterioration, degradation, and destruction. Impacts of climate change, widespread pollution, overfishing, and marine habitat loss have synergistically put immense pressure on the marine ecosystems that could unbalance the delicate balance of life within the ocean. These challenges may not just affect the ecosystems but could by far-reaching impact human communities, with over 1.9 billion people depending on the ocean for food, ecosystem services, livelihoods, and cultural identity.

The Western Pacific Region are home to more than 75 percent of all known coral species in the world, 3,000 fish species and the greatest extent of mangrove forests among all regions in the world. Ultimately, we are the custodian of the maximum marine biodiversity hotspot. We believe that there is a hope for our ocean, and the region will be able to meet and raise above these challenges through concerted global actions, innovative solutions, and strengthened region-wide collaboration to mitigate and adapt to impacts of climate change, reverse ecosystem degradation, and restore the health and resilience of our marine ecosystems.

#### ECOP & MCOP statement

Accelerate the **advancement of ocean science** through research, experimentation, data collection, ocean monitoring and observing, modelling and any other forms of knowledge generation to **provide evidence-based policy advice** to all levels of governance and ocean communities.

Acknowledge the importance of **capacity building** and **mentorship** to ECOPs to create the next generation ocean science community that are able to inherit, succeed, and further advance the ocean science in the Western Pacific Region. Therefore, investing in ECOP and MCOP professional development such as mentoring, trainings, research

resources, and other necessary needs that are important to empower them to become future leaders.

Call on governments to uphold their **commitments to Sustainable Development Goal 14**, Life Below Water to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for

#### In partnership with



# Part 1: Actions for the UN Ocean Decade



## Six Sub-Commission's actions developed and accepted as UN Decade Actions (Programme/Project/Contribution)

**UN-21:** Accelerate **Marine Spatial Planning** in the Western Pacific and its adjacent region

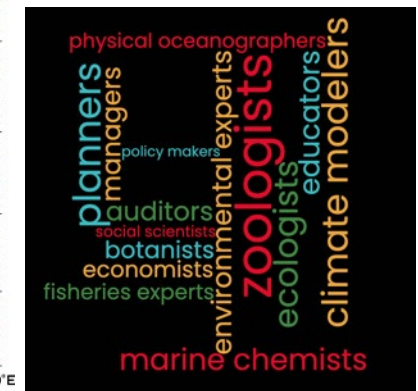
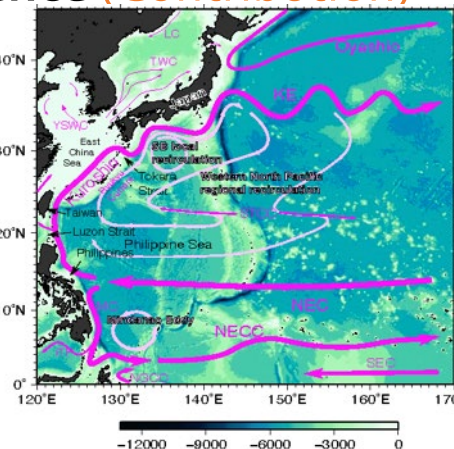
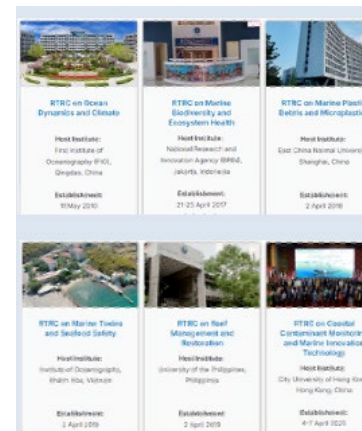
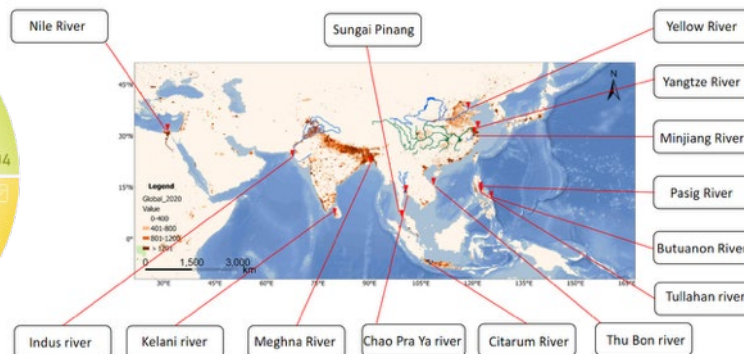
**UN-22:** Stem the tide of **Asian's riverine plastic emission** into the ocean

**UN-23:** Accelerating **Capacity Development Transformations** in the Western Pacific - Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science

**UN-24:** Explore the **strongest ocean current** in the Western Pacific: 2<sup>nd</sup> Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and its adjacent regions (CSK-2)

**UN-39:** **Ocean Solutions** in the East Asian Seas

**UN-42:** WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference (Contribution)





# Part 1: Actions for the UN Ocean Decade



## UN-21 Accelerate marine spatial planning in the Western Pacific



# Part 1: Actions for the UN Ocean Decade



## UN-21 Accelerate marine spatial planning in the Western Pacific



### Action Framework for Accelerating Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas (2025-2030)

Zero draft for inputs!

#### Priority Areas of Actions

- 1) Cooperation and collaboration;
- 2) Knowledge support;
- 3) Capacity development, awareness and engagement; and
- 4) Demonstration and good practices.



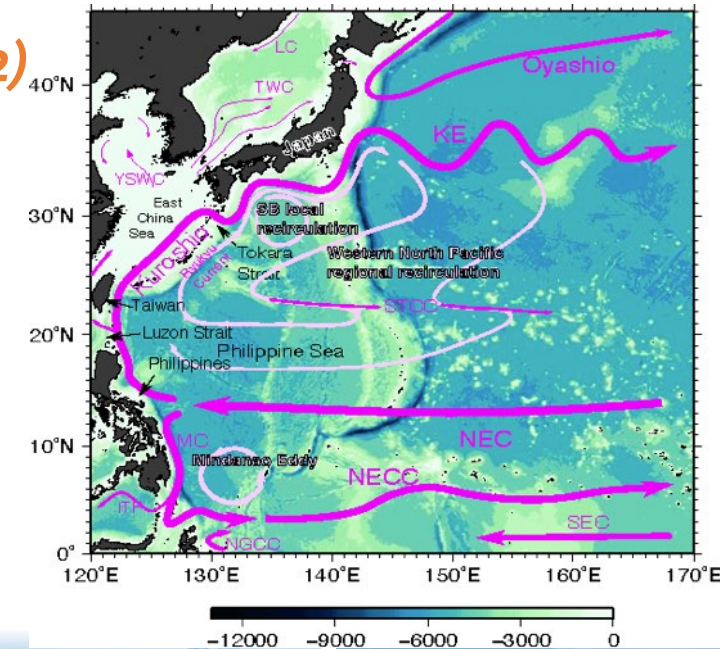
# Part 1: Actions for the UN Ocean Decade



## UN-24 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and Adjacent Areas (CSK-2)



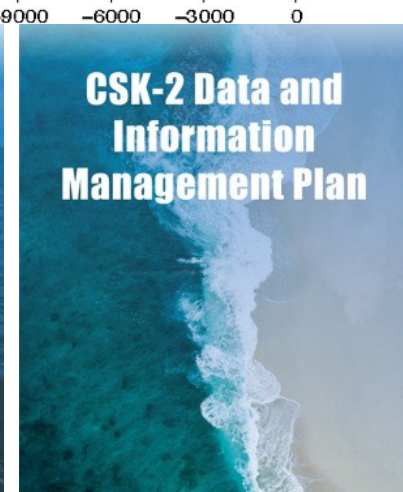
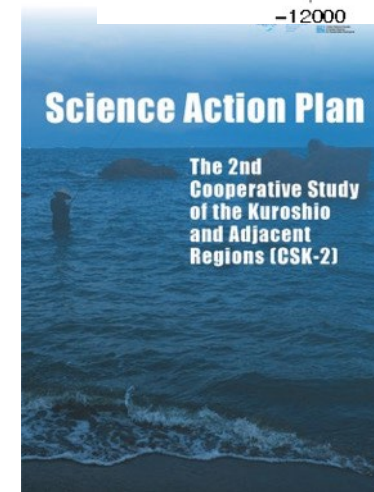
Second CSK-2 Science Symposium (13-14 Nov 2024, Sendai, Japan)



Fourth ISG meeting (4-6 Dec 2023, Qingdao, China)



Fifth ISG meeting (15 Nov 2024, Sendai, Japan)





# Part 1: Actions for the UN Ocean Decade



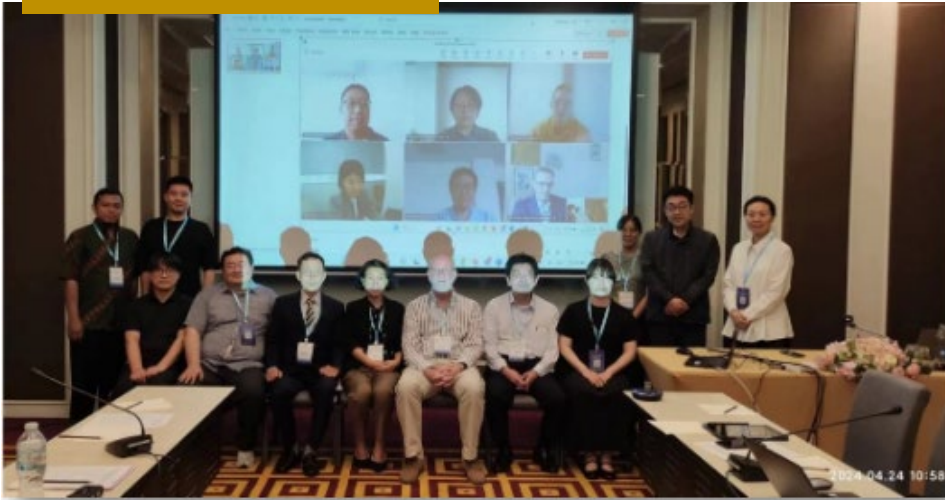
## 12th INTERNATIONAL MARINE SCIENCE CONFERENCE & UN OCEAN DECADE REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN 2027

Philippines

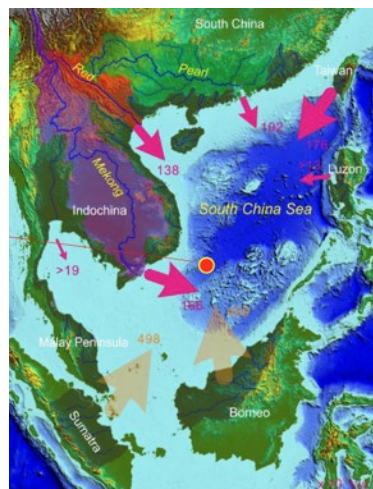
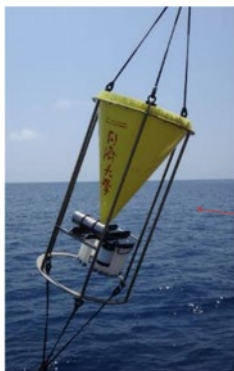




# Part 2: Delivering knowledge and services for Sustainable Development



NEAR-GOOS 21st meeting on 24 April 2024



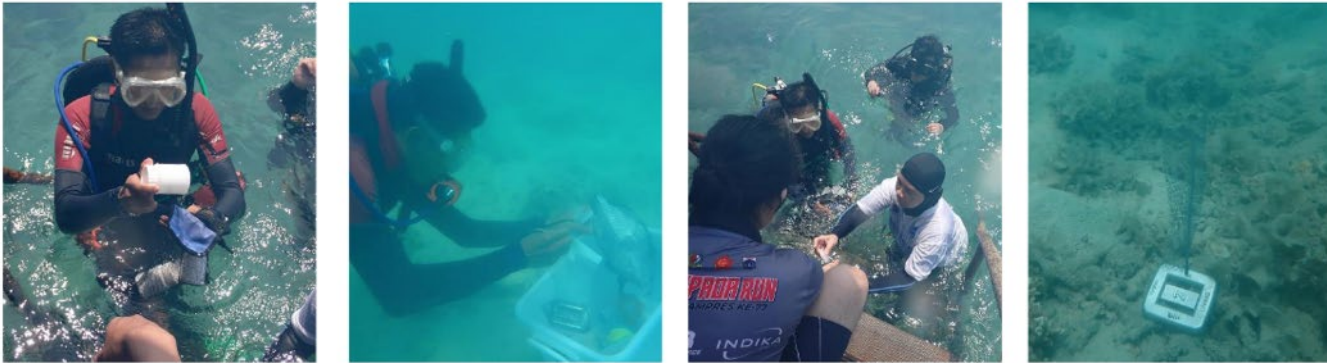
Two cruises were organized during August 2023 and July 2024 off the Mekong River for maintaining one observation mooring system equipping with moored sediment traps, for tracking source-to-sink transport process from the Mekong River estuary to the deep South China Sea.

## Asian Marginal Sea Program: Cruises to monitor marine environments

- a. Korean Peninsula April-May, Oct-Nov. 2023, May 2024,
- b. East China Sea July 2023, 2024, Bohai Sea and Yellow Sea July 2024,
- c. North Pacific Ocean June-July 2023, August-October 2024,
- d. Upper Gulf of Thailand August 2023, October 2023, and March 2024,
- e. Upper Gulf of Thailand; River mouths once a month from April 2023 to March 2024,
- f. Time series measurements in the east of the upper Gulf of Thailand, and the east coast Peninsular Malaysia and Malacca Strait

# Part 2: Delivering knowledge and services for Sustainable Development

An example of regional collaborative activity to address emerging issues:  
Ciguatera Fish Poisoning in Indonesia



**Application of artificial substrate in toxic dinoflagellates Analysis in Seribu Islands to mitigate Ciguatera Fish Poisoning in Indonesia**

- Project for Indonesian fiscal year of 2023 – 2024
- Implementing standardized artificial substrate to sample and collect data on benthic ciguateric species composition → part of attempts to standardize the sampling methods for any future national CFP monitoring program
- Funded by Universitas Indonesia (UI) in collaboration with National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) and Universiti Putra Malaysia
- Study site: Seribu Island, Jakarta

## Riverine Microplastic Project Major activities, outputs & outcomes

- 14 pilot rivers were chosen from different member states;
- Two working groups to conduct analysis and methodology harmonization work;
- ~50 young researchers from member states trained.
- More than 200 field samples collected and analyzed.
- Catalyze two projects (1. Unveiling the Fate of Microplastics in Water and Zooplankton at Estuarine Fronts Using Intergrated Approaches 2. Riverine plastic fluxs in four major rivers in Hainan
- 2 scientific papers were published.
- 5 outreach activities



# Part 2: Delivering knowledge and services for Sustainable Development

- Knowledge developments for emerging issues: Working Groups



National workshop (2024)



Field visit (2024)



FGD with NGO (2024)



MoU BRIN-UB (2025)



Gili Ketapang Island (2025)



FGD of national SIRaD (2025)





# Part 2: Delivering knowledge and services

## Capacity Development Actions



“Development of “UNESCO/IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science””

“Training Through Research” via the engagement of early career scientist into WESTPAC research programmes

Establishment of “WESTPAC Best Young Scientist Award” and “WESTPAC Young Scientist Grant”

Initiation of “WESTPAC Young Scientist Forum” to exchange their perspective on marine science development and cooperation

Conduct of “Bring Marine Science to School” to inspire young generations/school



The 13<sup>th</sup> training course on Ocean Model and Ecosystem Model, Qingdao, China, 8-13 July 2024



Training Course on Remote Sensing-based Seagrass Blue Carbon Assessment, September 2024



Scientific Diving Training Programme at the Pulisan Bay North Sulawesi, Indonesia, May 2023



Training in Sanya UN decade workshops, November 2023



Training workshop on coral restoration in 2023 at UP/MSI



Marine Toxin and Seafood Safety performance evaluation, September 2023



# Part 3: Major results of the WESTPAC-XV

(11-13 March 2025, Tokyo, Japan)



## ➤ Elections

- Chair: Aileen Tan
- Vice-Chairs: Sun-Hyun Nam, Aletta, Slava

## ➤ Next Session and International Marine Science Conference

- March or April 2027 in the Philippines

## ➤ Establishment of new initiatives

- 1 Programme, 1 Project, and 2 working groups

## ➤ Contributions to the global and national commitment

- *BBNJ: establish an open-ended Task Force*
- *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*
- *Ocean literacy: establish an open-ended Task Force*

## ➤ Senior Government Officials Roundtable

- *Tokyo SGO Statement on ocean science development and cooperation for sustainable development in the Western Pacific*

## ➤ Regional Action Framework for Accelerating MSP (2025-2030)

- Programme and Budget (2026-2027) with a total budget estimate of USD 6.6 M, serving as a guide on the activities that Member States would like to jointly promote and seek funding, either in cash or in kind, to support their implementation.

## ➤ Side event: National Decade Committee Forum

# Part 3: Major results WESTPAC-XV, 11-13 March 2025, Tokyo Japan



## Tokyo Statement

### Senior Government Officials' Statement *Ocean Science Development and Cooperation for Sustainable Development in the Western Pacific and Adjacent Areas* (Adopted on 12 March 2025 )

1. We, the senior government officials from across the Western Pacific, convened at the [15<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific](#) (WESTPAC) in Tokyo, Japan, on 12 March 2025, to **underscore** the critical importance of advancing ocean science<sup>1</sup> development and fostering cooperation for the sustainable development of our region.
2. **Recognizing** that the ocean, seas and coastal areas in the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas are vital to the health, livelihoods, and prosperity of people in the region and beyond, as they constitute a major influence on regional and global climate, the epicenter of the world marine biodiversity, a significant contributor to the world's seafood supply, and major shipping routes in the world maritime transportation. **However**, they face significant threats from escalating human activities, including climate change, extreme weather and ocean events, pollution, biodiversity loss, irreparable harm to coral reef and other ecosystems, and resource depletion.
3. **Further recognizing** that ocean science and knowledge are essential for providing solutions to sustainable development and supporting the effective implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 14: Life below water and SDG 13: Climate action, as well as other international agreements and frameworks, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the recently adopted Agreement on Marine Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), and the ongoing international negotiation on a global plastic treaty.





# Part 3: Major results WESTPAC-XV, 11-13 March, Tokyo Japan



## Four new WESTPAC initiatives

**Programme:** Prediction of Marine Ecosystem Changes in the Northwest Pacific Ocean (2025-2030)

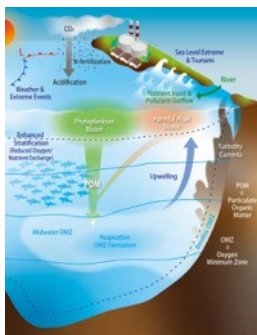
**Project:** Methan Fluxes and their Impact on Climate and Ecosystem in the Indo-Pacific Region (2025-2029)

**Working Group:** Seagrass Research in the Indo-Western Pacific: Enhancing Regional Collaboration for Seagrass Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration (2025-2028)

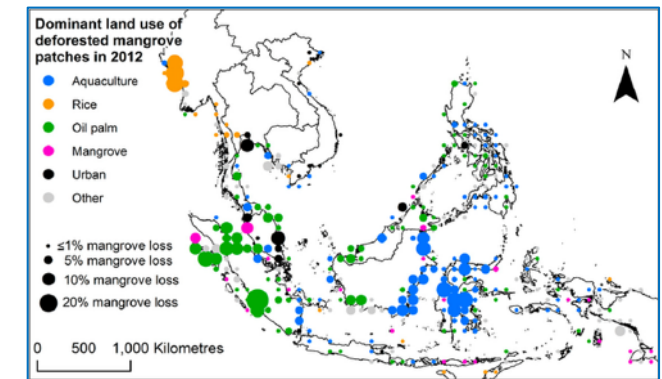
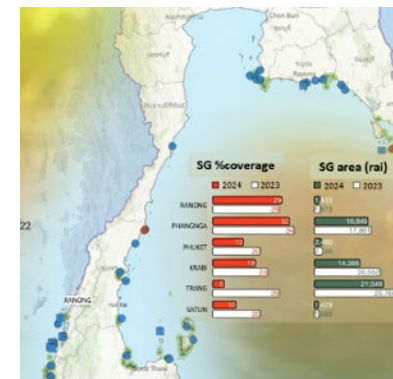
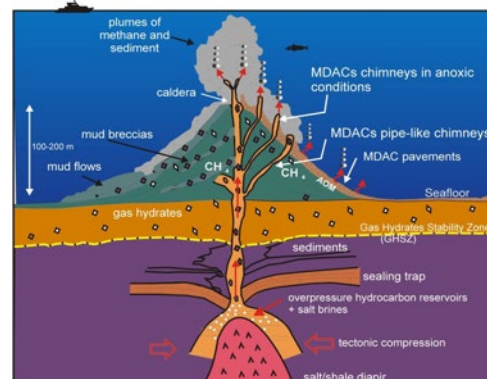
**Working Group:** Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration with an initial focus on mangrove (2025-2028)



Climate and Ocean Physics



Marine Ecosystems



## DECADE OUTCOMES

### "THE OCEAN WE WANT"



## WESTPAC KEY AREAS OF ACTIONS

A: Ocean-based solutions to climate change

B: Marine biodiversity conservation, ocean ecosystem and human health, and blue economy

C: Knowledge development for emerging issues

D: Ocean literacy and capacity development

## WESTPAC PROGRAMMES/WORKING GROUPS 2025-2027 (total number: 29 including RTRCs)



A 1: NEAR-GOOS  
A 2: Ocean Forecasting (SEA-GOOS)  
**A 3: Ocean Acidification (SEA-GOOS) as a part of UN 39**  
A 4: Changing Asian Marginal Seas and their responses  
A 5: South China Sea Fluvial Sediment and its Environmental Changes  
A6: Methane Fluxes and their Impact on Climate and Ecosystem in the Indo-Pacific Region (2025-2028)  
A7: Predictions of Marine Ecosystem Changes in the Northwest Pacific Ocean  
**UN 24: 2<sup>nd</sup> Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and its adjacent areas**

B 1 Coral Reef Conservation, Restoration and Resilience  
B 2: Marine toxins and seafood safety  
B3: Ocean remote sensing for habitat mapping  
B4: Harmful jellyfish research and monitoring  
B5: Harmful algae blooms  
**UN 22: Asian rivers' plastic input to ocean**

**C1: Ocean Oxygen Network (WG) as a part of UN39**  
WG2023: Small island research and development  
WG2023: Blue carbon actions  
WG2023: Citizen science  
WG2023: Traditional and local knowledge  
WG2025: Seagrass Research in the Indo-Western Pacific  
WG2025: Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration with focus on Mangroves

**UN 23: Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Ocean Science**

- RTRC on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health (BRIN, Indonesia)
- RTRC on Ocean Dynamics and Climate (FIO/MNR, China)
- RTRC on Marine Toxins and Seafood Safety (IO/VAST, Vietnam)
- RTRC on Coral Reef Restoration and MPAs (UPMSI, Philippines)
- RTRC on Plastic and Microplastic Research (ECNU, China)
- RTRC on Coastal Contaminant Monitoring and Marine Innovative Technology (CityU, Hong Kong SAR, China)

**UN 21: Marine Spatial Planning**

**UN-39: Ocean Solutions in the East Asian Seas**

**UN-42: WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference (Contribution**



# Future Directions

1. **Ocean research impacts** to be greatly enhanced, with the following approach to future programme development
  - Issue-based, solution-oriented approach, responding to **national and regional priorities**
  - Define “SMART” objectives
  - Involve end users, engage key stakeholders---uptake and use of research outside academia
  - Co-design and co-produce
  - Disseminating of research-efficient communication
  - Of course, we keep promoting **basic science**
2. Leverage the opportunities of various international frameworks and agreement, such as GBF.
3. Strengthen the WESTPAC Office/Decade Coordination Office





**Thanks to all!**



**Bangkok,** “Accelerating Ocean Science Solutions for Sustainable Development”

Sub-commission thanks to all and any kind of contributions, in cash and in kind, from our member states, governments, institutes, and universities international and national organizations. Without the supports, WESTPC could not make any actions on marine science and UN Ocean Decade. Again, the sub-commission welcome any contributions to the conferences from all IOC member states here as well.

Thank you







