

Regional Review of Marine Litter in the Seas of East Asia

UNEP Regional Seas Programme
Coordinating Body for the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
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Introduction & background

Marine litter - a major threat to World's oceans



- 6.4 million tonnes / year globally
- 5.6 million tonnes from shipping
- 46,000 pieces of plastic / square mile
- 3 x more garbage in as fish taken out
- N Pacific - 6 pounds of plastic / pound of plankton near surface
- Significant wildlife impacts
- Lost & Abandoned Fishing Gear (LAFG)
- Transfer fouling species

Introduction & background

The Seas of East Asia - COBSEA members



Introduction & background

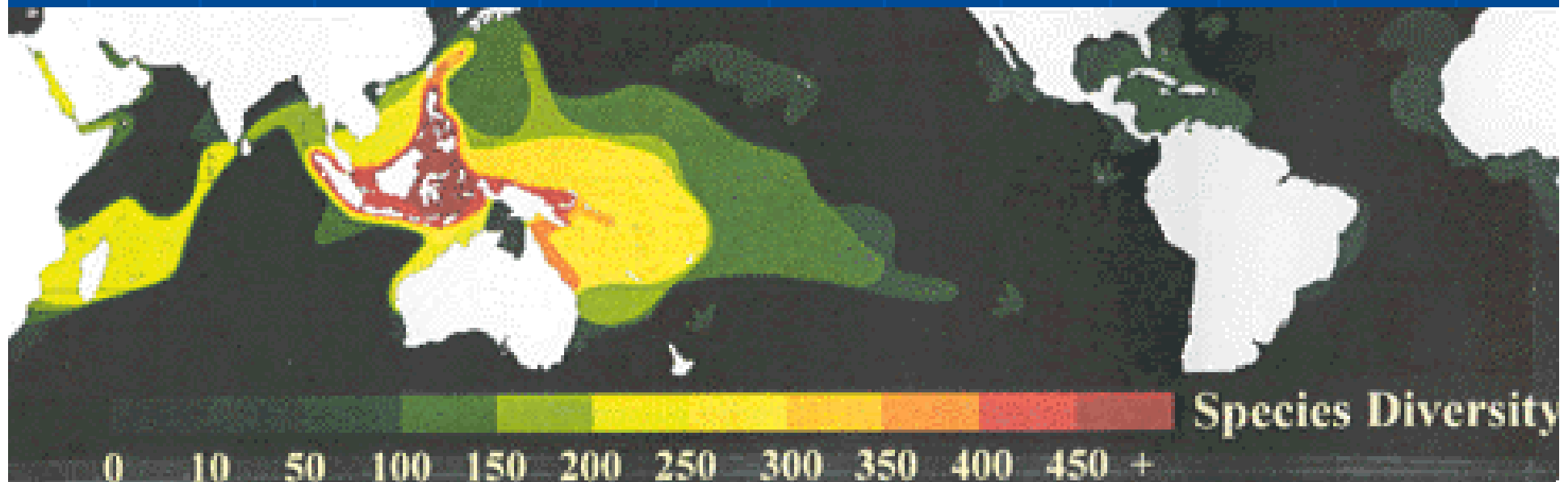
The Seas of East Asia

- Most populous region in World (1.8 billion): 60% + coastal
- Massive and sustained (but not sustainable) economic growth
- Increasing urbanization and industrialization
- Continued exponential population growth
- Region embraces 4 sub-regional seas (Large Marine Ecosystems - LMEs)
 - East China Sea
 - South China Sea
 - Sulu-Celebes Sea
 - Indonesian Seas
- Also abuts Yellow Sea / NOWPAP Area

Introduction & background

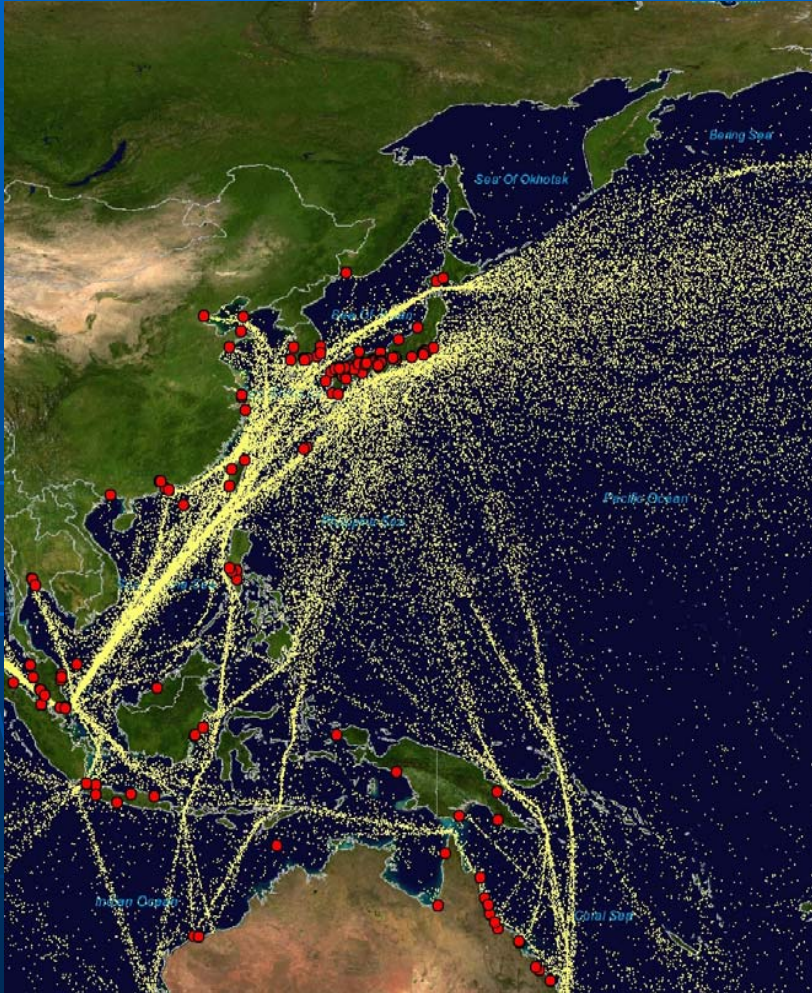
The Seas of East Asia

- The major global centre of coastal and marine biodiversity
- 30% World's coral reefs
- 30% World's mangroves
- 41% World's fish catch



Introduction & background

The Seas of East Asia



- One of World's densest concentrations of shipping
- Major port development
- Major fishing fleets inc. World's largest component of IUU

Objectives of the Review

Establish the current state-of-play, in the Seas of East Asia, at both the regional and national levels, with regard to:

- Existing knowledge and data on the problem
- Existing instruments, programmes and initiatives
- Barriers, gaps and needs

and to make recommendations and proposals for change.

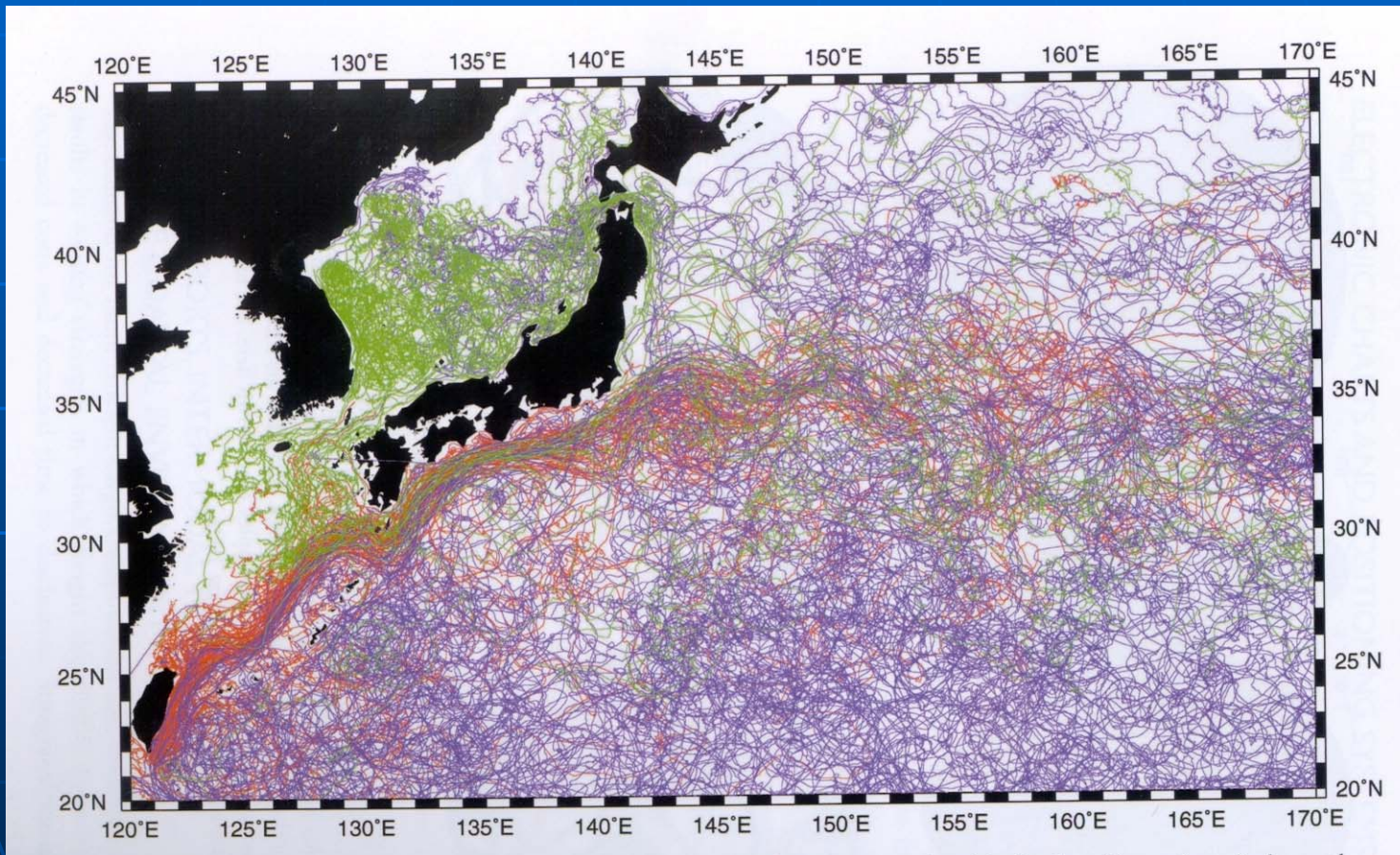
Review Methods

- Desk-top study only - no field assessment
- Regional Consultant / National Consultants
- National Surveys
- Literature search and review

Existing Knowledge



Existing Knowledge



Existing Knowledge

- Very good knowledge of the problem in S Korea (also Japan)
- Some (ad hoc) data for Australia
- Very little information for other COBSEA countries
- Aust, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam part of ICC - China and Cambodia not yet

Existing Regional Actions

- APEC - MRC marine debris socioeconomic study
- ASEAN
- PEMSEA / SDS-SEA
- GEF sub-regional LME projects
 - East China Sea (underway)
 - South China Sea (underway)
 - Arafura & Timor Seas (proposed)
 - Sulu and Suluwesi Seas (proposed)
 - Yellow Sea (in NOWPAP area, abuts COBSEA)

Existing National Actions

- S Korea is most advanced country by far
- Most countries no clear lead agency
- Environment and Maritime Admins
- Apart from S Korea only Indonesia has National Task Force
- Some other countries have Task Forces on related issues
- No countries have specific marine litter legislation (except for MARPOL)

Existing National Actions

- All countries except Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam parties to MARPOL Annex V
- Implementation is poor in most countries that are party
- All countries except Phillipines 'report' that waste reception facilities are provided in ports
- Based on "user pays" - acts as a barrier
- Need "No Special Fee"

Existing National Actions

- All countries report being signatories to GPA and have or are developing NPAs
- NPA implementation is poor
- All countries party to Basel Convention and have implementing National legislation
- All countries except Cambodia and China report having NGO involvement in marine litter

Existing National Actions

- Most countries report having no economic instruments
- Most countries have problems with national integrated waste management systems
- Only Australia and S Korea have concerted actions to address Lost and Abandoned Fishing Gear

Barriers & Gaps

- Cultural and capacity barriers
- Very low awareness / political will
- Major push for economic development / competing national development priorities
- Lack of data on nature and extent of the problem
- No use of marine litter trajectory models
- Lack of regional multi-lateral legal instrument
- Poor implementation of existing instruments, action plans and laws (e.g. MARPOL, GPA-NPAs, FAO Code of Conduct)

Barriers & Gaps

- Lack of involvement of private sector:
 - fisheries, shipping, ports, coastal tourism, plastics, packaging, and waste management industries
- Lack of cooperation between Regional Seas Regional Fisheries Body (Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission - APFIC)

Needs

A Regional Strategy & Action Plan on Marine Litter in the Seas of East Asia

- To prevent and reduce marine litter, recognizing its transboundary nature and need for intra- and inter regional cooperation

COBSEA & NOWPAP are linked



Must recognize sources and sinks

Must PREVENT the problem at SOURCE

Transboundary problem requires a transboundary response

Together we can do it!

