

**DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENT, WATER, POPULATION
AND COMMUNITIES**

**AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF MARINE AFFAIRS (AAMA)
AND WORLD OCEAN COUNCIL (WOC)**

WORKSHOP: OCEANS, INDUSTRY AND RIO +20

4 April 2012, University House, Australian National University

Co-Chair's Summary

Background

1. With the support of the Department of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC), the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs (AAMA) and the World Ocean Council (WOC) co-organized a workshop, to bring together a range of representatives from the ocean business community, including shipping, fisheries, oil/gas, aquaculture, offshore renewable energy, tourism, dredging, mining, and other ocean industries, to discuss oceans issues related to Rio + 20 and provide input to Rio + 20 via the Australian Government delegation to Rio + 20.
2. A list of participants is found in Appendix A.
3. The Workshop was held under Chatham House rules.

Welcome and Introduction

4. Richard Griffiths, Chair of AAMA, opened the Workshop and welcomed participants. He highlighted to participants that their role was to consider the United Nations (UN) and government inputs to Rio + 20 and what the potential outcomes might mean for industries operating in the ocean.
5. Griffiths introduced the Workshop co-chairs, Donna Petrachenko, First Assistant Secretary, Marine Initiatives/Rio + 20 Taskforce, DSEWPaC and Paul Holthus, Executive Director, World Oceans Council (WOC). The co-chairs made introductory presentations.
6. Petrachenko gave an overview of the Rio + 20 process: past, presentment and future; outlined the nine Australian Government priorities for Rio + 20; and outlined the government's objectives for ocean issues at Rio + 20. She highlighted the importance of oceans have achieved in the conference planning, the role that Australia is playing in advancing the ocean issues and the four specific ocean priorities for Australia.
7. Holthus provided an overview of the multiple uses of the inter-connected ocean, highlighting the need, opportunity and business value for industry leadership and collaboration to address cross-cutting issues and cumulative impacts, and the governments working together to address the challenges of responsible use of marine space and resources.

Overview of Rio + 20 Ocean Issues and Relevance to Business

8. Holthus outlined the ocean issues in the Rio + 20 Zero Draft, with input also provided by Petrachenko and Travis Bover, Marine Division, DSEWPaC:
 - a. ecosystem-based integrated ocean and coastal management;
 - b. protection of the marine environment from land-based activities;
 - c. biodiversity and marine protected areas;
 - d. sustainable fisheries and aquaculture;
 - e. management of the marine environment and climate change;
 - f. coordination of United Nations activities on oceans; and
 - g. the UN regular process of global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment.
9. The overview of these issues included consideration of the targets that have been previously developed by the international community, the need for more focus on commitments to implementation, the importance of using, and improving, existing institutions and legal arrangements and the need to identify and deliver on specific actions.
10. In response to the issues, industry representatives sought clarification on Australia's objectives against each of the issues; discussed what ecosystem-based management means in the marine environment and how it can be implemented, raised concern with the actual benefits obtained through the implementation of marine protected areas (MPAs); and raised concerns with the cost of implementing the outcomes of Rio + 20, highlighting the pressures that would be faced by industry in implementing these outcomes.

Discussion of Specific Ocean Issues/Actions in the Initial Draft

11. Bover provided an overview of the status of ocean text in the Zero Draft of the Rio + 20 Outcomes Document, noting that this has already changed based on input from governments and major groups. For each of the areas, workshop participants raised a number of questions and concerns, as outlined below.
 - a. Implementation of the UN "Regular Process" of global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment.

Discussion included:

- How Australia is tracking in terms of making marine policy decisions based on science.
 - How the Regular Process will operate and how scientists are selected and interact.
 - What the timeline is for completing the Regular Process and how often it will be repeated.
 - b. Issues related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

Discussion included:

- What a possible implementing agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) might look like.
- The process by which an implementing agreement would be developed.
- The need to consider whether existing agreements already addressed the concerns about marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, especially those developed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).
- The need to ensure synergy and coordination between new agreements and existing Conventions.
- The need for coordination among UN organizations dealing with the ocean.

c. Biodiversity conservation and MPAs.

Discussion included:

- Clarification on how ecosystem-based management links relates to MPAs and the importance of maintaining ecosystem services.
- Industry questions regarding the key messages that Australia would be trying to progress at Rio + 20, e.g. establish MPAs, and how this relates to lessons learnt in MPA development and the need to move forward rather than reiterating same general statements.
- A sense that MPAs without a strong scientific basis, real understanding of benefits/problems, potential benefits, fair rules, and proper oversight make little sense. This is especially true in the local context when large areas are set aside as MPAs or marine managed areas, but do not actually have the resources for adequate management. There are important lessons to be gained and shared from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
- The importance of addressing marine invasive species in the Rio + 20 text, including the need to: Bring the Ballast Water Management Convention into force and have a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach to addressing hull biofouling, with international standards.
- Australian MPA developments and bioregional planning should not be rushed in order to announce completion at Rio + 20, as industry stakeholders need sufficient time to comment on the proposed management.
- The issue of people and knowledge needs to be adequately addressed, which extends beyond 'indigenous' peoples and, for oceans in particular, includes the expertise, skills, etc. of ocean users, e.g. fishers, who have knowledge that can support and extend science and understanding of marine ecosystems and resources.

d. Advancing actions to address land and seas based marine pollution, including:

- i. the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;
- ii. marine debris plans;

- iii. investment in the treatment of waste water.

Discussion included:

- The potential to usefully address marine debris on a regional scale, within an international framework.
- e. Advancing actions on climate change and oceans, including ocean acidification:
 - i. collaboration on acidification – research and observation.

Discussion included:

- Clarification on why ocean acidification was such an important issue.
 - What Rio + 20 might be able to address in relation to climate change and oceans, including ocean acidification.
 - The need for improved, expanded and better coordinated science and observations on oceans and climate change.
 - The importance to ocean industries of adaptation to the effects of climate change on ocean conditions, including sea level rise.
- f. Maintaining or restoring depleted fish stocks to sustainable levels:
 - i. committing to implementing science-based management plans to rebuild stocks by 2015;
 - ii. regional fisheries management organisations;
 - iii. environmental impacts of fisheries;
 - iv. discards.

Discussion included:

- The importance of access to fishing grounds for ensuring food security.
 - Fisheries are better managed by fisheries management tools, as MPAs are a blunt instrument if their main purpose is fisheries management.
 - Australia's position on bottom trawling internationally in relation to the way in which bottom trawling was addressed in domestic waters.
- g. urging countries to combat pirate fishing by adopting and implementing effective tools;

Discussion included:

- No major discussion.
- h. implement measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing:
 - i. port and flag state measures;
 - ii. monitoring, control and surveillance.

Discussion included:

- No major discussion.
- i. eliminate subsidies that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity;
 - i. conclude World Trade Organization negotiations;
 - ii. increased transparency;
 - iii. a pause on new subsidies; and
 - iv. international regulations and standards.

Discussion included:

- No major discussion.

General discussion at the end of the session on the draft Rio + 20 text revolved around:

- How the implementation of the outcomes of Rio + 20 not only depends on capacity, but also cultural changes.
- The important role for internationally consistent standards and regulations.
- The importance of linkages and synergies with existing institutions and agreements.

Development of a multi-sectoral ocean industry leadership alliance in Australia

12. Holthus introduced the concept of the development of a multi-sectoral ocean industry leadership alliance in Australia, as a number of companies had suggested to the WOC views that there would be value in establishing such a group.
13. To illustrate this, Simon Allen (CSIRO) provided a presentation on the need and opportunity for industry collaboration on ocean science and observations and the business benefits of such collaboration.
14. Participants raised questions, in regards to the objective of the group and concerns about potential duplication with other established groups. Petrachenko highlighted that a benefit from the establishment of such a group would facilitate the government's engagement with business and industry stakeholders on marine issues that are not specific to one industry and one agency.
15. The workshop participants agreed that a useful way forward would be to attach a concept note/draft terms of reference to the meeting summary for the ocean business community in Australia to consider and provide feedback to the WOC (see Appendix B).

Wrap up and Follow up

16. In summing up for DSEWPac, Petrachenko stated that the meeting had provided valuable private sector input to the Australian government's efforts to address ocean issues at Rio + 20. Holthus emphasized the importance of ensuring industry involvement in inter-governmental negotiations regarding the use and management of the ocean space and resources and the need to mobilize and coordinate this input. He thanked AAMA for its role in organising the workshop.

17. Following the conclusion of the meeting it was informally agreed that Holthus and Petrachenko would develop a “co-chairs summary” to be provided to workshop participants. The summary will be posted on the AAMA website and provide the basis for an article to be included in *Australian Maritime Digest*. The WOC would also make the results of the workshop widely available to the ocean business community through its network.

Appendix A

Workshop Participants

Allen, Simon	Coastal Systems Research Stream Leader Our Resilient Coastal Australia Wealth From Oceans CSIRO
Bover, Travis	Director, Marine Policy Development Marine Division Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
Campbell, Gary	General Manager Abbot Point Port Development North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation
Craig, Ben	Marine Environment Section Environment Branch Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Davitt, Ernie	Editor, <i>Australian Maritime Digest</i> , and Vice Chair, Australian Association for Maritime Affairs
Davitt, Jean	Business Manager Australian Association for Maritime Affairs
Declercq, Eddy	Managing Director OOCL (Australia) Pty Ltd
Exon, Neville	Board Member Australian Association for Maritime Affairs
Griffiths, Richard	Chair, Australian Association for Maritime Affairs
Gunn, John	CEO Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)
Hatch, Teresa	Executive Director Australian Shipowners Association
Holthus, Paul	Executive Director World Ocean Council
Julian, Michael	Executive Director, Australian Marine Environment Protection Association (AUSMEPA), and Board Member Australian Association for Maritime Affairs
Kaveney, Tom	Principal Environmental Advisor BHP Billiton

Knudsen, Keld	Associate Director – Environment Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association Limited (APPEA)
Lawrence, Anissa	Director TierraMar Consulting
Madon, Trixi	Chief Executive Officer Commonwealth Fisheries Association
McCombe, Chris	Assistant Director for Environmental Policy Minerals Council of Australia
Onken, Rebecca	Rio+20 Taskforce Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
Parr, Dr Joanna	Stream Leader, Coastal Balance Project Leader, Seabed Minerals CSIRO Wealth from Oceans Flagship
Pearce, Sharon	Maritime Policy Reform Branch Department of Infrastructure and Transport
Petersen, Andrew	Chief Executive Officer Sustainable Business Australia (SBA)
Petrachenko, Donna	Chief Advisor International Biodiversity and Sustainability and Australia’s Commissioner to the IWC
Sarneckis, Katherine	Chair National Seafood Industry Alliance
Smith, Samantha	VP Corporate Social Responsibility Nautilus Minerals
Sorensen, Ron	General Manager Operations Newcastle Port Corporation
Summer, Gillian	Communication Manager Forgacs Engineering Pty Ltd
Tilley, John	Executive Director Australian Institute of Petroleum

Appendix B

Concept note re a multi-sectoral ocean industry leadership alliance in Australia

The Australian marine ecosystem provides energy, transport, food, fresh water, tourism, recreation and other benefits. The increasingly crowded, multi-use marine area is resulting competition and conflict among a broad range of operators, as well as interactions with other stakeholders.

Many of the policy, practical and public reputation aspects of ocean industry activity are now dominated, by environmental concerns. These issues are affecting all industries that use ocean space and resources, e.g. oil and gas, shipping, fisheries, aquaculture, ports, tourism, ocean renewable energy, seabed mining, dredging, ports, etc. Access to ocean resources, services and space is at risk from the loss of the “social license” and from the ocean management policies and decisions emerging from processes in which industry is not well engaged.

This is creating important needs and opportunities for collaboration, synergies, and business benefits among the ocean business community. Unfortunately ocean industries are not engaging in a coordinated systematic approach to many of the developments affecting their future, missing opportunities for collaboration and economies of scale in developing solutions.

There has been little or no involvement from responsible companies to differentiate themselves from poor performers, ally themselves with like-minded companies, communicate industry’s positive efforts to the public and media and develop constructive relations with stakeholders.

The private sector is the primary ocean user and is best placed to develop and implement the practices needed to ensure marine ecosystem use is sustainable. Some companies try to do business in a more environmentally sustainable way, but the efforts of one company or even a whole industry sector are not enough to address cumulative impacts in the inter-connected marine environment.

A multi-sectoral ocean industry leadership alliance in Australia could bring together the broad range of ocean industries to address sustainability by developing:

- A vibrant cross-sectoral ocean business community for leadership in sustainability and access to ocean areas and resources by responsible companies.
- An ocean business community well-informed on ocean policy processes and constructively engaged with the government and ocean stakeholders.
- Cross-sectoral industry collaboration in practical, cost-effective, science-based solutions to cross-cutting marine environmental challenges.
- Improved environmental performance of ocean industries through continuous improvement, best practices and standards.
- Improved mutual understanding among ocean industry sectors, increased cross-sectoral dialogue, and reduced ocean use conflicts.
- Collective industry support for, and participation in, improved ocean science, data and observations.
- Proactive outreach and communication to the media and public on ocean industry efforts and progress in addressing marine environmental issues.