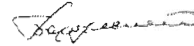


Executive Director The Commission on
the Protection of the Black Sea Against
Pollution Permanent Secretariat



Prof. A. Kideys

Director Regional Activity Center for
Pollution Monitoring and Assessment



V. Borulko

Terms of Reference

Regional Activity Center for Pollution Monitoring and Assessment, Odessa, Ukraine (RAC PMA)

1. The Ukrainian Scientific Center of Ecology of the Sea (UkrSCES) is the Black Sea Regional Activity Center for Pollution Monitoring and Assessment (RAC PMA) in accordance with the "Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea" (BS- SAP 1996, reiterated to the new SAP2009). The Activity Center is based in Odessa, Ukraine following Resolution 4, Para 3 of the Bucharest Diplomatic Conference in 1992 and was initially established with the financial assistance of BSEP (Black Sea Environment Program, 1993-1996). It functions now based on the in-kind contribution provided by the Government of Ukraine with additional financial assistance from donors where possible and necessary. RAC PMA carries out field work and provides analysis of water, bottom sediments and biota within UA national waters in the Black Sea under the framework of the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (BSIMAP) in case of financing from the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Ukraine;

2. The purpose of the RAC PMA is to provide support both to the Advisory Group for Pollution Monitoring and Assessment (AG PMA), which was established within the framework of the BS SAP, and to the Black Sea Commission (BSC) and its Permanent Secretariat (BSC PS). The RAC PMA together with the AG PMA deals with organizational, scientific-methodological and technical functioning of the regional monitoring system - the BSIMAP and conducts assessments of pollution/eutrophication of the Black Sea within the framework of the Black Sea Commission Work Program and in support of the implementation of the Bucharest Convention, its Protocols and SAP2009. The RAC PMA shall participate in:

- collection of pollution monitoring data in the BS region and their storage in a specifically designed data base,
- data quality control and assurance,
- calculation of indicators,
- GIS development, mapping,
- further development of the BS monitoring system and BS information System (BSIS) – recommendations for covering not only coastal, but marine waters as well,
- organization of regional exercises/workshops/discussions aiming at harmonization of methods, standards, environmental quality objectives, common understanding of good environmental status, indicators calculation,
- assessments, preparation of scientific reports and reports for policy- decision-makers, annual reports for the Black Sea Commission, State of the Environment (SOE) and SAP Implementation reports every 5 years, or any other indicator-based reports on pollution/eutrophication required by the Work Plan of the BSC PS,
- organization and providing training in regional monitoring, assessments, and interactive map services,

- organization and participation in inter-calibration and inter-comparison exercises,
- the work of the Advisory Group on Pollution Monitoring and Assessment according to the Work Plan of the Black Sea Commission;
- executing operational tasks of the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission in relation to the BSIMAP and BSIS,
- co-operation with other Advisory Groups and Regional Activity Centers created within the framework of the BS SAP and with national subdivisions of monitoring and research organizations in all Black Sea countries, international organizations and projects/programs,
- providing expertise and consultations on environmental protection issues,
- participation in elaboration of the Work Plan of the BSC,
- Providing support for possible cooperation (workshops, expert exchange, study visits, etc.) with other Conventions, such as Barcelona, OSPAR, Helsinki etc., in the field of coastal/marine monitoring and assessments.

Annually the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission provides the RAC PMA with Black Sea states data/information submitted by the Focal Points of the AG PMA. The Secretariat of the BSC keeps informed the PMA RAC about decisions taken in the AG PMA or Commission in relation to the BSIMAP, BSIS and other associated issues.

The Director of the RAC PMA annually prepares a Report about the activities of the RAC PMA. The Director of the RAC PMA is the Director of the UkrSCES.

**Terms of Reference for the
Information management component
RAC PMA**

1. Create and maintain a Regional Database on pollution/eutrophication (further Regional Database) to be treated as an integral part of the archive of the BSC with the respective provisions in the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution.
2. The Regional Database shall be operated in such a way that the BSC (BSC PS) shall at all time retain control over it. Using the database for other purposes than those set by the BSC or delivery of data to a third party will require permission in line with the Information Policy adopted by the BSC.
3. The products/derivatives/assessments based on data from the Regional Database (indicators, reports, publications, etc.) are the property of the BSC.
4. Suggest for further development of data reporting templates, formats for indicators-based annual and 5-years reports.
5. Develop and implement a concept based on the Information Policy of the BSC of (secure where necessary) access to data defining for this purpose levels of data access and access permissions in coordination with BSC PS;
6. Develop and ensure procedures/protocols for direct access to database data based on the permission and access levels defined.
7. Organize easy and free of charge authorized access to the Regional Database for the management institutions of each Black Sea countries.

8. Develop a Web-interface to the Regional Database (English version); it should provide read-only authorized access to the raw data provided by each country (as an obligation to the Black Sea Commission) for better interpretation of the results as well as a guarantee for a common approach to the prepared regional assessments and reports.
9. Develop a written procedure (manual) for uploading and downloading the PMA monitoring data into/from the Regional Database on pollution.
10. Create tools for Quality Control of data.
11. Carry out QC and correction of data.
12. Apply methods for data preservation and data archiving.
13. Create tools for calculation of data statistics and indicators needed for preparation of SOE report; the tools should be free (web-based or available for free download as is the standard practice for some European developed indices (such as European fish index, AMBI index etc.) and should contain instructions or guidelines for application and interpretation of the indices and statistics used, as well as the publications for the Black sea region concerning their practical application.
14. Develop a “hot-line” (via internet) for consultancy on each statistics or index with experts who are able to answer questions concerning application and interpretation of the indices (an internet forum for experts to exchange experience, publications etc).
15. Develop Interactive (web based) Geographic Information System (GIS) for accommodation of cartographic materials and environmental data.
16. Ensure spatial referencing of data (where appropriate) for integration of the Regional Database with GIS for data mapping and visualization with the help of Map Services. Integration with Google Earth and/or Google Maps is further recommended.