OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL OCEAN POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Regional Ocean Policy and Governance Dialogue
21 – 24 August
Nadi, Fiji
Presentation Outline

• Approach & Focus
• Historical Developments
• Governance Mechanisms
• Regional Ocean Policy
• 2050 Strategy Placement
• Maximising existing policy and governance to bolster implementation
Approach & Focus

• To understand where we are now: we must also understand how we got here.
• Regional Ocean Policy and Governance: Broad and comprehensive
Envisioning Policy & Governance

Institutions

Policy

Governance
Historical Developments – What gave rise to Ocean Policy and Governance

Global

- 1493 Pope Alexander VI: earliest attempt to regulate ocean: jurisdiction was a narrow band of territorial seas around and with freedom of the High seas.
- 19th Century, debate on territorial sea: “cannon-short rule of 3 nautical miles” from 17th and 18th Centuries.
- Numerous attempts to resolve the issue of territorial sea entitlements (1930 – Hague Conference), (1st Session of ILC 1949), (1958 & 1960 Conferences)
- Lack of uniformity in preference of states caused uncertainty on peaceful uses of the ocean.

Regional

- Extension of national governance and customary management practices near shore prevailed across the region.
- Open ocean, commons to care for (collective)
- Leaders gathering based on addressing their collective needs e.g., decolonization and addressing pre-colonial issues e.g. nuclear, fisheries
- Increase in interests on the ocean saw the emergence of Policy and Governance to address these issues.
Ocean Journey

1982
- UN Law of the Sea Convention

1986/1987
- Rarotonga Treaty 1986 – ban use, testing and possession of nuclear
- Noumea Convention 1986
- US Multilateral Treaty 1987

1994/1995
- Agreement relating to Part X1 of UNCLOS – govern the Area
- UN Fish Stocks Agreement 1995

1999
- South Pacific Regional Follow-Up Workshop on the Implementation of UNCLOS

2000
- Multilateral High-Level Conference finalized the WCPFC

2002(S)/2010
- Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy and Implementation Plan.
- Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape

2014/2016/2021
- Leaders Communiqué 2014, 2016 (Ocean Statements)
- Forum Leaders Ocean Statement 2021

2015
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

2022/2023
- Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)
- BBNJ Treaty
30th South Pacific Forum Meeting, 3 – 5 October 1999 in Koror, Palau

- Endorsed the conclusions and outcomes of the South Pacific Regional Follow-Up Workshop on the Implementation of UNCLOS (Vava’u, Tonga, 23-27 August 1999) with six priority areas identified by the workshop which are:
  
  i. national and regional Ocean Policy and legislation
  ii. marine scientific research and cooperation
  iii. delimitation of maritime zones including continental shelves
  iv. human resource development and special technical assistance and support and cooperation of regional institutions
  v. ratification of UNCLOS and linkages to relevant treaties
  vi. surveillance cooperation and exchange
Regional Policy Vision and Goals
Policy Hierarchy - Situating the 2050 Strategy

The hierarchy and linkages of key regional ocean policies, political declarations and global commitments

Leaders Declarations & Statements
- Palau Declaration on the Ocean, Life & Future (2014)
- Pohnpei Ocean Statement (2016)
- Pacific Regional Platform for Partnerships & Action on Sustainable Development Goal 14 (2017)
- Pacific Island Year of the Whale Declaration (2017)
- Bee Declaration on Regional Security (2018)
- Tokyo Declaration (2019)
- The Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now

PIF Leaders Communiques

Framework for Pacific Regionalism

Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development

Framework for Pacific Oceanscape (FPO)

Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy

Global Ocean Commitments
- Agenda 2030 (SDGs & SDG14 targets)
- Aichi Targets
- Samos Pathway

The plethora of regional ocean policies, statements and mandates supporting the FPO Strategic Priorities

SP 1. Jurisdictional Rights & Responsibilities
- Decision 10 - 48th PIF Communiqué 2019
- Decision 26 of 49th PIF Communiqué 2018
- Decisions 24-25 50th PIF Communiqué
- Palau Declaration

SP 2. Good Ocean Governance
- New Song for Pacific Fisheries
- Palau Declaration
- Framework for Pacific Regionalism
- Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development

- Roadmap for Sustainable Fisheries
- Pohnpei Ocean Statement
- Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas
- Cleaner Pacific 2025
- Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
- Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime 2020-2024
- Tokyo Declaration
- Pacific Island fear of the White Declaration

SP 4. Listening, Learning, Leading & Leading
- Framework for Pacific Regionalism

SP 5. Sustaining Action
- Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development
- Palau Declaration
- Palau Ocean Statement
- Tokyo Declaration
- Partnership & Action on Sustainable Development Goal 14

SP 6. Adapting to a changing environment
- Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy
- Framework for Resilient Development
- Bora Declaration
- The Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now
Regional Governance Mechanisms

- Forum: States
- CROP Heads: Only CROP
- Marine Sector Working Group (MSWG): CROP, some States, some other NGO
- One CROP Plus: CROP and some NGOs
- Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA): All stakeholders with interest in the ocean
Effective Coordination
The challenges in inter-regime coordination can be improved. A system with a strong coordination backbone.

Drawing from positive Lessons
Important lessons can be learnt from existing mechanisms regionally and also internationally e.g., Covid – 19

2050 Strategy
Alignment and connectivity of Policies and Frameworks

Robust Monitoring and Review
Harmonized reporting to decrease burden on Members

MAXIMISING ON EXISTING MECHANISMS
Working with What We Have
THANK YOU

- Follow us on:
- Website: https://opocbluepacific.net/
- Twitter: @PacOceanComm
- Facebook: Pacific Ocean Commissioner