

Report of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment: Developing the 1st SOCAR

Presented by Chair Stephanie Adrian (US Environmental Protection Agency)

LBS COP3 - Cayenne, French Guiana

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Summary of Working Group Efforts Since 2nd LBS COP

- ▶ Development of optimal standard methodologies for monitoring parameters
- ▶ Identification of financial resources for SOCAR development through linkages with other programs as well as increased efforts to improve data monitoring and collection of SOCAR parameters - e.g. CLME+ funds
- ▶ Hiring of consultant to draft the SOCAR
- ▶ In-person meeting of WG in Kingston, Jamaica August 15-17, 2016 - funded in part by CLME+
- ▶ Initiation of the draft of the 1st State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) using regional and global data sets
- ▶ Data call to countries - November 15th to present
- ▶ Analysis of data collected from countries - ongoing
- ▶ Determination of “good-fair-poor” ranges within the acceptable values for LBS parameters
- ▶ Identification of marine litter as additional priority area for LBS

Purpose of the SOCAR

- ▶ To provide the first overall quantitative assessment of the Caribbean Sea that will assist in informed decision-making
- ▶ To identify geographic areas in need of immediate attention due to potential or existing public health risks in order to help countries prioritize assistance
- ▶ To identify which countries need improved water quality monitoring and specific throughout the Wider Caribbean in order to increase data quality over time
- ▶ To identify linkages with other efforts in the Wider Caribbean Region, such as CLME+, State of the Marine Environment (SOME), State of Habitat report and SDGs development to leverage resources
- ▶ To serve as a baseline for future SOCARs

Benefits of SOCAR

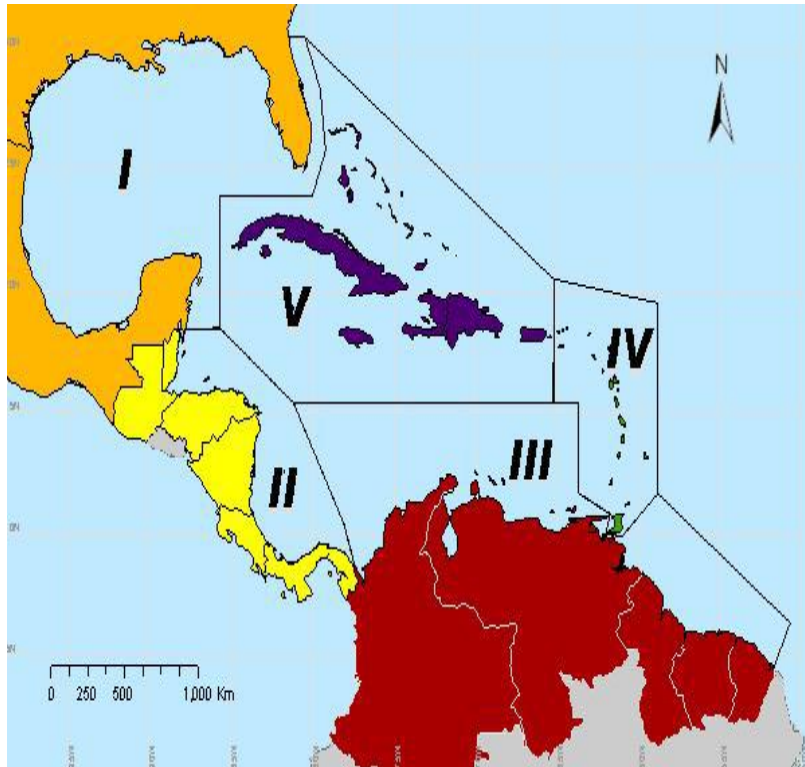
- ▶ Serves as a baseline for future SOCARs
- ▶ Vulnerabilities identified will help target resources to improve monitoring programs and build capacity
- ▶ Develops a methodology that can be improved upon over time for future SOCARs
- ▶ Will serve as a model for other Regional Seas
- ▶ Will attract larger investments into the region for economic development e.g. tourism, infrastructure
- ▶ Relevant to SDG 14, which explicitly mentions land based sources...SOCAR can contribute to monitoring of SDG 14

Progress on SOCAR Development

- ▶ June 2016 - present - Identification of relevant existing regional and global data sources
 - ▶ Global and regional datasets e.g. GEF Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP) and socioeconomic datasets
- ▶ August 2016 - Regional workshop of technical experts
 - ▶ Outputs included establishing a workplan, agreement on an approach and methodology, agreement on geographical sub-regions as assessment units, development of annotated SOCAR outline
- ▶ November 2016- present - Data call to countries
 - ▶ Template with parameters sent by Secretariat to all LBS Focal Points in October
 - ▶ 11 out of 39 countries and Territories have submitted data (28%) - Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Colombia, Dom Rep, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique, French Guiana, Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago, USA

SOCAR sub-regions with countries/territories

Countries/Territories that submitted data are shown in red



Sub-region I: Gulf of Mexico: USA and Mexico

Sub- region II: Western Caribbean: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama

Sub-region III: Southern Caribbean: Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, French Guiana, Suriname, Aruba and Netherland Antilles

Sub-region IV: Eastern Caribbean: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Martin, St. Barthelemy, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, U.S. Virgin Islands and Trinidad and Tobago

Sub-region V: Northeast and Central Caribbean: Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Turks and Caicos

Preliminary Data Analysis for Sub-region #1

Country	Bottom DO WET Season(mg/L)	Total P Wet Season (mg/ L)	Total N Wet Season (mg/L)	Remarks
Country 1 Ave	6.603	0.980	1.076	
Country 2 Ave	5.664	0.072	0.594	
Subregional Ave: Weighting factor	5.949	0.133	0.755	Country coastline/Sub-regional coastline
GOOD	>5 mg/L	<0.015 mg/L	TBD	
FAIR	2-5 mg/L	0.015-0.040 mg/L	TBD	
POOR	<2 mg/L	>0.040 mg/L	TBD	

Key Challenges and Limitations

- ▶ DATA, DATA, DATA - lack of data results in less accurate analysis, or delay in completion of SOCAR
- ▶ Data gaps - not all countries are monitoring any or all of the LBS parameters; some countries do not have national data but may have data from institutions
- ▶ Quality and scope of data - gaps in technical capacity, lab capacity, monitoring points and frequency of monitoring may be lacking
- ▶ Difficulty in downscaling global data sets
- ▶ Need for countries to classify into Class I and II

Recommendations from LBS STAC

1. Parties support inclusion of marine litter as a priority land based source of pollution in addition to wastewater and nutrients based on the associated Caribbean Platforms and the increased impact of these pollutants on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health.

1bis. Contracting Parties may wish to consider using the current pilot Trash Free Waters Initiative being implemented by the Secretariat in Jamaica and Panama as a model for developing similar activities aimed at reducing land-based sources of marine litter/solid waste/plastics in their respective countries.

2. Parties strengthen laboratory capacity within their own countries to monitor LBS parameters and to maximize the financial support provided from projects such as GEF IWEco and potentially GEF CReW+.

Recommendations continued

3. Parties agree that there may be health effects from microplastics, created upon degradation of plastic material, and to support efforts by the Secretariat to share information and research efforts aimed at developing monitoring methodologies for microplastics that should be incorporated into water quality monitoring programs. Many of the issues relating to plastics and microplastics have been documented in recent UNEP reports and a fact sheet prepared by the Secretariat.

4. Further develop and finalize the SOCAR - e.g. acceptance of the specific good-fair-poor ranges currently under development by the data sub-group, and submission of raw national water quality data, or other data if not available, on the understanding that these data will not be made public without prior written consent by the countries.

Recommendations continued

5. Recommendation to the Secretariat to work with Contracting Parties/Countries **to identify/mobilize financial resources** from existing projects and/or develop new project proposals to respond to the new priorities identified under SOCAR.

New Recommendations from the Working Group post-STAC Meeting

1. Parties support continued work of LBS Monitoring and Assessment Working Group toward further development of the SOCAR and supporting activities.
2. Parties allow use of other available data if national data is lacking, for the purpose of development of the first SOCAR.
3. Countries that have not yet done so, to submit available data to the Secretariat for the SOCAR by 15th April 2017 (final deadline).
4. Countries take action to improve their capacity for water quality monitoring, relevant data collection, assessment and reporting.
5. Parties to the Cartagena Convention encourage all contracting and non-contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to submit data and relevant information for the SOCAR.

Revised SOCAR Timeline

- ▶ August 2016 - Initiation of draft
- ▶ November 2016 - Initial data call
- ▶ Jan/Feb 2017 - Preliminary data analysis for data received
- ▶ **Missing data submitted to CEP by April 15th, 2017**
- ▶ Mar - June - Continue data analysis and filling of data gaps
- ▶ June - Sept- zero draft and review by WG
- ▶ Nov/Dec 2017 - Draft SOCAR to countries for review
- ▶ Feb 2018 - Finalize SOCAR with country input

Next Steps

- ▶ Receive missing data from countries by **15 April 2017**
- ▶ Finalize and agree on “good-fair-poor” ranges of parameters
- ▶ Determination of how to handle data gaps in SOCAR
- ▶ Further analysis of data

Working Group Members

- ▶ Stephanie Adrian - USA - Chair
- ▶ Darryl Banjoo* - RAC IMA/Trinidad and Tobago
- ▶ Linroy Christian* - Antigua and Barbuda
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- ▶ Marlen Perez* - RAC CIMAB/Cuba
- ▶ Troy Pierce* - USA
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- ▶ Danneille Townsend - Jamaica
- ▶ * Data Sub Group Member



Thank you for your data!!