
Introduction

~Background and progress of the data sharing project~

Ministry of the Environment, Japan

Initiatives to harmonize monitoring methods and compile monitoring data of ocean surface microplastics



- The initiatives have aimed to harmonize monitoring methodologies and share data for ocean surface microplastics since 2016 in line with the discussions at the G7 Schloss Elmau Summit in 2015, the G20 Osaka Summit in 2019, and related international workshops.

2015 June	G7 Schloss Elmau Summit (International workshops of experts)
2019	Published the “ Guidelines for Harmonizing Ocean Surface Microplastic Monitoring Methods ”.
2019 June	G20 Osaka Summit (Osaka Blue Ocean Vision)
2020	First revision of the Guidelines
2020	Launch of the Marine Plastic Litter Monitoring Data Sharing Project .
2023	International Workshop on Marine Debris Data Harmonization
2023	Second revision of the Guidelines
2024 May	Release of the <u>Atlas of Ocean Microplastics (AOMI)</u> (Database system)

Related international trends;

- The resolution adopted in the **UNEA-5.2 requested to convene an INC*** to develop "the instrument," which is to be based on a comprehensive approach.
- The INC began its work during the second half of 2022, with the ambition to **complete the negotiations by the end of 2024.**

Compilation of draft text of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

(Simplified version (not an original version) after INC4)



Part I 1. Preamble (placeholder), 2. Objective, 3. Definitions (placeholder), 4. Principles (placeholder), 5. Scope (placeholder)

Part II

1. Primary plastic polymers
2. Chemicals and polymers of concern
3. Problematic and avoidable plastic products
4. Exemptions available to a Party upon request
- 4bis. Dedicated programmes of works
5. Product design, composition and performance
6. Non-plastic substitutes
7. Extended producer responsibility
8. Emissions and releases of plastic throughout its life cycle
9. Waste management
- XX. Fishing gear
10. Trade in listed chemicals, polymers and products, and in plastic waste

11. Existing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment

12. Just transition
13. Transparency, tracking, monitoring and labelling
- 13bis. Overarching provision related to Part II

Part III

1. Financing
2. Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology

Part IV

1. National plans
2. Implementation and compliance
3. Reporting on progress
4. Periodic assessment and monitoring of the progress of implementation of the instrument* and effectiveness evaluation
5. International cooperation
6. Information exchange
7. Awareness-raising, education and research
8. Stakeholder engagement
- 8bis. Health aspects

(Part V Institutional arrangements, Part VI Final provisions)

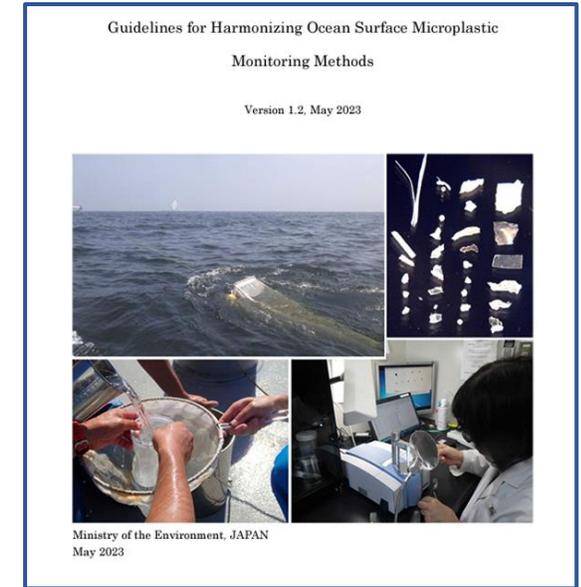


(excerpts)

Guidelines for Harmonizing Ocean Surface Microplastic Monitoring Methods

- ✓ Published the Guidelines in May 2019, based on the comparison study of sampling and analysis methods through the demonstration projects and discussions at an international expert .
- ✓ The Guidelines were prepared with the view of **enabling researchers of ocean surface microplastic monitoring to adopt similar monitoring protocols** and therefore interpret their results with a level of comparability.

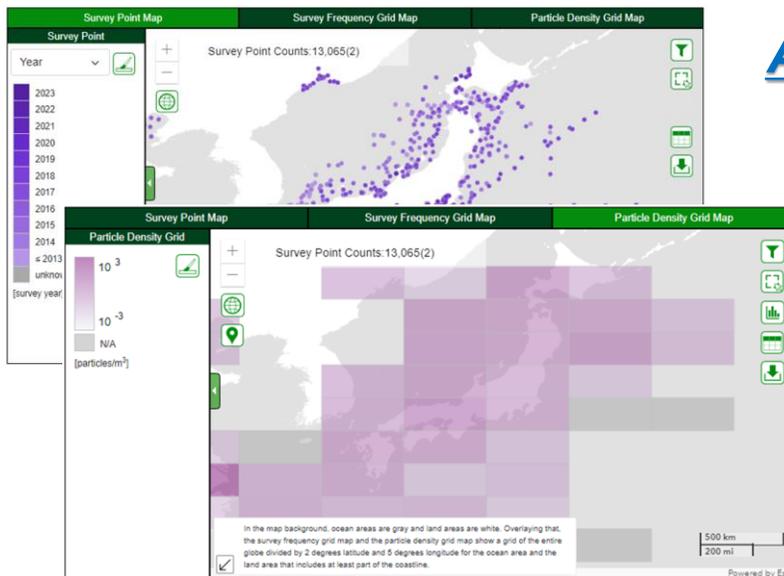
(Guidelines web page: <https://www.env.go.jp/content/000170493.pdf>)



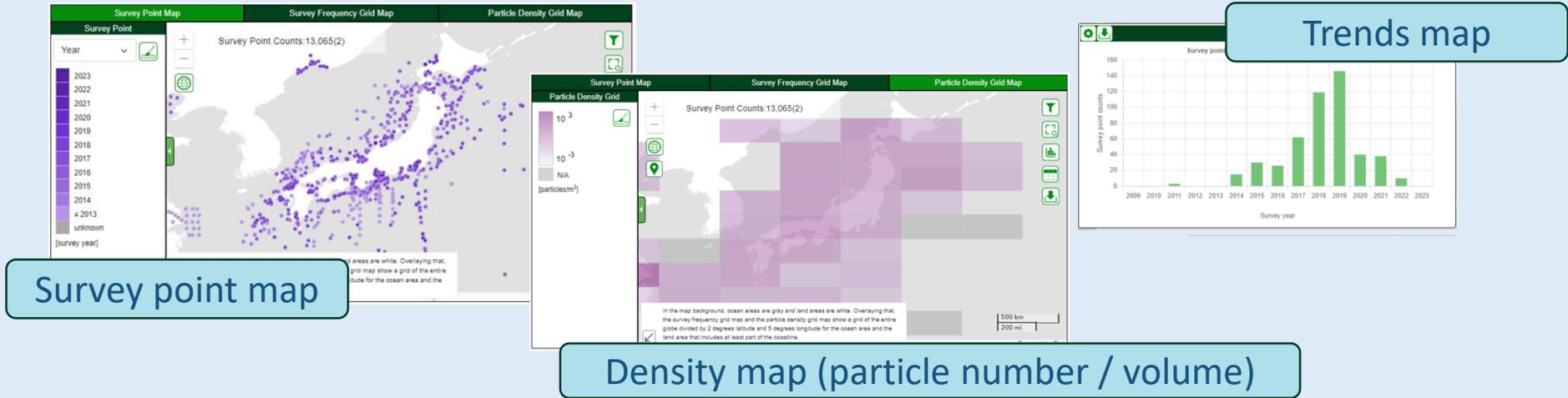
Atlas of Ocean Microplastics (AOMI)

- ✓ Developing a marine plastic litter mapping database (AOMI)
 - ◆ contains **comparable global monitoring data** in line with the guideline
 - ◆ **provides harmonized datasets and 2D maps** on ocean surface MPs distributions.
- ✓ The database will be released in this May.

(AOMI web page: <https://aomi.env.go.jp/> (To be released))



Atlas of Ocean Microplastics



Engagement collaboration

Evidence-Based Policy



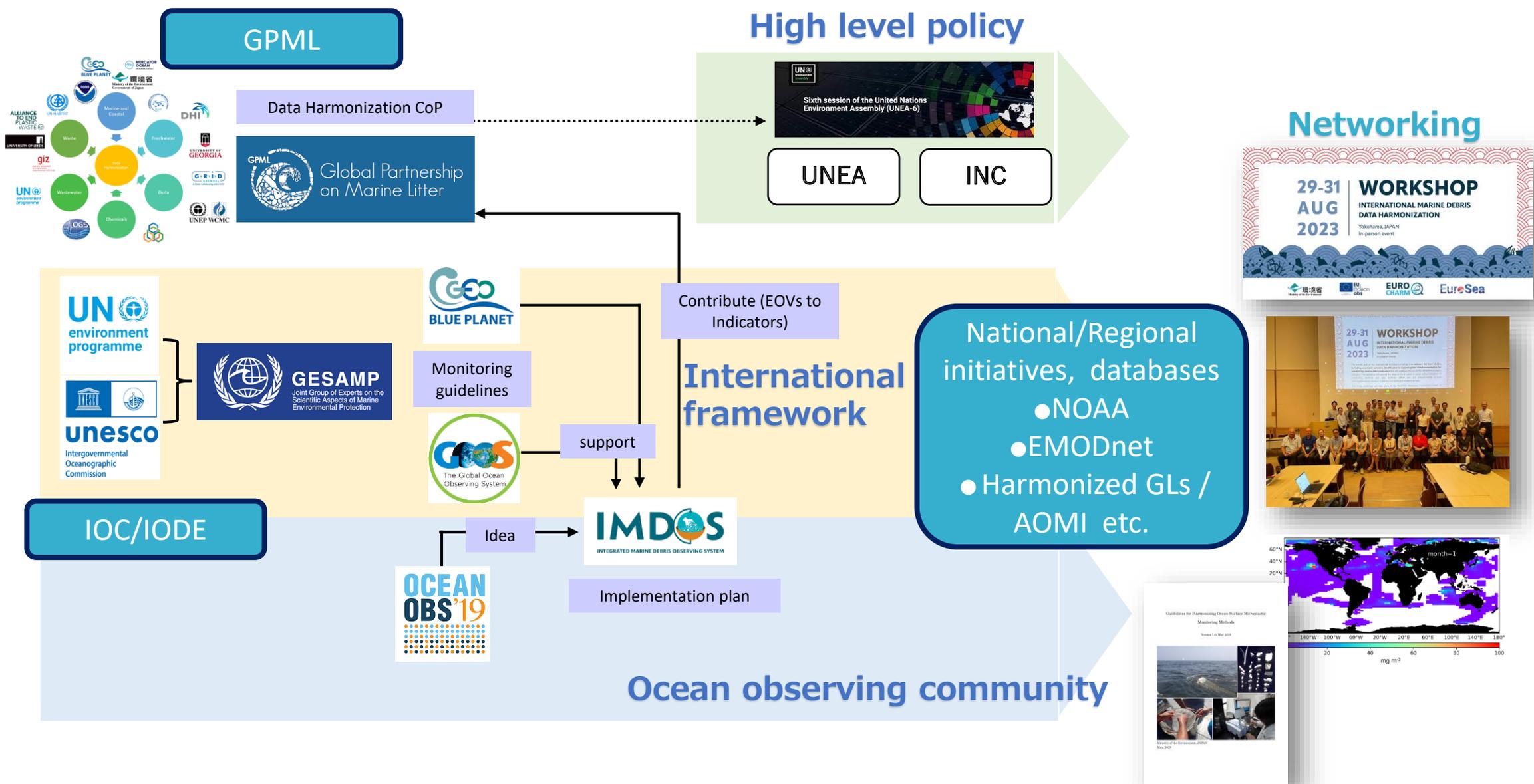
Enhance awareness of marine plastic pollution through clear and accessible information

Promote the obtention and application of harmonized data

Evidence-based measures and evaluation using global comparable data

Current international frameworks, projects, assemblies

SCIENCE, POLICY, SOCIETY



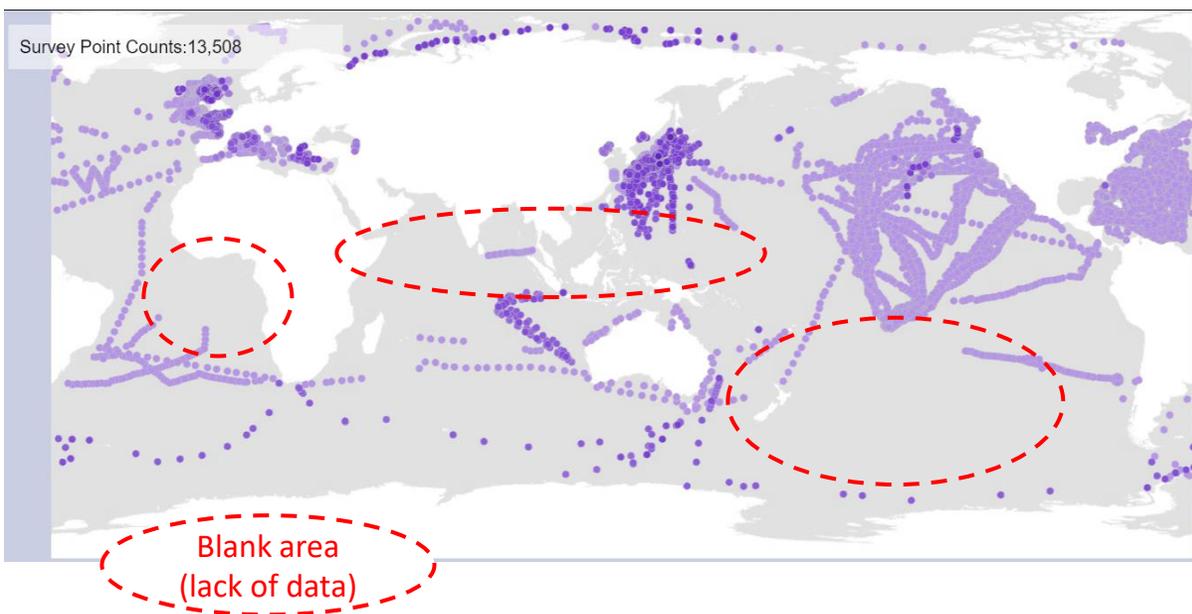
Characteristics and Next Steps to be taken with AOMI

- ◆ Comparable and easy-to-understand 2D maps provided by the AOMI are being utilized by policymakers, researchers, the general public, and all stakeholders.
- ◆ However, there are some areas where there are still lack of monitoring data sets, such as Africa, South-East Asia and South America.

The next important steps are;

- Analyze the data and detect bottlenecks to improve the data coverage.
- Promote the guidelines and the database system for potential users to encourage further data accumulation and data utilization .

Survey Point Map



Particle Density Grid Map

