

**INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE
OCEANS AND FISHERIES WORKING GROUP (OFWG)**

Recommendations by Independent Assessor	Comments from member economies and/or APEC Secretariat	Suggested Action to be taken by SCE or OFWG	Proposed timeline to implement the recommendation by SCE	Agreement on the suggested action (Yes/No)
RECOMMENDATIONS TO SCE				
<p>Recommendation to SCE 1. Consider and provide feedback to the OFWG on strategic direction – within the context of the 4th APEC Ocean-Related Ministerial Meeting Joint Statement 2014 (the Xiamen Declaration), the extent to which the OFWG should give greater priority to economic development and trade in oceans and fisheries products and services.</p>	<p><u>APEC Secretariat</u>: An overall review exercise involving strategic planning expert was conducted in 2014 and review group is to be formed as necessary. Strategic direction in a specific area can be recommended from the working group level with more expertise.</p>	<p>Take note of the continued specific guidance</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>YES (Conditional)</p>
<p>Recommendation to SCE 2. Consider and provide feedback to the OFWG on project proposals – the extent to which OFWG project proposals may be better formulated and positioned so as to increase their chances of approval.</p>	<p><u>APEC Secretariat</u>: PMU is conducting its project training as necessary and SCE adopted its Capacity Building Policy and would continue to work with BMC on how to meet the challenges from increased requests for APEC project funding.</p>	<p>OFWG may want to consider inviting PMU for a project training session and watch the process at the SCE and BMC</p>	<p>2016</p>	<p>YES (Conditional)</p>

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RECOMMENDATIONS TO OFWG				
Recommendation to OFWG 1. The OFWG should be maintained as a separate subfora of the SCE and its Terms of Reference updated.	<u>APEC Secretariat</u> : Please refer to the specifics in the full report. Updated ToR should be submitted to SCE.	Consider an option of updating the ToR	2016	
Recommendation to OFWG 2. The OFWG should establish a new strategic plan for the period 2016-2020 in order to identify and prioritise its work.		As per recommendation	2015-2016	
Recommendation to OFWG 3. APEC member economies should reconfirm their delegations and participation in the work of OFWG, especially during the upcoming period when the new strategic plan will be developed and approved.	<u>APEC Secretariat</u> : Composition of delegation is decision by each economy.	OFWG may raise Members' awareness on the importance of maintaining consistency of discussions through more continued engagement from the delegations.	Ongoing	