

Ocean accounts

*Advancing official statistics for the 2030
Agenda for Sustainable Development and
national development priorities*

Gemma Van Halderen
Director, Statistics Division



Welcome

- Thank you for joining us
- An exciting line up of countries and international organisations discussing the importance of ocean accounts
- Reminder
 - ❖ Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics No. 1: National Statistical Offices are to compile statistics which meet a practical utility
 - ❖ Ocean Accounts meet a practical utility
 - ❖ Standardization and streamlining into official statistics is needed
 - ❖ They are in high demand
 - ❖ The time to deliver on Fundamental Principle 1 is **NOW**

Summary of today's session

Part	What will we be doing?	Thank you	Timing
Part 1	Intro to breakout session Intro to ocean accounts	GOAP and Canada	20 mins (7:40-8:00)
Part 2	Country and institutional dialogue	South Africa Thailand Viet Nam Australia Portugal OECD, UNEP, UNEP- WCMC, WWF	50 mins (8:00-8:50)
Part 3	Panel discussion	Canada, ESCAP, China, Yale Uni	40 mins (8:50-9.30)

Debrief - Return to main session
(9.30-10:00am NY time)

Why are oceans so important?

The ocean is a vital source of livelihood, employment, nutrition, and economic growth in Asia-Pacific. Healthy ocean and marine ecosystems contribute to the inclusive development and poverty reduction, regulate the climate and are essential for a more sustainable future.



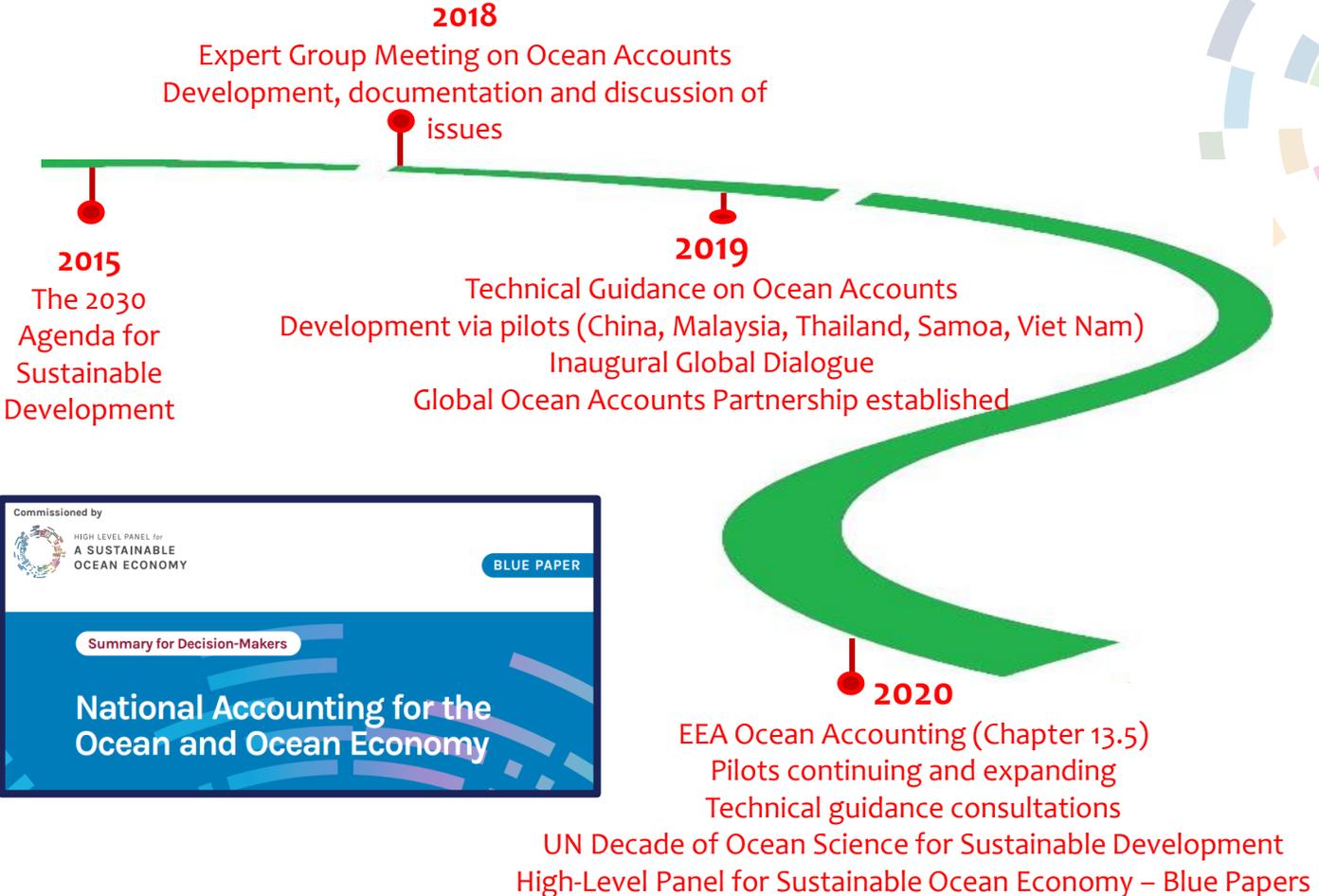
Why ESCAP?

- 62 member States, 58 in Asia-Pacific
- 2 oceans – Pacific and Indian
- Pacific Ocean is largest water mass on the planet
- Pacific Ocean basin larger than the land mass of all continents combined
- Ocean-dependent economies e.g. fishing, tourism, trade

Asia-Pacific

- In 2014, the Asia-Pacific region was home to **84% of the global population engaged in fisheries and aquaculture**. However, rampant marine pollution, ocean acidification and warming, depletion of fish stocks and species, destructive fishing practices, unsustainable trade and transport, and inadequate marine governance have drastically **deteriorated the health of the oceans and coastal ecosystems**.
- Substantial information exists on the ocean and its resources but **there is no standard approach or globally agreed standard** to integrating diverse data on the ocean and this prevents evidence-based programming and optimal use of resources.
- For the **SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, the situation is particularly dire**: in 2019, Asia-Pacific's progress could only be assessed for one of the ten globally agreed targets of SDG14.

What has been done so far?





Global Ocean Accounts Partnership

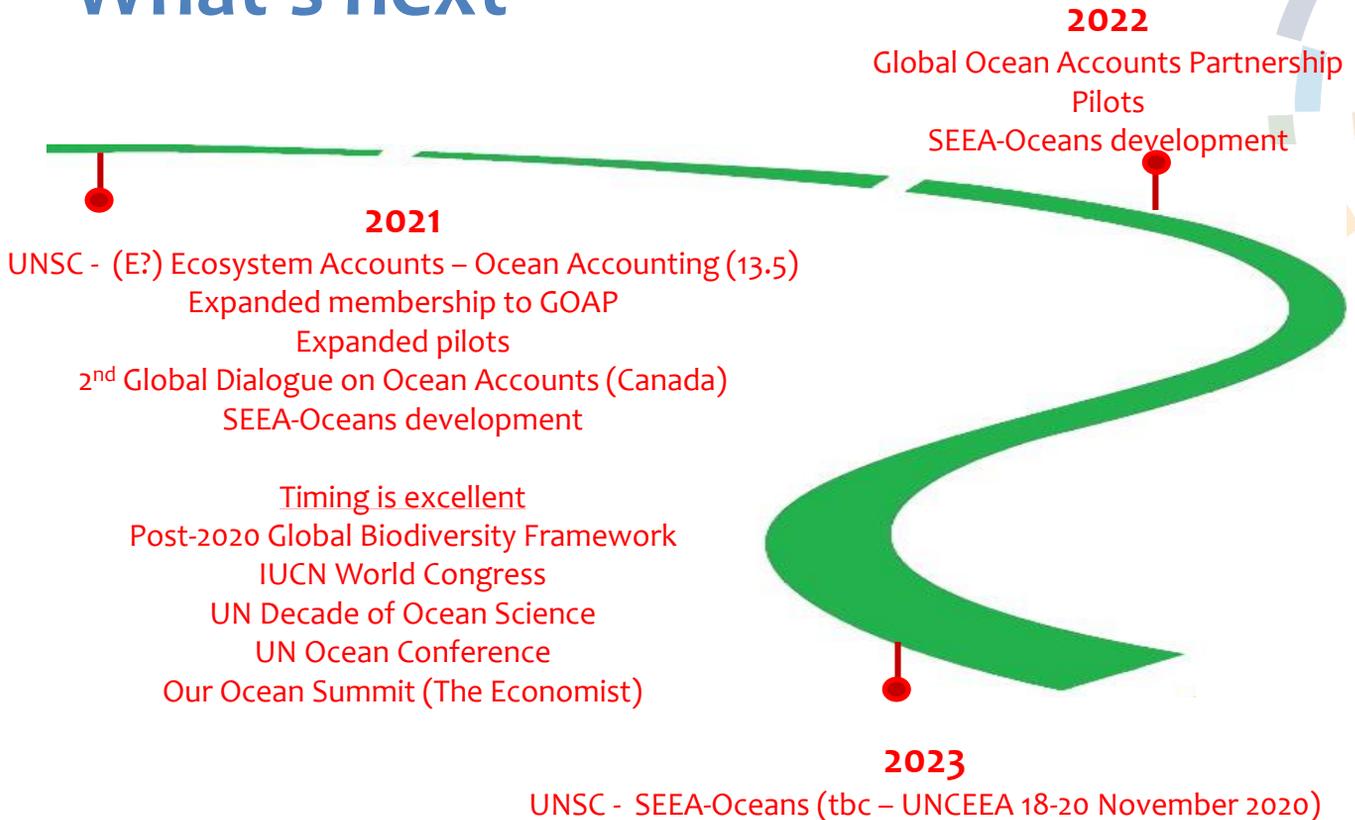
- Established in 2019
- A **coordination and communication mechanism** for diverse member institutions who have a common interest to ensure that the values and benefits of oceans are recognized and accounted for in decision-making about social and economic development
- **Chairs:** Fisheries and Oceans, Canada and UN ESCAP
- **Secretariat:** University of New South Wales, Australia
- Membership
 - Government (Australia, Canada, UK, Malaysia, Viet Nam, China, Thailand)
 - Universities (Australia x 2, South Africa, Canada)
 - International (UNEP-WCMC, UNESCAP, World Bank)
 - World Resources Institute (WRI) Indonesia, Indonesia
- Current focus is to **develop a shared technical framework for ocean accounting** coupled with **collaborative capacity-building activities** that support the development, maintenance, and ongoing use in decision-making, of holistic ocean accounts that link together social, environmental and economic statistics.



Join Us

<https://www.oceanaccounts.org/>

What's next



THANK YOU

WWW.UNESCAP.ORG

 UNESCAP

 UNESCAP

 UNESCAP

 UNITEDNATIONSESCAP

 UNITEDNATIONSESCAP

