



# Overview for WOA Reviewers

## “Ports” and “Shipping” Chapters

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Policy Reviewer: John Oliver (USCG)



Thank you upfront!

# About the World Ocean Assessment (WOA)

- The WOA is an international United Nations effort
  - *It began as a directive from the U.N. General Assembly*
  - *Intended to occur every five years*
  - *This year is the first year*
- The WOA is written by an international writing team and includes 50+ chapters under four main subject themes:
  - *(a) marine environment and understanding of the ocean's role in the global integrated Earth system; (b) food security and food safety; (c) **human activities that influence the ocean or are influenced by the ocean**; (d) and marine biological diversity.*



# About the World Ocean Assessment (WOA)

- The U.S. Department of State has been tasked to oversee the U.S. Review of the WOA – *and the CMTS has been tasked by DOS to promote and coordinate the review of TWO Chapters: Ports; Shipping.*
- The U.S. review period is now open! Reviews are due by Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> (~3 weeks!)
- Anyone can review the chapters – feel free to share this information with your colleagues far and wide!



# About the World Ocean Assessment (WOA)

- The Ports chapter (9 pages) covers:
  - *The significance of port activities*
  - *Impacts of port creation/maintenance*
  - *Significant environmental/economic/social aspects*
- The Shipping chapter (33 pages) covers:
  - *World trade routes and patterns*
  - *Environmental impacts of shipping*
  - *Key links to other industries (i.e. navigation services)*
- Both chapters identify gaps in capacity to assess the environmental/social/economic aspects of shipping and ports.



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The draft chapters of the World Ocean Assessment are available for review from 20 December until 5 pm EST 6 February 2015. Thank you very much for your interest and participation.

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Documents Available for Public Review

- World Ocean Assessment Review

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## World Ocean Assessment Review

**DEADLINE FOR REVIEW 5 PM EST, 6 FEBRUARY 2015**

**Introduction:**

The aim of this review process -- developed by the U.S. Department of State, in coordination with the National Ocean Council -- is to ensure a timely and thorough review for each chapter of the first World Ocean Assessment.

**Background on the World Ocean Assessment:**

The United Nations (UN) has embarked on a regular process for global reporting on, and assessment of, the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, the product of which is called the World Ocean Assessment (WOA). Subsequent WOAs are expected to be generated every five years in order to document trends in the state of the marine environment and socioeconomic aspects. The aim is to provide a sound, scientific basis for decisions at the global level as well as a framework for national and regional assessments and management decisions.

The WOA includes more than fifty subjects grouped within four main themes: marine environment and understanding of the ocean's role in the global integrated Earth system; food security and food safety; human activities that influence the ocean or are influenced by the ocean; and marine biological diversity. A scientific and technical summary will integrate content to show linkages through interdisciplinary subjects such as human impacts, ecosystem services, and habitats.

In 2010, the UN established a Group of Experts for scientific oversight of the first WOA, and in 2013 the Group of Experts selected WOA authors from a Pool of Experts comprised of country-nominated experts. UN Member States will be provided an opportunity to review the first WOA from **20 December 2014 until 5 pm EST 6 February 2015**. Upon receipt of State reviews, the Group of Experts will revise and deliver a final WOA to the UN by late 2015. More information regarding the evolution and methodology of the WOA can be found at [www.worldoceanassessment.org](http://www.worldoceanassessment.org).

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Chapter	Comments
Chapter 14 - Seaweeds and other sea-based food	Chapter
Chapter 15 - Social and Economic Aspects	+ Add Comments
Chapter 16 Synthesis of Part IV	+ Add Comments
<b>PART V - ASSESSMENT OF OTHER HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT</b>	
Chapter 17 - Shipping	Chapter + Add Comments
Chapter 18 - Ports	Chapter + Add Comments
Chapter 19 - Submarine cables and pipelines	Chapter + Add Comments
Chapter 20 - Coastal, riverine and atmospheric inputs from land	Chapter + Add Comments
Chapter 20 Appendix	+ Add Comments
Chapter 21 - Offshore hydrocarbon industries	Chapter + Add Comments
Chapter 22 - Other Marine Based Energy Industries	Chapter + Add Comments
Chapter 23 - Offshore mining industries	Chapter + Add Comments
Chapter 24 - Solid waste disposal	Chapter + Add Comments
Chapter 25 - Marine debris	Chapter + Add Comments
Chapter 26 - Land/sea physical interaction	Chapter + Add Comments
Chapter 27 - Tourism and recreation	Chapter + Add Comments
Chapter 27 Appendix	Chapter + Add Comments
Chapter 28 - Desalination	Chapter + Add

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Final comments

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- **The website is fairly intuitive and straightforward.** *Navigate around, and check out the “Help” section as needed.*
- **You can enter several types of comments including:**
  - *General comments on the whole report or >1 chapter*
  - *General comments on a whole chapter*
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- **You can enter comments at any time online, which will be saved.** *Note: you can also download a macro-enabled spreadsheet to your computer, input your comments, and upload to review.globalchange.gov when you are finished (not as encouraged).*



# Some final comments on reviewing

- **Please read the “Guidance for Contributors” before doing your review** (as well as the instructions on [review.globalchange.org](http://review.globalchange.org)!)
- **The WOA cannot be policy prescriptive.** *Thus, please flag any such language and avoid advocating policies in your review.*
- **The intended audience of the WOA is policymakers at the “national, regional, and global levels”**
- **All comments will be transmitted to the U.N. via the DOS.** *The Federal Government has the right to “reject, modify, or combine comments received for the U.S. Government Review”*
- **WOA Chapters will not be published until they are final. Reviewers are required to respect this.**



# RESOURCES

**\*\*WOA Guidance for Contributors:**

[http://www.un.org/depts/los/global\\_reporting/Guidance%20for%20Contributors.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/Guidance%20for%20Contributors.pdf)

**U.S. Federal Register notice requesting reviewers:**

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-06-06/pdf/2014-13224.pdf>

**Outline of the WOA:**

[http://www.un.org/depts/los/global\\_reporting/Final%20Outline%20First%20Global%20Integrated%20Marine%20Assessment.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/Final%20Outline%20First%20Global%20Integrated%20Marine%20Assessment.pdf)

**WOA overview website:** <http://www.worldoceanassessment.org/>

**\*\*Strongly recommended reading**



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Final comments

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Don't forget:  
Comments are  
due February  
6<sup>th</sup>!

