

7. REGIONAL FISHERIES BODIES

7.1 Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC)

***Summary of role:** The Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC) is an Article XIV FAO Regional Fishery Body in charge of promoting the full and proper utilization of living aquatic resources in the Asia-Pacific region.*

***Summary of work:** No work reported on pollution from marine plastics in documents made available online by APFIC*

***Keywords/research fields:** Asia-Pacific Fisheries Commission; APFIC; function and mandate*

7.1.1 Function and mandate

The Asia Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) are the two main regional intergovernmental bodies for fisheries, together with the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF).

The APFIC was founded by the Fisheries Committee of the UN FAO in 1948. It has a wide membership which includes the majority of states in the region.

7.1.2 Work on marine plastics

The latest APFIC document available online is the 2017 Report of the 76th session of the APFIC Executive Committee. It does not mention pollution from marine plastics in general or from fish aggregating devices (FADs), ghost nets or abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFGs) as sources of such plastic marine debris.