

25. The next paper entitled *Public and Environmental Awareness and Education* was presented by Mr. John Waugh, Senior Programme Officer, Washington DC Office, IUCN – the World Conservation Union, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy. He referred to the substantial influence of an aware public on policies favouring environmental protection and sustainable development. In this context, reference was made to "green labelling" or "eco-labelling" and the specification of marine protected areas as vehicles for satisfying public aspirations for participation in environmental protection measures.
26. Prof. Gunnar Kullenberg, Executive Secretary of IOC of UNESCO, Paris, then presented his paper on *Global Oceans Research: the Role of IOC of UNESCO*. He noted that the *International Year of the Oceans* had the objective of encouraging governments to take marine environmental protection seriously. He spoke in favour of the previous speaker's emphasis on promoting environmental education and public awareness. He then went on to specify the role and areas of interest of the IOC. He concluded by recommending restructuring of the agencies involved in marine matters: enhanced cooperation among agencies was easy to voice but there was little evidence that such pleas resulted in substantive action. The key to this was the level of resourcing of ocean-related activities at the international level. Finally, he argued in favour of using existing mechanisms rather than the development of new ones.
27. The next presentation was made by Dr. Donald Anderson, Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA, on *Marine Biotoxins and Harmful Algal Blooms: a Growing Threat to Seafood Safety and Coastal Development*. This paper drew attention to the nature and diversity of algal blooms, both nuisance and toxic, in the coastal marine environment. There was a need to tackle the underlying science and monitoring requirements in an integrated fashion partly through the development and application of long-term global monitoring programmes.
28. The final paper for this working group entitled *Global International Waters Assessment* (GIWA), was presented by Dr. John Pernetta, Senior Programme Officer, GEF Coordination Unit, UNEP and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Marine Natural Resources Management, and Dr. Laurence Mee, Coordinator, GEF/UNDP Black Sea Environment Programme, and Chairman of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy. The paper stressed the novel features of this assessment in relation to previous assessments namely that its emphasis lay on root cause analyses and their multi-sectoral nature, covering both marine and fresh waters. The major challenges to the further execution of GIWA was the identification of co-financing, ensuring the participation of competent agencies and individuals as well as the acquisition and analysis of socio-economic and policy information.
29. A subsequent intervention was made by Ms. Linda Wiessler-Hughes of the US National Intelligence Council regarding developments in the USA in response to the Potomac Declaration's recommendation for improved use of national security activities towards the betterment of the environment. A number of specific actions and categories of information relevant to this objective were described. It was concluded that these developments represented a clear and concrete response to the agreement reached in Washington, D.C., at the previous ACOPS' conference which had concluded with the Potomac Declaration.