



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

Address Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji

Telephone (679) 331 2600 | Facsimile (679) 322 0266

Email info@forumsec.org.fj | Website www.forumsec.org

Contribution of the **Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner** to the first part of the United Nations Secretary-General’s report on “Oceans and Law of the Sea” pursuant to General Assembly draft resolution LOS/SGR/2016: covering “marine debris, plastics and microplastics”

The central reference point for the establishment of regional positions on international oceans governance issues such as marine debris, plastics and microplastics is the Pacific Island Regional Ocean Policy (PIROP) and related Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape (FPO).

Under the FPO, Pacific Island Leaders established the role of Pacific Ocean Commissioner (POC), supported by the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, which is housed in the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The POC provides regional high-level representation and dedicated advocacy and attention to ocean priorities, decisions and processes at national, regional and international levels like marine debris, plastics and microplastics. The Pacific Ocean Alliance, facilitated by the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, delivers a mechanism for this private-public engagement in regional oceans governance as a multi-stakeholder partnership with member countries, academia, private sector, civil society, donors and regional and international organizations. This regional alliance provides a unique platform for awareness raising and action on marine pollution issues with industry and civil society.



By way of example, a coastal clean-up was organised by OPOC with partners of the Pacific Ocean Alliance and an awareness raising event on the impacts of marine debris was hosted by the Pacific Ocean Commissioner around World Oceans Day in June 2015. Partners of the Alliance also worked together on the largest coastal clean-up in the region, which was held along the Suva Harbour foreshore, associated with International Coastal Clean Up Day in September 2015.