



GESAMP

Joint Group of Experts on the
Scientific Aspects of Marine
Environmental Protection

GESAMP 39/1/1
22 March 2012
ENGLISH ONLY

39th session

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Secretariat

1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 The provisional agenda has been prepared on the basis of previous agendas for GESAMP sessions.

1.2 GESAMP will be invited to adopt the provisional agenda, discuss work arrangements and agree a timetable to conduct its work. A draft timetable for this session, prepared by the Secretariat, is shown in the annex hereto.

2 REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF GESAMP

The Chairperson of GESAMP will provide an overview of GESAMP's activities since GESAMP 38 was held in May 2011, and inform the members of his activities and those of the two Vice-Chairpersons during the intersessional period.

3 REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY OF GESAMP

3.1 The Administrative Secretary of GESAMP will provide an overview of the international developments with regard to the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment during the intersessional period that are relevant to GESAMP and as provided by the Sponsoring Agencies of GESAMP.

3.2 The Administrative Secretary will also provide a status report on: (1) the Memorandum of Understanding for GESAMP; and (2) the Rules of Procedure relating thereto.

3.3 GESAMP will be invited to comment on these and other administrative arrangements.

4 GESAMP OFFICE MATTERS

4.1 The GESAMP Office will inform GESAMP of the status of: (1) the GESAMP Pool of Experts database; (2) the GESAMP Web-site; and (3) the activities of the GESAMP Office at IMO.

4.2 GESAMP will be invited to comment on the above issues as it deems appropriate.

5 PLANNING OF GESAMP ACTIVITIES¹

Evaluation of the hazards of harmful substances carried by ships (WG 1)

5.1 Working Group 1 has not met since GESAMP 38. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2012 and will be held at IMO. The outcomes of intersessional work will be reported to this session.

5.2 GESAMP will be invited to consider this work, including terms of reference, funding arrangements, priorities, timeframes, etc.

Review of applications for 'active substances' to be used in ballast water management systems (WG 34)

5.3 IMO will inform GESAMP of the activities undertaken by Working Group 34 in the sessions it has held since the GESAMP 38, as well as specific recommendations for the 4th Stock-taking Workshop, which is planned for August 2012 in Busan, Republic of Korea, aimed at the further development of the methodology for information gathering and conduct of work when evaluating ballast water management systems.

5.4 GESAMP will be invited to consider these proposals, including terms of reference, funding arrangements, priorities, timeframes, etc.

Expanded scientific review of mercury and its compounds and threats to the marine environment (WG 37)

5.5 UNEP will inform GESAMP of the activities undertaken by Working Group 37 and, in particular, by the two task teams established at GESAMP 37 under this Group, on Mercury and Lead/Cadmium, respectively, aimed at filling some of the identified data gaps of the review of scientific information on these substances and compounds.

5.6 GESAMP will be invited to consider the outcomes of these task teams, the prospect for further work for this Working Group, including terms of reference, funding arrangements, priorities, timeframes, etc.

Atmospheric input of pollutants to the oceans (WG 38)

5.7 WMO will inform GESAMP of the activities undertaken by Working Group 38 since GESAMP 38, including any events held during this period and on plans to continue the work.

5.8 GESAMP will be invited to consider these outcomes, including terms of reference, funding arrangements, priorities, timeframes, etc.

Global trends in pollution coastal ecosystems (WG 39)

5.9 IAEA will inform GESAMP of the activities undertaken by Working Group 39, including any development since the first meeting which was held in Monaco in April 2011. IAEA will also present specific recommendations for the continuation of these activities.

5.10 GESAMP will be invited to consider these outcomes, including terms of reference, funding arrangements, priorities, timeframes, etc.

¹ The Terms of Reference for each of the currently active GESAMP Working Groups, with information on administrative arrangements, background and context, etc, can be found in Annex V to the report of the 37th session of GESAMP (Reports and Studies No.81).

Sources, fate and effects of micro-plastics in the environment – a global assessment (WG 40)

5.11 UNESCO-IOC/UNEP will inform GESAMP of the activities undertaken by Working Group 40, including any development since its first meeting which was held in Paris in March 2012.

5.12 GESAMP will be invited to consider these outcomes, including terms of reference, funding arrangements, priorities, timeframes, etc.

6A CONTRIBUTION TO THE 'UN REGULAR PROCESS'

6.1 In December 2009 the UN General Assembly established the UN Regular Process (UNRP), launching the first assessment cycle for the period 2010-2014 (resolution A 64/71). In December 2010 UNGA endorsed the 'modalities for the implementation of the UNRP, including the key features, institutional arrangements, capacity-building and financing', at the recommendation of its Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole (September 2010; resolution A 65/37). The AHWGOTW has been charged to oversee and guide the UNRP with secretarial support from the UN Division on the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) and the 'Group of Experts' was established to, *inter alia*, develop a set of options necessary to achieve the deadline of completion of the first assessment cycle in 2014.

6.2 The AHWGOTW will meet from 23 to 27 April 2012 and some members of the UNRP Group of Experts may be available to inform GESAMP of the latest developments and discuss options for GESAMP to engage with the UNRP.

6.3 GESAMP will be invited to consider proposals/recommendations for GESAMP's further involvement in the UNRP.

6B CONTRIBUTION TO THE GEF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (TWAP)

6.4 In 2009 UNESCO-IOC and UNEP launched the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP) with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). TWAP is aimed at the development of a scientifically sound methodology for assessing the status and changing conditions of the world's major shared freshwater and marine water bodies and will, *inter alia*, feed into the UNRP.

6.5 GESAMP will be invited to consider a status report and proposals/recommendations for GESAMP's further engagement in TWAP.

7 IDENTIFICATION OF NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES REGARDING THE DEGRADATION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF RELEVANCE TO GOVERNMENTS AND SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

7.1 One of GESAMP's core functions is the identification of new and emerging issues regarding the degradation of the marine environment. GESAMP will, therefore, be invited to consider and frame any such issues of concern so that they can be brought to the attention of Governments, Sponsoring Organizations and the scientific community at large.

7.2 Members are advised that as GESAMP has already a full programme of topics under consideration, it may be advisable to only bring very urgent new issues to this session.

8 WORKSHOP ON “THE GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS OF HYPOXIA – CAUSES AND EFFECTS”

8.1 A Workshop has been organized by UNDP and will be convened on Wednesday-afternoon, 18 April 2012, with as theme: “The global implications of hypoxia – causes and effects”.

8.2 The Workshop has its own format, structure and a separate agenda. However, at the end of the Workshop, GESAMP will be invited to consider specific recommendations/actions based on the outcome of the Workshop.

9 SCOPING ACTIVITIES

9.1 GESAMP will be invited to consider any proposals for issues that need to be explored (e.g., pipeline proposals) before consideration of GESAMP’s possible involvement at a future stage.

9.2 In particular, GESAMP will be invited to consider progress with the following activities:

- .1 the outcome of the GESAMP Workshop on “The global implications of hypoxia – causes and effects”. Endocrine disruption and reproductive impairment in fish as a result of hypoxia in the marine environment is an increasingly urgent issue since it has impacts on both marine ecosystems and human livelihoods; and
- .2 further exploration of the issue of biomagnification in top predators and its ecological and social implications. Discuss the feasibility of holding a GESAMP Workshop on this issue (tentatively planned for late 2012 or immediately prior to GESAMP 40);
- .3 an exploration of the potential impacts of by-products of discharged disinfection and anti-fouling agents on the marine environment. This issue was deferred from from GESAMP 38 at which two members offered to prepare a brief proposal; and
- .4 a status report of the Correspondence Group on Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) to explore the possibility of global standards².

10 DATE AND PLACE OF GESAMP 40

GESAMP will be invited to confirm the date, place and other organizational arrangements for its 40th session.

11 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

GESAMP will be invited to consider and adopt a draft Future Work Programme, covering the intersessional work of its Working Groups and other agreed activities.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Any other subjects or items raised by Members, the Executive Board, or observers may be considered under this agenda item.

² One of the outcomes of the Correspondence Group was the now expanded GESAMP Website section on EQS.

13 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSONS

GESAMP will be invited to elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons to hold office for the intersessional period and the 40th session of GESAMP.

14 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF GESAMP 37

A draft report of GESAMP 39 will be prepared for consideration and adoption on the final day (Friday, 20 April 2012).

ANNEX

**PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR GESAMP 39
16 to 20 April 2012**

Venue: Norway Room, 10th Floor of the UNDP FF Building
304 East 45 St, New York

Date	Time	Agenda item
MONDAY* 16 April	08.30-9.00	Registration
	09.00-12.00	Opening of the Session Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda Item 2: Report of the Chairperson of GESAMP Item 3: Report of the Administrative Secretary of GESAMP Item 4: GESAMP Office matters Item 5: Planning of GESAMP activities
	12.00-13.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	13.00-17.00	(Item 5 continued)
TUESDAY* 17 April	09.00-12.00	(Item 5 continued)
	12.00-13.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	13.00-17.00	(Item 5 continued) Item 6 UN Regular Process/TWAP
WEDNESDAY* 18 April	09.00-12.00	Item 7: Identification of new and emerging issues Item 9: Scoping activities, introduction
	12.00-13.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	13.00-	Item 8: Workshop on "The global implications of hypoxia – causes and effects"
THURSDAY* 19 April	09.00-12.00	Item 9: Scoping activities continued
	12.00-13.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	13.00-17.00	(Preparation of the draft session report)
FRIDAY* 20 April	09.00-12.30	Item 10: Date and place of GESAMP 40 Item 11: Future work programme Item 12: Any other business Item 13: Election of chairpersons Item 14: Consideration and adoption of the report of GESAMP 39 Item 15: Closure of the session

* Morning Coffee Break at 10.30
Afternoon Coffee Break at 15.30