



GESAMP

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

GESAMP 40/1/1
30 July 2013
ENGLISH ONLY

40th session
Agenda item 1

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 CHAIRMAN OF GESAMP

The Chairman of GESAMP will provide an overview of GESAMP's activities since the 39th session, held in April 2013, and inform the members of his activities and those of the two Vice-Chairmen 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 issues concerning the work of the Executive Committee of GESAMP.

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 the meeting on the status of: (1) the Pool of Experts database; (2) the 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 met twice since GESAMP 39, from 25 to 29 June 2012 and from 15 to 19 April 2013. The next meeting is scheduled for 12 to 16 May 2014 and will be held at IMO. The outcomes of the two sessions and any 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 GESAMP will be informed of the activities undertaken by Working Group 34 in the four sessions which have taken place since GESAMP 39, as well as specific recommendations for the 5th Stock-taking Workshop, which is planned for early September 2013 at IMO, 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 GESAMP will be informed of any activities undertaken by Working Group 37 since GESAMP 39.

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 GESAMP will be informed of the activities undertaken by Working Group 38 since GESAMP 39, 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 GESAMP will be informed of any activities undertaken by Working Group 39 since GESAMP 39.

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 39th session of GESAMP (Reports and Studies No.87).

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

5.11 GESAMP will be informed of the activities undertaken by Working Group 40, including the outcomes of the second meeting, which was held in London from 23 to 26 July 2013.

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). Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole (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 held its Fourth Meeting from 22 to 26 April 2013. 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.

6.2 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)

6.3 The Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved the Transboundary Waters Assessment (TWA) Programme Full Size Project in December 2012. The First Project Steering Committee meeting was convened from 3 to 5 April 2013, in Denmark, followed by a joint Inception Workshop for the Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) and Open Ocean (OO) Components, held at IOC/UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 20 to 22 March 2013. GESAMP is a key partner in both components.

6.4 GESAMP will be informed of the recent developments in the implementation of the Project, as well as the outcomes of a scoping meeting to be held at IMO from 7 to 8 August, to further discuss GESAMP's contribution to the Project.

6.5 GESAMP will be invited to consider a status report and proposals/recommendations for GESAMP's further engagement in the 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 already has a full programme of topics under consideration, it may be advisable to only bring very urgent new issues to this session.

8 SCOPING ACTIVITIES

8.1 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.

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

- .1 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 2014 or immediately prior to GESAMP 41);
- .2 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 GESAMP 38 at which two members offered to prepare a brief proposal; and
- .3 a status report of the Correspondence Group on Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) to explore the possibility of global standards².

9 WORKSHOP ON "DISCHARGE OF MINE TAILINGS AND COASTAL RUN-OFF IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT: EFFECTS AND IMPACTS"

9.1 A Workshop has been organized by UNIDO and will be convened on Wednesday afternoon, 11 September 2013, with the theme: "Discharge of mine tailings and coastal run-off in the marine environment: Effects and impacts".

9.2 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.

10 DATE AND PLACE OF GESAMP 41

GESAMP will be invited to confirm the date, place and other organizational arrangements for its 41st 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 CHAIRMEN

GESAMP will be invited to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairmen to hold office for the intersessional period and the 41th session of GESAMP.

14 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF GESAMP 40

A draft report of GESAMP 40 will be prepared for consideration and adoption on the final day (Friday, 13 September 2013).

ANNEX

**PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR GESAMP 40
9 to 13 September 2013**

Venue: Room C6 (7th floor), C building, Vienna International Centre

Date	Time	Agenda item
MONDAY* 9 September	10.30-11.00	Registration
	11.00-12.30	Opening of the Session Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda Item 2: Report of the Chairman of GESAMP Item 3: Report of the Administrative Secretary of GESAMP Item 4: GESAMP Office matters Item 5: Planning of GESAMP activities
	12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00-17.30	(Item 5 continued)
TUESDAY* 10 September	09.30-12.30	(Item 5 continued)
	12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00-17.30	(Item 5 continued) Item 6 :UN Regular Process/TWAP
WEDNESDAY* 11 September	09.30-12.30	Item 7: Identification of new and emerging issues Item 8: Scoping activities, introduction
	12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00-17.30	Item 9: Open seminar/side event
THURSDAY* 12 September	09.30-12.30	Item 8: Scoping activities continued
	12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00-17.30	(Preparation of the draft session report)
FRIDAY* 13 September	09.00-13.00	Item 10: Date and place of GESAMP 41 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 40 Item 15: Closure of the session

* Morning Coffee Break at 10.30
Afternoon Coffee Break at 15.30