



**GESAMP**

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

GESAMP 42/1/1  
19 August 2015  
ENGLISH ONLY

42nd session  
Agenda item 1

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## **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**

2.1 The Chairman of GESAMP will provide an overview of GESAMP's activities since the 41st session, held in September 2014, and inform the members of his activities and those of the Vice-Chairman 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 GESAMP Office, as well as the Executive Committee of GESAMP.

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

#### **4 PLANNING OF GESAMP ACTIVITIES<sup>1</sup>**

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

4.1 Working Group 1 has met once since GESAMP 41, from 13 to 17 April 2015. The outcomes of this session and any intersessional work will be reported to this session.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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 41st session of GESAMP (Reports and Studies No.89).

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

4.3 GESAMP will be informed of the activities undertaken by Working Group 34 in the two sessions which have taken place since GESAMP 41. In addition, the seventh stock-taking workshop will be held the week after GESAMP 42, aimed at the further development of the methodology for information gathering and conduct of work when evaluating ballast water management systems.

4.4 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)***

4.5 GESAMP will be given an oral report with respect to the publication of the final report of Working Group 37.

***Atmospheric input of pollutants to the oceans (WG 38)***

4.6 GESAMP will be informed of the activities undertaken by Working Group 38 since GESAMP 41, including any events held during this period and on plans to continue the work.

4.7 GESAMP will be invited to consider these outcomes, including any changes to the terms of reference, funding arrangements, priorities, timeframes, etc.

***Global trends in pollution coastal ecosystems (WG 39)***

4.8 GESAMP will be informed of any activities undertaken by Working Group 39 since GESAMP 41.

4.9 GESAMP will be invited to consider these outcomes, including any changes to the terms of reference, funding arrangements, priorities, timeframes, etc.

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

4.10 GESAMP will be informed of the activities undertaken by Working Group 40, including the second phase of the WG which was initiated at a workshop in April 2015 hosted by FAO.

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

**5 CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER UN PROCESSES*****The UN Regular Process***

5.1 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). The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole has been charged to oversee and guide the UNRP with secretarial support from the UN Division on the Law of the Sea (DOALOS). Part 1 (summary) of the World Ocean Assessment has just been released and will be issued as an UN General Assembly document in the near future.

***Contribution to the GEF Transboundary Waters Assessment project***

5.2 The Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved the Transboundary Waters Assessment (TWA) Programme Full Size Project in December 2012. To support the Project, GESAMP established a Task Team on Pollution of the Open Ocean, building on the team that produced the 2009 GESAMP Reports & Studies No. 79.

5.3 GESAMP will be invited to consider the recent developments in the implementation of the Project, as well as the outcomes of the work of the Task Team on Open Ocean Pollution, including the preparation, peer-review and publication of its report.

***Other projects and initiatives***

5.4 GESAMP will be invited to consider any other relevant projects and initiatives, based on submissions from the Members and the Sponsoring Organizations.

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

6.1 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.

6.2 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.

**7 SCOPING ACTIVITIES**

7.1 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.

7.2 In particular, GESAMP will be invited to consider progress in the following activities:

- .1 Report of the correspondence group on the impacts of mine tailings in the marine environment including its links to seabed mining
- .2 bio-fouling
- .3 marine geoengineering
- .4 areas beyond national jurisdiction
- .5 marine debris – (Global Partnership on Marine Litter)

## **8 WORKSHOP ON “DESALINATION”**

8.1 A Workshop has been organized by IOC and will be convened on Wednesday afternoon, 2 September 2015, with the theme: “Desalination and the Environment”.

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 DATE AND PLACE OF GESAMP 43**

GESAMP will be invited to confirm the date, place and other organizational arrangements for its 43rd session.

## **10 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.

## **11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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

## **12 ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN**

GESAMP will be invited to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairmen to hold office for the intersessional period and the 43rd session of GESAMP.

## **13 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF GESAMP 42**

A draft report of GESAMP 42 will be prepared for consideration and adoption on the final day (Thursday, 3 September 2015).

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## ANNEX

**PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR GESAMP 42  
31 August to 3 September 2015**

**Venue:** UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>
MONDAY* 31 August	09.00-10.30	Meeting of the Executive Committee of GESAMP
	10.30-11.00	Registration
	11.00-12.30	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: Planning of GESAMP activities
	12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00-17.30	(Item 4 continued)
TUESDAY* 1 September	09.30-12.30	(Item 4 continued)
	12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00-17.30	(Item 4 continued) Item 5: Other UN processes
WEDNESDAY* 2 September	09.30-12.30	Item 6: Identification of new and emerging issues Item 7: Scoping activities
	12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00-17.30	Item 8: Side event - Desalination
THURSDAY* 3 September	09.30-12.30	Item 9: Date and place of GESAMP 43 Item 10: Future work programme Item 11: Any other business Item 12: Election of chairpersons Item 13: Consideration and adoption of the report of GESAMP 42
	12.30-13.30	<i>Lunch</i>
	13.30-14.30	Meeting of the Executive Committee of GESAMP

\* Morning Coffee Break at 10.30  
Afternoon Coffee Break at 15.30