



GESAMP

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

GESAMP 43/1/1
4 October 2016
ENGLISH ONLY

43rd 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

2.1 The Chairman of GESAMP will provide an overview of GESAMP's activities since the 42nd session, held in August/September 2015, 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 ACTIVITIES¹

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

4.1 Working Group 1 has met once since GESAMP 42, from 23 to 27 May 2016. 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.

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 42nd session of GESAMP (Reports and Studies No.92).

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 42. In addition, the eighth stock-taking workshop was held the week after GESAMP 42 and 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.

Atmospheric input of chemicals to the oceans (WG 38)

4.5 GESAMP will be informed of the activities undertaken by Working Group 38 since GESAMP 42, including any events held during this period and on plans to continue the work.

4.6 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)

4.7 GESAMP will be informed of any activities undertaken by Working Group 39 since GESAMP 42.

4.8 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)

4.9 GESAMP will be informed of the activities undertaken by Working Group 40, including the second phase of the WG and the progress made since GESAMP 42.

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

Marine geoengineering (WG 41)

4.11 GESAMP will be informed of the activities undertaken by the newly formed Working Group 41.

4.12 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). The First World Ocean

Assessment (WOA I) was approved by General Assembly in late 2015, and is available to download from the DOALOS website at: http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/WOA_RegProcess.htm

5.2 GESAMP will be invited to comment on any matter of relevance arising from WOA I, as well as any potential involvement in the second cycle, WOA II.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

5.3 In September 2015, 193 UN Member States unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 SDGs and 169 targets (A/RES/70/1). The full 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development resolution and additional related information can be accessed at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

5.4 Subsequently, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/226, accepting the offer from the Governments of Fiji and Sweden to co-host the UN Conference to support the implementation of SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

5.5 GESAMP will be invited to consider how it can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including any possible input to the UN 2017 Oceans Conference.

Contribution to the GEF Transboundary Waters Assessment project

5.6 In 2015, GESAMP noted that its Task Team had completed a revised assessment of 'Pollution of the Open Oceans'. The report has subsequently been published as GESAMP Reports and Studies No. 91. GESAMP also noted that another contribution to the TWAP was from Phase 1 of WG 40 on microplastics in the ocean, and that the technical assessment reports from the five water system components and a cross-cutting analysis of the assessments were both being finalized for publication by UNEP.

5.7 GESAMP will be invited to consider any recent developments, including the publication of the final TWAP report and any follow-up emanating from the project.

Other projects and initiatives

5.8 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 made in the intersessional period with the following activities:

- .1 impacts of residues of chronic oil spills;
- .2 disinfection bi-products;
- .3 biomagnification of contaminants in marine top predators and its ecological and health implications;
- .4 arrival of pelagic Sargassum; and
- .5 mine tailings

8 Side-event on "Sand mining and the environment"

8.1 A side-event will be organized by UNEP and GESAMP, entitled "Sand mining and the environment", which will be convened on Wednesday afternoon, 16 November 2016.

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

9 DATE AND PLACE OF GESAMP 44

GESAMP will be invited to confirm the date, place and other organizational arrangements for its 44th 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 Committee, 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 44th session of GESAMP.

13 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF GESAMP 43

A draft report of GESAMP 43 will be prepared for consideration and adoption on the final day (Thursday, 17 November 2016).

ANNEX

**PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR GESAMP 43
14 to 17 November 2016**

Venue: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Kenya, Nairobi

Date	Time	Agenda item
MONDAY* 14 November	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* 15 November	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* 16 November	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 – Sand mining and the environment
THURSDAY* 17 November	09.30-12.30	Item 7: Scoping activities (continued) Item 9: Date and place of GESAMP 43 Item 10: Future work programme
	12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00-17.30	Item 11: Any other business Item 12: Election of chairpersons Item 13: Consideration and adoption of the report of GESAMP 43
FRIDAY 18 November	09.30-11.00	Meeting of the Executive Committee of GESAMP

* Morning Coffee Break at 10.30
Afternoon Coffee Break at 15.30