



GESAMP

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

GESAMP 43/4/4

13 October 2016

ENGLISH ONLY

43rd session
Agenda item 4

**PLANNING OF GESAMP ACTIVITIES:
SOURCES, FATE AND EFFECTS OF MICRO-PLASTICS IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT –
A GLOBAL ASSESSMENT**

Report of the Chairman of Working Group 40

1 WG 40 has met twice since GESAMP 42. A small drafting group met immediately after the main GESAMP Session at IOC-UNESCO (4 to 5 September 2015). The main purpose was to review work to date and agree detailed next steps and timetable. The group also discussed and agreed a number of editorial details, to do with the report structure, use of images, tables and text boxes and the choice of reference management software (Endnote™). The group experimented with several facilitation techniques, which were novel for most of the participants. These proved a very good way of energising the group and overcoming inertia in decision-making, and the results convinced several initial sceptics.

2 The main workshop occurred from 3 to 5 November in Ecuador. The event was organised and hosted by the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) and took place in the Ore Verde Hotel Guayaquil. Eighteen members of WG 40 attended, together with Heidi Savelli of UNEP and Mr Julian Augusto Reyna Moreno, Secretary General of the CPPS. The workshop achieved its objective of producing an agreed draft of the assessment report, and an action plan to finalise the content. The report was sent for external peer review in early March 2016, with final editing completed by early summer 2016. The report will appear in the GESAMP Reports and Studies series, although this has been slightly delayed by a backlog in IMO publications department, but is expected shortly.

3 The report was used as a significant contribution to the United Nations Environment Assembly report on '*Marine plastic debris and microplastics – global lessons and research to inspire action and guide policy change*'. The future work programme will be discussed at GESAMP 43.
