



GESAMP

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

GESAMP 44/1/1
17 August 2016
ENGLISH ONLY

44th 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 CHAIR OF GESAMP

2.1 The Chair of GESAMP will provide an overview of GESAMP's activities since the 43rd session, held in November 2017, and inform the members of his activities and those of the Vice-Chair 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

4.1 GESAMP will be invited to consider the progress made by each of its current working groups, including terms of reference, funding arrangements, priorities, timeframes, etc.:

- .1 Evaluation of the hazards of harmful substances carried by ships (WG 1);
- .2 Review of applications for 'active substances' to be used in ballast water management systems (WG 34);
- .3 Atmospheric input of chemicals to the oceans (WG 38);

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 43rd session of GESAMP.

- .4 Global trends in pollution coastal ecosystems (WG 39);
- .5 Sources, fate and effects of micro-plastics in the environment – a global assessment (WG 40);
- .6 Marine geoengineering (WG 41); and
- .7 Environmental impacts of wastes from mining operations disposed at sea (WG 42).

5 CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER UN PROCESSES

The UN Regular Process

5.1 Following the completion of the first cycle of the UN Regular Process and the publication of the First World Ocean Assessment (WOA I) in January 2016 (see http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/WOA_RegProcess.htm), the second cycle of the Process was initiated. To facilitate the second cycle, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), as the secretariat for the Regular Process, has provided an extensive abstract of lessons learned from the first cycle, available at: http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/7th_adhoc_2016/Abstract_on_Lessons_Learned_r ev26072016.pdf

5.2 The abstract summarizes feedback received with respect to the duration of the assessment cycle, the policy relevance of the results, scope, data sources, the support structure and set-up, methodology of work, outreach and awareness-raising, the review process, cooperation with other bodies, resources and capacity building.

5.3 The seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole was held from 3 to 9 August 2016, and a preliminary work programme for the second cycle, from 2017 to 2020 was agreed by the Group. The full report of the meeting, including the work programme, can be found at: <http://undocs.org/A/71/362>

5.4 More recently, the eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole was held from 17 to 18 April 2017. The meeting considered, inter alia, terms of reference and working methods of the Group of Experts for the second cycle of the Regular Process, the mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the second cycle of the Regular Process, and terms of reference for National Focal Points. The report of the meeting will be posted on the DOALOS website in due course.

5.5 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)

5.6 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>.

5.7 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. The Conference was held in New York, from 5 to 9 June.

5.8 GESAMP will be invited to consider the outcomes of the Conference, and how it can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Other projects and initiatives

5.9 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 the environmental impact of disinfection by-products (CG 1);
- .2 the impacts of chronic hydrocarbon contamination (CG 2);
- .3 the causes and impacts of massive outbreaks of Sargassum seaweed in the Caribbean, Brazil and West Africa (CG 3);
- .4 the impact of pharmaceutical and other novel chemicals in wastewater (CG 4); and
- .5 The extent and impacts of onshore and offshore sand mining (CG 5).

8 Side-event on "CO₂ in the atmosphere-ocean system: impacts and feedbacks"

8.1 A side-event will be organized by WMO and GESAMP, entitled "CO₂ in the atmosphere-ocean system: impacts and feedbacks", which will be convened on Wednesday afternoon, 6 September 2017.

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 45

9.1 GESAMP will be invited to confirm the date, place and other organizational arrangements for its 45th session.

10 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

10.1 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

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

12 ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN

12.1 GESAMP will be invited to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair to hold office for the intersessional period and the 45th session of GESAMP.

13 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF GESAMP 44

13.1 A draft report of GESAMP 44 will be prepared for consideration and adoption on the final day (Thursday, 7 September 2017).

ANNEX

PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR GESAMP 44
4 to 7 September 2017

Venue: WMO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

Date	Time	Agenda item
MONDAY* 4 September	09.30-12.30	Meeting of the Executive Committee of GESAMP Registration
	12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00-17.30	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
TUESDAY* 5 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* 6 September	09.30-12.30	Presentations by observers Item 6: Identification of new and emerging issues
	12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00-17.30	Item 8: Side event – CO2 in the atmosphere-ocean system: impacts and feedbacks"
THURSDAY* 7 September	09.30-12.30	Item 7: Scoping activities Item 9: Date and place of GESAMP 44 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 44
FRIDAY 8 September	09.30-11.00	Meeting of the Executive Committee of GESAMP

* Morning Coffee Break at 10.30
 Afternoon Coffee Break at 15.30