



GESAMP

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

GESAMP 45/11
10 July 2018
ENGLISH ONLY

45th session
Agenda item 11

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Anniversary to commemorate 50 years of GESAMP

Submitted by UNDP, UN DOALOS, the GESAMP Chair and the GESAMP Office

1 In 2019, The Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) will be celebrating 50 years since its establishment in 1969. During GESAMP 43 the GESAMP Office sought suggestions and advice from participants to the session on ways to commemorate this event. Suggestions put forward were either to consider one particular date or identify two/three events during the year to celebrate GESAMP's achievements. Participants also highlighted the importance of securing adequate funding and any other in-kind assistance, as needed.

2 During the ExCom intersessional meeting on 2 February 2018, the UNDP and UN DOALOS Technical Secretaries confirmed their offer to co-host the 46th session which coincides with the 50th Anniversary of GESAMP and combine the session with a one-day symposium celebrating the anniversary. Agencies were invited to express an interest in assisting with the organization of the event. UNDP, UN DOALOS, FAO, the Chair of GESAMP and the GESAMP Office offered to assist in the organization of the event. A teleconference already took place in April amongst the organizers, under the coordination of the GESAMP Office, to discuss content and logistics.

3 It has been decided that the symposium will be a one-day, high-level event with presentations, discussion panels with Q and A slots and an exhibition space where the history and achievements of GESAMP will be visually presented. These arrangements, particularly with regard to the exhibition space, will have to be confirmed. Participants could include academics from local universities and research institutions, and other relevant entities. A draft programme has already been discussed with suggested content on history, achievements, vision of GESAMP as well as a possible emphasis on women in marine science. The organizers concluded that the event should focus on engaging with the young generation and in particular young women to empower them as prospective young marine scientists and as possible future GESAMP Members.

4 Logistical matters on dates, venue, material to be produced and budget considerations have also been discussed.

5 Following feedback from GESAMP and ExCom, the organizers will continue the preparations, under the guidance of those who are available to assist and contribute.

Action requested by GESAMP

6 GESAMP is requested to note the information provided and comment as appropriate.