GESAMP

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

46th session
Agenda item 4

PLANNING OF GESAMP ACTIVITIES:

SEA-BASED SOURCES OF MARINE LITTER

Report of the Chair of Working Group 43

1   Working Group 43 (WG 43) was established, in principle, during the 45th session of GESAMP which was held in September 2018. The group's terms of reference were formally approved in April 2019. The overall objective of WG 43 is to build a broader understanding of sea-based sources of marine litter, in particular from the shipping and fishing sectors, including the relative contribution of different sources, analysis of plastic use and management within both industries and the range and extent of impacts from sea-based sources of marine litter. The Working Group will build a more comprehensive understanding of types of sea-based sources of marine litter, in order to guide interventions on these sources based on identified priorities and expertise of FAO, IMO and UN Environment.

2   With WG 43 having been formally launched earlier this year, accomplishments to date have centred on:

   .1   identification of chair for WG 43, administrative coordination and leadership, and establishment of the WG 43 membership; and

   .2   establishment of a preliminary work plan, based on the approved Terms of Reference (ToR, see annex 1).

3   WG 43 is co-led by FAO (Technical Secretary for the WG: Mr. Raymon Van Anrooy) and IMO (Technical Secretary for the WG: Mr. Fredrik Haag) and co-sponsored by UN Environment (contact: Ms. Joana Akrofi). In April 2019, Dr. Kirsten Gilardi (University of California, Davis/California Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project) was invited to serve as WG 43 Chair. The Chair and FAO/IMO Technical Secretaries held meetings by teleconference in early May to discuss experts from both the fishing and shipping sectors who had been nominated to WG 43, after which nominees were invited to serve the working group (see annex 2 current WG 43 membership).

4   A first meeting of WG 43 was held by teleconference on 27 June 2019. WG members were introduced, the TOR were reviewed, and a work plan was discussed. It was agreed that the WG's priority focus would be on ToR 1: Identification of sources of marine litter from sea-based sources. WG 43 members will work in small teams of 2-3 individuals each to work on ToR 1 between now and a first workshop of WG 43, to be held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 28 to 30 October 2019.

5   At the workshop in October, the WG will collectively address ToR 2 (An estimate of the relative contribution and impacts of different sea-based sources of marine litter) and ToR 4 (An assessment of data gaps). After the first workshop, ToR 3 (An analysis of how much plastic is produced and used by the fishing and shipping industries, and of plastic waste management by both industries), ToR 5 (Identification of abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear hotspots) and

ToR 6 (Quantification of the impacts of abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear) will be the focus of WG43 activities between November 2019 and May 2020. The WG's second workshop will be held mid-year 2020, at which point a work plan for the remaining six months of the WG's current tasks will be set.

Action requested of GESAMP

6   GESAMP is invited to consider the information provided and to take action as appropriate.

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ANNEX 1

Terms of Reference for WG 43

The Working Group will have two concurrent work-streams:

Work-stream 1, with an overarching scoping study which would, amongst other objectives, support the initial information requirements of IMO's *Action plan to address marine litter from ships* and help identify priorities within this overarching scope.

Work-stream 2, with recognition that some types of sea-based sources of marine litter, such as ALDFG, are further progressed in terms of available information but require more focussed scientific attention to inform interventions. The work-stream will focus on specific areas of research to fulfil this requirement. ALDFG will be the focus based on the existing knowledge that this is a major source of marine litter from ships and the fishing sector specifically. It is also already identifiable as a key area of work for both FAO and IMO whose Members have highlighted an urgent need to address this issue.

Work-stream 1 – Global overview

A global overview of sea-based sources of marine litter, including fishing gear and other shipping related litter, which should include:

> ToR 1: An identification of sources of marine litter from sea based sources, including but not limited to:
> a. fishing operations (e.g. gear, packaging material, strapping bands);
> b. aquaculture (e.g. cages, buoys, netting, packaging materials structures);
> c. shipping (garbage, hull scrapings, containers, spoilt cargo, grey water, ropes and cargo nets);
> d. dumping of waste and other matter at sea, derelict fibreglass (FRP) vessels;
> e. other (e.g. recreational boating, recreational fishing)

> ToR 2: An estimate of the relative contribution and impacts of different sea-based sources of marine litter.

> ToR 3: An analysis of how much plastic is produced and used by the fishing and shipping industries. This would include what kind of plastic is manufactured and used by these industries, as well as an overview of the existing waste management streams for these plastics and how these vary by region.

> ToR 4: An assessment of data gaps, as identified under ToR 1 to 3 above, and prioritization for further work.

Work-stream 2 - ALDFG

Phase 1: Distribution, trends and impacts

> ToR 5: Identification of ALDFG hotspots – utilizing data collected in various platforms including the GGGI data portal and building upon work done in CSIRO gear loss study (pending publication)

> ToR 6: Quantification of the impacts of ALDFG – environmental, social and economic

Phase 2. Interventions

ToR 7: Review and comparison of options for solution delivery by way of analysis of results of all available data from existing sources, including quantification of benefits, mapping of solution 'hubs' against ALDFG hotspots and identifying common themes and gaps that have emerged through recommendations.

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ANNEX 2

WG 43 membership as of June 2019

Name	Affiliation	Country/Region	Expertise
Kirsten Gilardi	University of California, Davis	United States	Marine pollution, marine debris, wildlife health
Pingguo He	School for Marine Science and Technology, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth	United States	Fishing gear technology, ecosystem impact of fishing
Kyle Antonelis	Natural Resource Consultants, Inc. (Seattle, Washington)	United States	Marine debris and derelict fishing gear, gear removal
Lumin Wang	East China Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences	China	Fishing gear materials testing, gear marking
Saly N Thomas	Central Institute of Fisheries Technology	India	Fishing gear materials, ALDFG, ecosystem impact of fishing
Kelsey Richardson	CSIRO	Australia	ALDFG and ghost fishing
Emily Grilly	CCAMLR	Australia	Marine debris and fisheries conservation, RFMO scientific work
Peter Van Den Dries	Independent	Belgium	MARPOL Annex V, Port Reception Facilities
David Santillo	University of Exeter	United Kingdom	LC/LP, marine litter, marine pollution
Raffaella Piermarini	ISPRA	Italy	LC/LP

Olof Linden	WMU	Sweden	Shipping/oceans, marine pollution, Co-chair ICEAS WG on Shipping Impacts in the Marine Environment
Francois Galgani	IFREMER	France	Link to WG 40

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