



**GESAMP**

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

GESAMP 47/1/1  
28 July 2020  
ENGLISH ONLY

47th session  
Agenda item 1

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## **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. It should be noted that since the meeting is being held by virtual means due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, many agenda items will have to be more succinct than during normal sessions.

#### **2 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF GESAMP**

2.1 The Chair of GESAMP will provide an overview of GESAMP's activities since the 46th session, held in September 2019, and inform the members of his activities and those of the Vice-Chairs during the intersessional period.

#### **3 REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY OF GESAMP**

3.1 The Administrative Secretary of GESAMP will provide of a status report on issues concerning the work of the GESAMP Office, as well as the Executive Committee of GESAMP. Due to the brevity of this year's session, the report will not contain the customary overview of international developments as provided by the Sponsoring Organizations of GESAMP.

3.2 GESAMP will be invited to comment on these and other administrative arrangements.

#### **4 PLANNING OF GESAMP ACTIVITIES<sup>1</sup>**

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 ocean (WG 38);

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<sup>1</sup> 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 46th session of GESAMP.

- .4 Sources, fate and effects of plastics and microplastics in the marine environment – a global assessment (WG 40);
- .5 Marine geoengineering (WG 41);
- .6 Impacts of wastes and other matter in the marine environment from mining operations, including marine mineral mining (WG 42);
- .7 Sea-based sources of marine litter (WG 43); and
- .8 Biofouling management (WG 44)

## **5 CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER UN PROCESSES**

5.1 GESAMP will be invited to consider any other relevant projects and initiatives, based on submissions from the Members and the Sponsoring Organizations, including:

- .1 The UN regular process;
- .2 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- .3 The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development; and
- .4 Other projects and initiatives.

## **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 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 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 into the marine environment;
- .2 sand and gravel mining;
- .3 updating the information on sources and levels of the main pollutants impacting the global marine environment;

- .4 causes and impacts of massive accumulations of the brown macro-algae Sargassum in the nearshore environment of the Caribbean and West Africa; and
- .5 The impact of armed conflicts in the marine environment and sustainable development.

## **8 DATE AND PLACE OF GESAMP 48**

8.1 GESAMP will be invited to confirm the date, place and other organizational arrangements for its 48th session.

## **9 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

9.1 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.

## **10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

10.1 Any other subjects or items raised by Members and the Executive Committee may be considered under this agenda item.

## **11 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

11.1 GESAMP will be invited to elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair to hold office for the intersessional period and the 48th session of GESAMP.

## **12 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF GESAMP 47**

12.1 The draft report of GESAMP 47 will be prepared for consideration and adoption on the final day (Friday, 11 September 2020).

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ANNEX

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

The meetings will be held from 13:00 to 16:00 (British Summer Time, GMT+1) each day.

Date	Agenda item
Tuesday, 8 September 2020	<p><b>13:00 – 14:00 hrs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meeting of the Executive Committee, in parallel with</li><li>• Informal meeting of the GESAMP members</li></ul> <p><b>14:30 – 16:00 hrs</b></p> <p><b>GESAMP 47</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Adoption of the agenda</li><li>2 Report of the Chair of GESAMP</li><li>3 Report of the Administrative Secretary of GESAMP</li><li>4 Planning of GESAMP activities</li></ol>
Wednesday, 9 September	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5 Contributions to other UN processes</li><li>6 Identification of new and emerging issues regarding the degradation of the marine environment of relevance to governments and Sponsoring Organizations</li><li>7 Scoping activities (Correspondence Groups and Task Teams)</li><li>8 Date and place of GESAMP 48</li><li>9 Future work programme</li><li>10 Any other business</li><li>11 Elections</li></ol>
Thursday, 10 September	No meeting
Friday, 11 September	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>12 Consideration and adoption of the report of GESAMP 47</li></ol> <p>Followed by:</p> <p>Second meeting of the Executive Committee (closed session)</p>