



REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY OF GESAMP

Activities and achievements of the Sponsoring Organizations of GESAMP since the 46th session

Introduction

1 The report of the Administrative Secretary of GESAMP normally contains three main parts: an update of the work of the Executive Committee (ExCom), a report of the activities of the GESAMP Office, and a report of the activities of the Sponsoring Organizations of GESAMP in the area of marine environmental protection. However, due to the current situation this year where many of the intergovernmental processes have slowed down or been postponed during the COVID-19 pandemic, together with the very limited time available for the virtual annual session, the report this year will only contain the first two items. The Sponsoring Organizations are instead invited to present information of relevance to GESAMP during the session, as appropriate.

Activities of the Executive Committee

2 The ExCom met twice by teleconference in the intersessional period. The first meeting was held on 12 February 2020, to discuss progress and arrangements for working groups and correspondence groups, funding issues, preparations of reports and additional GESAMP's presence in major international meetings.

3 The second meeting was held on 25 June 2020, with the specific objective to make progress with the revision of the Rules of Procedure for GESAMP, and to agree on the holding of the 47th session of GESAMP by virtual means, and its overall format.

4 GESAMP 47 will be informed of the outcomes of the next session of the Executive Committee, which will be held on Tuesday, 8 September 2020.

The GESAMP Office

5 The GESAMP Office has continued its role to actively support GESAMP, its working groups and the ExCom. To this end, since September 2019 the main activities of the GESAMP Office have been the following:

- .1 supporting the activities of the existing working groups and correspondence groups of GESAMP, including an increasing number of peer review activities;
- .2 assisting Sponsoring Organizations in the publication of two GESAMP reports in the Reports and Studies series (two more are in the final stages of publication), as well as two interim working group reports to Sponsoring Organizations;
- .3 outreach and strengthening of GESAMP's networks, both through the website and through direct outreach to existing and potential partners; and

- .4 coordination of the intersessional sessions of ExCom (see above) as well as for the GESAMP Members (see agenda item 2).

5 It should be noted that despite the limitations posed by the pandemic, the GESAMP Office has continued to operate at full capacity, as has the ExCom and GESAMP itself. This is an important reminder of the strength of GESAMP, not least in terms of the commitment from its membership and the Sponsoring Organizations.
