



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 UNEP.

2 WG 43 is co-led by FAO (Technical Secretary for the WG: Mr. Jonathan Lansley) and IMO (Technical Secretary for the WG: Mr. Fredrik Haag), and co-sponsored by UNEP (contact: Ms. Joana Akrofi). Dr. Kirsten Gilardi (University of California, Davis/California Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project) serves as WG 43 Chair. For current WG 43 membership refer to annex 2.

3 Upon launch in 2019, WG 43 reported at GESAMP 46 on its progress to that point:

- .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).

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 worked in small teams of 2-3 individuals each to work on TOR 1 until a first workshop of the working group was held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 28 to 30 October 2019.

5 At the October 2019 workshop at FAO headquarters in Rome, working group members presented results of work to date on research for TOR 1, and planned an approach to TOR 2 and TOR 3. The working group outlined its first interim report, agreed on a timetable for work, and discussed other TORs. Importantly, the WG agreed to propose to GESAMP that the language for TOR 7 be changed (see annex 1).

6 The working group submitted a draft of its first interim report to GESAMP for peer-review on 1 January 2020, and upon incorporation of edits and suggestions, submitted its final first interim report to GESAMP on 26 January 2020. Thereafter, with the approval of WG 43 membership,

brief but important edits were made to the first interim report, which was considered final as revised on 29 January 2020. The WG Chair assisted the IMO Technical Secretariat to prepare a progress report for the 75th session of the IMO Marine Environmental Protection Committee meeting, which was planned for April 2020 but later postponed due to COVID-19. The report is, however, available to IMO delegations as documents MEPC 75/8/5 and MEPC 75/INF.23.

7 After submittal of its first interim report, WG 43 embarked upon additional work to address its TORs. The WG met by teleconference on 13 February 2020 and submitted a draft second interim report to GESAMP for peer review on 1 May 2020. Upon incorporation of edits and suggestions, the WG submitted its final draft of the second interim report to GESAMP on 4 June 2020. This report is to be presented as a Session Background Document to the 34th session of the Committee of Fisheries (COFI34). COFI34 was originally due to take place from 13 to 17 July 2020, but has been delayed to 1 to 5 February 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Once the document has been accepted by the COFI Secretariat, it will be posted on the following publicly accessible website <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofi/documents-cofi34/en/>.

8 The working group met by teleconference on 18 May 2020 to plan work for the remainder of the calendar year, with intent to submit a final technical report to GESAMP for the peer review process by 1 December 2020. The working group acknowledged that an in-person meeting was unlikely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Action requested of GESAMP

9 GESAMP is invited to consider the information provided and to take action as appropriate, and in particular:

- .1 consider a request from WG 43 that the language for TOR 7 be changed from *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 to Review and compare strategies for preventing and mitigating ALDFG.*
- .2 consider a request from WG 43 that pending COVID-19-related travel restrictions, a subset of WG 43 meets for a writing workshop in October or November 2020 to finalize a draft of its final technical report, which will be due to GESAMP for peer-review 1 December 2020.

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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.

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, ALDFG and ALDFG removal, 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, ALDFG and ALDFG removal; gear design
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
