



GESAMP

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

GESAMP 47/4/5
28 July 2020
ENGLISH ONLY

47th session
Agenda item 1

**PLANNING OF GESAMP ACTIVITIES:
MARINE GEOENGINEERING**

Report of the Co-Chairs of Working Group 41

Activities of the Working Group

1 Since the last GESAMP meeting in September 2019, the co-chairs of GESAMP Working Group 41 (WG 41) have been drafting the revised terms of reference and reviewing the membership of the Group, see below.

2 Additionally, in late 2019, the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative (C2G) published a number of documents that drew heavily on the March 2019 report of WG 41:

- Evidence Brief 'Governing Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal and Solar Radiation Modification' (<https://www.c2g2.net/project/evidence-brief-governing-marine-carbon-dioxide-removal-and-solar-radiation-modification/>)
- Policy Brief 'Governing Emerging Marine Climate Techniques' (<https://www.c2g2.net/project/policy-brief-governing-emerging-marine-climate-technologies/>)
- Policy Brief 'Governing Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal' (<https://www.c2g2.net/project/policy-brief-governing-marine-carbon-dioxide-removal/>)
- Policy Brief 'Governing Marine Solar Radiation Modification' (<https://www.c2g2.net/project/policy-brief-governing-marine-solar-radiation-management/>)

3 In April 2019, Henrik Enevoldsen (IOC UNESCO) was contacted by Janos Pasztor, the Executive Director of the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative, and subsequently had a discussion with him about potential cooperation with IOC UNESCO. That led to a suggestion that the C2G's scientific advisor Paul Rouse should get in a dialogue WG 41 for more concrete discussions on how WG41 could potentially contribute/respond more directly to IPCC work. In addition, Henrik and Janos also discussed opportunities to communicate at IPCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) meetings including for GESAMP/WG 41 to inform about its work in next phase.

4 Subsequently, an online discussion was held between Chris Vivian (WG 41), Andy Birchenough (IMO), Henrik Enevoldsen (IOC UNESCO), Salvatore Arico (IOC UNESCO), Oksana Tarasova (WMO), Paul Rouse (C2G) and Alia Hassan (C2G). We had an interesting discussion in which C2G praised our WG 41 report and strongly supported our efforts to bring humanities and social science into our assessment. We discussed the potential for a NETS segment in the UNFCCC Research Dialogue to take place on 12th October where WG 41 could be involved. Henrik was going to get back to the UNFCCC to see what might be possible and then draft a concept note for GESAMP involvement.

5 Henrik subsequently had an on-line meeting in late April with Joanna Post and Florin Vladu from UNFCCC about negative emissions/ocean Carbon/Research Dialogue and/or Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue, They were also interested in a dialogue with WG 41 in preparing for a SBSTA research dialogue session on negative emissions. Henrik continued the dialogue with the UNFCCC secretariat and there was mutual confirmation that we are moving in the right direction.

UNFCCC is putting together an overview of the broad topics they will cover in the 'Research Dialogue' and it was suggested to bring together a small ad-hoc group to discuss the focus. One of the original suggestions were to invite an expert to talk about carbon removal (as presented in IPCC reports) – but they are open to a possible joint presentation with “another” relevant person. In late July 2020, we were informed by IOC UNESCO that the Research Dialogue was postponed to 2021 and that they were in talks with the UNFCCC secretariat to help shape the Dialogue’s programme. However, it is believed this will take some further time.

New Terms of Reference for Working Group 41

6 After discussions between IMO, IOC UNESCO and WMO in January 2020 about the direction of WG 41’s future work, draft revised Terms of Reference (ToRs) were produced and circulated to IMO, IOC UNESCO, and WMO for comment. The draft revised ToRs with comments from IMO, IOC UNESCO, and WMO were revised again and circulated to all GESAMP members in late May 2020. A number of comments were received from GESAMP members that have been taken into account in a final draft for approval by IMO, IOC UNESCO, and WMO and all GESAMP members.

7 Following discussions at the WG 41 workshop held in March 2019, focusing on the societal issues of marine geoengineering, and comments from GESAMP members on the revised ToRs, it was decided to change the name of the Working Group to the 'Working Group On Ocean Interventions for Climate Mitigation'. This was done to better reflect the primary focus of the Working Group and to provide a clearer message about the work of the Group to non-specialists.

Future membership of the Working Group

8 The co-chairs are currently reviewing the membership of the Working Group in the light of the draft revised ToRs. In particular, they are considering new members to cover relevant expertise in the humanities and the social sciences as well as wider geographic coverage. A compilation of potential new members has been put together derived from:

- Suggestions from WG 41 members;
- Suggestions from GESAMP members;
- Suggestions from the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative;
- Suggestions from Wil Burns – one of our report’s peer reviewers; and
- The Pool of Experts for the UN Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

9 Once the revised ToRs have been approved, the co-chairs will start the process of inviting new members for the Working Group.

Action requested of GESAMP

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