



GESAMP

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

GESAMP 52/1/1
17 July 2025
ENGLISH ONLY

52nd session
Agenda item 1

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Secretariat

1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 The provisional agenda has been prepared based on previous agendas for GESAMP sessions, and progress made in the intersessional period.

1.2 GESAMP will be invited to adopt the provisional agenda, discuss work arrangements and agree on a timetable to conduct its work. A draft timetable for the session is set out at annex to the provisional agenda (document GESAMP 52/1).

2 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF GESAMP

2.1 The Chair of GESAMP will provide an overview of GESAMP's activities since the 51st session, held in September 2024, and inform the members of her 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.

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

4 PLANNING OF GESAMP ACTIVITIES¹

4.1 GESAMP will be invited to consider the progress made by each of its 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);
- .4 Sources, fate and effects of plastics and microplastics in the marine environment (WG 40);
- .5 Ocean interventions for climate change mitigation (WG 41);

¹ 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 the documents of the 52nd session to be considered under agenda item 4.

- .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);
- .8 Biofouling management (WG 44);
- .9 Climate change and greenhouse gas related impacts on contaminants in the ocean (WG 45); and
- .10 Life cycle GHG intensity of marine fuels (WG 46).

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 Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;
- .2 the BBNJ Agreement;
- .3 the UN Regular Process;
- .4 the International legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment; and
- .5 any other processes 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.

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.

Task Teams and Correspondence Groups

7.2 GESAMP will be invited to consider progress made in the intersessional period, in particular on the following activities:

- .1 Impacts of anthropogenic inputs to the ocean on human and animal health;
- .2 Large marine ecosystems (LMEs); and
- .3 Sand and gravel mining in the marine environment: new insights on a growing environmental problem.

7.3 The Task Team on the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the Task Team on the Strategic Review will be discussed under agenda items 5 and 8 respectively.

Proposals for new Working Groups

7.4 GESAMP will be invited to consider any proposals for new Working Groups, if submitted by the Sponsoring Organizations.

8 STRATEGIC REVIEW OF GESAMP

8.1 GESAMP will be invited to review the progress with the Strategic Review of GESAMP and agree on the next steps and timeline for the activities in the intersessional period.

9 GESAMP SIDE-EVENT: BUILDING SCIENCE-DRIVEN NETWORKS FOR A CLEAN, HEALTHY AND RESILIENT OCEAN

9.1 As part of the annual session, GESAMP and the host organization will organize a side-event on the topic of "Building science-driven networks for a clean, healthy and resilient ocean".

10 DATE AND PLACE OF GESAMP 53

10.1 GESAMP will be invited to confirm the date, place and other organizational arrangements for its 53rd session.

11 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

11.1 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.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

13 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

13.1 GESAMP will be invited to elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair to hold office for the intersessional period and the 53rd session of GESAMP.

14 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF GESAMP 52

14.1 The draft report of GESAMP 52 will be prepared for consideration and adoption on the final day (Friday, 19 September 2025).
