New GESAMP’s global “shop front”

GESAMP’s window for information and communication is its newly-created web-site at www.gesamp.org where you can find:

- General information about GESAMP, promotional materials, and current news items;
- The current GESAMP programme and work plan;
- Current GESAMP Working groups and activities;
- A list of sitting members of GESAMP;
- All GESAMP published products (many in several languages) in a free, downloadable form for registered users;
- On-line facilities to subscribe to the GESAMP electronic mailing list and to express register for participating in the GESAMP Pool of Experts or nominate other experts for participation;
- Password-protected areas for pool experts and members of GESAMP to access working documents, undertake discussions, etc.;
- Links to related sites.

What is unique about GESAMP?

- Our authoritative and independent scientific perspective
- A credible source of input to policy-making for the marine environment
- Our interdisciplinary approach
- The diversity of our sponsoring agencies
- Our ability to get the job done.

For further information and free registration, visit www.gesamp.org click on Registration and follow instructions, or write to:

The GESAMP Office
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E-mail: theoffice@gesamp.org

Science for Sustainable Oceans
To provide authoritative, independent, interdisciplinary scientific advice to organizations and governments to support the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment.

www.gesamp.org
What is GESAMP?
GESAMP is a group of experts that since 1969 has advised the United Nations (UN) system on scientific aspects of marine environmental protection. GESAMP is presently sponsored by nine UN agencies with interests and responsibilities in marine environmental matters: IMO, FAO, UNESCO-IOC, WMO, IAEA, UN, UNE, PUNIDO and UNDP. This joint advisory mechanism is needed first to provide a cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary, and science-based approach to international policy development in marine environmental affairs, and second to meet the practical requirement for coordination and cooperation among UN agencies. As GESAMP approached its 40th anniversary, it was re-shaped and revitalized, and its scope was broadened to accommodate and address present-day environmental needs in the UN system.

What are our tasks?
GESAMP will
- Integrate and synthesize results of regional and thematic assessments and scientific studies to support global assessments of the marine environment;
- Provide scientific and technical guidance on the design and execution of marine environmental assessments;
- Provide scientific reviews, analyses, and advice on specific topics relevant to the condition of the marine environment, as well as its protection and management.
- Provide an overview of marine environmental monitoring, assessment, and related activities of UN agencies and advise on how these activities might be improved and better integrated and coordinated.
- Identify new and emerging issues regarding the degradation of the marine environment that are of relevance to Governments and Sponsoring Organizations.

How do we work?
GESAMP consists of experts from a wide range of disciplines relevant to marine environmental protection, including socio-economics. To ensure GESAMP’s independence, experts act in an individual capacity and not as representatives of their Governments or institutions. Each Sponsoring Organization provides a Technical Secretary to help administer GESAMP and organize its activities. Individual studies and assessments are carried out by specialist Working Groups specifically formed to address a given issue. Working Groups usually include additional experts who are not members of GESAMP itself. This broadens the GESAMP network activities and allows Working Group expertise to be tailored to specific projects. GESAMP has Working Groups on a range of topics and our workplan regularly evolves in response to the needs of our user community.

What are our products?
GESAMP has produced more than 80 in-depth technical studies, including broad-based assessments of the state of the global marine environment that are published in the well-known GESAMP Reports & Studies series. GESAMP studies are also sometimes published in parallel as books or journal articles.

What is “New”?
A recent independent review recommended that GESAMP should continue to be the agreed source of independent scientific advice on marine environmental protection to the UN system. The review recommended improvements to GESAMP’s organization, work methods, and management that “would result in GESAMP becoming the world’s first choice for marine environment protection advice and guidance.” These improvements are embodied in a Strategic Vision for a “New GESAMP” to
- Maintain and strengthen GESAMP’s established credibility;
- Strengthen engagement both with the broader scientific community and with Governments and other major user groups to enhance the relevance and legitimacy of GESAMP’s advice;
- Ensure professionalism in work methods, management, and product delivery.

New working methods
Members of GESAMP, its Working Groups, and in many cases peer reviewers will be drawn from a new, broad-based Pool of Experts. Critical topics for GESAMP studies will be proposed not only by GESAMP sponsoring organizations but also by external organizations and groups including governments, regional organizations, and NGOs. Work methods are being modernized to make increased use of electronic communication for inter-sessional work, and provisions and procedures of road based peer review are being strengthened. Finally, the delivery of GESAMP’s advice is being improved by more rapid publication, wider dissemination, better marketing of reports and free on-line downloads.