

Input to 2015 SG report on oceans and the law of the sea

Second part

Executive Summary

As nuclear technologies are increasingly being used to monitor and to protect the environment, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) provides, inter alia, support to its Member States to **develop and improve the relevant nuclear and isotope-based techniques and capacities.**

As the only UN System Organization operating marine laboratories, the IAEA

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IRU 5DGLRORJLFD0 ,PSDFW \$VHVVPHQWV 02\$16 for its Member States which consists of ten working groups covering different radiation protection topics, including radiological protection of marine biota, dispersion of radionuclides in the marine environment and the transfer of radionuclides accidentally released from land-based facilities. The programme which also provides an international forum for the exchange of experience, ideas and research information

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Atlantic (the OSPAR Convention), and the Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (the Hong Kong Convention).

In 2014, the IAEA updated the guidelines for the London Convention to determine radionuclide levels in materials that may be dumped at sea which have no radiological impact to the marine environment. This procedure is being considered for inclusion in the IMO Guidelines for the London Convention 1972. The IAEA also concluded the update of the database on the inventory of historical disposals, accidents and losses in the oceans involving radioactive materials.

Together with the IMO, the IAEA is also involved in the development of a safe regime for the environmentally sound recycling of ships.

As the only UN agency operating marine laboratories, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), works to implement activities, improve knowledge and develop methods in order to assist Member States laboratories and Regional Seas Conventions to accurately monitor radionuclides, organic contaminants (including Persistent Organic Compounds), hazardous trace elements, such as mercury, and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) related biotoxins, and mitigate their impacts. This support is provided by the IAEA Environment Laboratories as well as through the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme.

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Monitoring the concentrations of these contaminants in environmental matrices helps Member States enhance seafood safety, protect the marine environment and fulfil their obligations in the framework

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national regulatory authorities responsible for authorizing disposal of materials at sea, as well as by those companies and individuals applying to obtain permission to dispose of materials at sea. Currently t

