

THIRD MEETING OF THE IMCO MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE

London, 23 - 27 June 1975

by

P C Wood  
Fisheries Laboratory  
Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex



As agreed I attended the Third Meeting of IMCO, and acted as observer on behalf of ICES. A copy of the Agenda is attached.

Despite the name of the Committee, there was little of direct relevance to environmental matters, most of the work being taken up with administrative, legal, and mechanical requirements necessary to implement the 1969 Amendments, the 1973 Convention and its Protocol related to intervention. Some aspects of the meeting are relevant to ICES interests and worthy of note.

Agenda, Item 4

- a) Hazard evaluation of noxious substances. This work is being carried out on behalf of IMCO by GESAMP. The Committee asked GESAMP to give priority to a short list of hazardous substances carried in bulk, as submitted by the International Chamber of Commerce. In its report, the GESAMP Working Group noted the absence of published data related to toxicity of many of these substances, and the MEPC agreed to circulate a request to governments to provide information and where possible to carry out acute toxicological assessments. As this would be a large undertaking, I did not feel this was a matter which I could, without consultation, suggest that ICES should handle. However, ICES may wish to consider this again when the circular is distributed.
- b) Activities by other organisations of interest to ICES and related to marine pollution are described in MEPC III/4, and MEPC III/4/2.

Agenda, Item 7

Procedures and arrangements for the discharge of noxious liquid substances

Norway, the Netherlands and the USA have made significant advances in the study of rates of discharge of liquid wastes from vessels, and it seems likely that it will be possible to predict the rates of initial dilution of liquid waste from a vessel under way, providing several simple parameters are known. This will have an obvious bearing on scientific studies related to the dumping of wastes at sea from vessels, and will clearly be of value to those Working Groups of ICES which deal with problems referred to it by the Oslo Convention. A further programme of future work was agreed, and, when completed, a detailed report will be made.

Agenda, Item 9

MEPC Symposium to be held in Mexico, 22-31 March 1976

It was confirmed that this Symposium will deal essentially with practical problems related to the compliance with the IMCO Conventions. Little scientific discussion related to marine pollution is anticipated.

Agenda, Item 12

Sewage discharge from ships

Because of lack of information, this item was postponed, and a technical assessment with proposals will be made by Canada and the US.

Agenda, Item 15

Guidelines for technical assessment for the intervention under the Intervention Protocol

MEPC confirmed its decision taken at the last meeting that intervention (eg distribution of a ship by a nation threatened by pollution) could take place only on the merits of each case, and that all local factors needed to be taken into account. It was agreed that two papers presented by the Secretariat and the UK (MEPC 15 and MEPC 15/2) dealing with administrative, legal, and technical aspects of intervention would be drafted as a single document outlining the steps to be taken when a potential intervention situation occurs.

Agenda, Item 17

Any other Business

- a) At the request of MEPC II the UK submitted a list of approved dispersants. Although it was not the intention of the UK, a discussion started on the philosophy of using oil dispersants. Canada expressed concern about their use on grounds of toxicity, and it was announced that a bilateral study by the US and USSR would be concluded in 1976, and a joint report made. It therefore seems likely that there will be further discussion on this topic at future meetings of MEPC.
- b) The next meeting of MEPC will take place in October. Most of the time will be devoted to 4 working groups dealing with: Hazard evaluation by GESAMP, Technical assistance, the Intervention Protocol and Arrangements and procedures for the discharge of toxic liquid substances.

GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME  
ULTATIVE ORGANIZATION



MEPC III/1  
6 March 1975  
Original: ENGLISH

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE - 3rd session  
Agenda item 1

IMCO

AGENDA

for the third session of the Marine Environment Protection  
Committee to be held at IMCO Headquarters, London, W.1,  
from Monday 23 June at 10.00 a.m.  
to Friday, 27 June 1975

- Opening of the session
1. Adoption of the Agenda
  2. Status of international conventions relating to marine pollution from ships of which IMCO is depositary
  3. Progress report on the work of other IMCO bodies relating to the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships
  4. Marine pollution activities outside the Organization
  5. Means for ensuring the provision and maintenance of adequate reception facilities in ports
  6. Consideration of draft revised performance standards for oily water separating equipment and oil content meters
  7. Procedures and arrangements for the discharge of noxious liquid substances
  8. Technical assistance in the field of marine pollution
  9. Symposium on prevention of marine pollution from ships (Acapulco, Mexico, 22-31 March 1976)
  10. Improved methods of enforcement of convention requirements with particular reference to arrangements for inspection at loading and repair ports
  11. Standard method of identification of the source of discharged oil
  12. Standards and test methods for operational requirements of a sewage treatment plant for ships

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies

13. Further development of a comprehensive anti-pollution manual
  14. Formulation of an outline of a comprehensive plan for the development of measures aimed at protecting the marine environment from pollution from ships
  15. Guidelines for technical assessment for possible intervention under the 1969 Intervention Convention and the 1973 Intervention Protocol
  16. Future work programme and date of next session
  17. Any other business
  18. Consideration of the report of the Committee
- 

---

Note: Agenda items 5 through 9 inclusive are principal items to which the Committee will give consideration with priority, whereas items 10 through 15 will be given consideration in so far as time permits during the session