

Introduction :

Pollution by Plastics in various forms has been recognised as a Global issue ,, and to address Marine Plastic Pollution as part of a global solution within the framework of ocean Governance , MEPC is pursuing this object aligned with preventing and significantly reducing all forms of marine pollution by 2025 .

Accordingly at MEPC 72 a new output – “Development of an action plan to address marine plastic litter from ships “ was added to the biennial agenda of MEPC.

Progress on the output :

At MEPC 73 the Secretariat presented its paper ‘ Summary of IMO work on addressing marine plastic litter from ships “ (**MEPC73/8 – attached)**

At this session a working group deliberated on this issue including all the papers submitted on the same (including one paper from India) with the following terms of reference :

The WG to:

- .1 prepare a draft action plan to address marine plastic litter from ships, together with an associated draft MEPC resolution, for consideration by the Committee, with a view to adoption at this session;
- .2 develop the draft scope of work for the PPR Sub-Committee and any other Sub-Committees that would be requested to carry out follow-on work emanating from the action plan;
- and
- .3 consider whether it was necessary for a correspondence group to be established and, if so, prepare the terms of reference for consideration by the Committee.

Considering all views at this session the Committee agreed that the measures in the Action Plan would be reviewed at MEPC 74 based on follow-up proposals and commenting documents by interested Member States and international organizations. It was also agreed that following such a review, the Committee would instruct the PPR Sub-Committee or other sub-committees, as appropriate , to undertake work only on actions for which a well-defined scope of work had been developed.

Further considering the draft MEPC resolution, the Committee agreed to replace the text of the second operative paragraphs with the following: "NOTES the application of the Action Plan to all ships, including fishing vessels;".

Subsequently, the Committee adopted resolution **MEPC.310(73) (attached)** on *Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships on 26th Oct 2018 .*

Additionally the output was renamed as "Follow-up work emanating from the Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships" and a correspondence group was set up under the coordination of United Kingdom having the following terms of reference :

- .1 identify issues to be considered under an IMO study on marine plastic litter from ships
 - .2 determine the most appropriate mechanism to undertake the study, in particular whether a literature review and/or a quantitative study should be pursued;
 - .3 develop a regulatory framework matrix which identifies all international regulatory instruments and best practices associated with the issue of marine plastic litter from ships; and
 - .4 submit a report to MEPC 74.
- India also participated in this correspondence group

At the 74th MEPC :

The Correspondence group submitted its report as **MEPC 74/8 (attached)** and other papers were submitted for consideration and a working group established with the terms of reference as :

- .1 develop terms of reference for an IMO Study on marine plastic litter from ships, taking into account document MEPC 74/8, and advise the Committee on the appropriate modalities for the conduct of such a study;
- .2 update the regulatory framework matrix set out in annex 3 to document MEPC 74/8, subject to additional information being presented;
- .3 consider how the work associated with the Action Plan could be advanced, taking into account document MEPC 74/8/2 proposing to develop an IMO strategy to address marine plastic litter from ships, and advise the Committee accordingly; and
- .4 further consider document MEPC 74/8/3 and advise the Committee on how best to proceed.

Considering the report of the Working Group the Committee among other decisions :

1. approved the terms of reference for the IMO Study on marine plastic litter from ships, as set out in annex 20 to its report **74/18 and addendum (attached)**.
2. **Regulatory framework matrix** - With regard to the regulatory framework matrix identifying all international regulatory instruments and best practices associated with the issue of marine plastic litter from ships (MEPC 74/8, annex 3), the Committee:
 - .1 invited Member States and international organizations to provide relevant information to the Secretariat, for inclusion in the matrix, with a view to maintaining the matrix as an up-to-date resource;
 - .2 requested the Secretariat to update the matrix when new information was received and to keep the Committee informed of such updates; and
 - .3 authorized the Secretariat to make the matrix available on the IMO website for reference, with an additional note explaining that the information contained in the matrix was intended for reference only and was not exhaustive.
3. Reporting accidental loss or discharge of fishing gear – in this context the Committee invited FAO to submit to future sessions of MEPC or the PPR Sub-Committee relevant information on existing reporting mechanisms of accidentally lost or discharged fishing gear, including the challenges and benefits of such systems, as well as information that could help clarify details on losses that should be reported. The Committee also invited interested Member States and international organizations to submit to the **PPR Sub-Committee** proposals on reporting mechanisms for accidentally lost or discharged fishing gear, including the challenges and benefits of such systems, as well as existing and potential ways to encourage fishing vessels to report.

Advancing actions in the Action Plan

Having noted that the Group had developed the scope of work of the PPR, III and HTW Sub-Committees to progress the work of the relevant short-term actions, the Committee:

- .1 approved the scope of work for the PPR Sub-Committee, as set out in **annex 21**, and agreed to add output 4.3 (Follow-up work emanating from the Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships) to the provisional agenda of **PPR 7**

Establishment of a correspondence group

8.42 Having noted that owing to time constraints the Group could not manage to finalize the draft strategy for addressing marine plastic litter from ships, the Committee agreed to establish a Correspondence Group on Development of a Strategy to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships, under the coordination of Singapore,³ with the following terms of reference:
".1 finalize a draft strategy to address marine plastic litter from ships, taking into account document MEPC 74/8/2 and using the *Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships*

(resolution MEPC.310(73)) and annexes 2 and 3 to document MEPC 74/WP.10 as a basis; and
 .2 submit a written report to MEPC 75".

At MEPC 75 various papers were submitted for this agenda including the report of the correspondence group at **75/8/3 (attached)** , however this agenda item was deferred to **MEPC 76 which is now scheduled from 10th to 17th June 2021** .

Thus with the background history trust participants can establish the linkage for the present papers at MEPC 76 and the papers which are forwarded from MEPC 75. (refer Note 1)

Considering the MEPC 74 guidance to PPR the progress there on the subject matter has been as follows :

PPR 7 considered that it was not possible to form a working group at the session , formed a correspondence group under the coordination of France to work on :
 to amend MARPOL Annex V and the *2017 Guidelines for the implementation of MARPOL Annex V* (resolution MEPC.295(71)) to facilitate and enhance reporting of the accidental loss or discharge of fishing gear, as currently provided in regulation 10.6 of MARPOL Annex V, and consider the information to be reported to Administrations and IMO, the reporting mechanisms and the modalities; and submit a written report to PPR 8. India was part of this correspondence group and its report was submitted as **PPR 8/8 (attached)** . Another paper was also submitted however due time constraints at **PPR8** these papers were pushed further to PPR9.

Further at **PPR 8** the Sub-Committee noted that documents on marine plastic litter that might be relevant to the discussions of the Sub-Committee, including the progress report of the GESAMP Working Group on sea-based sources of marine litter and a submission by FAO on reporting protocols and practices, were due to be considered by MEPC and might be forwarded to PPR 9 if so decided by the Committee.

Extension of the target completion year

8.6 In light of the above and in line with the four sessions agreed by MEPC 74 for the work assigned to the Sub-Committee under this output to be completed, the Sub-Committee requested MEPC 76 to extend the target completion year for output 4.3 to 2023.

Task for Participants :

Considering the above basic background and further research which participants are expected to do , formulate the **strategic paper** as per your role assigned from the below table covering all aspects related to Action plan relating to Marine Plastic Litter – keeping short , mid long as well as continuous action points in consideration , for presentation at a mock MEPC session .

A	B	C	D	E	F
Developin g Nation	Developin g Nation	Developed Nation	Developed Nation	FOC	NGO
Large interest in	Large interest in	Large interest in	Large interest in	Special interest and	Special interest

International sea borne trade	providing shipping services	providing shipping services	providing shipping services	important Geographical location	in all aspects of Environment protection
Shipbuilding – limited activity and limited R & D	Shipbuilding – large activity and medium R & D	Shipbuilding – medium domestic activity and regional R & D	Shipbuilding – some activity and large R & D	Shipbuilding – negligible activity and R & D	Extensive R & D on all aspects
Manufacturing & Industry - limited	Manufacturing & Industry - strong	Manufacturing & Industry - strong	Manufacturing & Industry - limited	Manufacturing & Industry - limited	Not applicable except from environment prospective
Fisheries – domestic largely	Fisheries – domestic and deep sea – export oriented	Fisheries – domestic and deep sea	Fisheries – deep sea largely	Fisheries – domestic largely	Not applicable except from environment prospective
Manpower supplier - International	Manpower supplier - National	Medium seafarers	Limited seafarers	Large seafarers but FOC concept	Manpower welfare also a

					focus area
Limited tonnage	Large tonnage	Large tonnage	Limited tonnage	Large tonnage	No exposure
Limited R &D	Large R &D	Large R &D but controlled disclosure	Large R &D	Limited R &D	Strong R &D
Medium trade	Large trade	Large trade	Large trade	Limited trade	No exposure
Fisheries Ministry – limited exposure	Fisheries Ministry – extensive exposure	Fisheries Ministry – limited exposure internationally	Fisheries Ministry – extensive exposure	Fisheries Ministry – limited exposure	Not applicable except from environment aspect
Exposure to scrapping - immense	Exposure to scrapping – immense	Exposure to scrapping – yes but limited details available in Public view	Exposure to scrapping – limited at site but sensitive to environment	Exposure to scrapping - limited	Exposure to scrapping – immense from environment aspect
Legislation – moderate implementation	Legislation – limited implementation	Legislation – limited implementation	Legislation – strong implementation	Legislation – moderate implementation	Global outreach with views

Note 1 : While an attempt has been made to highlight the salient points and key papers attached , participants are encouraged to browse the IMO website as Public User and do further analysis / research basis all other documents available on the IMO website .