

Ocean science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Submission to the twentieth session of the UN open-ended Informal Consultations on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP)

by the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

The context Shipping and the role of IMO

International shipping uses the world's oceans to deliver more than 80 per cent of global trade by volume and over 70 per cent of global trade by value, and the international shipping fleet is the biggest user of the surface of the ocean and seas. Activities conducted from vessels include voyages carrying the world's traded goods, fishing, tourism, exploration and exploitation of seabed mineral resources, as well as scientific research. Shipping is the engine that keeps the global economy moving, contributing to the livelihoods of many. It is the most cost-effective and cleanest way to move goods in quantity. It facilitates commerce and helps to create prosperity among nations and peoples. Shipping is thus a fundamental component of any programme for sustainable development.

IMO is the United Nations specialized agency responsible for developing and adopting measures to improve the safety and security of international shipping and to prevent marine and atmospheric pollution from ships. IMO conventions, upon entry into force, cover all ships, regardless of the flag they fly, as ships of non-convention States entering the waters or ports of convention States are subject to the "no more favourable treatment principle", which is embedded in IMO treaties. In other words, this principle allows for a level playing-

IMO and the shipping industry also utilize GESAMP as part of their regulatory mechanism,

