

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

IAEA Input to 2023 SG report on oceans and the law of the sea (RES/78/69)

Second part

Through its Marine Environment Laboratories in Monaco, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) remained committed to assisting its Member States in implementing and advancing nuclear and isotopic tools and techniques for monitoring coastal and marine environments. These efforts include assessing the impact of human activities on marine ecosystems and resources. Additionally, the IAEA provides guidance based on its Safety Standards for regulating the release of radioactive effluents into the marine environment. This guidance supports environmental monitoring and surveillance of nuclear facilities, as well as the assessment of radiological impacts on both the public and marine flora and fauna.

IAEA

The IAEA Marine Environment Laboratories continue assisting the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) and Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean with the harmonization and coordination of quality assurance for radioactive pollutants monitoring in the Mediterranean Sea

organic hazardous contaminants in diverse marine samples for monitoring and assessment in routine and emergency situations.

Under a project entitled 'Marine Monitoring: Confidence Building and Data Quality Assurance', that was initiated in 2014 as a follow-up activity to recommendations related to the decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan, the IAEA Marine Environment Laboratories continued conducting interlaboratory comparison (ILC) exercises based on sampling missions to collect seawater, sediment and fish samples undertaken jointly with Japanese scientists. The results of these ILCs confirm that the Japanese sampling methods are consistent with relevant methodological standards and best practice. The results also demonstrate a consistently high level of accuracy and reliability by Japanese laboratories involved in the analyses of radionuclides in marine samples.

In April 2021, Japan announced its Basic Policy on the handling of the ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System) treated water currently stored in tanks at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station (FDNPS) through controlled discharge into the sea surrounding the plant, subject to national regulatory approvals. Source monitoring of the treated water is required prior to discharge and related marine environmental





