

**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**  
**IAEA Input to 2022 SG report on oceans and the law of the sea (RES 77/248)**

**Second part**

Through its Marine Environment Laboratories in Monaco, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continues to provide support to its Member States, in implementing and developing nuclear and isotopic tools and techniques for monitoring coastal and marine environments and assessing impacts of human activities on marine ecosystems and resources. Additionally, the IAEA provides guidance based on its Safety Standards for the regulatory control of releases of radioactive effluents into the marine environment, for the environmental monitoring and surveillance of nuclear facilities and for the assessment of radiological impacts on members of the public and marine flora and fauna.

The IAEA Marine Environment Laboratories are unique to the UN system. As the only Agency in the system to have marine laboratories, the IAEA provides support to Member States in addressing a range of marine en0.245 Tw -18.6361J(o)1.8(nm)1TJ0.002y((7 Tw -17( i)-5.1(s)-7(s)-u(de)9.1( )J1)-34655 0 Td,(f)-0.5(

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and isotopic techniques, and to enhance their expertise and capability to develop science-based strategies,

ISO17034 for specific marine matrices containing selected gamma-emitting radionuclides. The accreditation provides added value for users of these Certified Reference Materials and supports Member States' laboratories own accreditation of testing services according to ISO/IEC 17025:2017, in validation or verification of methods and in continuous quality control of measurement results. This is essential for accurately assessing the status and trends of these pollutants in coastal and marine environments and for facilitating comparisons of pollution monitoring data worldwide. The IAEA also provided analytical quality control services for the measurement of radionuclides in marine samples, supporting capacity for monitoring and assessment of marine radioactivity in routine and emergency situations.

Since 2014, under a project entitled 'Marine Monitoring: Confidence Building and Data Quality Assurance', that was initiated 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 have conducted 11 ILCs based on sampling missions to collect seawater, sediment and fish samples jointly undertaken alongside 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 response to a request for assistance from Japan, the IAEA formed a task force to conduct a review to assess the Government of Japan's plan to discharge Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) treated water against relevant IAEA safety standards, beginning in September 2021. The IAEA's work on the plan will take place before, during and after its implementation. Reporting of the first ILC for corroboration of ALPS treated water prior to discharge with participation from IAEA, ALMERA and Japanese laboratories has been published. The report demonstrated that Japan's Tokyo Electric Power Company-

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Plastics is closely aligned with other UN organizations tackling this problem, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),

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participates in several high-level symposia and events every year and with its global partners has facilitated capacity building opportunities for 600 scientists from more than 90 Member States.

The OA-ICC continues to serve as a global information hub, providing open access to ocean acidification publications and information on relevant events and opportunities, as well as to unique resources such as: 1) a bibliographic databases centralizing all existing knowledge in the field of OA in the form of more

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supporting education, training and development of networks and partnerships among SIDS and with regional and international collaborators in relevant topical areas.

**Related to §§ 383 of resolution 77/248.**

As a member of the UN-Oceans mechanism, the IAEA attends coordination meetings and contributes to outreach activities to strengthen UN coordinated action for Ocean conservation. The Agency contributed to the UN-Oceans side event on the management of the Ocean-Water continuum held at the UN Water Conference in March 2023 in New York.

**Related to §§ 382 of resolution 77/248.**

Through its Marine Environment Laboratories, the IAEA contributes to effective coordination between UN Agencies through its participation in the Environment Management Group (EMG). The IAEA attends the annual Senior Officials Meeting and the EMG Mid-Term Technical Segment. The Agency is also an active member of the EMG Task Team on Marine Litters and Microplastics and contributed to the preparation of a UN Common Approach towards a Pollution-Free Planet as part of the Consultative Process and the Small Drafting Team coordinated by the Environment Management Group (EMG). The common approach aims to help the UN align its efforts and mobilize the entirety of its relevant expertise and mandates to accelerate the sustainable, inclusive, and just transition towards a pollution-free economy, building on existing efforts undertaken by various UN and related entities.