INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

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MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE
85th session
Agenda item 1

MEPC 85/1/1
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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Annotations to the provisional agenda and provisional timetable

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive summary:	This document provides information on the action the Committee will be invited to take in relation to the items on the agenda of MEPC 85. Annotations to the provisional agenda are contained in annex 1 and the provisional timetable for the meeting is set out in annex 2.
Strategic direction, if applicable:	Not applicable
Output:	Not applicable
Action to be taken:	Paragraph 10
Related documents:	MEPC 85/1; MEPC 84/16 and addenda; Circular Letter No.5187 and any other documents as specified

Annotations to the provisional agenda

1 The provisional agenda for the meeting, prepared on the basis of the list of items to be included in the agenda of MEPC 85 agreed at MEPC 84 (MEPC 84/16/Add.3, annex 28), has been circulated as document MEPC 85/1.

2 The annotations to the provisional agenda, set out in annex 1, provide information on the action the Committee will be invited to take under each agenda item.

Working, drafting, technical and review groups

3 Following a review of the documentation submitted to this session, and having taken into account the relevant decisions of MEPC 84, the Chair, in consultation with the Secretariat, proposes that the following working, drafting and review groups be established at this session:

.1 Working Group on Air Pollution and Energy Efficiency;

.2 Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships;

.3 Drafting Group on Amendments to Mandatory Instruments;

.4 Technical Group on the Designation of PSSA and ECAs; and

.5 Ballast Water Review Group.

Use of hybrid meeting capability to complement in-person participation

4 The Council, at its 132nd session, agreed to permanently establish the use of hybrid capabilities to support in-person meetings. In that context, it is proposed that for MEPC 85, all plenary sessions and the meetings of all groups will be conducted fully in person, supported by the hybrid infrastructure (see Circular Letters Nos.4623 and 4627).

5 The registration form to join the above groups can be found at the following address: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/vRGAsPQy5C.

Provisional timetable

6 A provisional timetable for the conduct of MEPC 85, prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair, is set out in annex 2. The timetable is of a tentative nature, for guidance only, and is likely to be modified closer to the meeting, as appropriate.

Organization of work for the session

7 The document on *Organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies* (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.7) (Committees' method of work) will be strictly adhered to.

Briefing on meetings of other IMO bodies

8 Since MEPC 85 will consider the outcome of the meetings of the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, and other relevant committees and sub-committees, as appropriate, delegations attending the session should ensure that they are fully briefed on the outcome of those meetings.

Related documents

9 For reasons of economy, documents referred to during MEPC 85 which have already been issued for any other IMO meeting will **not** be reissued. Delegations are requested to bring their own copies of such documents.

Action requested of the Committee

10 The Committee is invited to note the information provided, in particular the annotations to the provisional agenda, set out in annex 1, and the provisional timetable, set out in annex 2, and take action as deemed appropriate.

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ANNEX 1

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1 Adoption of the agenda

The Committee will be invited to adopt the agenda (MEPC 85/1) and agree to the annotations thereto and the provisional timetable for its eighty-fifth session (MEPC 85/1/1) (see also paragraph 13.3).

2 Decisions of other bodies

The Committee will be invited to consider the outcome of LEG 113, MSC 111, TC 76, C 137 and LC 48/LP 21 with regard to matters of relevance to its work.

3 Consideration and adoption of amendments to mandatory instruments

3.1 The Committee will be invited to consider, with a view to adoption, in accordance with article 19(2) of the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention, draft amendments to the BWM Convention (draft consolidated revised annex to the BWM Convention) (MEPC 85/3), approved by MEPC 84 (MEPC 84/16, paragraph 4.20 and annex 5) and circulated by the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 19(2)(a) of the said Convention, under cover of Circular Letter No.5191 of 19 May 2026.

3.2 The Committee will also be invited to consider, with a view to adoption, in accordance with article 16(2) of the MARPOL Convention, draft amendments to:

.1 MARPOL Annex VI concerning installation of pressure-vacuum devices on tankers carrying crude oil (MEPC 85/3/1);

.2 the NO_x Technical Code concerning certification of engines that operate on non-carbon-containing fuel or mixtures of carbon-containing and non-carbon-containing fuels (MEPC 85/3/2); and

.3 MARPOL Annex I concerning new regulation 12B on oily bilge water holding tanks and oily bilge water service tanks for ships fitted with an integrated bilge water treatment system, and amendments to appendix II – Form of the IOPP Certificate and supplements and appendix III – Form of the Oil Record Book (MEPC 85/3/3).

3.3 The draft amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, as referred to in paragraph 3.2.1, were approved by MEPC 84 (MEPC 84/16, paragraph 5.19 and annex 9) and circulated by the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 16(2)(a) of the MARPOL Convention, under cover of Circular Letter No.5193 of 19 May 2026. The draft amendments to the NO_x Technical Code, as referred to in paragraph 3.2.2, were approved by MEPC 84 (MEPC 84/16, paragraph 5.25 and annex 11) and circulated by the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 16(2)(a) of the MARPOL Convention, under cover of Circular Letter No.5194 of 27 May 2026. The draft amendments to MARPOL Annex I, as referred to in paragraph 3.2.3, were approved by MEPC 84 (MEPC 84/16, paragraph 10.12 and annex 23) and circulated by the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 16(2)(a) of the MARPOL Convention, under cover of Circular Letter No.5192 of 19 May 2026.

3.4 A drafting group is expected to be established to finalize the text of the above-mentioned amendments.

3.5 The Committee will also have for its consideration proposed amendments to MARPOL Annex VI on mid-term GHG reduction measures, as set out in documents MEPC 85/3/5, MEPC 85/3/6, MEPC 85/3/7 and MEPC 85/3/8. The aforementioned proposed amendments were circulated by the Secretary-General, at the request of Liberia; Brazil; Tuvalu; and Australia, Canada, South Africa and the United Kingdom, respectively, in accordance with article 16(2)(a) of the MARPOL Convention, under cover of Circular Letter No.5213 of 26 May 2026, Circular Letter No.5214 of 28 May 2026, Circular Letter No.5215 of 29 May 2026, and Circular Letter No.5216 of 29 May 2026, respectively. Since these documents have been considered by ISWG-GHG 22 and 23, further consideration of them is expected to take place under agenda item 7 (Reduction of GHG emissions from ships), taking into account the Committee's consideration of the outcomes of ISWG-GHG 22 and 23.

4 Harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water

4.1. The Committee will be invited to consider the progress report of the Correspondence Group on Review of the BWM Convention (MEPC 85/4/6). Taking into account the decisions made at MEPC 84, the Correspondence Group was tasked, inter alia, to complete the preparation of draft amendments to the BWMS Code. In addition, under the BWM Convention review, the Committee will also be invited to consider proposals for the revision of the *2024 Guidance on ballast water record-keeping and reporting* (BWM.2/Circ.80/Rev.1) (MEPC 85/4/2) and amendments to paragraph 4.10 of the BWMS Code (MEPC 85/4/3).

4.2 The Committee will further be invited to consider amendments to the *Interim guidance on the application of the BWM Convention to ships operating in challenging water quality conditions* (resolution MEPC.387(81)) (MEPC 85/4/1), together with any other submissions received under the agenda item.

4.3 A Ballast Water Review Group is expected to be established to consider matters referred to it by the Committee.

5 Air pollution prevention

The Committee will be invited to consider any submissions received under the agenda item and the working group expected to be established under agenda item 6 (see paragraph 6.3) may be tasked to consider matters referred to it by the Committee under this agenda item.

6 Energy efficiency of ships

6.1 The Committee will be invited to continue its work on phase 2 of the review of the short-term GHG reduction measures, taking into account submissions received for this session.

6.2 The Committee will also be invited to consider the 2025 Report of fuel oil consumption data submitted to the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Database in GISIS (MEPC 85/6), the 2025 Report on annual carbon intensity and efficiency of the fleet (MEPC 85/6/5), matters relating to the energy efficiency framework and the IMO DCS framework, including relevant documents submitted to MEPC 84, the consideration of which had been deferred to this session, together with any submissions received under the agenda item.

6.3 The working group, expected to be established under this agenda item, is anticipated to consider matters raised under this agenda item and agenda item 5 (see paragraph 5 above).

7 Reduction of GHG emissions from ships

7.1 The Committee will be invited to consider the outcome of the twenty-second and twenty-third meetings of the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG 22 and 23), together with submissions received under this agenda item, with a view to continuing its work on the implementation of the *2023 IMO Strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships*. In particular, the Committee is expected to consider proposals related to how to address concerns with the draft amendments to MARPOL Annex VI approved by MEPC 83, in line with the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy, as well as draft guidelines supporting the uniform and effective implementation of IMO's mid-term measures.

7.2 The Committee will also be invited to consider evaluations of proposed default emission factors and the further development of the life cycle GHG assessment (LCA) framework, taking into account the report of the fourth meeting of the GESAMP Working Group on Life Cycle GHG Intensity of Marine Fuels (GESAMP-LCA WG) (MEPC 85/7/4).

7.3 A working group is expected to be established to consider matters referred to it by the Committee.

8 Follow-up work emanating from the Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships

The Committee will be invited to consider any submissions received under this agenda item.

9 Experience-building phase for the reduction of underwater radiated noise from shipping

The Committee will be invited to consider the updated assessment of the Secretariat resource implications associated with the implementation of the extended experience-building phase (EBP) for the reduction of underwater radiated noise from shipping and the assessment of resource implications associated with the IMO Global URN Study (MEPC 85/9), together with any submissions received and matters raised under this agenda item.

10 Reports of other sub-committees

The Committee will be invited to consider the outcome of III 12 and CCC 12 with regard to matters of relevance to its work.

11 Identification and protection of Special Areas, ECAs and PSSAs

11.1 The Committee will be invited to consider a revised proposal by Peru (MEPC 85/11) for an associated protective measure (APM) concerning ballast water discharge in the Nasca Ridge National Reserve (RNDN), with a view to continuing the process of designating the area as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA), and a proposal by Oman (MEPC 85/11/1) seeking the approval, in principle, for the designation of a PSSA along the Arabian Sea coast of Oman, together with a proposed APM.

11.2 The Committee will be further invited to consider a proposal by Belgium (MEPC 85/11/2) seeking endorsement of the environmental justification for three proposed no anchoring areas within marine reserves in the Belgian part of the North Sea.

11.3 Depending on the outcome of the Committee's deliberations on the above proposals, a technical group may be established to further consider matters referred to it by the Committee.

12 Application of the Committees' method of work

The Committee will be invited to consider, with a view to concurrent approval, a draft revision of the Committees' method of work, prepared and approved by MSC 111, containing a new paragraph on remote participation, as well as an updated reference to the *Guidelines for Formal Safety Assessment (FSA) for use in the IMO rule-making process* (MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.12/Rev.3), to be disseminated as MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.8 (MSC 111/22, paragraph 18.5 and annex 32).

13 Work programme of the Committee and subsidiary bodies

13.1 The Committee will be invited to consider and agree its work programme and that of its subsidiary bodies, items to be included in the agenda for MEPC 86, and proposals for new outputs submitted to this session, concerning:

.1 the format of the Cargo Record Book for ships carrying noxious liquid substances in bulk as provided in appendix II of MARPOL Annex II, to enhance the management of the discharge of tank washings and ballast water from cargo tanks (MEPC 85/13/1);

.2 the development of provisions regarding the overboard discharge of the methanol fuel effluent generated on board methanol-fuelled ships (i.e. wastewater containing methyl alcohol fuel), to address concerns regarding disposal of the methanol fuel effluent and the regulatory gap in MARPOL Annex II (MEPC 85/13/2); and

.3 the revision of the Code for the Transport and Handling of Hazardous and Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk on Offshore Support Vessels (OSV Chemical Code) (resolution A.1122(30)) concerning requirements for the carriage of toxic products and carriage of contaminated backloads and review of the chapter for personnel training (MEPC 85/13/3).

13.2 The Committee will also be invited to consider the Secretariat's assessment of the technical, administrative and financial implications associated with the draft new output on support for the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement (MEPC 85/13), which was approved in principle by MEPC 84.

13.3 The Committee will be further expected to consider the resumption of the second extraordinary session of the Committee (MEPC/ES.2), taking into account the decisions taken by MEPC 84 (MEPC 84/16, paragraph 14.29, and Circular Letter No.5004/Add.1). In this context, the Committee will be invited to decide whether the resumed MEPC/ES.2 should be held on 4 December 2026 or whether that day should instead be used as an additional meeting day for MEPC 85.

14 Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

In accordance with rule 18 of its Rules of Procedure (MEPC.1/Circ.919), the Committee will be invited to elect its Chair and Vice-Chair for 2027.

15 Any other business

The Committee will be invited to consider any submissions received and matters raised under this agenda item.

16 Consideration of the report of the Committee

The Committee will be invited to consider the draft report of its eighty-fifth session.

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ANNEX 2

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Date	Agenda item	Groups
Monday, 30 November 2026	1 Adoption of the agenda 13 Work programme of the Committee and subsidiary bodies (consideration of the resumption of MEPC/ES.2 and related arrangements only) 7 Reduction of GHG emissions from ships (outcome of ISWG-GHG 22 and 23 only) 3 Consideration and adoption of amendments to mandatory instruments 11 Identification and protection of Special Areas, ECAs and PSSAs 6 Energy efficiency of ships 5 Air pollution prevention	 WG2 DG TG WG1 WG1
Tuesday, 1 December 2026	4 Harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water 8 Follow-up work emanating from the Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships 9 Experience-building phase for the reduction of underwater radiated noise from shipping 7 Reduction of GHG emissions from ships (remaining matters)	RG
Wednesday, 2 December 2026	2 Decisions of other bodies 10 Reports of other sub-committees 12 Application of the Committees' method of work 13 Work programme of the Committee and subsidiary bodies (proposals for new outputs only) 15 Any other business	
Thursday, 3 December 2026 [and Friday, 4 December 2026][*]	14 Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair Reports of groups 13 Work programme of the Committee and subsidiary bodies (remaining matters) 16 Consideration of the report of the Committee	

WG1 Working Group on Air Pollution and Energy Efficiency
WG2 Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships
DG Drafting Group on Amendments to Mandatory Instruments
RG Ballast Water Review Group
TG Technical Group on the Designation of PSSAs and ECAs

[*] MEPC 84 approved the holding of the resumed MEPC/ES.2 on 4 December 2026, subject to confirmation by MEPC 85 earlier the same week. The Committee further agreed that, should MEPC 85 determine that there is no need to resume the extraordinary session during that week, 4 December 2026 would instead be used as an additional meeting day for MEPC 85 (MEPC 84/16, paragraph 14.29).