Fifty years of ocean protection

Major milestones since adoption of the London Convention in 1972 regulating dumping at sea

MAJOR MILESTONES

LONDON CONVENTION (LC) adopted
Adoption of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972. One of the first global treaties aimed at protecting the marine environment from human activities. Purpose of the LC is to control all sources of marine pollution and prevent pollution of the sea through regulation of dumping into the sea of waste materials.

LC enters into force on 30 August 1975.

LC - **Dumping of radioactive waste at sea banned**, 1994.

LC - **Incineration at sea banned**, 1994.

LC - **Disposal of industrial waste** to be phased out by 1996.

LONDON PROTOCOL (LP) adopted
A separate treaty to update the LC and eventually replace it, embracing the polluter pays and precautionary principles, prohibiting all dumping of wastes and other matter at sea, except for those on a "reverse list".

London Protocol (LP) enters into force.

LP regulates Carbon Capture in Storage (CCS) in sub-seabed. Resolution LP.1(1) provides the basis in international environmental law for regulation of CO_2 Sequestration in Sub-Seabed Geological Formations.

LP amendment to allow export of CO_2. Resolution LP.3(4) amends Article 6 of the LP and enables CO_2 streams to be exported for CCS purposes.

LP amendment to regulate marine geoengineering. Resolution LP.4(8) adopted to regulate ocean fertilization activities and other such activities in the future.

2022 - **First periodic review of the LP/LC Strategic Plan**

1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 | 2020

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

1950-1970 - Increased awareness and concern about the impacts of human activities on the marine environment.

First Regional Seas Conventions adopted, many of which, while promoting the objectives of the LC.

1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is established.

First Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties (LDC I).

IMO (then IMCO) assumes the **duties of the London Convention Secretariat.**

LC Scientific Group. First meeting of the subsidiary body responsible for providing scientific and technical advice to the LC Parties.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) adopted and signed, outlining State obligations with respect to dumping in line with the London Convention (UNCLOS, Article 216).

LC - Policy agreement to **phase out sea disposal of industrial waste.**

UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Rio Earth Summit).

UNCLOS comes into force.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa.

LP Parties adopt Compliance Procedures and Mechanisms. LP Compliance Group (LP CG) established.

LP regulates marine geoengineering - ocean fertilization activities. Resolution LC-LP.1(1) provides that ocean fertilization activities other than legitimate scientific research should not be allowed.

LP Parties adopt **"Assessment Framework for Scientific Research Involving Ocean Fertilization (OFAF)".**

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 20-22 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro (Rio +20).

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted.

LP/LC Strategic Plan adopted. To facilitate implementation of the LP/LC to contribute to the prevention of marine pollution and to advance the 2030 Agenda.

LP allows for **provisional application of the 2009 CCS export amendment.** Allows countries to agree to export and receive CO_2 for offshore geological storage.

Sewage sludge to be removed from Annex 1 of the LP? LP Parties invited to propose an amendment to Annex 1 to remove sewage sludge from the list of wastes permitted for dumping.