

# Climate change mitigation: role of the LP/LC



The London Protocol & London Convention  
Emerging technologies in marine geoengineering

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1

## Expanding remit of the LC/LP



**Treaties Objective:**

*“Contracting Parties shall individually and collectively protect and preserve the marine environment from all sources of pollution”*

- So LC/LP governs dumping activities world-wide, but always from the perspective of protection from all sources of pollution.

**Newly emerging issues (LP):**

- Since 2006 Parties responded to new threats to the oceans and impacts posed by increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by regulating new **climate change mitigation technologies**

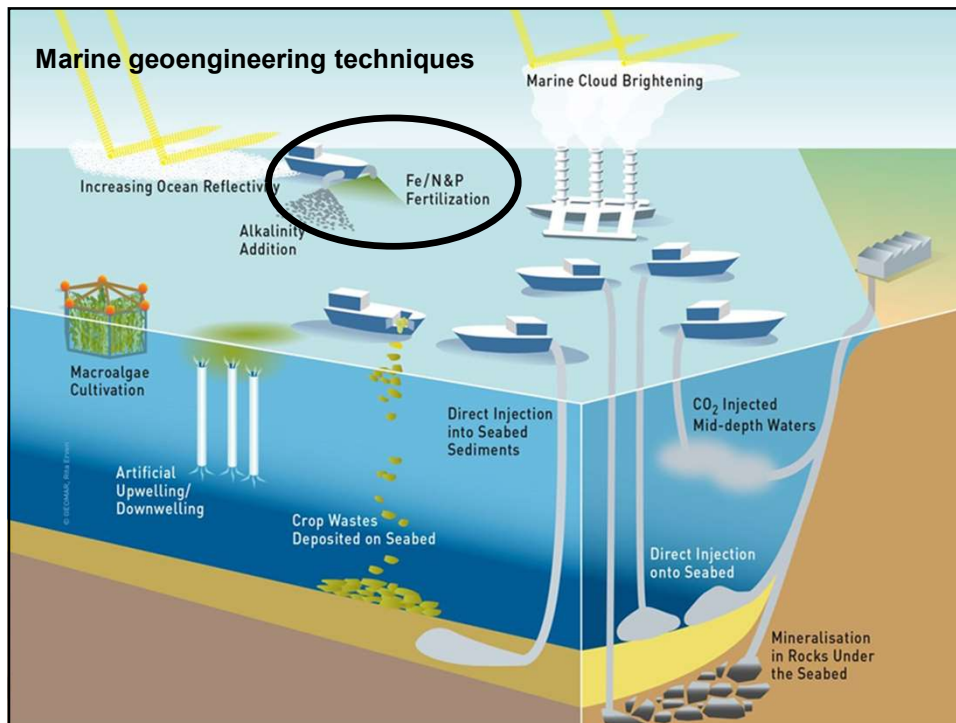


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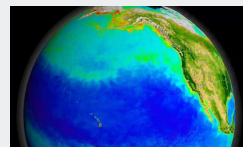
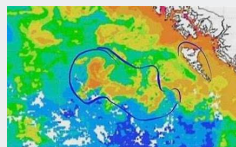
## Climate change mitigation: role of the LP/LC



3

### Ocean fertilization - LC/LP Action

- In 2007 the SGs issued a **“Statement of Concern”**
- GBs agreed that the scope of work of the LC and LP included ocean fertilization
- Agreed that the LC and LP were competent to address this issue due to their general objective to protect and preserve the marine environment from all sources
- Agreed that they would further study the issue from the scientific and legal perspectives with a view to its regulation



4

4

### Ocean fertilization - LC/LP Action

- In 2008, the Parties adopted a non-binding resolution on the regulation of ocean fertilization - **Resolution LC-LP 1:**
  - Ocean fertilization activities other than legitimate scientific research should be considered contrary to aims of both instruments and be allowed
- In 2010, parties adopted a resolution on the 'Ocean Fertilization Assessment Framework' (OFAF) by **Resolution LC-LP.2**

This provides guidance to:

  1. determine whether a project is legitimate scientific research;
  2. characterize risks to the marine environment from ocean fertilization on a project-specific basis; and
  3. collect the necessary information to develop a [risk] management strategy.

5



5

### Ocean fertilization - LC/LP Action

- In 2013, the London Protocol was amended to further regulate ocean fertilization **Resolution LP.4(8)**
- These amendments also:
  - Enable parties to regulate other marine geoengineering activities within the scope of the Protocol in future
  - When in force it will provide a legally binding mechanism
- LP definition:

"Marine geoengineering" means a deliberate intervention in the marine environment to manipulate natural processes, including to counteract anthropogenic climate change and/or its impacts, and that has the potential to result in deleterious effects, especially where those effects may be widespread, long lasting or severe"

6



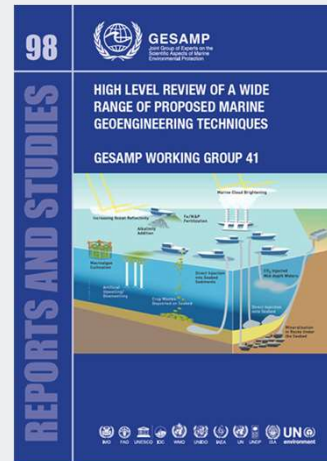
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## Climate change mitigation: role of the LP/LC

### GESAMP Working Group 41 on 'Ocean Interventions for Climate Change Mitigation' (formerly the Working Group on Marine Geoengineering)

#### WG 41 objectives:

- Better understand the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of different marine climate intervention approaches: and
- To provide advice to the London Protocol Parties to assist them in identifying those marine climate intervention techniques that it might be sensible to consider for listing in the new annex 4 of the Protocol



7



7

### Climate change mitigation: role of the LP/LC Summary

- LP provides a policy framework to allow proposals for marine-based climate change mitigation technologies to be scientifically assessed
- LP provides a global, transparent and effective regulatory and control mechanism to govern:
  - Carbon capture and storage in the sub-seabed
  - Ocean fertilization activities; and
  - Other marine geoengineering activities within scope that have the potential to cause harm to the marine environment!

8



8