

Climate change mitigation: role of the LP/LC



The London Protocol & London Convention
Emerging technologies in marine geoengineering

LCSG 46 Science Day
16 March 2023
Cassablanca, Morocco

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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 (CO₂) by regulating new **climate change mitigation technologies**

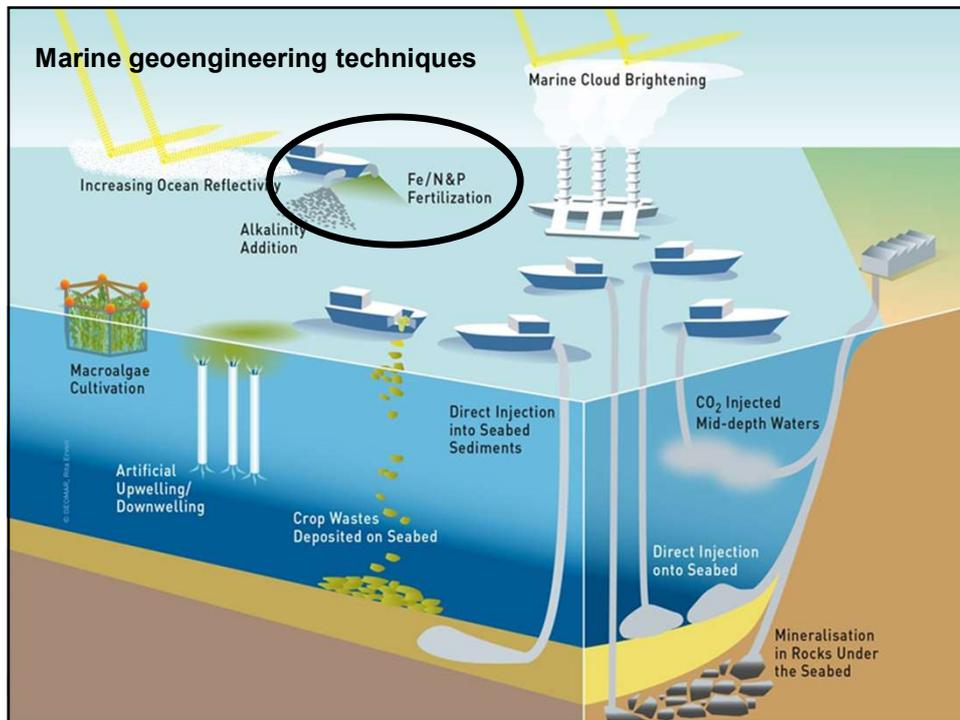


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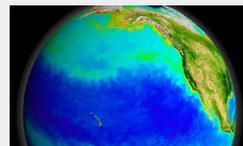
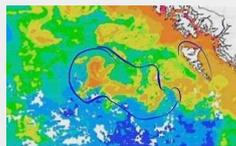
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Ocean fertilization - LC/LP Action

- 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



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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.

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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"

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