

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP DESIGN AND
CONSTRUCTION
8th session
Agenda item 14

SDC 8/14/4
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**REVIEW OF THE GUIDELINES FOR THE REDUCTION OF UNDERWATER NOISE
(MEPC.1/Circ.833) AND IDENTIFICATION OF NEXT STEPS**

Provisional Work plan

Submitted by Canada

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document proposes a strategy and provisional work plan for the review of the <i>Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life</i> (MEPC.1/Circ.833) and the identification of next steps, with a view to a timely finalization of this work output
<i>Strategic direction, if applicable:</i>	1, 2 and 3
<i>Output:</i>	TBC
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 7
<i>Related documents:</i>	MEPC 75/14; MEPC 76/15, section 12; SDC 8/14, SDC 8/14/1 and SDC 8/14/2

Background

1 In June 2021, the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) agreed to include in the biennial agenda of the Ship Design and Construction (SDC) Sub-Committee for 2022-2023 and the provisional agenda for SDC 8 an output on "Review of the 2014 *Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life* (MEPC.1/Circ.833) (2014 Guidelines) and identification of next steps", with a target completion year of 2023.

2 The terms of reference (ToR) included in document MEPC 75/14 was also approved without adjustment (document SDC 8/14, paragraph 2). Hence, the work of the SDC Sub-Committee should focus on the following:

- .1 review the 2014 *Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life* (MEPC.1/Circ.833) with a view to:
 - .1 identifying barriers to uptake and implementation;
 - .2 identifying measures to further prevent and reduce underwater noise from ships, including options to integrate new and advancing technologies and/or vessel design solutions;
 - .3 identifying areas that require further assessment and research;
 - .4 identifying an acceptable means of measuring existing ship noise profiles following ISO or international standards; and
 - .5 amending the Guidelines and identifying/developing next steps, if necessary;
- .2 develop a proposal for a program of action and/or next steps to further prevent and reduce Underwater Radiated Noise (URN) based on the findings of the review; and
- .3 submit an interim report to MEPC 77 and a final report to MEPC 79.

3 To take into account delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the suggested timelines shown in figure 1 and table 1 contained in the annex propose to submit the interim report to MEPC 79 and recommendations on the next steps to MEPC 80.

Objective

4 The proposed work plan has been developed to support the review of the 2014 Guidelines and the development of comprehensive next steps for consideration by the SDC Sub-Committee. It provides SDC with a process to identify specific outcomes and actions to achieve these outcomes, in order to ensure the work output progresses in a meaningful and efficient way.

Expected outcomes and timeline

Instructions to the potential SDC WG on the review of the guidelines and identification of next steps

5 It is proposed that the Sub-Committee establishes a working group to review the 2014 Guidelines and to identify next steps, taking into account comments and decisions made in plenary, to:

- .1 identify key elements from the ToR outlined in document SDC 8/14 that require further attention and discussion and to consider corresponding areas for potential revision of the 2014 Guidelines, taking into account documents SDC 8/14/1, SDC 8/14/2 and any other documents submitted for this agenda item;
- .2 identify future actions needed to increase the uptake of the recommendations of the Guidelines over time; and
- .3 prepare draft terms of reference for a Correspondence Group, if established, on the review of the 2014 Guidelines.

6 In order to consider the decisions taken at MEPC 76 outlined in the SDC 8/14 document regarding the ToR and the identification of next steps, a process timeline is suggested, as illustrated in figure 1 in the annex, as well as the proposed work plan in table 1 as a basis for more specific actions.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

7 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the information and recommendations above and in particular, to:

- .1 agree to the intentions for the review; and
- .2 consider the proposed work plan for further attention and discussion.

ANNEX

Figure 1

Proposed work plan timeline for SDC 8 and onward

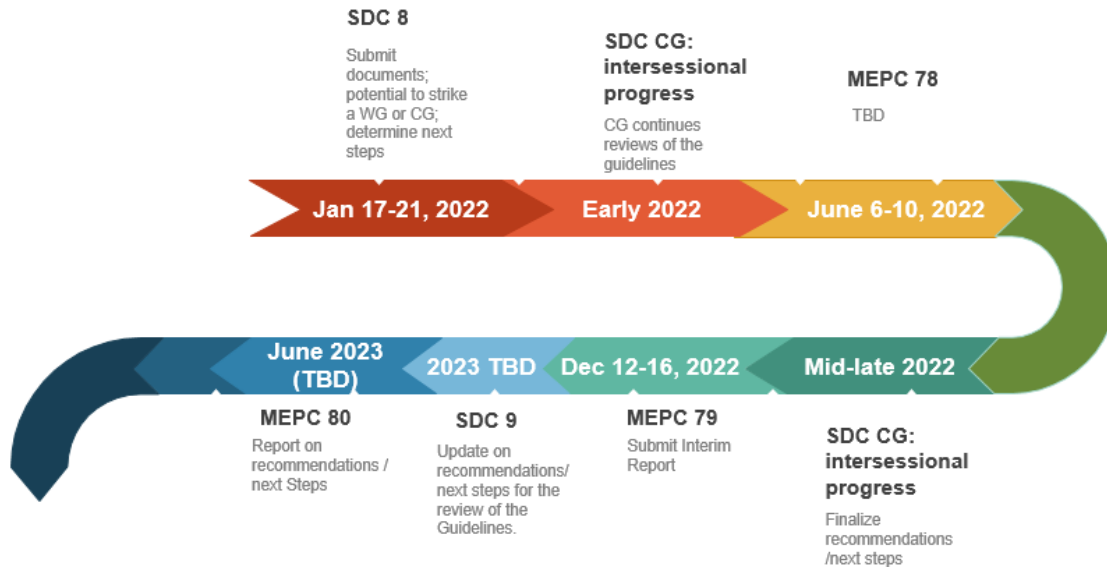


Table 1

Proposed work plan for the review of the 2014 *Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise and identification of next steps.*

Outcome	Measures/Actions	Lead (SDC WG, CG, SDC, MEPC, etc.)	Timeline
Identify barriers to uptake and implementation (ToR 1.1)	Review SDC 8/14/2 compendium document, par. 14, related to ToR 1.1 to consider ways to promote the work of the Organization to increase uptake of the URN guidelines and identify most appropriate tool to address the barriers	SDC 8 WG, SDC CG	Jan 2022 – Dec 2022 (Interim report at MEPC 79)
	Consider issues related to the key elements for the review of the 2014 Guidelines as identified in SDC 8 that can help facilitate an increase in	SDC 8 WG	Jan 2022

Outcome	Measures/Actions	Lead (SDC WG, CG, SDC, MEPC, etc.)	Timeline
	uptake and effectiveness of the 2014 Guidelines		
Identifying measures to further prevent and reduce underwater noise from ships, including options to integrate new and advancing technologies and/or vessel design solutions (ToR 1.2)	Review SDC 8/14/2 compendium document, par.14, related to ToR 1.2 to identify new technology and innovations and recommend ways to promote uptake	SDC 8 WG, SDC CG	Jan 2022 – Dec 2022 (Interim report at MEPC 79)
	Consider the work underway on EEDI and GHGs and the relationship between energy efficiency technologies with underwater noise emitted from vessels. Identify areas where co-benefit exists between the two	SDC 8 WG, SDC CG, SDC 9	Jan 2022 – Jan 2023 (TBD) Interim report at MEPC 79
Identifying areas that require further assessment and research (ToR 1.3)	Review SDC 8/14/2 compendium document, par. 14, related to ToR 1.3 to identify where knowledge gaps still exist	SDC 8 WG	Jan 2022
Identifying an acceptable means of measuring existing ship noise profiles following ISO or international standards (ToR 1.4)	Review SDC 8/14/2 compendium document, par. 14, related to ToR 1.4 and identify/recommend acceptable URN ship noise measurements	SDC 8 WG, SDC CG	Jan 2022 – Dec 2022 (Interim report at MEPC 79)
Amending the Guidelines and identifying/ developing next steps, if necessary (ToR 1.5)	Review SDC 8/14/1 scoping document, including new proposed outline in annex 1, and identify key areas/sections that 1) can be addressed easily; 2) areas that require further discussion with subject matter/technical experts; and 3) areas that cannot or will not be addressed	SDC 8 WG, SDC CG, SDC 9	June 2023 (MEPC 80)
	Update/Revise the 2014 Guidelines, as appropriate	SDC CG, SDC 9	June 2023 (MEPC 80)

Outcome	Measures/Actions	Lead (SDC WG, CG, SDC, MEPC, etc.)	Timeline
Develop a proposal for a program of action and/or next steps to further prevent and reduce URN based on the findings of the review (ToR 2)	Identify and engage on areas of collaboration between SDC and the Pollution and Prevention Response Sub-Committee to continue the review of the guidelines and provide recommendations/actions on the most appropriate technical or operational measures where co-benefits exists between energy efficiency improvements and URN reduction	SDC CG	Dec 2022 interim report (MEPC 79)
	Develop recommendations for next steps to be undertaken to establish international solutions in the reduction of URN	SDC 9	June 2023 (MEPC 80)
