

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP DESIGN AND
CONSTRUCTION
9th session
Agenda item 5

SDC 9/5/1
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**REVIEW OF THE GUIDELINES FOR THE REDUCTION OF UNDERWATER NOISE FROM
COMMERCIAL SHIPPING TO ADDRESS ADVERSE IMPACTS ON MARINE LIFE
(MEPC.1/Circ.833) AND IDENTIFICATION OF NEXT STEPS**

Provisional Workplan

Submitted by Canada

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document proposes a strategy and provisional workplan for the finalization of 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.
<i>Strategic direction, if applicable:</i>	1, 2 and 3
<i>Output:</i>	1.16
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 11
<i>Related documents:</i>	SDC 8/18, SDC 8/WP.8, SDC 9/5 and SDC 9/INF.2

Background

1 In January 2022, SDC 8 established a Working Group (WG) on Underwater Noise Reduction from Ships and instructed the WG to consider the various documents submitted in detail and to develop a workplan for further consideration by the Sub-Committee, as well as Terms of Reference, as listed in paragraph 14.18 of document SDC 8/18.

2 The WG submitted its report to the Sub-Committee, including a revised workplan, noting that the workplan should be reviewed as appropriate during the process of reviewing the Guidelines (SDC 8/WP.8, paragraph 5.2).

3 The WG also recommended to the Sub-Committee the establishment of a Correspondence Group (CG) on Review of the *Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life* (MEPC.1/Circ.833) (the 2014 Guidelines) (SDC 8/WP.8, paragraph 23.6).

4 The CG was established under the coordination of Canada (SDC 8/18, paragraph 14.28) with the following terms of reference:

- .1 enable engagement of Inuit and other indigenous communities and the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge;
- .2 identify comparable and common means of measuring, analyzing and reporting of URN emissions from ships (e.g. existing and developing ISO standards and international standards);
- .3 identify actions to further prevent and reduce underwater noise from ships, including options to integrate new and advancing technologies and/or vessel design solutions taking into account geographical characteristics;
- .4 consider the impact and interrelation of the proposed actions in .3 above in the context of achieving other regulatory goals, including ship safety, energy efficiency, as well as the vision and mandate of the Organization to reduce pollution from ships;
- .5 amend the 2014 Guidelines, using the framework in the annex to document SDC 8/14/1, taking into account outcomes of the above ToR and documents SDC 8/14, SDC 8/14/2, SDC 8/14/3, SDC 8/14/5, SDC 8/14/6, SDC 8/14/7, SDC 8/14/9 and SDC 8/14/10, and submissions relating to regulatory goals and work outputs outside of the Sub-Committee's mandate;
- .6 consider ways to promote the work of the Organization to increase the awareness, the uptake and implementation of the Guidelines and identify most appropriate tools, through the review of, inter alia, document SDC 8/14/2;
- .7 identify areas that require further assessment and research;
- .8 consider the next steps, taking into account document SDC 8/14/8 and the Work plan for the review of the 2014 Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise and identification of next steps (SDC 8/18, annex 11);
- .9 maintain and update the annex to document SDC 8/14/2 and provide a new compendium; and
- .10 submit a written report to SDC 9.

5 The CG submitted its final report to SDC 9 (SDC 9/5), including proposed amendments to the 2014 Guidelines (SDC 9/5, annexes 1, 2 and 3), as well as provisional suggestions to promote the work of the Organization to increase awareness, uptake and implementation of the Guidelines (SDC 9/5, annex 5), a provisional list of areas that required further assessment and research (SDC 9/5, annex 6) and a provisional list of suggested next steps (SDC 9/5, annex 7).

6 The CG also submitted an information document to report on the comments received in the final round of the CG on Review of the 2014 Guidelines with respect to the draft revised Guidelines (SDC 9/INF.2).

Objective

7 Based on the remaining work under the existing terms of reference for the CG on the Review of the 2014 Guidelines and to ensure the work is completed, the proposed work plan in annex 1 recommends the review and finalization of next steps, taking into account annexes 5, 6 and 7 of SDC 9/5. This effort will focus the development of a programme of action to be presented at MEPC 80 (SDC 8/14, paragraph 2.2) with a call to Member States to submit additional proposals/recommendations.

8 Thereafter, the review of the 2014 Guidelines would be focused on pertinent sections, with a view towards finalizing these sections for further input.

9 Given the potential co-benefits and trade-offs existing between the ongoing work on GHG/carbon intensity (including EEXI, EEDI and CII) and underwater-radiated noise from ships (URN), the Sub-Committee is invited to consider the engagement of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) in the review of section 10 (Energy Efficiency and URN Reduction) and of annex 2 (Energy Efficiency Compliance Measures and URN relationships) of the draft revised 2014 Guidelines.

Expected outcomes and timeline

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

10 It is proposed that the Sub-Committee establish a working group to continue the review of the 2014 Guidelines and to identify next steps, taking into account comments and decisions made in plenary, as well as recommendations from the CG on Review of the 2014 Guidelines and any other documents submitted for this agenda item to:

- .1 prioritize and finalize the recommended next steps proposed;
- .2 address the suggestions to promote the work of the Organization to increase awareness, uptake, and implementation of the revised 2014 Guidelines and for the development of a proposal for a programme of action;
- .3 finalize the amendments of the 2014 Guidelines taking into account the provisional workplan objective in paragraph 9; and
- .4 prepare draft terms of reference for a CG, if established, to finalize the work on the Review of the 2014 Guidelines and identification of next steps.

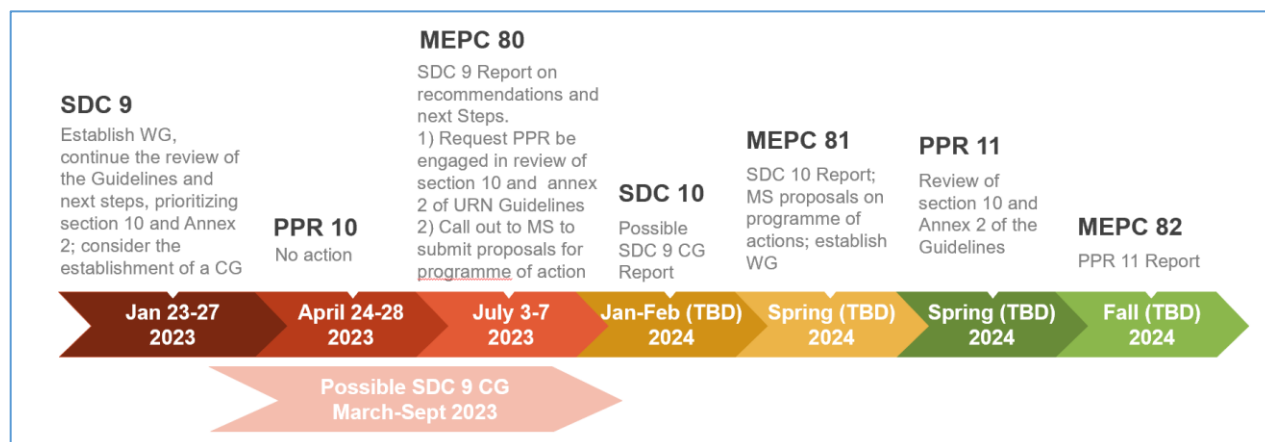
Action requested of the Sub-Committee

11 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the information and recommendations, in particular to consider the proposed workplan in annex 1 for further attention and discussion, and take action as appropriate.

ANNEX

PROPOSED WORKPLAN TIMELINE FOR SDC 9 AND ONWARD

Figure 1



Proposed workplan for the continued work on the review of the 2014 Guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise and identification of next steps.

Table 1

Outcome	Measures / Actions	Lead (SDC WG, CG, SDC, MEPC, etc.)	Timeline
Identify ways to promote the work of the Organization to increase the awareness, the uptake and implementation of the 2014 Guidelines and identify most appropriate tools.	Finalize the list of provisional suggestions to promote the work of the Organization to increase awareness, uptake, and implementation of the 2014 Guidelines with the view of developing a programme of action as set out in annex 5 of SDC 9/5 and taking into account annex 6 and 7 of SDC 9/5.	SDC 9 WG	January 2023
Consider whether a Correspondence Group (CG) should be established to finalize the work of the review of the 2014 Guidelines and identification of next steps, and if so, prepare the draft terms of reference for consideration by the SDC Sub-Committee		SDC 9 WG SDC 9	January 2023

Outcome	Measures / Actions	Lead (SDC WG, CG, SDC, MEPC, etc.)	Timeline
Resolve outstanding issues from the drafting proposals in the draft revised 2014 Guidelines with a view to finalization	Amend the 2014 Guidelines taking into account documents SDC 9/5, SDC 9/INF.2 and any other documents submitted for this agenda item, prioritizing section 10 (Energy Efficiency and URN Reduction) and Annex 2 (Energy Efficiency Compliance Measures and URN relationships).	SDC 9 WG Possible SDC 9 CG	January 2023 - TBD if CG is established.
Develop a proposal for a programme of action to be presented at MEPC 80 with a call to Member States to submit additional proposals/recommendations, which could be reviewed/finalized at MEPC 81	Finalize and prioritize the provisional list of suggested next steps to further prevent and reduce underwater radiated noise from commercial shipping, as set out in annex 7 of SDC 9/5 and taking into account annex 5 and 6 of SDC 9/5	SDC 9 WG SDC 9 MEPC 80 MEPC 81	Spring 2024
	Propose to MEPC that the Sub-committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) be engaged in the review of section 10 (Energy Efficiency and URN Reduction) and finalization of Annex 2 (Energy Efficiency Compliance Measures and URN relationships).	SDC 9 WG SDC 9 MEPC 80 PPR 11 MEPC 82	Fall 2024