

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION OF THE SEA  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

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The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, have pleasure in presenting their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017. In preparing this report the Trustees have complied with the Companies Act 2006, the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (revised 2005) and applicable accounting standards.

**OBJECTS, PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ORGANISATION**

The charity is a registered charity, number 290776. The charity's object and principal activity continues to be that of encouraging the prevention of marine pollution and promoting and conducting research into its causes and effects.

Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (“ACOPS”) is broadly concerned with environmental policies and scientific issues. It also hosts, conducts and contributes to high-level seminars, meetings and lectures on critical marine policy issues, such as those held with Globe in the Houses of Parliament.

The charity continues to monitor marine pollution and collaborates with other national and international organisations concerned with environmental policies.

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers. The Trustees believe that the Charity’s mission of encouraging the prevention of marine pollution and promoting research is of huge benefit to the public.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, company number 01867863, and is therefore governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees may be appointed under the terms of the Articles of Association only with the power to co-opt until subsequent general meetings to fill casual vacancies as and when they may arise are held. Newly appointed trustees are given sufficient training and instruction in order to enable them to complete their necessary duties.

The charity is administered by its Executive Committee, which includes the Trustees.

**DEVELOPMENTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR**

ACOPS continues to have Observer status with several Agencies and associated bodies of the United Nations (including the International Maritime Organization (IMO)) and other international intergovernmental bodies, including the Office of the London Convention and London Protocol); the Arctic Council; and the OSPAR Commission (the Regional Seas Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic), which guide ACOPS’s activities and enable ACOPS

to provide technical support for the work of these bodies within its areas of expertise. More specifically ACOPS engages as follows:

### **The Arctic Council**

The Arctic Ocean is an important area of interest for ACOPS at a time of profound change for the Arctic environment. In addition to involvement in the Arctic Council and the Polar Code at IMO, Professor Hunt was also a member of the House of Lords Select Committee on the Arctic during the 2016-2017 session. ACOPS follows the work of the Arctic Council with particular interest in marine protected areas, and changes to permafrost, permanent ice cover and marginal sea ice extent.

### **The London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matters and the 1996 Protocol**

ACOPS follows these two Conventions. The London Convention is one of the first global conventions to protect the marine environment from human activities and has been in force since 1975. Its objective is to promote the effective control of all sources of marine pollution and to take all practicable steps to prevent pollution of the sea by dumping of wastes and other matter. In 1996, the "London Protocol" was adopted to further modernize the Convention and, eventually, replace it. Under the Protocol all dumping is prohibited, except for possibly acceptable wastes on the so-called "reverse list". Application of a "precautionary approach" is included as a general obligation in the Protocol.

During this reporting year ACOPS was represented at:

a. the 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the London Convention and 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the London Protocol, 19-23 September 2016 by Dr Philomene Verlaan and Ms Youna Lyons. They followed the topics of deep sea mining, the at-sea disposal of wastes from land-based mining, marine geoengineering, sub-seabed carbon sequestration, marine litter and especially micro-plastics, sustainable habitat modification and enhancement, as well as barriers to more States becoming a Party (with a particular focus on Southeast Asia). Particular attention was also given to the critical issue of coordination of the LC/LP COP with other fora (COPs to other multilateral environmental agreements and institutional bodies) responsible for other aspects of protection of the marine environment, especially considering that the LC/LP COP is not part of UN Oceans; and

b. the 40<sup>th</sup>/ 11<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Scientific Groups of the London Convention and the London Protocol, 27-31 March 2017 by Dr Philomene Verlaan and Ms Youna Lyons, where they followed the same topics as set out above and joined the correspondence groups set up to work inter-seasonally on waste disposal site selection and cumulative effects. With regard to at-sea disposal of wastes from land-based mining (sometimes referred to as "tailings", which are more properly considered as a subset of these wastes) ACOPS intervened in plenary to reiterate its position that the ocean is subject to so many and increasing stresses that the at-sea disposal of these wastes should no longer be considered an option. ACOPS participated extensively in the working group set up to develop a non-exhaustive list of topics for which the expertise and guidance of the LC/LP could be of assistance to the work of the International Seabed Authority (ISA). The list was agreed in plenary and will be sent to the ISA Secretariat. In the context of the on-going work on disposal site selection and cumulative impact assessment, ACOPS committed to provide (i) language to align the LC/LP language of the Guidelines on sensitive areas (to be avoided when choosing a disposal site) with the terminology of other instruments such as EBSAs, VMEs, OUV, migratory corridors, APEIs etc. (ii) documents and proposals communicated on cumulative impact assessment in the discussions of the Preparatory Committee established by UN General Assembly Resolution 69/292: Development of an international

legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. ACOPS also participated in the Barriers to Compliance Steering Group and made a communication to recall that obligations under the LC/LP are also obligations under UNCLOS.

ACOPS has been active in this work undertaken by the Parties to the London Convention and Protocol since its adoption as a high-profile issue by the Parties in 2007. Discussions on geo-engineering culminated in an amendment to the London Protocol that formally places marine geo-engineering in general and ocean engineering in particular in a clear international regulatory framework, and defines marine scientific research for the first time in international law. For further information, please see Dr. Philomene Verlaan's description and analysis of the ground-breaking work by the Contracting Parties to these two treaties in developing the international law applicable to marine geo-engineering and marine scientific research in an invited article in the *International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law* 28(4):729-736 (2013). No significant developments on marine geoengineering occurred in this reporting period.

### **International Maritime Organization**

ACOPS routinely follows the Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) of the IMO. At MEPC: 70th meeting of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee, 24-28 October 2016, ACOPS was represented by Youna Lyons, Joseph McCarney and Andrew Stephens. The NO<sub>x</sub> ECAs in the Baltic and North Sea were approved and will come into effect in 2021. The global fuel sulphur limit of 0.5% will come into effect in 2020. Youna Lyons also participated in the working groups on Ballast Water Management (especially the development of the same risk area issue as an exemption to the application of the Convention) and on the Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) application by Papua New Guinea in the Jomard Straits. Prof David Johnson continues to take a specific interest in PSSAs and has been working with the World Heritage Convention and the Government of the Republic of Mauritania.

### **The OSPAR Commission: Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic**

Professor Johnson attended the meeting of the Committee of the Environmental Impact of Human Activities (11-15 April 2016) and presented ACOPS documents on deep-sea mining (an update of current activities); the EU European Maritime Spatial Planning Platform; and deep-sea tailings placement. The latter issue will be taken up by the OSPAR Commission Contracting Parties.

### **Ghana Exchange Program (GXC):**

Lord Hunt continues to speak about this in Parliament. Contact is being kept with relevant experts in Ghana.

### **Asian Network on Climate Science and Technology (ANCST)**

ACOPS is closely affiliated to the Asian Network on Climate Science and Technology (ANSCT), which provides and facilitates exchange of information to aid development of research coordination projects led by Asian researchers. The scope of ANCST encompasses the broad areas of climate science and technology with particular emphasis on disaster resilience, extreme climate events and urban climate change and related topics.

ANCST is dedicated solely to enhancing capacity on disaster and climate resilience research, underpinned by science, technology and innovation. ANCST aspires to bring together researchers from various disciplines to a multidisciplinary platform to strengthen their capacity, while simultaneously interacting with other multi-stakeholder networks, intergovernmental bodies and multi-lateral institutions operating in the region.

Greater capacity to innovate and transmit science and technology would enhance disaster and climate resilience in many parts of Asia. This is particularly relevant for Southeast Asia. Institutional planning and coordination for development of multidisciplinary research programmes on disaster and climate resilience is needed at regional and national levels. Establishing strong networking among researchers and academics is critical for building capacity in multidisciplinary and integrated approaches that address disasters related to extreme climate events.

ANCST is hosted by University Kebangsaan Malaysia with SEADPRI-UKM serving as the coordination centre, with support from the Cambridge Malaysian Education and Development Trust (CEMDT) in Association with the Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre (MCSC) of Trinity College, Cambridge.

### **Workshops attended**

Workshop on **CLIA Air Emissions** – 13/14 September 2016 | IMO Headquarters, London

### **The Press**

Throughout the year Professor Hunt has published articles for various newspapers including:

9 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	<a href="#">Article by Julian Hunt Hope rises for climate change adaptations</a>	South China Morning Post
25 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	<a href="#">Article by Julian Hunt Asian urban environment and climate change</a>	Current Science

### **FUTURE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENTS :**

ACOPS intends to continue to:

- Publish an Annual Survey of Reported Discharges Attributed to Vessels and Offshore Oil & Gas Installations Operating in the United Kingdom Pollution Control Zone.
- Work with the International Maritime Organization, following developments of environmental regulation for international shipping, within the remit of the Marine Environmental Protection Committee.
- Work with the London Convention and London Protocol on the international regulation of ocean fertilization, marine geo-engineering, carbon sequestration and aspects related to deep-sea mining in particular and waste disposal at sea generally.
- Work with the OSPAR Commission on the Environmental Impact of Human Activities, with a focus in particular on marine litter, deep-sea tailings placement and marine spatial planning.

- Hold meetings in Parliament and the Scottish Parliament.
- Work in a voluntary partnership with the P1 Marine Foundation to develop their university awards scheme.
- Develop a programme of regular topical Climate seminars in Cambridge, taking forward in particular the outcome of the 2015 UNFCCC Climate Summit in Paris and to continue with the search for support for the Meta-data centres for climate/environment data in African countries project.