

Ref: T5/1.01

**IMO/FAO/Unesco-IOC/WMO/WHO/IAEA/UN/UNEP JOINT GROUP
OF EXPERTS ON THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF
MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (GESAMP)**

**The Sea-Surface Microlayer and its Role in Global Change
(GESAMP Reports and Studies No.59)**

The Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) at its 25th session (Rome, 24-28 April 1995) authorized the release of its study on the role of the microlayer in global change. A copy of this study is attached¹.

This work had been supported by the International Maritime Organization in the light of many comments made at meetings convened within the framework of the London Convention 1972, and also of the Marine Environment Protection Committee. These comments expressed the view that the role and importance of the sea-surface microlayer is greatly underestimated, in particular with regard to potential effects on the marine environment of waste incineration at sea and discharges of residues from chemical tankers.

Comments on the study would be welcome and should be addressed to:

Dr. M. Nauke
IMO Technical Secretary of GESAMP
Marine Environment Division
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR

¹ Due to the limited number of copies available, distribution is restricted. Additional copies can be made available by the Secretariat on request.