



# IMO's work in relation to BBNJ and EIAs

EU BBNJ workshop on EIA/SEA in areas beyond national jurisdiction

Fredrik Haag, Head, Office for the London Convention/Protocol and Ocean Affairs,  
Marine Environment Division  
International Maritime Organization (IMO)

# The International Maritime Organization

- The United Nations specialized agency responsible for safe, secure and efficient shipping and the prevention of pollution from shipping
- 174 Member States and three Associate Members, including all major ship-owning nations and all major coastal states
- *“Mission: to promote safe, secure, environmentally sound, efficient and sustainable shipping through cooperation.”*
- ”



# IMO's mandate

---

- IMO Convention, adopted 1948 under the auspices of the UN Charter – Specialized Agency (Art. 57):
  - Promoting maritime safety, efficiency of navigation & control of marine pollution from ships
- 
- Recognized as the “competent international organization” under UNCLOS
  - in connection with ...international shipping rules and standards in ...maritime safety, efficiency of navigation and the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships and by dumping

# The regulatory framework

---

- More than 50 IMO Conventions
- Multiple codes, guidelines and recommendations
- All aspects covered: Design, construction, Equipment, Maintenance, Operation, Crew

- Universal coverage, example:

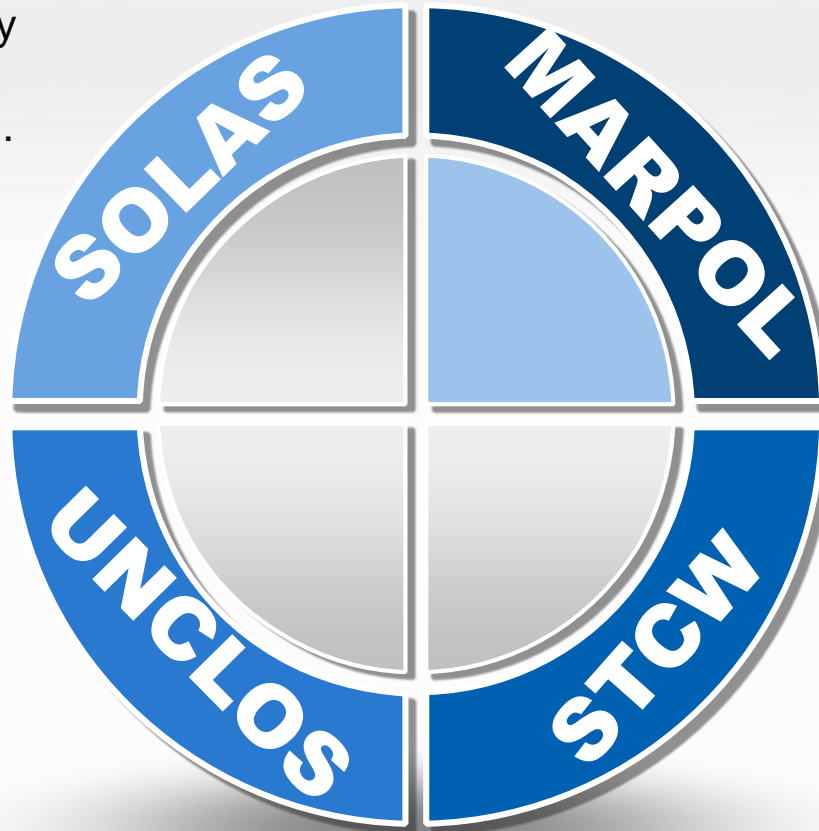
<b>SOLAS</b>	<b>164 Parties</b>	<b>99.18% world tonnage</b>
<b>MARPOL</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>99.15%</b>
<b>STCW</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>99.18%</b>

# The regulatory framework



## Interplay Safety – Environment - People and UNCLOS

Safety requirements apply to all ships which are subject to the Convention.



Provides the mandatory environmental protection level with zero discharge requirements in some areas.

Legal framework governing the rights and responsibilities of nations in their use of ocean space.

Guidance and recommendations for training and competency of officers and masters on ships.

# Implementation – whose role?

---

## Flag States

- Ensuring that their ships are in compliance with regulations (UNCLOS Art. 94)

## Port States

- Verifying that ships calling their ports are in compliance (apply equally to all ships regardless of flag and regardless of whether the flag state has actually ratified the Convention) (UNCLOS Art. 217, 218 & 220)

## Coastal States

- Special rights and obligations in terms of its EEZ, contiguous zone, and Territorial Sea to safeguard its resources (UNCLOS, various articles, 220)

## IMO

- No enforcement of 'policing' mandate

# IMO and pollution/damage prevention

**Operational discharges from ships**

**MARPOL**

**Safety/Seafarers training, certification**

**SOLAS/STCW**

**Dumping of wastes and other matter at sea, incl. CCS and marine geoengineering**

**London Convention/Protocol**

**Transfer of invasive species**

**Ballast Water Management Convention and biofouling guidelines**

**Ship strikes with cetaceans, ship noise and its impact on marine life, polar waters**

**Guidelines and codes**

# Environmental Impact Assessments / SEAs

---

- Current regime: EIAs/SEAs and the relation to shipping and IMO's mandate
- Examples of impact assessments under IMO's environmental treaties:
  - London Convention/Protocol Waste Assessment Framework
  - Other IMO treaties
- Considerations for the new BBNJ instrument in relation to IMO's regulatory framework:
  - EIAs
  - SEAs



Thank you for listening



[www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)

