

Introduction

This Circular provides a consolidated summary of technical decisions, intersessional actions, and mandatory outputs remaining up to the MEPC 84 session (April 2026).

It is based on the official records of MEPC 83, MEPC/ES.2, and ISWG-GHG 20, focusing on the implementation pathway of the Net-Zero GHG Strategy and corresponding amendments under MARPOL Annex VI 2025.



Key Decisions of MEPC 83 and Executive Planning

The MEPC 83 (2025) session defined the primary course for revising MARPOL Annex VI to implement the Net-Zero framework.

The Secretariat was mandated to circulate the consolidated draft amendment text for final review and subsequent adoption at the extraordinary session MEPC/ES.2.

Simultaneously, four main intersessional work tracks were established:

- ISWG-GHG 20 & 21 – Design of Net-Zero indices and guidelines, including GFI, Registry, and ZNZ Fund;
- BWRG – Revision of the Ballast Water Management Convention and the BWMS Code;
- CG on Non-CO₂/OCCS – Development of measurement standards for CH₄ and N₂O in future fuels and ship-based Carbon Capture norms;
- In parallel, the first phase of CII index revision (2027–2030) and the development of a legal framework for Biofouling control were registered under PPR outputs.

Extraordinary Session MEPC/ES.2 and Postponement of Adoption

The MEPC/ES.2 session (14–17 October 2025) was convened to formally adopt Annex VI amendments and initiate implementation of the Net-Zero framework.

Due to lack of consensus on the ZNZ Fund financial governance and the GFI methodology, the official adoption was postponed for one year.

The Committee concluded the following actions:

- One-year deferral for the adoption of the Net-Zero framework;
- Introduction of a new technical workstream titled Marine Technology Transfer Line under the Net-Zero programme;
- Postponement of the official SFCS-certified fuel list publication from 1 March to 1 August 2027;
- Establishment of WGRGES (Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships) to refine the execution roadmap up to MEPC 84.

Key Outcomes of ISWG-GHG 20 (October 2025)

The ISWG-GHG 20 session focused on finalizing operational guidance for the Net-Zero framework and adopted the following:

- GFI and Registry: Acceptance of baseline calculations for GFI (as per document 20/2/6 submitted by Norway); Secretariat tasked with establishing the architecture of the international fuel Registry.
- Fuel Certification (SFCS and FLL): Agreement to develop separate Fuel Life-cycle Labeling schemes under ISWG-GHG 21, integrated with Mass Balance / Book-and-Claim models.
- ZNZ Technology and Incentives: Instruction to consolidate parallel drafts into a unified text with placeholders for economic mechanisms (auction / MAC pricing) for submission to MEPC 84.
- LCA and GHG Study: Finalization of Terms of Reference for the comprehensive GHG assessment (data period 2026–2027), including evaluation of methane slip from LNG fuels.
- Fund and SEEMP: Preparation of the first draft governance model for the ZNZ Fund (to be presented at MEPC 85 in October 2026) and initiation of SEEMP revision aligned with the updated GFI structure to be considered at MEPC 84.



Role of PPR 13 in Technical Development

The PPR 13 session (February 2026) is identified as the operational link between MEPC policy mandates and technical implementation guidance. The agenda encompasses:

- Drafting a legally binding instrument for ship Biofouling control — final report expected by March 2026;
- Developing guidelines for ammonia effluent management from ammonia-fuelled ships under Annex VI;
- Revising the NTC 2008 to enable certification of non-carbon and hybrid marine engines;
- Examining mandatory carriage requirements for plastic pellets in maritime transport;
- Evaluating EGCS documents related to PM emissions, including potential restrictions in designated sensitive zones, with findings to be reported to MEPC 84.

Ballast Water Review Group (BWRG)

Reactivation of BWRG under MEPC 83 was reaffirmed, with the following mandates:

- Completion of revisions to the BWM Convention and the BWMS Code;
- Establishment of a unified evaluation framework for A-4 Exemptions to ensure coherent coastal-State interaction;
- Assessment of operational challenges under Challenging Water Quality and the Bypass issue;
- Modification of Type Approval guidelines to harmonize national discrepancies;
- Submission of the final BWRG report before April 2026 for adoption of binding amendments at MEPC 84;
- Implementation of Compatibility Water Ballast Standards (CWBS) projected for 2027.

Page 2/3

Session	Period	Key Deliverables
PPR 13	Feb 2026	Biofouling instrument, Ammonia, NTC 2008, Plastic Pellets
ISWG-GHG 21	Mar 2026	Final SFCS model, Fund rules, revised GFI metrics
MEPC 84	Apr 2026	Formal adoption of Annex VI 2025, Net-Zero Implementation

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