Update on London Protocol

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London Convention and Protocol

- Marine Treaty - Global agreement regulating disposal of wastes and other matter at sea
- Convention 1972 (87 countries)

- How it works:
  - Prohibition on dumping of all wastes, except for those listed in Annex 1, which need to be permitted under conditions in Annex 2.
  - Annex 1: dredged material; sewage sludge; fish waste; vessels and platforms; inert, inorganic geological material; organic material of natural origin; bulky items primarily comprising unharmed materials, from small islands with no access to waste disposal options
London Convention and Protocol and CCS

- Prohibited some CCS project configurations
- CO2 Geological Storage Assessed by LC Scientific Group 2005/6
- 2006 - Risk Assessment Framework for CO2

- To allow prohibited CCS configurations – Protocol amendment adopted at 28th Consultative Meeting (LP1), 2 Nov 2006 - came into force 10 Feb 2007 to allow disposal in geological formations

- CO2 Specific Guidelines (2007)
London Protocol Transboundary

London Protocol Article 6
“EXPORT OF WASTES OR OTHER MATTER
   Contracting Parties shall not allow the export of wastes or other matter to other countries for dumping or incineration at sea.”

- Prohibits transboundary transport of CO\textsubscript{2} for geological storage

- 2009 LP4 (30 Oct) - Amendment to allow CO\textsubscript{2} for storage was adopted by vote.

- Article 6, new para 2: ‘Export of CO\textsubscript{2} for disposal in accordance with Annex 1 may occur, provided an agreement or arrangement has been entered into by countries concerned’

- Agreement shall include: permitting responsibilities; for export to non-LP Parties provisions equivalent to LP’s for issuing permits.

- To come into force needs ratification by two thirds all Parties

- Transboundary movement of CO\textsubscript{2} streams after injection is not export in the sense of article 6, of the London Protocol.
London Protocol Transboundary

2014 Update

• 2012 - Revised CO₂ Specific Guidelines approved and adopted at LC-34, Oct 29, London. Covering subsurface transboundary migration. **Transboundary storage offshore now possible**

• 2013 - New ‘Guidance on Export of CO₂ Streams for Disposal’ approved to cover responsibilities for ‘arrangements or agreements’ for export

• All safeguards are now in place for transboundary CCS activity in the marine environment, including export.

• But – 2009 Transboundary amendment for CO₂ export needs 30 countries to ratify in order to come into force.
  • **Only 2 so far** - Norway, UK
  • 5 underway - Netherlands, Korea, Canada, Australia, Sweden

• **So export of CO₂ still not permitted for offshore storage**
  • unless for utilisation eg EOR.
Mr. Koji Sekimizu, the IMO Secretary-General in his opening speech to the 2013 LP meeting.

“The London Protocol currently is also the only global framework to regulate carbon capture and sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations……..

However, it remains a serious concern that, to date, only two of the 43 London Protocol Parties have accepted the 2009 amendment, which is a long way from satisfying the entry-into-force requirements. The importance of securing its entry into force cannot be over-emphasized, if the threat of acidification of the oceans from climate change is to be minimized.”
IEA Report


Options:
- Interpretive resolution
- Provisional application
- Additional treaty
- Modification of aspects of LP between 2 Parties
- Suspension of aspects of LP between 2 Parties
- Do CCS through non-Parties

Presented at LC/LP 2011 – not well received
Thank you

Any Questions?