Fishing, and in particular deep-water trawling, has caused severe, widespread, long-term destruction of these environments globally... The time scale for recovery of deep-water reef habitats is unknown but has been estimated to be on the order of centuries to millennia...

World Ocean Assessment, Chapter 51: Biological communities on seamounts and other submarine features potentially threatened by disturbance
The Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC) was founded in 2004 and was incorporated as a legal entity in the Netherlands in 2013 with an affiliate in New Zealand in 2014. Our mission remains to address the issue of human impacts on the ecosystems and biodiversity of the deep sea.

Since 2004, we have worked with scientists, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and numerous governments towards the effective management and protection of deep-sea species and their habitats from the harmful impacts of fishing, in particular deep-sea bottom trawling. More recently we have begun working on the issue of deep seabed mining. In 2016, new science made clear that this realm is not just home to essential and breathtaking ecosystems and marine life, but provides a critical means of sequestering carbon from the atmosphere as the Anthropocene era takes hold.

This 2016 DSCC Annual Report presents progress made in the year towards our goals. On the fisheries front, developments include: the publication of the report on our 10-year review of the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on deep-sea fisheries on the high seas and the adoption of a new resolution for 2016; the formal adoption by the European Union of new legislation on deep-sea fisheries; and progress made by several regional fisheries management organizations.

On the rapidly emerging topic of deep seabed mining, the DSCC worked to promote much greater transparency by the International Seabed Authority and the incorporation of strict environmental provisions in the negotiations to develop a regulatory framework for seabed mining in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

With these two pillars of work, we continued to join with the efforts of colleagues such as the High Seas Alliance and Ocean Unite on the shaping of a new UNCLOS implementing agreement for the conservation of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction and toward an effective road map for the UN’s Sustainable Development Goal 14 on Oceans. This collaborative international work will continue to be a focus in the year ahead.

For now, however, we are pleased to present the Annual Report for the Stichting Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016. The content has been prepared in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

Much remains to be done and we look forward to working together with our members in the year to come. We remain confident in our quest to realize the effective protection of the deep sea and the wealth of life it contains.

Sincerely

Lance Morgan, Chair

Sebastian Losada, Secretary

Susanna Fuller, Treasurer
In 2016 the DSCC continued its work to ensure that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions committing nations to protect the deep sea from damage caused by bottom fisheries on the high seas are effectively implemented.

This work focused on three main areas.
1. Finalizing negotiations for the new European Union (EU) deep-sea fisheries regulation;
2. Continuing to press for stronger measures to protect deep-sea ecosystems and sustainably manage deep-sea fisheries on the high seas through a number of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans;
3. Publishing a DSCC report on the implementation of the UNGA resolutions over the past 10 years and obtaining new political commitments through a 2016 UNGA review of the implementation of previous UNGA resolutions on deep-sea fisheries.

European Union
In December 2016, the EU formally adopted a new regulation for the management of deep-sea fisheries in EU waters, based on a political agreement reached between the European Council, Parliament and Commission in June (‘trilogue’ negotiations). The regulation is the culmination of over four years of negotiations begun in July 2012. It contains many of the provisions that the DSCC has been advocating for. This represents a major improvement on the EU deep-sea fisheries regulation in force since 2002.

The key provisions of the new regulation are:
• a prohibition on bottom trawling below 800 meters;
• a rigorous process for identifying and closing areas to bottom fishing below 400 meters where vulnerable marine ecosystems are known or likely to occur;
• freezing the deep-sea bottom-fishing footprint for vessels defined as ‘targeting’ deep-sea species on the basis of a three-year reference period 2009–2011;
Provided that the new regulation is effectively implemented, it will go a long way towards protecting deep-sea ecosystems in EU waters

• requirements to carry out an impact assessment prior to fishing in new areas outside the footprint for vessels targeting deep-sea species;
• mandatory observer coverage on at least 20% of vessels using bottom trawls or bottom-set gillnets to target deep-sea species, and on at least 10% of all other vessels authorized to catch deep-sea species.

Provided that the new regulation is effectively implemented, it will go a long way towards protecting deep-sea ecosystems in EU waters and meeting the commitments made by the EU at the UNGA.

The European Council also agreed to reduce the total allowable catches (TACs) for a number of deep-sea species over the next two years, although it did not establish zero TACs for two deep-sea species recently classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as vulnerable and endangered in the Northeast Atlantic.

Regional fisheries management organizations
The DSCC sends policy, legal and scientific experts to relevant RFMO meetings to advocate for better regulations and effective action to protect deep-sea ecosystems from the harmful impacts of fishing. This work is vital to ensuring that the protection measures agreed by all UN States are carried out on the water.

Progress made in 2016 includes:
• The South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) adopted their first legally binding regulations for the management of deep-sea fisheries.
• The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) agreed to close an additional area to bottom fishing to protect sea pens.
• The South Pacific RFMO postponed further improvements in its regulations until after the UNGA review in 2016 but it did make some progress in terms of the recommendations from its Scientific Committee, which met in October. It has scheduled a broad-based consultative process for 2017, in which the DSCC intends to participate, to review its bottom fisheries regulations.

Unfortunately, the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) took a step backward in 2016 by deciding to reopen the deep-sea fishery.
for orange roughy, having finally agreed to close it in 2015 based on longstanding advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). However, most NEAFC member countries unilaterally prohibit their fleets from fishing for orange roughy.

There continue to be problems with enforcement of the NEAFC regulations protecting deep-sea ecosystems. And impact assessments made by NAFO in 2016 show that much still remains to be done to fully protect areas of corals, sponge and sea pens in the northwest Atlantic.

**United Nations General Assembly**

In 2016, the UNGA conducted its fourth review of the implementation of its resolutions adopted since 2006 to protect the deep sea from bottom fishing activities.

The DSCC participated in a special UNGA stakeholder workshop on the topic in August. The workshop involved representatives from States, RFMOs, scientists, the high seas deep-water trawl industry, and civil society. In an open panel debate, the DSCC was the only party to present serious shortcomings in the implementation of the UNGA resolutions and urged the UNGA to continue to maintain oversight, with another review in the next few years. The DSCC presentations and the contributions of representatives from DSCC member organizations were reflected in the report of the workshop.

Coinciding with the workshop and to inform the process, the DSCC published an independent report reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of regulations adopted by flag States and RFMOs over the past 10 years to implement the UNGA resolutions. This was presented during a series of related fisheries and high seas biodiversity meetings from August through November. The report contains 10 recommendations for the UNGA review and negotiations. The report of the August workshop and the DSCC review report were used by governments to put forward proposals for inclusion in the new UNGA resolution negotiated in November and formally adopted by the UN in December.

The new UNGA resolution calls on States and RFMOs to address shortcomings in the implementation of the previous resolutions and to take additional actions to protect deep-sea species and ecosystems and sustainably manage deep-sea fisheries. These include taking much more precautionary measures regarding the catch and bycatch of endangered deep-sea species and taking into account the impact of climate change when establishing protection measures for deep-sea ecosystems.

The UNGA further called on other international regulatory bodies, where relevant, to protect vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems. It decided to continue to maintain oversight of the implementation of the resolutions by agreeing to conduct another review in 2020.

**Marine Stewardship Council**

In conjunction with member organizations BLOOM Association, Eco New Zealand and Greenpeace, the DSCC filed an objection to the recommendation by an MSC-certified certification body that the deep-sea bottom trawl fishery for orange roughy in New Zealand waters should be granted MSC certification as sustainable. WWF, also a DSCC member, lodged a separate objection.

In spite of our objections the MSC announced certification of the fishery in December 2016. The DSCC issued a press release stating that, due to the extensive and destructive impacts of this fishery on deep-sea habitats, its certification fundamentally calls into question the credibility of the MSC.
In 2016 the DSCC continued its work on deep seabed mining, engaging with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and various consultative processes. The ISA has begun drafting a regulatory framework for seabed mining and initiated a review of the structure and working methods of the ISA (Article 154 review). Separately, the DSCC has been involved in a science initiative to develop a Strategic Environment Management Plan along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

International Seabed Authority
In 2016 the DSCC provided extensive comments on the ‘Zero Draft’ of the ISA exploitation regulations, and continued to advocate for precautionary measures including strict environmental provisions, comprehensive networks of areas off-limits to mining, and the application of best science and management practices. Another focus of our work has been the transparency of processes that have traditionally been closed to all but a handful of national and corporate interests.

The ISA review of its structure and working methods – the UNCLOS Article 154 review – is due to be completed in 2017. During 2016, the DSCC submitted a series of comments and recommendations on the interim report of the review process.

The DSCC continued contributing to the development of a science-based proposal for a Strategic Environment Management Plan along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, including a representative series of large no-take/no mining areas, for submission to the ISA in 2017.

We participated as an observer alongside several of our member organizations in the ISA’s annual meeting in July. We organized a side event to highlight our position and encourage dialogue. The side event featured the launch of a report by the University of Technology Institute for Sustainable Futures, Sydney, Australia, refuting the assertion that it will be necessary to mine the deep sea to provide the metals required for a transition to renewable energy technologies. The report generated debate and interest among participants. DSCC representatives also attended, and presented at, another side event on transparency during the annual meeting.

European stakeholder workshop
The DSCC worked with member organization Seas At Risk to host a workshop in Brussels in April for EU-based policy makers, industry, scientists, civil society and others. The purpose was to debate the pros and cons of deep-sea mining, the EU role in promoting seabed mining, and the negotiation of the ISA exploitation regulations. In advance of the workshop the DSCC conducted an analysis of EU/EC funding of projects promoting the development of seabed mining.

Other processes
DSCC representatives participated in numerous conferences, seminars, workshops, research projects and policy initiatives to put forward conservation perspectives. These included meetings organized by the Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative, the MIDAS Project and the Atlas Project, looking at the conservation and protection of deep-sea ecosystems in relation to seabed mining and other activities.
Outreach

Across its campaign areas, the DSCC continued to develop and share materials and undertake legacy and social media work to raise awareness about the vulnerability of the deep ocean. The DSCC website was regularly updated. We closed the year with over 2,700 Twitter followers.

Our international fisheries outreach focused primarily on the UNGA review. The website was restructured to provide for the launch of the DSCC review report. Printed copies of the report and executive summaries were distributed widely and were extremely valuable for face-to-face advocacy work during the meetings attended and side events held.

Our international fisheries outreach focused primarily on the UNGA review and our European deep-sea fisheries legislation work.

There were also strong outreach efforts surrounding our European deep-sea fisheries legislation work. A tailored social media strategy was developed to build up support and a sense of urgency before each trilogue meeting. We worked with a number of scientists to create an e-bulletin sent to Members of the European Parliament and others involved in the trilogue negotiations.

We also worked with scientists involved in a research expedition to explore deep-sea ecosystems along the Rockall Bank off the west coast of Scotland in May and early June. Using social media, we helped spread the word about their expedition to policymakers as they debated the provisions in the new EU regulation designed to protect such areas.

The DSCC EU website remained an important tool during the campaign, offering a platform to highlight campaign achievements, scientific discoveries and the latest deep-sea news. Additionally, we developed several Twitter tiles with key messages from our supporters for widespread use, and we were quoted widely in the press.

Several articles focused on deep seabed mining featured on our website through the year as well as presentations made by representatives at the Brussels seabed mining seminar and by the DSCC at meetings at the UN and the ISA. These have helped us get our message across to policymakers, scientists and others – reinforcing the need to better protect the ecosystems and extraordinary biodiversity of the deep sea.
The Stichting DSCC Board of Directors is:
Chair – Lance Morgan
 Secretary – Sebastian Losada
Treasurer – Susanna Fuller

To support the Board, a coordination team works with a steering group that currently consists of the Ecology Action Centre, Greenpeace International, the Marine Conservation Institute, the Natural Resources Defense Council, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Seas at Risk and WWF. The DSCC has developed a formidable international team of scientists, policy and communication experts, lawyers and political activists who, on behalf of the deep sea, have established a strong reputation and profile at the United Nations and in other fora.

All of the DSCC’s work is made possible through the generous support of foundations and member organizations. The DSCC does not receive any funding from governments or corporations. In 2016 the DSCC received in-kind support from many of our member organizations and financial support from: Adessium Foundation, J.M. Kaplan Fund, the Ocean Foundation, Oceans 5, The Pew Charitable Trusts and Synchronicity Earth.

The annual accounts 2016 were drawn up by Weller Tax and Accounting according to generally accepted accounting principles in the Netherlands, and were audited by Boonzaijer & Merkus Accountants & Adviseurs.

### Statement of Operations year end 31 December 2016 (in euros)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL PROJECT REVENUE</td>
<td>€458,534</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
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<td>Communication</td>
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<td>Coordination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total project expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excess of expenses over revenue</td>
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</table>

### Balance sheet year end 31 December 2016 (in euros)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Prepaids</td>
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<td>Deferred project revenue</td>
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<td>Accruals</td>
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<td>Payables</td>
<td>€21,298</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>€111,588</td>
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</table>
Coalition members

DSCC Steering Group members
Ecology Action Centre
Greenpeace International
Marine Conservation Institute
Natural Resources Defense Council
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Seas At Risk
WWF

DSCC general members
Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC)
Asociación 4 Paz
Asociacion Argentina de Capitanes, Patrones y Pilotos de Pesca
Australian Conservation Foundation
Australian Marine Conservation Society
Biological Conservation Research Foundation
BirdLife International
BLOOM Association
The Cat Point Creek Research Project
CeDePesca
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
Centro de Conservacion Cetacea (CCC)
Centro Ecopean
Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental
Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB)
Conservation International
David Suzuki Foundation
Deep Sea Mining Campaign
DEEPWAVE
DEPANA
Earthworks
Ecologistas en Acción
ECOP-marine
ECOTERRA
Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand (ECO)
The Fisheries Secretariat
Forest and Bird
Friends of the Earth International
Fundación Cethus
Fundación Jatun Sacha
Fundación Malpelo
George Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability (GIBS)
Gesellschaft zur Rettung der Delphine e.V.
Global Ocean Trust
Groupe d’Etude des Mammifères Marins (GEMM)
Grupo de Estudios de Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente (GEOTA)
International Collective in Support of Fishworkers
Iceland Nature Conservation Association (INCA)
Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas (ICB)
International Fund for Animal Welfare, Latin America (IFAW Latin America)
International Ocean Institute
International Wildlife Coalition – BRASIL
Jatun Sacha Great Wilderness
Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM)
Liga para a Protecção da Natureza (LPN)
Living Oceans Society
MarBrasil
Marevivo
Marine Conservation Society
Marine Research Foundation, Sabah, Malaysia
MarViva
MEER
Mundo Azul
National Fisherworkers’ Forum
Nederlandse Entomologische Vereniging
Nekton Foundation
Oceana
OpenDoorWorld.com
Organización Conservación de Cetáceos (OCC)
Orissa Marine Resource Conservation Consortium (OMRCC)
PONG-Pesca – Platform of Portuguese NGOs on Fisheries
Portuguese Association for the Study and Conservation of Elasmobranchs (APECE)
Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA)
Programa Restauración de Tortugas Marinas (PRETOMA)
ProNaturaleza
QUERCUS
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Save Our Seas (SOS)
Sciaena – Marine Sciences and Cooperation
Sharklife Conservation Group
Sociedad peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA)
The TerraMar Project
Universidad Nacional Federico Villare
World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)
The role of the DSCC in protecting the deep ocean

**THREATS to the ocean**
- Ocean warming
- Acidification
- Deoxygenation
- Pollution
- Cumulative impacts

**Environmental impacts of:**
- Deep-sea mining
- Deep-sea fishing

**GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR:**
- Communications
- Campaigning
- Expert opinion
- Scientific advice
- Advocacy

**OPPORTUNITIES for protection**
- UN General Assembly Resolutions
- Regional fisheries management organizations
- UN SDG 14
- High Seas Treaty
- International Seabed Authority
- Circular economy

**The deep ocean plays an integral role in sustaining life on Earth and is the planet’s largest source of species diversity**
There is strong evidence that the richness and diversity of organisms in the deep sea exceeds all other known biomes... and supports the diverse ecosystem processes and functions necessary for the Earth’s natural systems to function.

World Ocean Assessment, Chapter 36: Open Ocean Deep Sea