

Deep Sea Conservation Coalition

Intervention on Council Agenda Item 15: Draft Exploitation Regulations

Monday 14 August 2017

We appreciate the comments from Australia on the need to give sufficient time to the process of drafting the regulations & those of Spain and Chile in regard to VMEs, EBSAs and MPAs at the opening of the discussion on this agenda item. Also, the reference by Singapore that good elements of the January discussion paper have been lost, a point New Zealand & IUCN touched on, in the current draft and be considered for the next draft of the regulations. China's intervention on the need to look at the whole of the lifespan of mining operations including environmental monitoring after the mining operations have ceased. And Brazil, Tonga, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, New Zealand and many others on the importance of transparency and stakeholder participation in the process of drafting the regulations.

On process we would hope due consideration is given to the NL proposal that if the Council does meet twice next year the first session debate the current draft and stakeholder comments and thus give direction to further revisions of the draft.

Finally – we would echo the comments by New Zealand and others on the importance of REMPs. Council has in its decisions for the past three years has stressed the importance to develop REMPs for other regions (other than CCZ), in particular in regions where explorations licenses have already been granted in paragraphs 9, 10, and 11 respectively of the decisions by Council in the 20th, 21st, and 22nd session of the ISA. We would also note the recognition by the LTC of the value of the process of drafting of a science based proposal for the northern MAR for as reflected in paragraphs 24-25 of the report of the chair of the LTC in 2015 (ISBA/21/C/16) and China's proposal to undertake a cooperative process for developing an REMP for the western central pacific area for cobalt crust claims area. We would hope to see real progress in both the Atlantic and western pacific on REMPs in the coming year and that this also be given a priority in the work of the ISA in this regard.