Perspectives on the Regulation of Deep-Sea Mining

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Members include

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Conservation International
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Possible Structure of regulatory regime

- Clear conservation objectives (ecological and social values)
- Sufficient baseline information at appropriate bioregional scales
- Environmental and strategic environmental impact assessments to assess potential impacts against conservation objectives/obligations
- Regional/Strategic Environment Management Plans (SEMPs) and active feedback between site/claim EIAs and environment management plans and SEMPs – an ISA environment committee?
- 100 year timeframe? Collecting baseline information, SEMP, EIA and review of EIA, test mining, evaluation, commercial mining, closure & post mining monitoring

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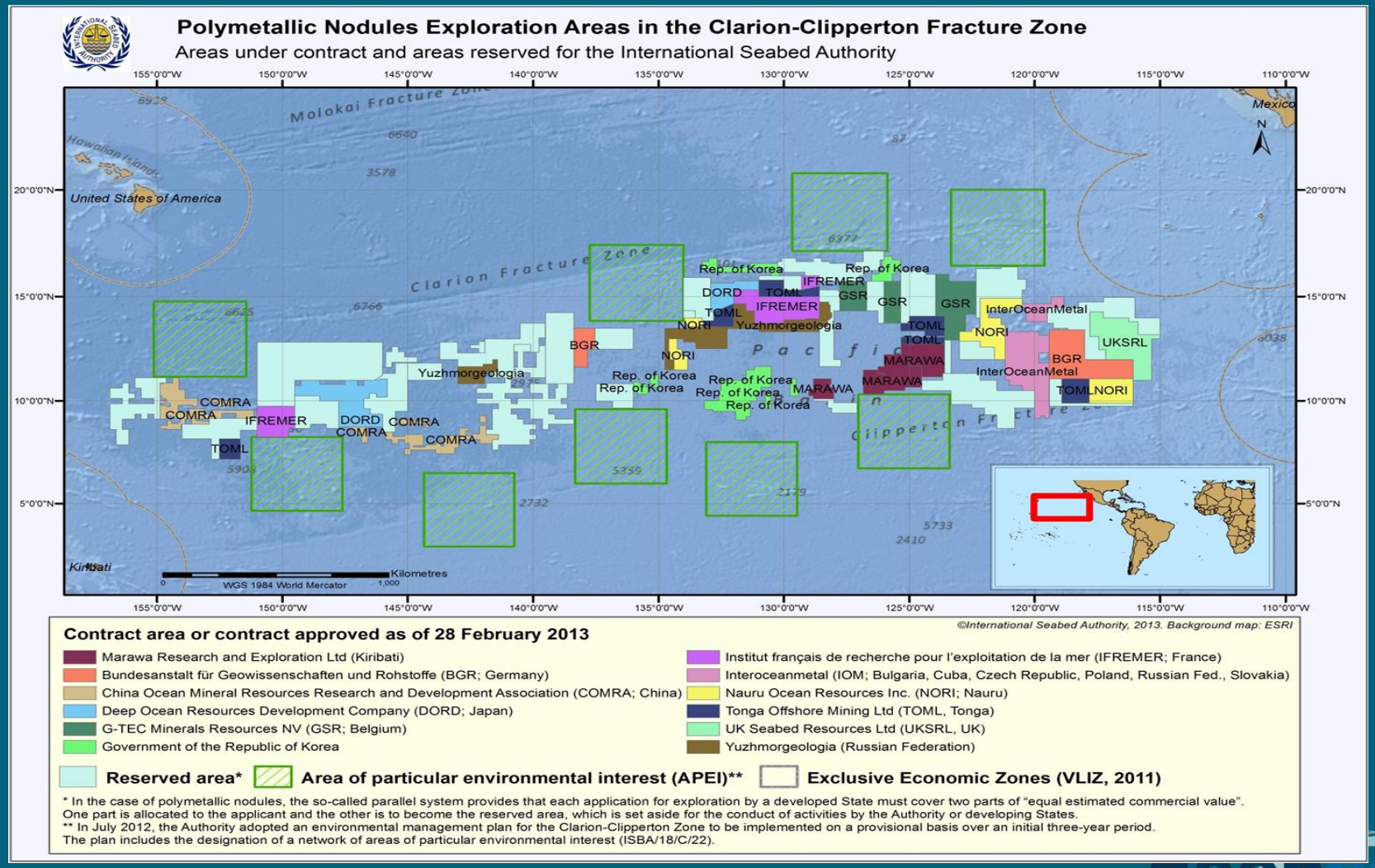
Clarion Clipperton Zone



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SIAs/EIAs

- How do you determine the risk of significant adverse change? Acceptable level of risk?
- Over what time scales? Biogeographic scales?
- What are the metrics, proxies, or quantifiable indicators of risk?
- What and how much baseline information is necessary prior to mining to be able to assess the risk?
- What can and should an EIA determine or demonstrate? To what degree of certainty?
- How much precaution needs to be built into the management system based on what we don't know?
- What impacts does 'test' mining need to assess, how, and what procedures/timeframe needed to evaluate results?

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Restoration/Remediation

- Is it possible?
- If not, what then?
- How much irremediable/irreversible damage is acceptable?
- Over what time scales?
- Can this be measured/quantified?
- What are the metrics/quantifiable indicators?
- What and how much baseline information is necessary to be able to do so?
- Precaution and the unknowns?

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United Nations resolutions on managing the impacts of deep-sea fisheries in ABNJ
2002, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2011, [2016]
implementation by regional fisheries treaty orgs

The Anthropocene
“Clearly we are in the midst of one of the great extinction spasms of geological history”
E.O. Wilson, The Diversity of Life

Growing social awareness of human impacts on a planetary scale

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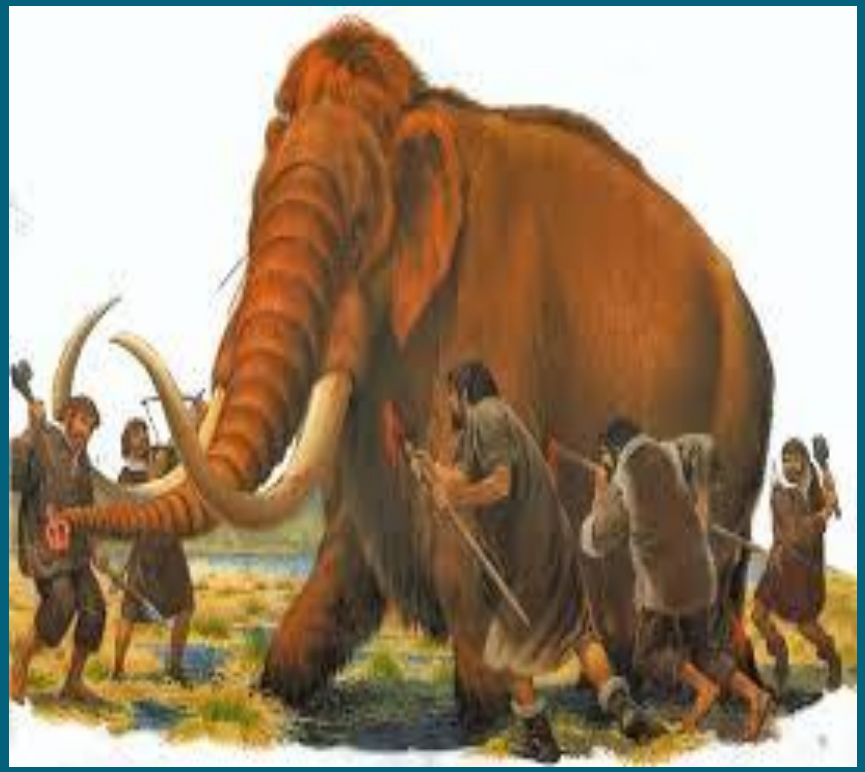
The Megafaunal Mass Extinction
(the global spread of Homo sapien hunter-gatherers)

"a geologically instantaneous ecological catastrophe that was too gradual to be perceived by the people who unleashed it"



John Alroy - A Multispecies Overkill Simulation of the End-Pleistocene Megafaunal Mass Extinction

SCIENCE VOL 292 8 JUNE 2001

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Conservation objectives 21st Century

DSM impacts in CCZ may risk being be ecologically irreversible and/or no possibility for recovery within reasonable timeframe

Can extinction be justified if the activity cannot be demonstrated to be necessary to society and other less harmful options for providing the materials or service to humankind have not been effectively explored?

Go/no go DSM a social choice – across many levels of society: companies, investors, consumers, regulators, conservationists, the public – common heritage of mankind

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The regulatory processes adopted over the next few years may well represent our generation's collective choices regarding the fate of deep-sea species and ecosystems potentially for many years to come

Decisions we take today may have long lasting impacts, one way or another. What choices will we make?

We have a responsibility to future generations…

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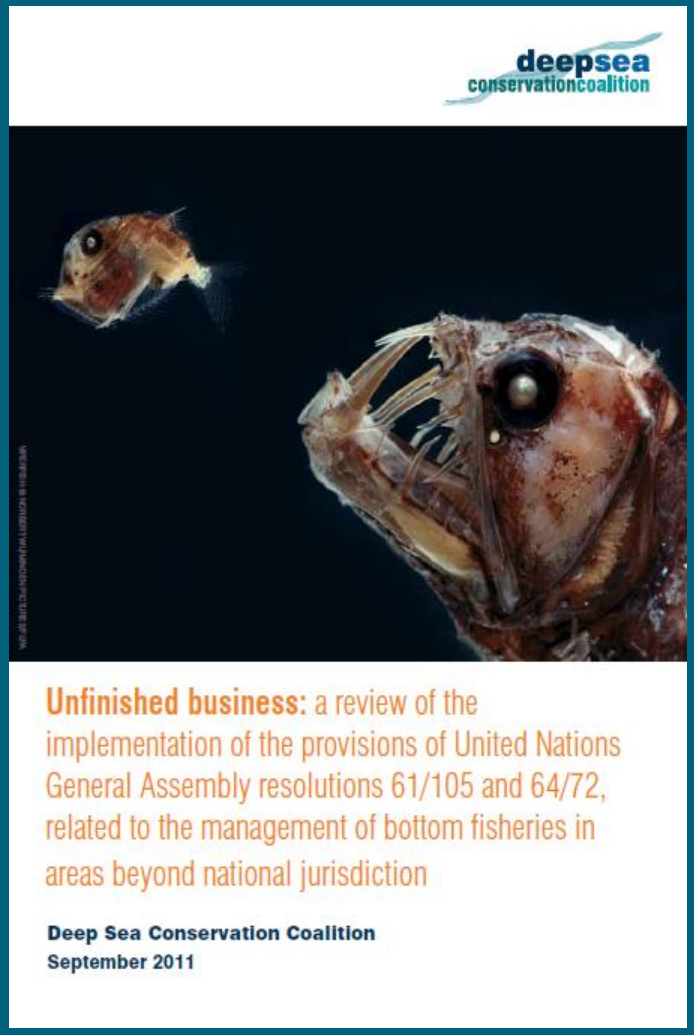
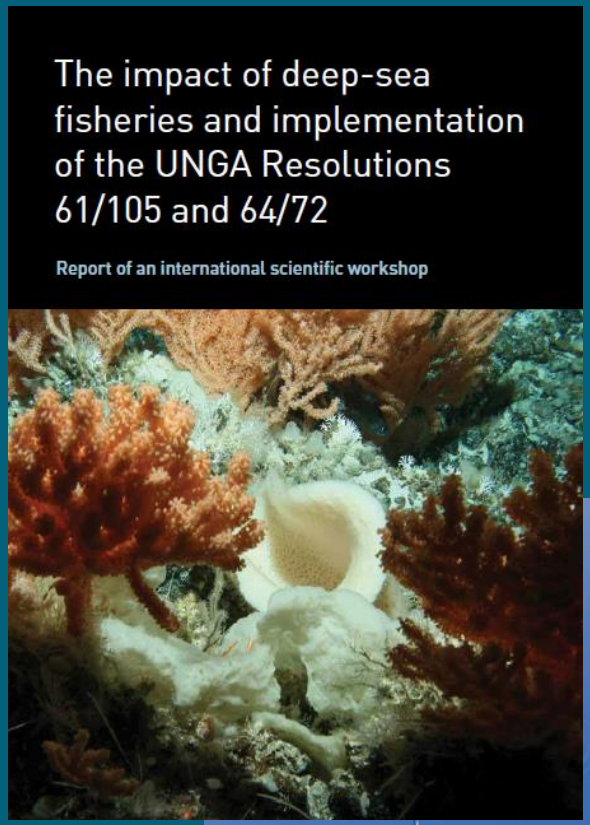
Publications





Obrigado!
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www.savethehighseas.org