



Council

Distr.: General
22 July 2021

Original: English

Twenty-sixth session

Council session, part II

Kingston, 19–23 July 2021*

Agenda item 8

**Status of contracts for exploration and related matters,
including information on the periodic review of the
implementation of approved plans of work for exploration**

Report on the relinquishment of part of the area allocated to Global Sea Mineral Resources NV under the contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules between Global Sea Mineral Resources NV and the International Seabed Authority

Note by the Secretariat

1. The contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules between Global Sea Mineral Resources NV and the International Seabed Authority was signed on 14 January 2013. A total of 77,246 km² area was allocated to the contractor in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone of the Pacific Ocean ([ISBA/18/C/28](#)). The area is subdivided into three non-contiguous parts labelled B2, B4 and B6 ([ISBA/18/C/19](#)).
2. Regulation 25, paragraph 1, of the regulations on prospecting and exploration for polymetallic nodules in the Area ([ISBA/19/C/17](#), annex) provides for a schedule of relinquishment of the area allocated to the contractor under the contract. It also provides that the contractor is not be required to relinquish any portion of such area when the total area allocated to it does not exceed 75,000 km².
3. Accordingly, the contractor was required to relinquish 2,246 km² of its allocated area. By letter dated 4 December 2020, the contractor submitted to the Secretary-General a proposal to keep parts B2 and B4 as delineated in the allocated area under contract and to relinquish a total area of 2,255 km² in the northern part of B6 (eastern block of the contract area), thus reducing its contract area to 74,991 km², in order to comply with regulation 25, (paragraph 1, and to ensure that its contract area does not exceed 75,000 km².
4. The secretariat verified that the proposed area for relinquishment is 2,255.0047 km² (see the figure in the annex). With the proposed relinquishment, the remaining area of block B6 of the contract is therefore 41,468.91606 km² and the total size of the area under contract is 74,991 km².

* New dates of the in-person meetings originally scheduled for July 2020.

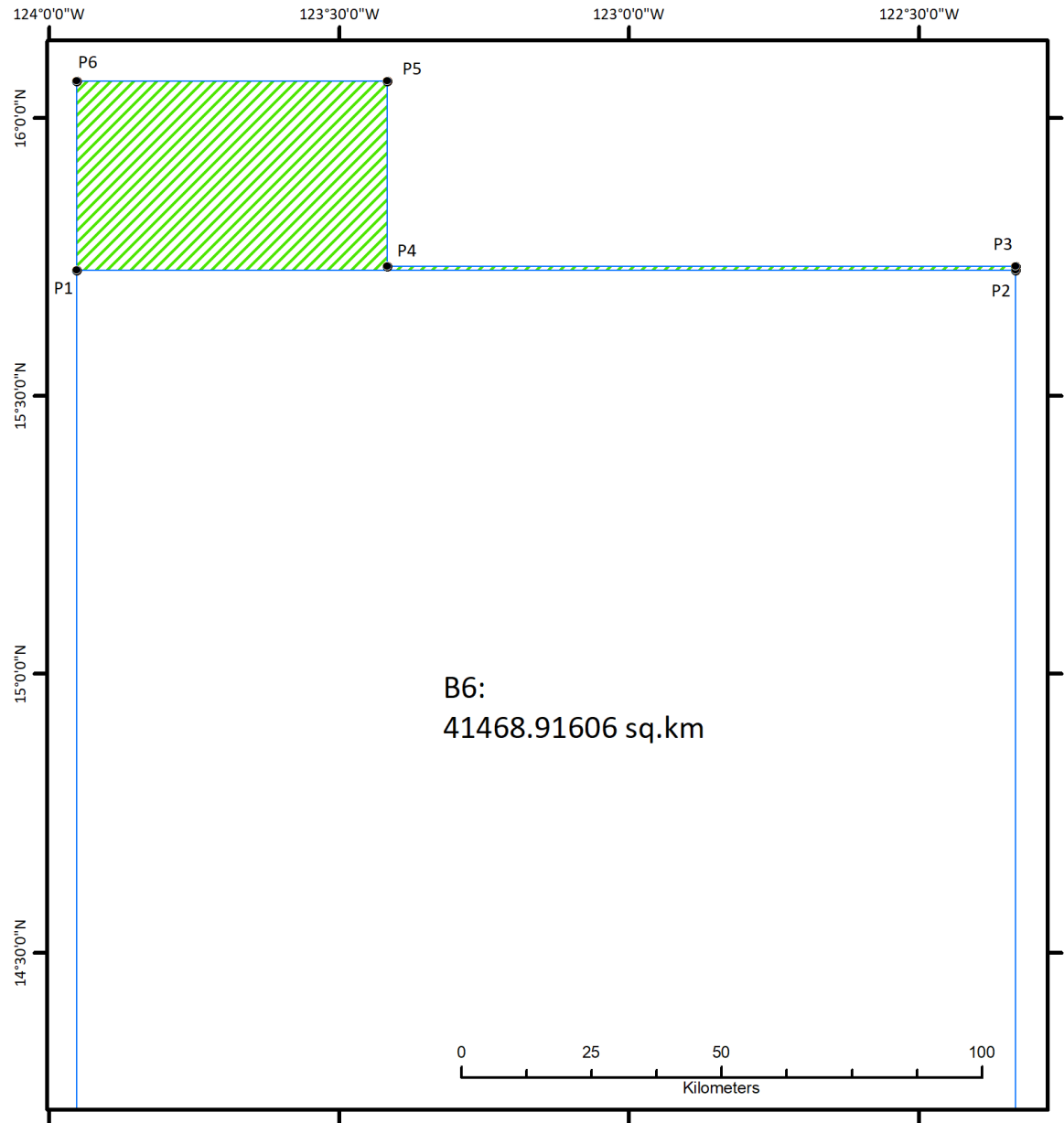


5. During the resumed meetings of the twenty-sixth session, held remotely between March and September 2021, on the basis of the technical review carried out by the secretariat, the Legal and Technical Commission noted that the contractor had complied with its relinquishment obligations under the regulations.¹
6. The relinquished area has reverted to the Area.
7. The Council is invited to take note of the present note.


¹ See [ISBA/26/C/12/Add.2](#).

Annex

Relinquished area in part B6 of the contract with coordinates for turning points P3, P4, P5 and P6 and revised coordinates for turning points P1 and P2



Key:

 Relinquished area: 2,255.0047 km²