



Item 11: Draft regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area

Draft decision of the Council of the International Seabed Authority related to the development of binding environmental threshold values

Delivered on 03.11.2022

Many thanks, Mr. President

The Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative welcomes and fully supports Germany's submission on the urgent need for the development of normative environmental thresholds, and is very glad to see the positive reception by so many States and Observers. This will be key for warning the Authority BEFORE any serious harm occurs, and equally importantly, allows the Authority to adopt effective and necessary measures to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from the harmful effects of mining activities.

Environmental thresholds should be grounded in comprehensive scientific research, including good environmental baseline data as well as observational and experimental data on mining impacts and ecosystem resilience, much of which still has to be collected and analyzed, and will take time. The more comprehensive the data, the more confidence we can have in the thresholds. In the absence of widespread and robust data, thresholds will need to include a precautionary buffer.

DOSI welcomes and fully supports the inclusive nature of the submission text and plans for the suggested procedure shared by Germany. DOSI, with its large global network of deep-sea experts, stands ready to support the proposed working group.

Many thanks.