

DOSI intervention regarding item 10: Draft Regulations on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area

DR48ter - Test Mining
Delivered 17 July 2024

Thank you Mr President,

With regards to paragraph 2bis, DOSI would like to remind the Council that a holistic approach is necessary to understand the effects of test mining with regards to the Protection of the environment. Therefore, we suggest that both the seafloor and pelagic areas are explicitly included as a requirement for monitoring during test-mining to ensure that essential biological and environmental data are collected in these environments.

With regards to paragraph 4, we emphasise the importance of test mining in the continued assessment of the impacts of mining on the marine environment. Even if similar mining techniques are used, this does not mean that further analysis of the impacts on the environment is not required through additional test mining. For example, it is possible that insufficient information is available on the impacts on biological organisms, including but not limited to, sediment plumes, sedimentation and toxicity.

Given the current limited data available on the potential effects on biodiversity and associated biological responses, it would therefore be useful to conduct further test mining operations to provide these essential data on environmental and biological impacts prior to a full-scale commercial operation. Otherwise, it could be difficult to assess the criteria in Draft Reg 13 and that would inform an EIA for exploitation if test mining has not already been conducted.

Thank you Mr President