

International Seabed Authority: process, stakeholder involvement and relevance to EU

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Deep Sea Conservation Coalition
Amsterdam, Netherlands

SAR/DSCC workshop
Deepsea mining – where no man has gone before
5 November 2014

Members include



ISA Stakeholder Survey

May 2014

INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
14-20 Fort Royal Street, Kingston, Jamaica

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ISA Stakeholder Survey

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Stakeholder Survey Questionnaire | Survey Announcement

The International Seabed Authority wishes to convey its deepest appreciations to all its Stakeholders who participated in the ISA Stakeholder Survey 2014. In line with the terms of the survey, listed below are the responses from Stakeholders who have explicitly given their consent that their views be made available to the public.

RECEIPT DATE 2014	NAME	ENTITY
4 April	Peter Jamieson (Chairman) on behalf of Subsea Cable UK	Private
14 April	Danish Cable Protection Committee (DKCPC)	Private
7 May	Prof. Hjalmar Thiel and Dr. Gerd Schriever on behalf of BIOCLAB Forschungsinstitut	Private
7 May	Dr. Vincent Escaravage of behalf of the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ)	Private
9 May	Dr Eva Ramirez-Llodra (deep-sea ecologist) Norwegian Institute for Water Research	Private
14 May	Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB)	Government
14 May	Kenya Ports Authority	Government Department
14 May	Professor Les Watling, Department of Biology University of Hawaii at Manoa	Private
14 May	Albert L. Bloomsbury, Law Office of Albert L. Bloomsbury, NY, US	Private
14 May	Mr. Hiroe Takahara (President) of DORD	IGA Contractor
15 May	Dr. Tomohiko Fukushima (Scientist), on behalf of Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC)	Independent Administrative Agency
15 May	International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC)	Private
16 May	Ocean Mineral Singapore Pte Ltd	Sponsored Entity
16 May	International Union for Conservation of Nature	NGO

RELATED LINKS

- Journal 9: Thursday 24 July 2014
- ISBA20 Official Documents
- ISBA20 Indicative Programme of Work
- ISBA20 Information Note

- Deep Sea Conservation Coalition
- Earth Justice
- WWF
- (Greenpeace?)
- IUCN, DOSI, States, Contractors, others

Issues highlighted by NGOs

- Prior EIAs
- Good baseline information
- Robust science/precautionary approach
- EMPs
- Protected Areas
- Recovery/restoration
- Rare, endemic, endangered species
- Consistency with UNGA deep-sea bottom fishing resolutions
 - Prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems; FAO Guidelines
- Transparency
- Greater stakeholder participation in the work of the ISA
- Enhancing structure of ISA (e.g. Scientific Committee)
- Liability for damage to marine environment
- International networks of deep-sea scientists (e.g. INDEEP/DOSI)

ISA

Agreed in 2014 to:

- Exploration codes adopted for all three main types of mining
- Environment Management Plan adopted for the CCZ
- Seven new applications for exploratory mining approved in 2014 – 26 total
- Unlike in 2000s, most recent applications now driven by commercial interests
- Begin drafting ‘framework’ regulations for commercial mining – timeline for completion tbd (2016?)
- EMPs should be established in other areas where
- CCZ EMP up for review in 2015 (?) (2014 study found significant shortcomings)
- ISA will debate issues raised in survey at next meeting, including transparency

ISA (cont)

Legal and Technical Commission

- LTC meetings closed
- 25 members
- LTC recommendations require 2/3rd majority and at least 50% in all four chambers to be rejected by ISA Council
- Current LTC membership includes 14 geologists, 8 lawyers, 2 biologists +1
- All up for reelection in 2015
- 'Test mining' requires 12 month prior EIA
- LTC only body to review EIAs
- LTC reviews all contractor annual reports
- Contractor permitted to begin commercial mining 2 years after application – even if regulations are not yet in place, provided LTC & Council approve
- If rejected, contractor can challenge in court/ITLOS

Laws governing mining in Coastal States 'no less effective' than international/ISA rules (UNCLOS)

European Commission Stakeholder Consultation on seabed mining 2014



The screenshot shows the European Commission website interface. At the top left is the European Commission logo. The main header reads "MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES". Below this is a navigation bar with links for "Maritime Affairs", "Fisheries", "Atlas", "Forum", and "About us". A breadcrumb trail indicates the current page: "European Commission > DGs > Maritime Affairs and Fisheries > Consultations > Seabed mining".

The main content area features a "Menu" on the left with links to Home, About us, Contracts and funding, News and events, Consultations, and Online magazine. The central section is titled "Stakeholder consultation on seabed mining" and is labeled as a "Public consultation". It states that the consultation was launched in March 2014 and closed on 20 June 2014. Below this, a section titled "Why this consultation?" lists "Observations" (rapid expansion of underwater technology and concerns about raw materials) and "Possible consequences" (increased extraction in shallow water and potential deeper water mining).

On the right side, there is a "Search" box, a "Related content" section with a link to "Your voice in Europe", and a "News" section. The news items include "21/10/2014 - Commission reports on plans to save the European Eel" and "20/10/2014 - Regional plans adopted as landing obligation nears".

At the bottom left, there is a promotional image for "INSEPARABLE" featuring a woman in a library aisle, with the text "INSEPARABLE" overlaid.

Responses to EC consultation

20 June 2014

18 civil society organizations from
10 EU countries (+ Aus, Switz, US)
– most environmental NGOs

- Birdlife Europe
- Oceana
- Seas At Risk
- WWF (EPO)
- Surfrider Foundation
- Black Sea NGO Network
- Others incl Deep Sea mining Campaign (Australia); NFFO (UK)

- 28 ‘Private’ entities – companies, consultancies etc. (e.g. Nautilus, G-Tec) from 9 EU countries plus Australia
- 18 ‘Public Authorities’ including Ministries (CZ/ES), Departments of Antiquities/Archeology (FR/FI), regional agencies (PT Azores), Natural Heritage (SE/UK)
- 25 ‘Research’ institutes (including a number of MIDAS partners)

Key themes


- Emphasis on reuse, recycling of materials rather than deep-sea mining
- Commercial mining should not take place unless/until regulations are in place
- Regulations must be robust: management objectives and procedures/requirements (precautionary approach, EIAs) etc
- Drafting and adoption of regulations must be transparent and participatory; any benefits widely shared


Individual responses to EC consultation


515 individual responses (many 'standard' text) but...


- I ask you not to engage in such practices that will destroy many crucial habitats and irreversibly affect everything that's living in the ocean
- Don't allow the DEEP-SEA MINING in our precious OCEANS!!
- Please protect our oceans from deep sea mining
- The destruction and devastation man inflicts on this planet must end !
- I do NOT support any bulldozing of the ocean floor!
- Allowing the destruction of the oceans, for purely financial gain, is an unforgivable mistake
- Please stop deep-sea mining. It is far too destructive to the ocean environment
- No Seabed mining ever in Europe, PLEASE!!!!!!
- Arrêtez de permettre la destruction de la faune et de la flore des mers et des océans !!!

Obrigado!

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