

ISA Speech 2018 FISH REEF PROJECT

Thank you Mr. President

Fish Reef Project as one of the most meaningful ocean health projects of our time would like to applaud the LTC for a wonderful set of draft regulations. However it is clear that further, more specific language is needed to allow contractors to come into compliance with UNCLOS article 149, where *the needs of developing and land locked nations are addressed*.

For this reason we ask that the LTC and Finance Committee include specific project, such as new reef creation as a means to give developing and land locked nations direct, measured and transparent benefits from the Resource and minerals in the Area.

Such measures will directly support a robust benefits sharing system known as the GREAT AFRICA FOOD REEF where the Fish Reef Project and other NGO's deploy new food reefs from Senegal to Angola with an eye to the rest of Africa and other nations over time, including Papua New Guinea and Pacific Island Nations. The new reefs will yield millions of tons of new marine life and create a critical new sustainable, long term source of high quality protein and jobs for the African people.

African does not currently have a contract or lease in the Area, yet they are legally entitled to benefits from the Resource - hence by creating new reefs that will last up to 500 years, we can insure that All Africans see a real, measurable benefit from the Resource. The new reefs offer direct poverty reduction while meeting the United Nations sustainable development goals to the letter.

In West Africa, fish depletion is a real issue and can lead to hunger and civil unrest. The new food reefs that we will make starting in Ghana, Senegal and Nigeria will stimulate the existing marine ecosystems and utilize simple, time tested technologies to enhance ocean productivity. This is critical as the United Nations estimates a coming human population explosion, with the most growth to occur in Africa hence long term, sustainable food security in Africa is a critical issue for the whole world.

The ISA now has the means to help insure matters through supporting the Great African Food Reef as form of social mitigation for deep sea mining.

To provide benefits to land locked nations, our system will donate an entire 20% of all of our revenues to the ISA endowment fund and thus land locked nations can access these funds for their environmental projects and studies as well ISA travel costs. As much as \$12 million dollars a year could be made available for this purpose, plus we share another full 20% of our revenues with each coastal nation that host the new food reefs for their administration costs.

Mr. President, we ask that the council recommend to the LTC, this week to adopt additional language in the exploitation code that further points to *UNCLOS article 149* and makes it ***“a requirement for contractors to support specific social mitigation projects that must have a measured, transparent outcome. The projects must benefit the people of both developing and land locked nations. Such projects include but are not limited to, the creation of new reefs in the coastal zones of developing nations to enhance fisheries and create socioeconomic benefits for people. Such project must have clear deliverables and third party verification.”***

After all- money is nice- but creating long term sustainable jobs and a perpetual food supply insures that benefits make it to the common person.

The Fish Reef Project wants all of the hungry, hard working small-scale artisanal fishermen that go to sea each day risking their lives to feed their families - **that we have your back, we hear your voice, we know your struggle** and as fellow fishermen we will be here for decades as a permanent, long term, trusted parter with the ISA to insure that the most benefits possible come your way.

Thank you Mr. President